

# Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, Inc.

## STRAIGHT TALK



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## Notes From the Director

Greetings and welcome to the Coolidge Foundation's Spring 2013 Newsletter! We have much to report, as you will see while paging through this edition. Whether planning for our future, fundraising, or putting on meaningful events, we have been very busy since our last newsletter communication.

First, I would like to recognize a distinguished and valued member of our Board of Trustees who recently stepped down from his role at the Coolidge Foundation. Bob Kirby has been a tremendous help and catalyst for change since the beginning of his tenure on our Board in 2008. Bob has been one of the main benefactors of the Coolidge Foundation, both generously donating his own resources, and seeking donations from other civic-minded philanthropists. He has also served as a Trustee, Finance Committee Chair, Nominating Committee member, and President and Chairman during that time, at one point even performing the executive management function. In addition to his duties in those various capacities, Bob has also done significant scholarly work, one article in particular being reviewed in this newsletter edition, even going so far as to compile a history of the Foundation from its inception in 1960. That volume, entitled *A Chronicle: The First Fifty Years, 1960-2010* is an essential piece in charting the way into the future. His work on our strategic plan spawned the idea, and as with history in general, it enlightens the future by clarifying the past. We are grateful for Bob's support through the years.

In our last newsletter we included the remarks I made at the beginning of my duties here at the Foundation. The vision I laid out at that time is progressing steadily. Its main premise is that the Foundation is a living thing with a vital message that should help it stand here in Plymouth Notch for another 50 years, and take it other places as well. In order to best describe the organization in 2013 one should visualize the silhouette of a human being. Its head will always be the Coolidge Foundation, the legal entity under which we operate. But what we do is much more than just the



Bob Kirby and Mimi Baird in 2010

head. At its vital core, its heart and soul, is the ideal of civic education. That core is supported by two legs – a classroom effort here at the Plymouth Notch historic site - and an institute, which is the part that includes his public service, and which goes wherever Calvin Coolidge's voice was heard.

Specifically, The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with an educational mission. Its efforts are appropriately centered in Plymouth Notch. Its mission of opening the eyes of the world to Calvin Coolidge goes far beyond the boundaries of our state or region. Our strategic thinking matches our mission. Our efforts reflect that the 30th President's ideals, both during and after the presidency, are relevant, needful, and national in scope.

In presenting our educational mission, the challenge is to do so in a way that recognizes the value of all things Coolidge, from the cradle to the grave, including everything in between. A message that comprehensive, along a spectrum that wide, is worthy of Calvin Coolidge and big enough to attract the support it deserves.

## The Coolidge Center for Civic Education

Within the legal and organizational framework of the Coolidge Foundation, we have created The Coolidge Center for Civic Education. This educational effort currently includes two complementary parts.

*continued on page 3*

## COOLIDGE INSTITUTE – 2013 SPEAKER SERIES

### April 30 “The Coolidge Presidency”

Hanover Inn, Ford-Sayre Room, Hanover, NH 5:30 - 7:30pm



**Amity Shlaes**

Economic historian and author of  
*The Forgotten Man and Coolidge*



**George H. Nash**

Herbert Hoover scholar

### May 28 “Civility in Political Discourse”

Hanover Inn, Ford-Sayre Room, Hanover, NH 5:30 - 7:30pm



**Jim Douglas**

Former Governor of  
Vermont



**John Lynch**

Former Governor of  
New Hampshire

### June 15 “Grace Coolidge: First Lady of Baseball”

President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center, Plymouth Notch, VT 2:00 - 3:30pm



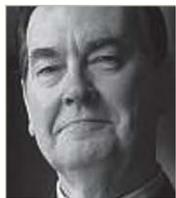
**David Pietrusza**

Coolidge historian, author of  
*Calvin Coolidge: A Documentary  
Biography*



### July 18 Panel Discussion: “The Role of the Media in Civil Public Discourse”

Hanover Inn, Ford-Sayre Room, Hanover, NH 5:30 - 7:30pm



**Cal Thomas**

Nationally syndicated columnist  
and FoxNews contributor



**Chris Graff**

Former Vermont AP Bureau Chief;  
current VP at National Life



**Jane Lindholm**

Host, Vermont Edition, VPR

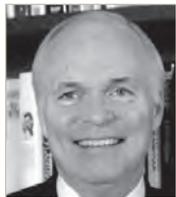


**Sarah Ashworth**

News Director, NHPR

### August 2 High School Debate Competition and CCMF’s Annual Fundraising Gala

President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center, Plymouth Notch, VT 5:00 - 8:00pm



