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Steve Forbes to be Keynote Speaker at Annual Fundraising Gala



The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation is pleased to announce that Steve Forbes will appear as guest speaker at its Annual Fundraising Gala on Thursday, August 2, 2012 at Plymouth Notch, VT.

Mr. Forbes is Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, and publisher of *Forbes Magazine*, the nation's leading business magazine.

This will not be Mr. Forbes' first visit to the area. On August 1, 1998, Mr. Forbes and his daughter Moira Forbes were on a bike trip when they happened across Plymouth Notch, VT. Their visit coincided with the 75th Anniversary of the Homestead Inaugural. We are excited to welcome Mr. Forbes back to the area.

In both 1996 and 2000, Mr. Forbes campaigned vigorously for the Republican nomination for the Presidency. Key to his platform were a flat tax, medical savings accounts, a new Social Security system for working Americans, parental choice of schools for their children, term limits and a strong national defense. Mr. Forbes continues to energetically promote this agenda.

In 1985, President Reagan named Mr. Forbes Chairman of the bi-partisan Board for International Broadcasting (BIB). In this position, he oversaw the operation of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Broadcasting behind the Iron Curtain, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty were praised by Poland's Lech Walesa as being critical to the struggle against communism. Mr. Forbes was reappointed to his post by President George H. W. Bush and served until 1993.

Mr. Forbes serves on the boards of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, the Heritage Foundation and The Foundation for the Defense of

Democracies. He is on the Board of Overseers of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and on the Board of Visitors for the School of Public Policy of Pepperdine University. He previously served on the Board of Trustees of Princeton University for ten years.

Details are available at www.calvin-coolidge.org or by calling 802-672-3389.

Dartmouth College to Co-Sponsor Summer Speaker Series

The second annual Summer Speaker Series will be held at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. "Interesting Times, Interesting People," is the theme under which the Coolidge Foundation will present a stellar list of notable speakers and authors. From 5 to 6:30 p.m., guests will hear stimulating presentations from:

July 11 – Governor James Douglas



Gov. James Douglas, was elected the 80th Governor of Vermont in 2002 and was re-elected three times with a majority of the vote. He left office in January 2011 where he then became an executive in residence at Middlebury College, where he teaches *Vermont Government and Politics*. Mr. Douglas is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation.

July 18 – James Wright



James Wright, is President Emeritus and Professor of History at Dartmouth College. The 16th President, he served from 1998 to 2009.

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July 25 – Economics Panel Discussion

Panelists



Governor Howard Dean

Vermont governor from 1991 to 2002, and became a leading 2004 presidential contender. In February 2005, he was elected Chair of the Democratic Party, a position he held until January 2009. Gov. Dean is also a licensed physician.



Professor Douglas Irwin

Douglas Irwin is the Robert E. Maxwell Professor of Arts and Sciences in the Department of Economics at Dartmouth College.



Professor Matt Slaughter

Matthew J. Slaughter is the Associate Dean of the MBA Program and the Signal Companies' Professor of Management at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.



Roger Brinner, Ph.D.

Chief Economist of The Parthenon Group in Boston. Well known as an expert economist and analyst of the U.S. and international economies, Dr. Brinner is a former professor of economics at Harvard University and M.I.T.

August 15 – Vicki Goldberg



Vicki Goldberg, is a writer and lecturer about photography and art. Her latest book is *The White House: The President's Home in Photographs and History*. Done in cooperation with the White House Historical Association, it is a rich, picture-filled history of America's most famous residence and a delightful read.

Admission is for the Speaker Series is free. Books from the various speakers will be available for purchase and signing by the author. For more information visit our website at www.calvin-coolidge.org or call 802-672-3389.

For directions to Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth go to www.tuck.dartmouth.edu.



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In The Spirit of President Coolidge

As the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I have recently found myself thinking about what I believe Calvin Coolidge brought to the nation's highest executive office; and how that might well serve as inspiration to the work of this current Board of Trustees. There is always more to learn about the remarkable presidency of Calvin Coolidge, and about the man himself. New insights highlight aspects of his career, life, and personal traits that might be instructive and inspire our own contemporary lives.

