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Event News

The Coolidge Foundation organized a number of notable events this past summer. In addition to our regular educational programming, which stretches into the Fall, we also reached out again beyond our traditional borders to collaborate with Dartmouth College on a speaker series entitled, “*Interesting People, Interesting Times.*”

Held at the Tuck School of Business, the series attracted large audiences to hear regionally and nationally-prominent policy leaders speak on the issues of the day as they relate to the ideals of Calvin Coolidge. We were very fortunate to have the Honorable Jim Douglas, former 4-term Governor of the State of Vermont and current Coolidge Foundation Trustee and Executive-in-Residence at Middlebury College, to inaugurate the series on July 11. Governor Douglas provided an excellent backdrop to what shaped Coolidge’s small-town Vermont up-



Sarwar Kashmeri moderating economics panel.

bringing by giving us a history of the State and its formative years. Governor Douglas, who still enjoys tremendous popularity among Vermonters, has a memoir that is very close to being published.

The next 5 weeks saw successive appearances by Dartmouth President Emeritus Jim Wright,

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Thank You Trustees!

Recently a few trustees have completed their terms on the Board of the Coolidge Foundation. After years of dedication these trustees have our enormous gratitude for all that they have done for the Foundation.

Daniel Churchill: Dan attended most Foundation activities, big and small. He was able to identify potential enthusiastic supporters of these events.

Michael Galbraith: Mike was a vital member of the Foundation’s Building Committee which oversaw the construction of the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center. He and his family are enthusiastic supporters of the new building and its opportunities.

Gerry Jones: Gerry’s insight and knowledge of corporate governance was very useful. He generously shared his time, talent and resources.

Barbara O’Connell: Barbara’s energy, talents, dedication and gracious manner will be hard to replicate. By serving as interim executive director for

a period of time, she allowed the business of the Foundation to move forward professionally. As co-chair of the Program Committee, Barbara was the driving force behind our speaker series, as well as our recent annual gala dinners.

John Reidy: With a family connection to President Coolidge, John was a focused and contributing member of the Board. Living in the Boston area, he brought fresh ideas and perspectives to various discussions.

David Roberts: David’s vast knowledge, dedication, patience, and persistence in getting the Foundation’s finances on solid ground will be remembered down the years. He and his wife, Sarah, also opened their home to several capital campaign dinners.

Susan Sundstrom: Regardless of the demands on her professional life, Sue supported the Foundation in many ways. The gathering at her home the night before the 2010 official opening of the new building was a highlight of that time.



Steve Forbes addresses attendees.

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former Governor Howard Dean, economist Roger Brinner, Dartmouth economics professor Douglas Irwin, Tuck business professor and associate dean Matt Slaughter, and photo-historian and essayist Vicki Goldberg. President Wright spoke about the treatment of veterans in history, including during the Coolidge years, using his new book, *Those Who Have Borne the Battle: A History of America's Wars and Those Who Fought Them*, as a springboard for his remarks and the discussion that followed. Governor Dean, Drs. Brinner and Irwin, and Associate Dean Slaughter sat on a panel moderated by Coolidge Foundation Trustee Sarwar Kashmeri, himself a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. This distinguished panel offered observations and critiques of Coolidge's economic policies, relating them to today's economic realities. Vicki Goldberg used her book, *The White House: The President's Home in Photographs and History*, as her basis for a very informative lecture on presidential history, with special emphasis on the Coolidge White House. Each presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session.

We were also very glad to host a Gala Event at Plymouth Notch featuring guest speaker Steve Forbes, Chairman and CEO of Forbes Media, and former presidential candidate in 1996 and 2000. Mr. Forbes spoke on how the fiscal policies of Calvin Coolidge can relate to our present day. In about one hour's time, he gave us what amounted to a seminar on free market economics. Though few of our speakers' presentations were devoid of political commentary, all contributed mightily to the overall public policy discussion in a manner worthy of Calvin Coolidge, whose simplicity, directness, honesty and integrity were hallmarks of his character and pronouncements. Mr. Forbes received the Coolidge Award, given annually to a public figure who ably demonstrates the ideals that actuated President Coolidge.

Our Programs

The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation seeks to promote a nonpartisan events agenda as part of its effort to be a Center for Civic Education, encompassing a Coolidge Classroom and Institute, both of which strive to make the ideals of our 30th President relevant to people today. The Coolidge Classroom is the learning environment encompassing the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, with its Museum & Education Center, where our offices are located. The programs and events held here in Plymouth Notch appeal to audiences of every age and ability, and span the birth, boyhood, and final resting place of Calvin Coolidge. Thanks to a close collaboration with the State of Vermont's Division for Historic Preservation, visitors can get a firsthand look at the conditions and setting that formed Coolidge's earliest memories, ideals and values, culminating in the majestic austerity of his simple grave in the town cemetery. Based at Plymouth Notch, beginning with the Coolidge Foundation's Special Collections, continuing with the Museum exhibits, and extending to the nearly 40 years Coolidge spent outside of Plymouth Notch, the Coolidge Institute seeks to project those ideals and values to the nation at large that he served. This effort is made through collaborations with other institutions and is designed to appeal to a wider audience, including researchers, scholars, and policy makers.