**Brian Lamb**

Founder & Chairman Emeritus,  
C-SPAN

*All events are free and open to the public with the exception  
of the Gala dinner for which tickets are sold in advance.*

1. **The Coolidge Classroom**, which is the living history environment in which we, in cooperation with the State of Vermont, teach visitors to Plymouth Notch about the unique civic and communitarian ideals which shaped and fitted the man for public service, and which followed him to his resting place. Coolidge Classroom programs are executed and led by our staff and volunteer docents.
2. **The Coolidge Institute**, which is a specific-purpose initiative implemented through symposia, seminars, lectures, and other scholarly events, either at Plymouth Notch or projected to other venues through cooperative arrangements. This effort seeks to put Coolidge's record of public service before the nation he served. These types of programs are executed through, among other events, our acclaimed speaker series, which is held in collaboration with institutions of higher education, and led by public figures and academics.

We are currently advancing these ideals on the local and regional level. We will also execute worthy programs on a larger scale as part of a national effort. All of our initiatives support education, thus ensuring the success of our educational mission as a whole. We endeavor to open the eyes of the world to the ideals of Calvin Coolidge. They are timeless, timely, and worthy of close scrutiny today. That prize is worthy of the 30th President of the United States.

The Coolidge Center for Civic Education encompasses our two current, simultaneous efforts, and will be supported by those who value principles of economic liberty and communitarianism. This type of civic education is the kind of nonpartisan effort around which people of all persuasions coalesce. Information supporting the Coolidge Center for Civic Education is available on our website ([www.calvin-coolidge.org](http://www.calvin-coolidge.org)). The programs that constitute it are presented there in detail. We will keep our efforts relevant and clearly focused through our Coolidge Center for Civic Education here at the Coolidge State Historic Site and Museum & Education Center, and by programs executed by the Coolidge Classroom and Coolidge Institute.

A complete schedule of civic education activities associated with both the Coolidge Classroom and the Coolidge Institute is included in this newsletter. One very important factor that is shaping opportunities for us and the work we do involves the scholarly work of another one of our Trustees. Amity Shlaes has recently published her second best-seller, simply titled, *Coolidge*. Widely acclaimed, and at 565 pages easily one of the most comprehensive biographies of Coolidge ever written, the book has re-focused the public on the accomplishments and legacy of our 30th President. Never failing to mention her role as a Trustee of the Coolidge Foundation when interviewed about her work, Amity Shlaes has graciously given of herself to ensure that the Coolidge Foundation can bask in the reflected glow of her accomplishment. We are very grateful for her support, and for the renewed interest in Calvin Coolidge.

With the benefit of the hard work of the past, and with a clear course charted for the future, we move forward with a full schedule of events, a growing membership base, an annual appeal to fund operations, and plans for a multi-year Endowment Drive to create revenue for perpetual programming. Thank you for your part in preserving the legacy of Calvin Coolidge, and in extending the reach of his ideals across the nation he served. We believe that the ideals that shaped his life, and that informed his public service, are more needful now than ever before.

—David Serra  
Executive Director

## Vermont History Day

CCMF staff members Kate Bradley and Diane Kemble were both judges at Vermont History Day on April 6th. Held by the Vermont Historical Society at the Spaulding High School in Barre, VT, the day featured a few hundred Vermont students and their history projects. This year's theme was "Turning Points in History." Projects took the form of papers, exhibits, websites, documentaries, and performances. Categories within these headings included: senior and junior, group and individual. As well as sending judges, CCMF sponsors one of the special prizes every year. The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation History Prize is awarded to a first place winner with a Superior ranking for an outstanding entry on a United States history topic. This year's CCMF History Prize went to a Junior Group Exhibit titled, "The Civil Rights Act of 1964: The Turning Point of a Living Document." The group members were Jakob DeArruda and Morgan Brown of Black River High School/Middle School. Their exhibit was exemplary on many levels.