Scholars of the Coolidge presidency recognize that President Calvin Coolidge was an extremely capable administrator of the nation's governmental business. The administration that he built, and the quality of those involved, has seldom been surpassed in American history.

Coolidge clearly understood not only his role as the nation's chief executive officer, but also understood the role of each person who served in his administration. He was not hesitant to appoint persons of unquestioned achievement and talent in his administration – never fearing being upstaged or over-shadowed. Furthermore, in addition to clearly understanding the roles of all of the participants within his government, he embraced and guarded the framework of our country's unique governmental structure.

Coolidge is also known for his remarkable persistence – a strong characteristic throughout his life and work. It is written that his father Col. John Coolidge once said of Calvin that he could get more sap out of a maple tree on a Vermont hillside than anyone else the father knew. In fact, there is a bronze plaque just inside the door of the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center at Plymouth Notch that directly quotes Coolidge's thoughts on persistence. Calvin Coolidge's clarity of administrative thinking and organization, coupled with his quiet brand of persistence, stands as a model for all of us in all of our work.

Since the Foundation's last newsletter, the Board of Trustees has been positively productive. As those

of you who have been a part of this Foundation for some time undoubtedly recognize, over the past few years the Foundation has been transitioning from being a regional presidential foundation to an organization of national stature and recognition. Three years ago, a strong strategic plan was put in place by the Board to execute this mission; the contents of that plan are now being implemented.

This past winter the Executive Committee began to work on streamlining the Foundation's organizational structure and the skills that will be required to execute the Foundation's mission of national visibility. I am happy to report this work is now complete and has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee is now focused on finding an Executive Director to oversee the strategic plan's execution. It expects to select finalists for the position by the Fall of 2012. In keeping with the national mission of the Foundation, we have launched a nationwide search to identify an Executive Director who, working with the Board of Trustees, can take this Foundation to a place of national prominence and recognition, while at the same time continuing to strengthen the Foundation's fiscal stability for the long pull.

To accomplish this work, it has required from all of us not only a bit of Coolidge's clarity of administrative thinking and purpose, but also a heavy dose of Coolidge's unique persistence. We will need these aspects to overcome temporary setbacks and bumps that lie hidden on the road ahead.

At the risk of being presumptuous let me suggest that the work of the current Board of Trustees would be understood, recognized and perhaps even applauded by our thirtieth President if he were with us today. We'd be satisfied with a quiet reserved chuckle from the former President at our ongoing persistence!

—Frank J. Barrett Jr.
Chair, Board of Trustees

What Guides Our Educational Programs?



Investigating souvenir spoons from Coolidge's era.

Approximately 550 students take part in our History Exploration Programs at the Coolidge Site each year. They arrive with their teachers and parents, and spend at least three hours investigating Plymouth Notch with trained docents. They learn how a boy that grew up in this 19th century hilltop village, eventually became the 30th President of the United States.

These programs are inspired by the work of the Bradley Commission and the National Council for History Educators which developed *13 Habits of the Mind* which states:

“The perspectives and modes of thoughtful judgment derived from the study of history and social studies are many. Courses in history, geography, and government should be designed to take students well beyond formal skills of critical thinking, to help them through their own active learning.”

One of the *Habits of the Mind* that guides our own active learning programs is Habit #3 - *Historical Empathy*: “Perceive past events and issues as they were experienced by people at the time, to develop historical empathy as opposed to present-mindedness.”

Empathy occurs when one identifies with or experiences the feelings, thoughts, or attitudes of another. Historical empathy reaches back over the years to help us as history learners to better understand the reality of life in a certain time and situation.

Plymouth Notch is a beautifully preserved village where we see and discuss evidence of what it meant to live here in the 19th century. How did people make their living? How did children such as the young Calvin Coolidge help? What jobs were done and what powered the machines do we see in the barn? How was communication different from today? How did people get what they needed? What did they do for learning and entertainment? What kind of records did they keep?

Striking examples of empathy are seen as students and adults alike contemplate the loss of Calvin's mother to tuberculosis when he was twelve, on her 39th birthday. Later, his sister Abby would die of appendicitis when she was not quite fifteen. Then President Coolidge's promising son, Calvin, was lost to an infected blister from playing tennis. These are all medical situations that are successfully treated today.