The Coolidge Foundation is currently planning a schedule of events for 2013 that reflect the importance of both what we have here in Plymouth Notch, and what we can take outside our regional borders. Our goal is to open the eyes of the world to Calvin Coolidge, and to be the gateway to all things Coolidge. A very useful tool in this endeavor is our new website (see article, back page). Log on to www.calvin-coolidge.org for information about our events and collections, including an outstanding assortment of photographs, essays, speeches, links and other information that appeals to everyone from the casual browser to the serious scholar. There are also efficient ways on the website to become a member or to contribute to our efforts, and you can find us (and "Like" us) on Facebook!



(L-R) David Serra, Alison Clarkson, Alice Nitka, Peter Gilbert, and Kate Bradley at the Annual Fundraising Gala.

Excerpted Remarks, Annual Meeting, August 3, 2012

Thank you very much for your confidence in my appointment as Executive Director of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation. I would like to take some time to make a few remarks which I hope will be appropriate to the occasion.

In accepting this position, there are a number of things of which I am very much aware. First is the Foundation's beginning. It is exactly as old as I am, at just over half a century. It was endorsed by tremendously important sponsors, i.e., all of the then-living former Presidents, the then-current First Lady, a distinguished American philanthropist, and President Coolidge's own son. It has fulfilled its charter here in this hamlet of Plymouth Notch, tucked away in the hills of Vermont, a State that gave Calvin Coolidge to the nation as its greatest gift. Many good, great and prominent men and women have been counted as Trustees of its legacy, including President Coolidge's own great grandchildren, who are present with us today. These Trustees, together with other trusted advisors, staff members, and dedicated volunteers, have worked extremely hard to advance the ideals of our 30th President. Last but not least is President Calvin Coolidge himself, whose plain, matter-of-fact visage looks down on me from a sign board in my office as I go about my duties. It simply says, "Why Coolidge Matters."

As we are gathered where he began and finished his journey, I would like to think that the spirit that actuated his life is brooding over this place. I want that to frame all my endeavor as Executive Director. I want to remember why Coolidge matters. I want to be worthy of what has been entrusted to me that is the product of his life, legacy, and labor.

I have had a career rich with experiences, relationships, and good causes. As I look ahead, I can only promise my best professional effort and personal dedication to the task at hand. I want to keep the Foundation true to its original charter, while seeking creative ways to make it even more relevant in the 21st century. Mindful of its origins, and of the value of nonpartisanship, I have had been thinking of some ways in which we could advance Calvin Coolidge's ideals in today's world.

The CCMF is the only Foundation dedicated to the 30th President of the United States. Like other Presidential foundations, it must reflect the values and ideals of its namesake. While on the one hand, these values might appear on their face to belong to a certain ideology, we who know Coolidge recognize them as ideals common to people of all political persuasions. We would like to keep it that way. Moving forward, I would like to leverage the good name of the Coolidge Foundation against those common ideals in order to encourage an ethic in government that all rational minds could embrace. There is a need; we have a bully pulpit; we need the kind of straight talk that resonates across the political spectrum.

The Coolidge Foundation is fundamentally about education. We currently sow seeds in young lives that we hope will mature to fruition. The programs we execute are meaningful and well-received. Our presence here at this National Historic site, and in cooperation with historic preservation initiatives

by the State of Vermont, make this entire environment a classroom for people of all ages. Now, with the Museum and Education Center in place, I believe our educational efforts should include policymakers themselves. I believe that our expanded office environment, the quality of our programs and setting, and the ability of our staff and Board, all leave us poised to reach for those who are currently in positions of responsibility in local, state and national government. An Institute that is closely held by and within the Coolidge Foundation could operate as just such an action-arm for educating everyone – from oldest to youngest, from least to greatest – in Calvin Coolidge's values, or, as we like to say, in "All things Coolidge."

I realize that when we speak of involving government officials we get dangerously close to the precipice of partisanship. But well back from that risky place lays the firmer footing of common, shared values. This is the ground upon which we can plant the Coolidge banner. I believe we can do so on ground that is both defensible and habitable by anyone of any political persuasion.

Examples abound of foundations and institutes founded upon the legacies of former Presidents that currently exist to advance a great many issues of shared values. All of the currently living former Presidents have done much good through their respective foundations for many people since they left the Presidency, engaging in philanthropic work that can hardly be said to be the province of any one party. In fact, most of the Presidents of the last century have continued to make meaningful contributions to the nation as a whole, and even the world in general, through their foundations and institutes. The stage is set for the Coolidge Foundation to expand its view.

In adopting such a high ground, we would not forget the ancient landmarks here at Plymouth Notch. Certainly, those solid markers should guide such work in the very same manner that they led Calvin Coolidge to go forth from these vistas to become the leader of the free world. The key is in advancing a specific cause to which no particular group can claim exclusive privilege. Such an Institute could host Coolidge Scholars for specific purposes and durations. It could be projected to

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ANNUAL FUND APPEAL

We Need Your Help!

The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation exists to perpetuate the legacy and ideals of our 30th President. Just as President Coolidge would have it, we receive no funding from federal or state government, and depend entirely upon the goodwill of people like you who value the things we do. Please look for the donation envelope contained in this newsletter, and please give what you can to support our programs. You can also contribute quickly and easily on the web by logging onto our site at www.calvin-coolidge.org.