Here is the text from the award presentation, as given by Kate Bradley:

"The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation is dedicated to the life and legacy of President Calvin Coolidge. Born, raised, and buried in Vermont, Coolidge exemplifies the type of selfless dedication to town and country that we still honor today. Calvin Coolidge was a lover of history and often wove historical thought and events into his writings and speeches. Coolidge once said: "nothing in the world can take the place of persistence." I urge you all, as a fellow history-lover, to persist in your love of history and learning. Moreover... Keep Cool With Coolidge."



## Clarifying the Historical Record: Coolidge and the Great Depression, and Coolidge and the Ku Klux Klan

We are fortunate to have two very important articles published on our website. The first is a well-researched, in-depth look at any possible causal relationship between President Coolidge's policies and the economic depression that came after he left office. The second article examines Coolidge's record on tolerance during the Ku Klux Klan era of the 1920's.

These two topics are certainly of interest when seeking to advance Coolidge's civic ideals. Sometimes we hear him associated with either the economic crash of 1929, or some spurious allegation of racial, religious or ethnic intolerance. The two articles go a long way toward dispelling those notions. Moreover, they provoke the reader to greater study of the subject, which usually leads to conclusions based on fact, not popular misconception.

### Coolidge and the Great Depression

Many people reflexively associate Calvin Coolidge with the Great Depression. Former Trustee Robert P. Kirby has written a masterful piece which presents the view that, far from having caused the Depression, Coolidge's policies brought the prosperity that helped America weather that devastating economic storm. The article is well-supported with references.

The case he presents is compelling. First, the evidence clearly shows that Harding-Coolidge policies brought America back from a war economy to something sustainable in peacetime. This job had barely begun when Coolidge succeeded to the Presidency following Harding's death in August of 1923, but Coolidge and his able Treasury Secretary, Andrew Mellon, engineered a period of unparalleled growth and prosperity. Together they harnessed America's financial resources, made private funding available for emerging businesses, put people to work, reduced the federal budget, lowered taxes, and increased per capita income. The figures are compelling. Gross National Product (GNP) grew roughly 3% annually from 1923-1928. The national debt shrank 34% during that same period, and by March of 1929 when Coolidge left office, tax rates had been cut to no less than one-third of wartime levels. In fact, as Kirby cites historian Robert Ferrell, by 1927, 98 percent of the population paid no income tax. The highest tax rate, which had been over 70%, fell at one point to less than 25%. People had jobs and the unemployment rate stood at 3.3%, with a low of 1.8% in 1926. This Coolidge prosperity enabled the increased production of consumer goods such as automobiles, radios, refrigerators, and vacuum cleaners. Bad economic times? Hardly. And it wasn't just the champagne and caviar crowd that prospered. The economy boomed for everyone.

So what happened? According to Kirby, who cites scores of sources to bolster his assertions, a "normal" downturn in the bull market that came during Hoover's first year was exacerbated by bad monetary policy from a rudderless Federal

Reserve, coupled with a lack of cooperation among nations unaccustomed to the "world economy" that emerged after World War I. The old view of the U.S. economy being insulated from the rest of the world was no longer valid after the war. The economic downturn felt in the U.S. had already manifested itself 12 months before in Europe and Latin America. Further, there was little uniformity among nations actively trading with one another, especially with respect to the gold standard. The lack of a common basis created further confusion and volatility.

By the Hoover administration's first summer the hot Coolidge economy was clearly cooling off. The Federal Reserve, absent the firm guiding hand of Chairman Benjamin Strong, had adopted a contractionary policy in the face of an escalating stock market. It tightened credit. Gold flowed out of the U.S. to Europe. The rampant speculation common during boom times was sharply affected by a short supply of money. As Kirby and others point out, though a significant portion of the losses sustained in the stock market in October of 1929 were regained within six months, continuing poor monetary policy, coupled with bad choices by succeeding administrations, made a severe economic downturn a depression, and turned a depression into "The Great Depression."

Clearly, the U.S. had emerged from World War I as the most dominant force in the world economy. But it had a limited world view of economics, few policies in place to deal with that new reality, and little of the level of economic cooperation among nations we see today. Like discordant players in a symphony, the world's industrialized nations only hurt themselves in misguided efforts to ameliorate their own nation's suffering. Whether Calvin Coolidge had the world view necessary to address monetary policy on that scale is up for debate, but Kirby finds strong support for his assertion that it would be unrealistic to think that even a President of the United States at that period of experience in U.S. history could have anticipated the cascading events and worldwide interdependencies that led to the Depression, or could have had the power to change the world monetary regime to avert it.