We stand in the Homestead and discuss the historic inauguration on August 3, 1923 when Coolidge's father, a Notary Public, administered the Presidential Oath of Office. This is the only time in United States history when a president was sworn in by his father. We talk about the Constitution and how our country has a clear system for presidential succession. Older students are able to contrast this inauguration with the most recent one they may have seen on television when millions witnessed the swearing in. We think about changes in communication and how the only telephone in the village was in the general store. “How could you call someone else?” one of the students asked.

To foster Historical Empathy we give students hands-on or close-up experiences with history learning and our small groups provide opportunities for students to be able to discuss their insights and questions. Historical Empathy is a compelling aspect of *Habits of the Mind* because it allows us to be in someone else's shoes, to time-travel for that moment, then to rearrange former knowledge around newly experienced observations. We help to inspire another generation of students who are fascinated to know and keep on learning the stories of history.

For further information on the National Council for History Education and “History's Habits of the Mind” see www.nche.net. I welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions.

—Diane Kemble
Education Director

Vermont on the National Stage: An Inquiry Lab

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Calvin Coolidge Museum
& Education Center

Course Flyer

[www.calvin-coolidge.org/
html/2012_events_schedule.html](http://www.calvin-coolidge.org/html/2012_events_schedule.html)

Syllabus, Questions, and to Register:
education@calvin-coolidge.org
or 802.672.3389

Trustees Hosted at President Ronald Reagan Library

For the second time in the past three months, a Foundation Trustee from Vermont was a visitor to the Ronald Reagan Library and Museum in California with Trustee Milt Valera, Chairman of the National Notary Association based in Chatsworth, California, serving as host at the beautiful facility in Simi Valley. Ann Shriver Sargent was the latest Coolidge Trustee to visit in early April, following an important February visit by Trustee Barbara O'Connell when she and Milt met with an official of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation to discuss ideas for partnering with the Reagan and expanding the efforts of our Foundation nationally.

Ann Shriver Sargent took in the exhibits of the Reagan Museum, including the impressive Air Force One which is magnificently housed in a specially designed facility for the historic aircraft, and observed first-hand the many visitors and the splendor of the unique southwestern architecture of the adjoining buildings. Being at the museum gave Ann "a sense of the complexity of the President's job just in the contrast of the physical environments between Vermont and California," she said. "This is a very large and diverse country."

Barbara's visit earlier resulted in an invaluable exchange with Melissa Giller, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Program Director, who was gracious and helpful in providing important ideas and information for the Coolidge Foundation. Talk has already been initiated by Barbara to consider a Trustees meeting at the Reagan sometime in 2013, and Milt, the Foundation's first-ever Trustee from the West Coast and a strong proponent for quickly moving Coolidge to "center stage nationally," has expressed interest in helping coordinate such a "Vermont event" in California.



Trustees Ann Shriver Sargent and Milt Valera.

The Reagan is located about an hour from the Los Angeles International Airport with many attractions close by including the City of "downtown" L.A., Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and many museums and such as the Getty. The Richard Nixon Presidential Library is also located near Los Angeles in Yorba Linda.

"A sense of the complexity of the President's job just in the contrast of the physical environments between Vermont and California"

—Ann Shriver Sargent



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to another great season!***

No Palace for Cal

At the beginning of 1923, Mrs. Mary Foote Henderson, a wealthy Washington socialite and activist, who was much engaged in human and civic betterment causes, offered to the Federal government one of her palatial homes as an official residence for the Vice President of the United States—Calvin Coolidge.

Coolidge, at that time, lived with his family in a third floor suite (#328) at the New Willard Hotel, located on Pennsylvania Avenue. His predecessor, Thomas Riley Marshall, had recommended the place to him. The Coolidges had two bedrooms, a dining room, and a large reception room. Such accommodations were what a man in a financially demanding position could afford on a \$12,000 salary, along with a net worth of around \$10,000.