Thank you so much for your support today!

an institution of higher education through a mutually-beneficial affiliation, with Coolidge Scholars teaching seminars and conducting symposia, appropriately credited to the attendee upon completion. Such a strategic partnership might make sense with institutions that are within a relatively short distance of us, and where we have connections, either through Calvin and Grace Coolidge, or Board and staff members.

Surely the opportunity is present now in a way it never has been. We are the only ones who can do it under the banner of Calvin Coolidge, as we are the only foundation bearing his name. I feel certain that donors would rally behind such an effort, as careful study of President Coolidge and an encouragement of his ideals is completely relevant for today. Calvin Coolidge was Vermont's gift to the nation; an Institute bearing his name could be the Coolidge Foundation's gift to civic education.

I have been very impressed with the harmony and cooperation existing between the State of Vermont and the CCMF here at the historic Coolidge Homestead. Without this important collaboration with the State of Vermont, we can hardly succeed. I have a sense that because of our association with this place, we are all continuing to make history. Together with our strategic partners, members and donors, we can ensure the relevance of Calvin Coolidge for generations to come.

—David R. Serra
Executive Director

Rings of Time

A slab of wood from the maple tree that stood outside the Coolidge Homestead has added another layer to our education programs. The rings the tree produced each year of its growth have created a timeline that reaches from 1840 until 2011. Visitors of all ages run their hands over the smooth surface as they examine the concentric rings. Key years of Coolidge history and American History are noted on the rings. Of course, most people must find the ring for their birth year.

When the tree was taken down and delivered to Brent Karner at Clear Lake Furniture to be milled, Brent saw the potential, set this cross section aside, and showed it to me. I had to have it! Derek Karner finished it off beautifully and this circular timeline now sits in the Schoolhouse as part of the hands-on exhibits there. It sparks questions and observations, a good opportunity for the Inquiry Method we try to foster here.

The Inquiry Method includes such questions as: do you know what causes those rings? Under the bark there is thin layer of cells called cambium. The cambium cells divide and make new wood on the inside and new inner bark on the outside. That's how a tree gets bigger around as it grows. The rings are a testament to ecological factors, as well as a physical manifestation of the passage of time. As we walk back down the road past the Coolidge Homestead, we can still see the patch where the tree once stood, a quiet witness to history with a history of its own.



Students investigating tree rings.

Now, next to the site of that grand old tree, stands a small maple to take its place. Given by Sandra Joslin, and planted in memory of her mother Edith, who was a great fan of Calvin Coolidge, the little maple thrives under the close care of Andy Crossman, who planted it. Standing outside the window of the room in which Calvin Coolidge took his oath, it is a nod to the past and a witness to the future.

We've had a terrific fall with 341 students and dozens of adults taking part in History Exploration Programs at the Coolidge Site. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the docents who make it possible for the groups to be small and conversational. They are Nick Cassone, Bill and Anne Chericco, Michael Clarke, Jay Closterman, Ellen Denton, Susan Foster, Pat Graves, Terry Gulick, Dennis Hagan, Marie Hasson, Kathy Jacob, Bob Jakoubek, Kathy Lynds, Norm Vanasse, and Joan Wise. Thank you!

—Diane Kemble
Education Director

National Debate Competition



President Bush speaking at awards dinner.

David Serra, Executive Director of the Coolidge Foundation, recently participated as a judge in a national debate competition hosted by the George W. Bush Institute in Dallas. The Bush Institute is the policy innovation arm of the George W. Bush Presidential Center, which will include a presidential library and museum, opening April 2013, on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The Institute is active in six areas that matter deeply to President and Mrs. Bush: education reform, global health, human freedom, women's rights and welfare, service to veterans and active-duty military and economic growth. The Bush Institute High School Debates is an annual event that brings hundreds of top students together for civil debate on economic issues. President Bush addressed the assembled students, parents, judges, and sponsors in an awards dinner on the first day of the event.

Chief Leading Eagle of the Sioux Nation

The Summer White House of 1927 was located in Black Hills, South Dakota. In between fishing and travelling, the Coolidge family paid a visit to the Sioux Nation. This visit would become the physical manifestation of the respect and attention President Coolidge had paid towards Native Americans for years.

President Coolidge was personally invested in the history and rights of Native Americans. His grandmother on his father's side was known to be part Indian. Regardless of political and social thoughts and fears that some Americans strongly held in the 1920s, President Coolidge was a supporter of civil rights for Native Americans. Three years before his visit to the Sioux Nation, on June 2nd, 1924, he signed an act which granted citizenship to all Native Americans.

"Be it enacted...that all non-citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States be, and they are hereby, declared to be citizens of the United States: Provided, that the granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of any Indian to tribal or other property."

Because of the act, any Native American living outside of the reservations was allowed to vote in the Presidential election – the first time in history that this was possible. While years would pass for more rights to be given, the Act of 1924 was an enormous and necessary step on the road to equal rights.

Fast forward three years to the Coolidge visit in mid-August, 1927. President Coolidge was awarded the honorary title



Chief Leading Eagle and Sioux Chief Henry Standing Bear.

of Chief Leading Eagle during the ceremonies, and is to this day the only President to also be a Chief. As documented in the Washington Post, "President Coolidge, accompanied by Mrs. Coolidge and their son John, received the Sioux Nation today, the largest assemblage of Indians since 1875...It was a great sight to see these Indians all dressed in feathered costumes, and probably was one of the greatest thrills of young John's life..." One of the silent films now in use as part of the permanent exhibit in the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center follows the Sioux Nation visit. Coolidge is seen in the midst of an impressive group, wearing a Native American headdress. Another portion of the film shows him with Grace and John watching a parade of different tribal groups.