### The Ku Klux Klan in Calvin Coolidge's America

National Advisory Board Member and long-time Coolidge historian Jerry L. Wallace also submitted an important article that is now on our website. Wallace gives an excellent overview of the history of the Ku Klux Klan as he examines its impact during the Coolidge years. In the process, he refutes the occasionally reported myth that Calvin Coolidge either admired or was affiliated with the hate group.

As Wallace points out, the 1920's were not only a period of great prosperity, but also a period marred by widespread religious, racial and ethnic intolerance. This negativity, long present in American life, was common after World War I in the form of secret societies designed to fend off "un-American" influence. A resurgent Ku Klux Klan came back to prominence in 1921 and was popular in places as unlikely as rural Vermont. To be sure, fraternal organizations were very popular at the time, and the Klan took its place among



President Coolidge, Andrew Mellon, and Herbert Hoover (LOC, 1928)

them. But far from being the benevolent and patriotic society it claimed to be, the Klan sought to make distinctions based on race, national origin and beliefs, passing these off as tests of true Americanism.

Calvin Coolidge detested such nonsense, though he himself came from the very white, native-born Protestant stock that the Klan highly extolled. Perhaps because of the communitarian values he learned in Plymouth Notch, where material success was not a birthright but rather the result of hard work, Coolidge realized that the U.S. was a nation made great by immigrants, and that education, not ignorance, was the path to enlightenment. Wallace points out that the Klan had become quite fashionable, with its chief leader making the cover of Time magazine during Coolidge's presidential election of 1924. Even so, its decline began soon after, as Coolidge rejected it and all it represented. At a time when many influential legislators were Klan members, and he simultaneously needed Congressional support for his economic policies, Coolidge whole-heartedly supported the Dryer Anti-Lynching Bill. This was the first federal legislation on the topic since President Ulysses Grant's anti-Klan efforts in the 1870's. Wallace further notes that Coolidge encouraged a Jewish homeland and other philanthropic endeavors, as well as actively reaching out to Catholics and their societies. Moreover, Coolidge granted citizenship to Native Americans, and urged his cabinet appointees to give black employees "an even chance" at jobs in their departments.

There is no doubt that Coolidge was a man of his times, and perhaps subject to the popular conventions of the time. But bigotry was not one of them. The enlightened view of humankind and natural law he learned from Charles Garman at Amherst College undoubtedly influenced the egalitarian ethic he had absorbed in his youth. This was, in turn, reflected in his public service. Wallace lists positive, public examples of ways in which Coolidge reached out to victims of hatred and prejudice. These include:

*The Progress of a People*, an address given during the graduation ceremony at Howard University, Washington, DC, June 6, 1924 (Emmet Scott, Howard's Secretary-Treasurer, wrote the President, "This address brought great encouragement to thoughtful representatives of the twelve million colored people of the United States");

*Equality of Rights*, a letter written in response to a statement questioning the propriety of a black man seeking nomination as a Republican for a Congress, dated August 9, 1924;

*The Spiritual Unification of America*, an address given at the laying of the cornerstone of the Jewish Community Center, Washington, DC, May 3, 1925;

*Authority and Religious Liberty*, an address delivered before the Holy Name Society, Washington, DC, September 21, 1924 (Pope Pius XI later praised this address in a speech to Cardinals);

*The Genius of America*, an address given to a delegates of foreign-born citizens at the White House, October 16, 1924;

*Tolerance And Liberalism*, a major presidential statement on tolerance delivered before the American Legion Convention at Omaha, Nebraska, October 6, 1925.

In addition, Coolidge remarked to black veterans of World War I that, "the negroes' record at home and abroad during the war won them the everlasting gratitude of the American people. They have justified the faith of Abraham Lincoln." *Times*, February 13, 1923.