Mrs. Henderson intended her gift to the nation to serve as a memorial to her late husband, John Brooks Henderson, a former U. S. Senator from Missouri, who had co-authored the 13th Amendment (outlawing slavery) to the Constitution, and her recently deceased son, John B. Henderson, Jr., a scientist and former regent of the Smithsonian Institution. The residence in question (which is not to be confused with Mrs. Henderson's famous "Boundary Castle" estate) was located at 2801 16th Street, N.W. Nearby were a number of foreign embassies that Mrs. Henderson had enticed to locate there, creating what is known today as Washington's "Embassy Row."

The half-million dollar, marble structure provided elegant, some might even say regal, quarters. It was a creation of George Oakley Totten, Jr., a noted Washington architect, who had designed a number of impressive diplomatic residences. This residence was well suited for entertaining with its elegant ballroom and large garden in back. The thinking was that the Vice President could assume some of the President's entertainment burden, while having a residence commensurate with his high state position.

In January 1923, Senator Francis Emroy Warren of Wyoming introduced legislation accepting the property on behalf of the Federal government. News of this, however, did not please the First Lady of the Land, Florence Kling Harding. In his 1939 memoirs, *Across The Busy Years*, Nicholas Murray Butler related that upon learning of this proposal, Mrs. Harding flew into a rage, saying this: "Not a bit of it, not a bit of it. I am going to have that bill defeated. Do you think I am going to have those Coolidges living in a house like that? A hotel apartment is plenty good enough for them."

As it turned out, she did not have to kill off the legislation. Vice President Calvin Coolidge did it himself: He rejected the offer outright and the bill died. He did so knowing that he lacked the funds to support such an elaborate establishment and recalling, no doubt, his father's warning to him about imitating a chicken that attempts to fly higher than it can roost.



2801 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC. The above is a rendering of the future home of the Span/US Foundation. In 1923, the structure was offered but rejected as home for the Vice President. The Spanish government acquired the building in 1926 and used it as its embassy thereafter for many years.

Another factor may have been that he had gotten word of Mrs. Harding's opposition to the idea. There was nothing unusual in his action. In coming to Washington in March 1921, Frank W. Stearns, Mr. Coolidge's wealthy friend, offered to provide him a home, and to this generosity, Coolidge had also said no—just as he had earlier in 1919, when Stearns wished to situate him on Beacon Hill after his election as Governor of Massachusetts.

In the Coolidge biographies, this Henderson offer, if it is mentioned at all, focuses on Mrs. Harding's cutting remarks, which became public many years after Mrs. Henderson's offer and after both she and Mr. Coolidge were deceased. It would have been better had historians turned their attention to Coolidge's rejection of the offer and the response to it. For, in the national press, which did not frequently cover him, the Vice President was commended and praised for his "common sense" in handling this situation.

Below is an example that is taken from the editorial page of the *Winfield (Kansas) Daily Courier*, dated February 5, 1923. This unsigned piece may have been written by the paper's editor, but most likely it was taken from a national news service, and thus it would have received a wide distribution. Whoever penned it, he was an understanding friend of Calvin Coolidge.

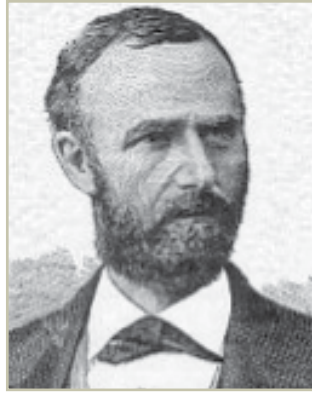
More Like Him Needed

"Vice President Coolidge may not be a great statesman, a scintillating genius or an eloquent orator, but unquestionably he is the possessor of a good-sized stock of common sense. His refusal to approve a bill authorizing the acceptance of a "half million dollar marble palace" as a permanent home for vice presidents is the most recent proof of his sound judgment.

" 'Clapboards and palaces don't go together,' according to the vice-president, who frankly stated that he could not afford to live in such style as the proposed establishment would



Mary Foote Henderson



John B. Henderson

require. Mr. Coolidge is a plain man without frills or fads, and Mrs. Coolidge, it should be noted, holds similar views of life. They are content with the modest quarters they occupy in a family hotel and have no hankering whatever for social prestige, and all the frothy finery that goes with that sort of thing.