Following the parade President Coolidge was presented with a variety of handmade items including moccasins, a tomahawk/peace pipe, a beaded carrying bag, and an incredible feathered headdress. In the film we can see Coolidge being handed a tomahawk and peace pipe. The objects are now on loan to the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, and can be seen in the new permanent exhibit, "More Than Two Words." It is a rare treat to see the historical record, and then experience the objects in the present. These presidential gifts were kept by the Coolidge family and eventually donated to the Forbes Library in Northampton, MA. From Pine Ridge, SD, to Washington, DC, Northampton, MA, and Plymouth Notch, VT we can see what happened in Pine Ridge, SD, on August 18th 1927, when President Coolidge visited the Sioux Nation.

The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 culminated with President Coolidge's trip to meet the Sioux Nation while on summer vacation in South Dakota. The fragile items that Coolidge and his family received during the trip have been lovingly maintained over the decades, and today demonstrate an important time in Native American history, as well as the more general history of American civil rights.

—Kate Bradley



The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation
Is Going GREEN

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Coolidge Boys on First Visit to White House – September, 1923

Unlike other presidential children, President Calvin Coolidge's sons did not live full-time at the White House. *White House Days*, a log book based on Washington Post excerpts, highlights the first White House stay of the Coolidge boys.

“The two sons will end their first visit to the White House early next week, leaving for Mercersburg Academy. Their twelve days here has furnished every opportunity to see a new Washington angle—the White House tennis court, where they have had most of their recreation... ‘The normal Coolidge quiet’ has been characteristic of their behavior.”

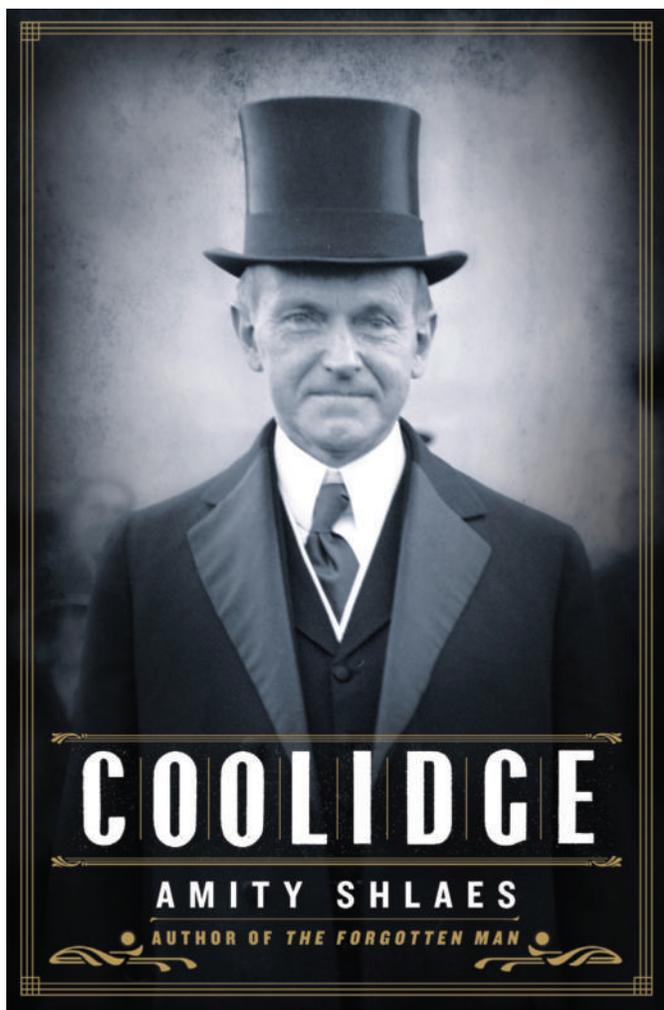
The ‘normal Coolidge quiet’ is an alternate form of the Silent Cal motif that was so popular at the time. Pres. Coolidge himself was not quiet; he could be quite verbose upon occasion. His White House was even less quiet. John and Cal, ages 16 and 15, were there occasionally, and there was always a selection of pets that included dogs, cats, birds, and even a

raccoon. While perhaps not as energetic as the White House during Teddy Roosevelt's tenure, Coolidge's White House had its own riotous moments.

John and Cal were known to be tennis enthusiasts, and the courts at the White House were expected to, and indeed did, provide them with much amusement. Unfortunately, less than a year later, after playing tennis on the same courts, Cal developed a blister which would lead to septicemia and death. President Coolidge never was the same after Cal's passing. He thought that had he never been president, the boys would not have played tennis at the White House, and thus Cal would still be alive. Based on *White House Days*, this statement is untrue: John and Cal were fans of the game and could have played anywhere. However, the sentiments are perfectly understandable.

We often forget that in between the national and international politics, the White House serves as a family residence. The White House is a testament to the public and private history of our nation.

—Kate Bradley
Director of Engagement & Special Collections



Upcoming Book Releases

The next six months are exciting ones for fans of Coolidge and the Coolidge Foundation. Admirers of Calvin Coolidge have been hard at work on a variety of publications. We are waiting (with limited patience) for these upcoming books, and hope you are just as eager!