Wallace closes with perhaps the best observation of Coolidge's philosophy on tolerance. It is a fitting close to this review as well. In a 1925 speech to the American Legion, Coolidge said:

"Whether one traces his Americanism back three centuries to the *Mayflower*, or three years to the steerage, is not half so important as whether his Americanism of to-day is real and genuine. No matter by what various crafts we came here, we are all now in the same boat. If we are to have that harmony and tranquility, that union of spirit which is the foundation of real national genius and national progress, we must all realize that there are true Americans who did not happen to be born in our section of the country, who do not attend our place of religious worship, who are not of our racial stock, or who are not proficient in our language. If we are to create on this continent a free Republic and an enlightened civilization that will be capable of reflecting the true greatness and glory of mankind, it will be necessary to regard these differences as accidental and unessential. We shall have to look beyond the outward manifestations of race and creed. Divine Providence has not bestowed upon any race a monopoly of patriotism and character."

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The record of Calvin Coolidge's life and public service is available to scholars and the general public, but having the facts so well-articulated in accessible articles like these is invaluable to preserving his legacy to the casual reader. Hopefully these will provoke greater study of an exceptional man, destroying the myths and false notions that often spring up around influential people. Bob Kirby and Jerry Wallace's articles help dispel some of those myths. Any one of their references or citations can lead the reader to greater understanding of the man, his record, and his times.

Visit the website soon at [www.calvin-coolidge.org](http://www.calvin-coolidge.org), expertly maintained by archivist Kate Bradley, and read these and other works!

—David Serra, Executive Director

## Winter Programming Amid the Snow Banks

February 17th, the date of the Plymouth launch of Amity Shlaes' new book, *Coolidge*, was a bitterly cold Vermont winter day. As I stuck our signs and some flags into the tall snow banks, several cars stopped and asked what was going on. Mid-winter events are rare in Plymouth, and the program, coupled with the open President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center, excited many passing tourists. In addition to many who had marked Amity's book launch on their calendars, other groups came in looking for something to do on this February day. They were glad to find the Museum and Education Center open even though the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site is closed this time of year. There was a celebratory mood in Amity's enthusiastic and informative presentation, followed by questions, discussion, a reception and book signing.



Students reproduce Abbie Coolidge's Diary

The following Saturday was our first Family Day. One could watch silent films in front of the roaring fire, explore hands-on activities in the classroom, visit the Museum exhibits, *More Than Two Words: Calvin Coolidge's Life and Legacy*, and *Gone Fishin' with the President*. In the afternoon, Bill Jenney, Site Administrator, gave us a preview of the upcoming Baseball exhibit. The intent of this winter programming is to utilize the year-round President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center and make it inviting for all ages, especially families. History exploration here can be an engaging, three-generation affair.

Several families came from two hours away, or more, to enjoy our second Family Day on March 23rd. Classroom activities included handling Coolidge-era artifacts, seeing copies of Calvin's and his sister Abbie's diary entries, as well as writing with old-style ink pens and making small diaries. Museum exhibits were open and a selection of silent films played in the fireplace room. It was a beautiful day to try to solve the *Coolidge Quest* in the village.

In the afternoon, Cyndy Bittinger, former Director of the Coolidge Foundation, VPR commentator, and author of



Amity Shlaes speaks to a full house

*Vermont Women, Native Americans and African Americans, Out of the Shadows of History*, spoke of Vermonter Grace Coolidge's multi-faceted life, which included attempts to rescue children prior to WWII. Cyndy also spoke of journalist Dorothy Thompson, who was one of the early voices speaking against the regime of Adolph Hitler. Both women were responsible for preservation efforts in Vermont. Dorothy Thompson married writer Sinclair Lewis and leaves a legacy of preservation accomplishments in the Barnard and Woodstock area, as well as the creation of the Vermont Land Corps during WWII. Grace Coolidge and her son John helped preserve the village of Plymouth Notch, birthplace of her husband, President Calvin Coolidge. The audience included several of Cyndy's online students from the Community College of Vermont as well as members of local historical societies.

Our Coolidge Classroom programs are often held in partnership with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, which maintains the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site.

—Diane Kemble  
Education Director

### ANNUAL FUND APPEAL

## We Need Your Help!

The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation exists to perpetuate the legacy and ideals of our 30<sup>th</sup> President. Just as President Coolidge would have it, we receive no regular 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](http://www.calvin-coolidge.org).

Thank you so much for your support today!