“He and his wife in proposing to live the simple life in their present environment, is refreshing and commendable from every point of view. The rank and file of the people are grateful that there is in the country’s capital a family high up in political life which retain the almost Spartan simplicity of their Massachusetts home. Of social climbers, spendthrifts, prodigals and stamina-sapping extravagances, we have had examples galore. Living beyond our means is an American sin and widely prevalent. Thrift is a word that too many confuse with miserliness and consequently run away from. Our country needs a revival of courage, not to do some great deed of physical prowess but the courage to be able to say ‘can’t afford it,’ and stick to it at all hazards.

“Give us more political leaders of the Coolidge type—men and women, too, who are genuinely and joyfully in love with the simpler life and not all stamped by either the Mirrors [a reference to the anonymously authored *The Mirrors of*

Washington, a 1921 compilation of biographical sketches of prominent politicians that excluded Coolidge] or the Moneybags of Washington.”

This article, along with the others like it, presented the public with a favorable picture of Calvin Coolidge: a decent, average man, notable for his common sense, who knew himself and his place in the world. Most likely, this image of the Vice President still lingered in the public’s mind a few months later in August 1923, when Mr. Coolidge was called to the Presidency. No doubt, it helped both to reassure the public about him at a critical time and to ease his way ahead.

Epilogue

The residence offered by Mrs. Henderson to the Federal government in 1923 was eventually sold to the Government of Spain in 1926. For many years thereafter, it served as that country’s embassy. Currently, the structure is being remodel in keeping with the original design for use by the Spain/U.S. Foundation as a home for its social and cultural activities.

Mrs. Henderson lived on until 1931, when she passed away at age 90. She was not discouraged by the Coolidge turn down and attempted more than once in later years—always unsuccessfully—to give one of her properties to the government for home for the Vice President.

Years later, as an ex-President, Calvin Coolidge had a change of heart regarding an official residence for the Vice President. Writing in his *Autobiography*, he stated, “...[My experience has convinced me that an official residence with suitable maintenance should be provided for the Vice-President.” That day would finally come 45 years later in 1974, when the Congress designated a XIXth Century home on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory as the Vice President’s official residence. Walter Mondale became the first Vice President to live there.

—Jerry L. Wallace

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First Annual Presidents' Week Programs

I am happy to report that the Coolidge Foundation's first celebration of Presidents' Week was a great success. We planned two events for the week: one on the Sunday preceding the Federal holiday; and the other on Thursday. We were lucky that the Vermont weather behaved and both days proved to be beautiful.

Coolidge Political Cartoons

Steve Bissette, of the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction, VT presented an unusually impressive program: "Ink & Oil: Calvin Coolidge's Political Cartoon Legacy and Beyond." Bissette has won many industry awards during his quarter-century in comics as a writer, editor, publisher, and cartoonist. Over 40 people joined us for the 2 p.m. event, which was held downstairs in the Education Classroom. Trustee Sarwar Kashmeri, described the event succinctly; "what an entertaining and educational event was today's--Coolidge through Cartoons of the period. The speaker must have spent hours preparing for it and he was really good... It showed the President at his best. A highlight for me was understanding the Teapot Dome Scandal for the first time, and appreciating Coolidge's stature with the American public in that he was untouched by THE scandal of his day. A collateral benefit was appreciating the powerful medium that cartoons were in those days."

One of the interesting aspects of Coolidge-themed political cartoons is the fact that Coolidge was frequently portrayed as a carpenter, launderer, or handyman. Not only did this speak to Coolidge's rural Vermont roots, but also to his hard-working image rebuilding after the Teapot Dome Scandal. Along the sides of the classroom large facsimile copies of Ding Darling cartoons were on display; these had been created for the cartoon book the Foundation printed over 30 years ago. Education Coordinator Diane Kemble is to be applauded for all of her hard work over the past year in making the event a success.