Coolidge, a new book by board member Amity Shlaes, the author of *The Forgotten Man*, will be hitting stores on February 12, 2013. This economic biography follows Calvin Coolidge from his youth in Vermont, through his education and early career in Massachusetts, and his time as President of the United States. Readers will learn what influenced Coolidge's economic ideals, and what prompted his decisions. His dedication to fiscal responsibility is clearly evident. Exhaustively researched, this new form of biography will shed further light on the history of the 30th President of the United States.

Former Vermont Governor Jim Douglas, who is also on our Board, has a new book that should be released in time for the holiday season. As yet untitled, it is somewhat autobiographical, but also topical to the major issues that Gov. Douglas faced during his gubernatorial tenure. The work also includes anecdotes and a significant commentary on the decline of our political discourse.

And...word has it that National Advisory Board member David Pietrusza may have something in the works as well.

Stay tuned...

Meet Newly-Elected President Lincoln!

Sunday, November 4 – 1:15pm - 4:00pm
Norman Williams Public Library, Woodstock, Vermont

In this engaging and interactive performance, Mr. Lincoln, portrayed by Stephen Woods, will share insights about his recent election, the first lady, and a variety of other topics. At 1:15pm, preceding Mr. Lincoln's arrival at 2pm, the Pomfret Drum and Fife Corps will be performing in front of the Library. Admission to this program is free, with donations encouraged. All ages welcome. Co-sponsored by the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, the Norman Williams Public Library, and the Woodstock Historical Society.

For more information, please call: 802.457.2295 or visit: www.normanwilliams.lib.vt.us



Photo © Richard Confrancesco



Coolidge Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 9 – 10:00am - 4:00pm
President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site
Plymouth Notch, Vermont

Free Admission to the Historic Village; Wreath Making; Children's Activities; Holiday Shopping; Cheese & Wine Tasting at the Plymouth Cheese Factory; Music by Organist Steve Morse & Old-Time Fiddler Adam Boyce; Lunch at the Wilder House Restaurant; Sleigh Rides with Fred DePaul; Traditional Craft Demonstrations.

For more information, please call: 802.672.3389 or visit: www.calvin-coolidge.org

Presidents Week 2013 programs are currently in the works, it promises to be an engaging set of events!



Wilder House Restaurant

Plymouth Notch, Vermont

802-672-4313

Open 7 days 9am to 4pm

Memorial Day Weekend – End of October

Bus groups and larger parties are welcome
with reservations.

Your Hosts, Kim and Nancy Yale
Email Nyale1@aol.com

*Thanks to all for your support. We look forward
to another great season!*

Coolidge & Grant

In an important memorial dedication in front of the United States Capitol, the speaker noted a greatness found in his subject that was easily understood by Americans. He called it “the highest type of intellectual power – simplicity and directness; the highest type of character – fidelity and honesty.” He went further to describe the origins of that greatness, saying, “Into his boyhood there came little which was uncommon. He had the ordinary experiences of the son of an average home maintained by a moderately prosperous business...He liked horses and rode well. He did not appear brilliant, but he had industry. He worked. He made progress. He had that common sense which overcomes obstacles... There was no artifice about him, no pretense, no sham.” The speaker was Vice President Calvin Coolidge, who could easily have been speaking of himself. He was not, of course. The man he spoke of was Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the United States.

It is understandable that Coolidge would offer the insight he did into Grant’s character. Although born 50 years apart in two very different eras, these two self-effacing men shared many similarities and would likely have enjoyed each other’s company. Certainly both men were misunderstood and mislabeled in their time. But in addition to personal characteristics, they shared similar views regarding the economy, minorities, and foreign affairs.

Both Grant and Coolidge were men of positive actions but few words. Grant’s soldiers during the Civil War echoed the sentiments of his neighbors in Galena when they called him, “The Quiet Man.” Like “Silent Cal,” he was self-possessed. Like Coolidge, he did not feel the need to defend himself from the false notions of others, nor did he feel compelled to fill silence with words, unless a situation demanded it. The popular misunderstanding of both men grew from a natural shyness which informed their dealings with others as adults. Like Coolidge, Grant was an able conversationalist in a small group, sharing stories in a manner that held the attention of his companions. Each man was also a gifted writer, having the facility to convey complicated ideas in a very simple and direct way. It is said of Grant that during the Civil War, he wrote orders for the movements of huge bodies of soldiers and equipment rapidly without having to later cross out words he did not intend to commit to paper. Those orders, once received by subordinates, were so clear that they rarely had any doubt as to their meaning. In the same forthright way, Coolidge wrote so eloquently that various collections of his speeches have been published and are still regarded as important examples of prose, diction and cogency. Each man knew how to boil down the sap to get to the essence of the syrup; each valued substance and brevity in their presentation, eschewing the chaff of pomp and show. Today we would call it substance over form, rather than the more typical form over substance. Coolidge’s admonition to the Massachusetts Senate to “... be brief – above all things – be brief,” came from the same sense Grant had as a man of few words when, after accept-



Ulysses S. Grant



Calvin Coolidge

ing the highest military rank the nation could bestow upon him, he made a speech that was noted for its eloquent humility and brevity. He later remarked to President Lincoln that he really had had enough of the show business and wished to return to the field. Like Coolidge, Grant was often judged by the more fickle notions of what constitutes greatness. But the ability of both men to inspire others to action on the strength of simplicity, directness, honesty, integrity, perseverance, and dogged determination called out the best in Americans.