## Historic Research Doesn't Come With a Treasure Map

Historical research has a knack for taking on a life of its own, a veritable treasure hunt without a map. The simplest question can often lead to unforeseen, and often times unknown, information.

Recently I was researching the funeral of Col. John Coolidge, President Calvin Coolidge's father. His passing, on March 18, 1926, necessitated a great flurry of press locally, especially since the President and his family took the train to Woodstock and stayed at the Woodstock Inn before venturing up to Plymouth. I contacted the Woodstock History Center hoping they might have some photographs or newspaper articles about the event. They did, and I was able to look at original Vermont Standard articles from the time. From these I was able to reconstruct the few days surrounding Col. John's funeral.

The historical detour took place when I contacted Woodstock History Center. They asked if I wanted to look at a diary from 1870 that mentions Col. John as a young man. As any historian will understand, my reaction was an immediate "of course!" The diary documents one year in the life of a young man named Barton Billings, a contemporary of Col. John. This diary, beautifully preserved, sheds light on a lost story that demonstrates the closeness of family in the face of profound loss.

Barton Billings and his sister Sally Maria Billings were the children of Barton Smith Billings and Sally Maria (Coolidge) Billings. Sally Coolidge and Calvin Galusha Coolidge were brother and sister, making Sally the aunt of Col. John. Born in 1848 and 1849 respectively, Barton and Sally Maria were only a few years younger than Col. John. Within 6 months of Sally Maria's birth, tragedy struck the Billings family, as both parents died. Loss was common at this time. Decades later Calvin Coolidge would lose both his mother and sister while still young; but to lose both of one's parents must have been a particularly hard blow. The Billings family was living in Plymouth at this time, and the Billings orphans were taken in by Calvin Galusha and his wife Sarah Almeda. These children joined John Calvin (later to take on the honorific Colonel) and his brother Julius Caesar. The four children were raised together, worked together, and attended the one-room schoolhouse together.

Fast-forward to 1870- the year of the diary. John Calvin has been married to his young wife Victoria Josephine for two years, and the couple is living behind the general store. Sally Maria is also married. Barton is unmarried, working for a local farmer, as well as working as a schoolteacher. His diary documents his work ethic, which mirrors that of his uncle/adoptive father Calvin Galusha, and his cousin/adoptive brother, John Calvin. He takes part in local meetings and issues, and is an extremely hard worker. Although it is unclear where precisely he is living at this point, he frequently visits



The Coolidge family transfers from car to sleigh to complete the journey to Plymouth for the funeral

his aunt/adoptive mother Sarah Almeda- she figures prominently in the diary. Barton also mentions visiting the young Coolidge couple on occasion- doubtless an easy task given their proximity to Barton's work at the schoolhouse. March 1870 brought the passing of Julius Caesar Coolidge. This was a blow to the Coolidge/Billings family; Barton's mention of Julius Caesar's death in his diary is touching. Moreover, from studying genealogical records we can further see the extent to which his death was felt: a few days after his passing Sally Maria gave birth to her first child, who was named Julius Caesar.

Julius Caesar Coolidge's death is one of the longest entries in the diary; some days the entries are as short as one sentence. Regardless of their length, they shed surprising light on day-to-day rural life in late 19th century life. Two years after the diary, Barton himself passed away, a few months before Calvin Coolidge was born. Barton Billings was buried next to Julius Caesar, in the Coolidge family plot; yet another example of his close kinship to the Coolidges. This young man who lived in Plymouth Notch is not an important historical figure. He holds little to no pride of place in local history, but his diary is an incredible addition to the historical record. Rural family connections are clarified, as well as the activities of a young man living in such a setting. As part of a greater picture, the diary helps to further document the harsh conditions of a Vermont winter. Many of the subjects in this story passed away in March. Long, hard winters, even in the late 1800s brought difficulties, and it was often through a sense of community and family that these rural farmers survived.

We never know what historical research will net. Expected answers can be disproved, but even more importantly, research can lead to unexpected knowledge. One randomly-associated document or photograph can open a lost page in history, and provide answers to questions we did not know we had. When we are lucky, our research can bring us full circle, back to the original topic. In this case, when Col. John was buried in the cemetery in late March, 1926, he was buried near his close friend and adoptive brother, Barton Billings.