Sneak Peek inside the Foundation's Calvin Coolidge Collection

The second program was held in the Great Room of the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center, and was also well attended. I was pleased to present "Presidents' Week Sneak Peek – Inside the Collections: Coolidge's Presidential Campaigns," with the help of Diane Kemble. I displayed and discussed about a dozen items, and Bill Jenney, Site Manager for the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, loaned three items from the State to help with the discussion. These artifacts included a folk art suffragette doll in a red dress with Coolidge-Dawes pin, a painted canvas 1928 campaign banner, and a selection of campaign memorabilia including a Coolidge cigar, thimble, mini mugs, license plates, voting machines, and bells.



Kate Bradley displays artifacts from our Special Collections.

The theme for the program was born out of the perpetual national interest in the presidential campaigns. In the words of Trustee Emerita Mimi Baird; "Kate Bradley made her speaking debut today in the Great Room. She presented to an enthusiastic group an array of campaign items that are in the Foundation's collection. Kate's talk was well researched and her delight with each item was obvious. Not only did she explain the artifacts and put them in context with the era, but she displayed a wonderful sense of humor." It was a rare opportunity to see memorabilia specifically created for the woman voter. The objects were selected to highlight the early voting years of women. It was a pleasure to showcase these rarely seen items from our Collections to illuminate the Coolidges' important role in the suffragettes' movement.

Both events were followed by light refreshments and a chance to see the as-yet unopened new permanent exhibit. In addition visitors were welcome to experience the entire building. During the winter this Historic Site is officially closed, so it was wonderful to have tourists and interested locals once again at Plymouth Notch. During the course of Presidents' Week there were many who stopped by in recognition of President Coolidge. Among these was a family from Rhode Island who had opted for history instead of skiing for the day. Personally, I found this to be a great experience. Diane and I were able to see that President Coolidge and the Museum and Education Center receive a large amount of interest around Presidents' Week. Both programs demonstrated that Calvin Coolidge continues to intrigue and interest a new generation of visitors and we look forward to welcoming larger audiences with shows of increasing depth and historical interest.

—Kate Bradley
Director of Engagement & Special Collections

2011 DONATIONS

We thank all our friends for their loyal support and for making the Foundation's 50th Anniversary 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.

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Vision Statement

To Become the Gateway to All Things Coolidge

Mission Statement

To Open the Eyes of the World to Calvin Coolidge

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VERMONT HISTORY DAY 2012

Vermont History Day 2012, was held in Barre, Vt., on March 31st. Over 130 student papers, websites, exhibits, documentaries, and performances displayed a wide-range of historical topics all centered around the official theme of Reform, Revolution, and Reaction.

The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation History Prize was awarded to Earle Brown, Jakob DeArruda, Sullivan Miele, Alden Livingston, and Mark Turco from Black River Middle School in Ludlow, VT. Their presentation, "The Ford Model T: Change Comes to America," placed first in the junior exhibit category and qualified for National History Day.

The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation would like to congratulate all participants in Vermont History Day, and in particular, the winners of the Foundation's Special History Prize.



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NEW COOLIDGE EXHIBIT OPENS!

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation is pleased to announce opening of the new permanent exhibition, *More Than Two Words: The Life and Legacy of Calvin Coolidge*, on Saturday, June 9th.

Located in the main exhibition gallery in the Coolidge Museum & Education Center, *More Than Two Words* is a dynamic look at how a boy from rural Plymouth Notch became President of the United States. The highly interactive exhibit is designed to appeal to visitors of all ages, providing an intimate and personal look into the life of the 30th President.

Calvin Coolidge is brought to life through objects, photographs, newsreels, personal correspondence, political cartoons, and the masterful work of Jim Cooke, the re-enactor acclaimed for his insightful portrayal of the 30th U.S. President. Mr. Cooke's narrations of important writings and speeches provide a voice and image when Coolidge himself was not recorded.

The exhibit is the culmination of several years of planning and research. It was designed by Media-FX and Group DES of Montreal, a team internationally recognized



for its innovative interpretive museum displays. Some of their work can also be seen at the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, VT.

Coolidge Foundation members are invited to join Coolidge family members and other dignitaries for the ribbon cutting ceremony on June 9 at 10:00am. The day-long festivities include wagon rides, chicken barbecue, historic craft demonstrations, old-time country music, and more!

—William Jenney
Regional Historic Site Administrator