Both Grant and Coolidge were post-war Presidents to whom the office came unexpectedly amidst turmoil in their predecessor’s administrations. The Presidency was virtually presented to both men, to Grant by popular acclaim after the impeachment and near conviction of Andrew Johnson, and to Coolidge upon Harding’s death, whose administration was troubled by the Teapot Dome and Veteran’s Bureau scandals. Presented with similar situations, each sought to strengthen the nation during times of fiscal, social and foreign policy challenge.

Grant and Coolidge each faced formidable economic challenges. The US was in recession after World War I, and a similar recession in the US after the Civil War ripened into depression during Grant’s administration. Neither Grant nor Coolidge were particularly expert in finance, but each, as capable administrators, tried to surround himself with men of ability. Again, Grant and Coolidge’s self-possession about who they were enabled them to allow others to do their best work. As is often the case, the trust they reposed in others was sometimes betrayed, but that did not dissuade them from seeking the counsel of others.

Upon the good advice of his Treasury Secretary, Grant withstood the Congress in vetoing the Legal Tender Act, also known as the “Inflation Bill,” that would have addressed the nation’s fiscal crisis by simply printing more money. Similarly, Coolidge fought long and hard to enact the tax policies of his able Treasury Secretary, which called for austerity measures in government that ran counter to the largess it had displayed during World War I. The simple premise behind the Revenue Acts of 1924, 1926, and 1928 was that lower taxes, which necessarily meant less government, would put more money in the hands of the people, whose industry created it. Like Grant, Coolidge had a fundamental belief that individuals knew better than government how to spend their money. Each had a

populist streak that Americans could relate to, coming from modest beginnings to places of prominence. Neither disparaged the wealthy, having an appreciation for how wealth is made. Each counted wealthy people as close friends, but neither would allow himself to become captive to their interests. Will Rogers, whose common-sense populism endeared him to hard working Americans, loved Coolidge. He probably would have loved Grant as well, had he known him.

Grant and Coolidge were also quite similar on the subject of civil rights. Both realized there were times when American society required a prod by the government in the proper direction. Grant was determined to enforce Reconstruction policy in a manner worthy of Lincoln's wish to restore harmony between the north and south. This did not come at the expense of African-Americans. Grant pushed for the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, which gave freedmen the right to vote. He pushed anti-Klan legislation through Congress, as well as the Civil Rights Act of 1875, the first such legislation in history. In addition, he appointed his former military secretary, Ely S. Parker, who was a Chief of the Seneca Indian Nation, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, demonstrating his commitment to Native American rights.

Likewise, Coolidge reached out to minorities in a very meaningful way. He signed the first anti-lynching legislation in many years at a time when some in Congress were openly Klan members or sympathizers. In his first annual message to Congress, he underscored the public and private duty of all citizens to protect the rights of African-Americans. He spoke publicly in support of persecuted religious minorities at notable events such as the dedication of the Jewish Community Center, and in remarks to the Holy Name Society. Equally notable was Coolidge's support for Native Americans, which was no better illustrated than by his support for the Act that granted citizenship to "Indians." Coolidge, who proudly noted his own Native-American heritage, very solemnly consented to being named a Chief of the Sioux Nation, the first and only President in history to be thus honored (see Kate Bradley's article in this edition).

The third area in which Grant and Coolidge seemed to be in step was with regard to foreign relations. One does not automatically think of foreign policy when contemplating the administrations of either man, but there are important points to note. Grant pioneered the kind of international arbitration that was the precursor to efforts such as the World Court, The League of Nations, and eventually the United Nations. Avoiding a growing clamor for war with Great Britain over its support for Confederate navy depredations against US shipping, Grant submitted a key dispute in 1871 to international arbitration, which was satisfactorily resolved. Again in 1873, a maritime dispute with Spain was resolved in the same manner, once more heading off the real possibility of war. In addition, Grant's ill-fated but peaceful attempt to annex the Dominican Republic, at that nation's invitation, showed a longer-term strategic view toward securing shipping lanes to the then-contemplated canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

**“There was no artifice about him,
no pretense, no sham”**

—Calvin Coolidge

Coolidge, the seemingly silent, provincial, small-town figure, also acted in ways that resonated loudly beyond our borders. A true believer in the rule of law, he supported US involvement in a World Court, although he would never see it. In addition, he was a strong supporter of the concept of outlawing war as an instrument of foreign policy, as embodied in the Kellogg-Briand Treaty, which he signed along with other international representatives. Far from the naïve novice some would make him out to be, Coolidge was instead a pragmatic idealist who understood that reality resides somewhere between the competing interests of this life, and the better angels of our nature. This is evident in his willingness to withdraw forces from the Dominican Republic, while at the same time projecting force to Haiti, as well to other Central American nations to secure the very canal Grant envisioned, when it was threatened with disruption. Coolidge the idealist agreed with Grant the peacemaker when he said, “There is no substitute for a militant freedom.”