—Kate Bradley  
Director of Engagement & Special Collections

**“Rooting for the Home Team:  
The Coolidges and Our National Pastime”  
May 25 – October 20, 2013, 9:30am – 5:00pm**

A special exhibition of baseball memorabilia at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site Plymouth Notch, Vermont

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation invites you to view an extraordinary collection, including:

- A baseball autographed by both Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig
- 14K gold season passes presented to the President and Grace Coolidge, “The First Lady of Baseball”
- Period uniforms, gloves, bats and more!

With objects and period photographs on loan from several organizations and private collectors, “Rooting for the Home Team” examines President Coolidge interest in the sport, and most especially, Mrs. Coolidge’s passion. Grace was a life-long devotee, starting as official scorekeeper of the University of Vermont’s baseball team. In fact, she was designated “First Lady of Baseball” by the Boston Red Sox and Washington Nationals in 1955!

The exhibit is generously supported by the Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation and private donations.

**Other baseball related events this season:**

**June 15 – 2pm, Grace Coolidge, First Lady of Baseball:**

David Pietrusza, noted presidential historian, author, member of SABR (Society for American Baseball Research) – and CCMF National Advisory Board member – examines Mrs. Coolidge’s life-long interest in the sport.

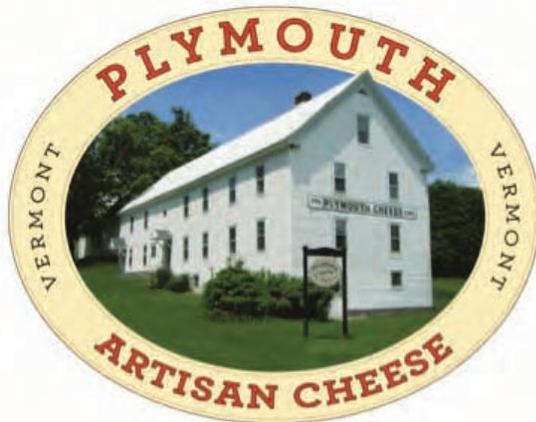
**June 26 – 6:30pm, Coolidge Night at the Ball Park:**

Join the Vermont Mountaineers ball team for an exciting home game at their Montpelier stadium. Coolidge trivia games and prizes for the first 100 through the gate. Two Coolidge great great grandsons – both Little League pitchers - throw out the first ball! Details: [www.thevermontmountaineers.com](http://www.thevermontmountaineers.com)

**July 13 – 2pm, Coolidge Baseball Day at The Notch:**

SABR member Dick Leyden presents “Base Ball in the Time of Grace” – a fascinating program about early baseball in the Green Mountain State. Afterwards, join the fun and play a game of baseball following 19th century rules.

For further information about this exhibit, baseball events, and a chance to be an official sponsor, call 802-672-3773 or visit our website: [www.HistoricSites.Vermont.gov/Coolidge](http://www.HistoricSites.Vermont.gov/Coolidge)



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## 2012 DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS

We thank all our friends for their loyal support and for making the Foundation's 51<sup>st</sup> year such a resounding success. If your name has been inadvertently omitted from this list or you find an error, we sincerely apologize. Please bring corrections to the attention of Kate Bradley at (802) 672-3389.

### **Coolidge Cabinet (\$5,000 and above)**

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## DID YOU KNOW?

1. This year's temporary exhibit in the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center will feature the Coolidge family and their love of our national past-time: baseball. It promises to be a fantastic exhibit! (*see article on page 8*).
2. Plymouth Notch, VT received a little less than 12 feet of snow this winter.
3. This August 3rd marks the 90th anniversary of Coolidge's inauguration as President of the United States of America.
4. Grace Coolidge went to work at the Clarke School for the Deaf because another teacher at the school, Caroline Yale, was the daughter of a friend of Grace's mother.
5. Herb Moore, a local Plymouth resident, became a national sensation in 1924 when he joined the cross-continental Coolidge-Dawes Lincoln Tour. His stories of local life, and Calvin Coolidge's youth, proved to be exceptionally popular.
6. Between 1931 and 1932, an addition was put on the far side of the Coolidge Homestead. After the State acquired the Homestead in 1957, this structure was detached for purposes of historical continuity, and moved across the fields to its present location.

And the rest is history...