These are just a few examples of similarities between Ulysses Grant and Calvin Coolidge. I would like to think that Coolidge felt a kinship to Grant, and relished the opportunity to dedicate his monument. At the very least, the two men could have enjoyed a cigar together, being aficionados (probably to their respective detriment). These two Republican presidents, though not identical twins by any means, were certainly cousins (7th cousins, twice removed, to be exact), and shared a basic outlook on life that was shaped by their small-town upbringing, and their naturally reticent personalities. They were conspicuous for their simplicity, humility, equity and good sense, traits as needful today as ever before.

—David R. Serra
Executive Director



Grant Memorial Dedication

The World Court Initiative 1923-1935

At the end of the Great War, Americans were determined to prevent another such bloodletting. Many of them supported President Woodrow Wilson's idea for a League of Nations, but it failed in the Senate in 1919 over issues of American independence and sovereignty, along with Wilson's refusal to compromise. As the 1920s progressed, two new peace proposals arose: first, was the World Court initiative and then the Kellogg-Briand Pact. Both came to be seen as a means of ensuring world peace. This article focuses on the World Court and the US's failure to join it—a story not well known.

The World Court, formally known as the Permanent Court of International Justice, was established under the general auspices of the League of Nations and first sat in January of 1922 at The Hague. The Court was empowered to render judgments in disputes between nations that were voluntarily submitted to it (as the years passed, several nation-states agreed to compulsory submission) and to give advisory opinions in any matters referred to it by the League's Council or Assembly. Its functions were judicial in nature, rather than, as in the case of the older Hague Tribunal, purely arbitral and diplomatic, and focused on building up a body of international law to guide the nations.

The World Court initiative had begun with President Warren G. Harding. He saw US membership on the Court as not only a signal to the world of our commitment to peace but also as a way to strengthen the Court's standing in the world. On February 24, 1923, he urged the US Senate to ratify the Court's protocol—that is, the statute under which it operated—along with certain reservations to protect US independence and ensure equal footing with other member nations. Harding, it is worth noting, had earlier indicated support for such a court during the 1920 presidential campaign. And, prior to his death, one of his last speeches dealt with the subject. Supporting the effort, two Americans had played prominent roles in the Court's establishment: Elihu Root, who helped draft the plan for it, and John Bassett Moore, who served as one of its founding Judges. Historically, it should be noted, the US had long supported the concept of a world court.

Coming to the presidency in August of 1923, President Coolidge soon made the World Court initiative his own. In his first annual message to the Congress that December, he requested speedy action in adhering to the Court's protocol. Coolidge, being a man of the law, no doubt welcomed the application of international law to adjudicate disputes between nations, although he insisted that in doing so, US sovereignty should be maintained. Speaking in 1924, he said: "As peace means fundamentally a reign of law, we propose to become members of the Permanent Court of International Justice. Such action would do much to indicate our determination to restrain the rule of force and solidify and sustain the rule of reason among nations."

In supporting the Court, a bipartisan measure, it appears that both Harding and Coolidge commanded the support of a majority of Americans and certainly that of the chief opinion makers of the day. There was, of course, opposition from



Kellogg-Briand Pact

those who wished the US to maintain its isolationist ways. The anti-foreign Ku Klux Klan was one of its more notable opponents. As the years passed, and the issue of joining the Court remained unresolved, nativist opposition to it would grow in strength.

The major challenge facing both Harding and Coolidge was the opposition of certain powerful Senators. These die-hard opponents of the Court saw it as subverting US independence and sovereignty and as a scheme, moreover, to take the US into the League through the backdoor. Their opposition was particularly effective in that they controlled the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The Committee's chairman, Senator William Borah (R-ID), was especially determined to block US entry into the Court, and other Senators, such as James A. Reed (D-MO) and Hiram Johnson (R-CA), were equally outspoken against it. For almost three years, opponents blocked the World Court initiative from reaching the Senate floor, where it would most likely have passed.

The Coolidge Administration and its allies pressed ahead, especially after the 1924 election. Finally, after a strong public outcry for action, the proposal came before the full Senate, where, on January 27, 1926, the protocol was ratified, 76 to 17 (a two-thirds vote being required for approval). Showing the difficulty of the matter, the final vote was obtained only after the application of cloture. Attached to the protocol were five reservations and two resolutions. The reservations were acceptable to Coolidge. They were not intentionally designed to sabotage the initiative—as had been attempted earlier—but addressed what seemed legitimate concerns.

With the ratification of the protocol, the matter was in the hands of the 48 member states comprising the World Court. The Senate had specified that the US would not sign the protocol until each member had approved the US reservations. In their arrogance, the Senators assumed that other nations would readily accept their terms. The member states established a Committee of Fourteen to consider the reservations. On September 18, 1926, this Committee reported favorably on the first four, but noted difficulties with the fifth resolution, which it thought could be worked out through a supplementary agreement.

Coolidge, along with his compatriots, was shocked and disappointed at the results. He knew that the Senate at this point would not agree to any modifications in its resolutions. In fact, there was genuine concern that the Senate might vote to rescind its ratification; and, indeed, such an attempt was made in February of 1927 but failed. As matters stood, it would be possible at some point, when circumstances were

right, to revive the initiative and work out a solution, one that would require the Court to change its protocol to accommodate the Senate.

As Congress was soon coming back into session in December, Coolidge realized he had to announce the impasse. He chose to do so in Kansas City on Armistice Day 1926 at the dedication of the Liberty Memorial Monument, a tribute to those who had served and died in the Great War. His remarks made it clear that he had no intention of resubmitting the reservations to the Senate. As far as Coolidge was concerned, the Senate had spoken and that was that. Senators, on both sides of the issue, agreed.

A few months later, in the spring of 1927, negotiations began that eventually led to the Senate's ratification of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which had as its aim the renunciation of war as an instrument of foreign policy. It was signed by the US and 14 other powers on August 27, 1928. There was little objection to it on the part of Court opponents because it did not involve any tangible commitments abroad.

Many saw the Pact as complementing the World Court initiative. The Coolidge Administration was encouraged to revisit the matter of joining the World Court. On February 6, 1928, Senator Frederick H. Gillett, Senator Majority Leader, almost certainly acting with the President's knowledge, offered a resolution calling on the President to reopen negotiations for US entry into the World Court. It was well received. Then, on Nov. 24, 1928, at a breakfast with Senate leaders, President Coolidge disclosed his aim to secure US entry into the Court as "the crowning event of the Coolidge Era," as TIME magazine put it.

In January of 1929, Elihu Root met with President Coolidge, President-elect Hoover, and various Senators. Root, acting as a private citizen, was given approval to start negotiations to bring the US into the Court. On February 20, 1929, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg sent a conciliatory note to each member of the Court. The time was right, as the League of Nations had set up a commission to consider amendments to the protocol of the World Court. And so it was, through the good offices of Elihu Root, that the Advisory Committee of Jurists adopted a revised protocol obviating the difficulty of

implementing the US reservations. This took place on March 18, 1929, 14 days after President Coolidge left office.

On Sept. 14, 1929, the League Assembly unanimously approved the new World Court protocol. In his annual message of December 9, 1929, President Hoover indicated he would submit the protocol to the Senate and did so a year and a day later. By then, faced with the Depression, the Senate failed to act on the revised protocol during the Hoover Presidency.

Finally, on January 29, 1935, with Franklin D. Roosevelt in the White House, and the Democrats in solid control of the Senate, the Senate on its own motion brought the revised protocol for a vote. By this time, public opposition to the Court was running high, with Senator Huey Long (D-LA); Father Charles Coughlin, the "Radio Priest"; and humorist and political commentator Will Rogers leading the attack, along with the Hearst newspapers. So it was that the party of Woodrow Wilson failed to ratify the revised protocol, by a vote 52 to 36, a few votes short of the two-thirds needed. With that, the 12-year struggle for US membership on the World Court came to a sad and inglorious end.

It should be said here that in the case of both the World Court and the Kellogg-Briand Pact, the public lost its perspective and exaggerated the importance of these proposals, seeing them as guaranteeing lasting peace, while, at best, they could only encourage and facilitate it. The public, in its enthusiasm for the Court and Pact, forgot that the underlying causes of war were to be found in the unresolved political problems of the day. These problems were many, they were both old and new, and they were often complex and intractable. Throughout the prosperous 1920s, while substantial progress was achieved on some fronts—one can always cite the Locarno Pact of 1925, a series of European treaties among former enemies that came to symbolize a renewed spirit of peace and goodwill—many critical problems simmered away. These problems, however, would return with a vengeance with the coming of the Great Depression.

As for the World Court itself, it came to end in 1946, along with the League of Nations. Its memory stands today as a reminder of the idealism of peace advocates in those years between the wars.

—Jerry L. Wallace

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A NEW LOOK TO OUR WEBSITE

Our New, Enhanced Website is Now Operational!

The revitalized Site is a powerful and effective tool for reaching out and increasing awareness and understanding of our 30th President. With it we are better equipped *to open the eyes of the world to Calvin Coolidge*. This new Website is an important component in our institution-building strategy.

We hope you will find that our expanded Site is engaging, relevant and presidential. Its creative concept entices audiences to want to know more. Its Coolidge gateway links and extensive content management system reinforce our dramatic vision: *to become the gateway to all things Coolidge*; as well as playing a vital role in explaining just how Coolidge restored dignity and prestige to the presidency while steering America through a period of unparalleled growth and prosperity.

We want our Site to please a wide audience; combining interesting articles with Coolidge quotes, photos, and graphics to add context and meaning. Coolidge appeals to casual viewers who are drawn ever more deeply into the Site; and into the life history, philosophy and accomplishments of our 30th president. Viewers are introduced to

the evolution of the Foundation, the Historic Site and the public-private partnership forged to preserve the legacy of the president. A special section provides lesson plans and classroom materials for teachers as well as informational direction for students compiling presidential and civic reports. A section is devoted to First Lady Grace Coolidge.

The Website describes Coolidge's full and complete political philosophy fitted in the times in which he lived. It outlines Coolidge's vision of politics and its proper role in a democracy. It offers insight into the values and skills needed by civic leaders by publishing the vast number of Coolidge's speeches and quotations that showcase his ideals and character. Importantly, it offers a broad array of resources to stimulate and inspire further academic research.

Excellent graphics and an efficient search engine usher visitors methodically through the Site. An open-source computer language offers the flexibility to keep pace with future technological demands. We owe our deepest gratitude to Andy Kostanecki and Bob Kirby who led the project with LMW Design of Rutland, VT. Thanks also to Kate Bradley who maintains the site!

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