



CALVIN COOLIDGE

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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GOVERNOR JIM DOUGLAS TO BREAK GROUND FOR NEW CALVIN COOLIDGE EDUCATIONAL CENTER ON AUGUST 1.

Plymouth Notch, VT (PRWEB) July 30, 2009 -- Vermont Governor Jim Douglas will kick off the construction of a 12,000 sq. ft. Education Center at The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, Inc. headquarters location in Plymouth Notch VT on Saturday, August 1, 2009 at 4:00 pm.

"This is an exciting public private collaboration between the State of Vermont and The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation." said John Dumville, Vermont's Historic Sites Operations Chief. "The new center will expand and modernize the current visitor center at the Coolidge Site into a year-round facility with auditorium, classrooms, and additional space for permanent and changing interactive exhibits."

"This Center has been a dream of ours for almost 50 years", said Mimi Baird Trustee and former President of the Coolidge Foundation Board. Original schematic sketches for a Museum-Library date back to 1961 shortly after long-time Dartmouth College Librarian and Dean of the Libraries and distinguished author Edward Connery Lathem, former Vermont Supreme Court Chief Justice Franklin S. Billings, Jr. and other such luminaries of the period--Vrest Orton, Consuelo Northrup Bailey and Deane C. Davis, joined John Coolidge, the son of President and Mrs. Coolidge to form The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Calvin Coolidge has been widely misunderstood. The new Education Center will "open the eyes of the world to Calvin Coolidge" said Len Vignola, Executive Director of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, and "will take our organization a giant step



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to ‘becoming the Gateway for all things Coolidge.’ The facility will allow scholars to conduct research as well as to provide students badly needed facilities for their educational studies”, Vignola added.

In describing Calvin Coolidge in his 1960 book, ” *Meet Calvin Coolidge: The Man Behind the Myth*”, Edward Connery Lathem wrote:

"Through the uniqueness of his character, his personality and manner, and through the elements of the living myth and legend that grew up around him, he has become more than a chapter in the nation's history; he has become a racy, giddy, pleasing part of America's folklore and heritage. He was and continues to be 'Silent Cal,' 'The Man from Vermont,' 'Concentrated New England,' 'A Puritan in Babylon'; the cautious, thrifty, reserved Yankee who presided over a reckless, extravagant, blatant age, who achieved a zenith of popularity and yet, who—ironically and paradoxically—was so little understood."

Note to the Editors: The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation was established in 1960 in part to redress the fact that there is no federally-funded presidential library for Calvin Coolidge, our 30th U.S. President. The Foundation offices are located in Plymouth Notch VT, the birthplace of Calvin Coolidge. The community of Plymouth Notch is among the best preserved of presidential birth sites and is on the U.S. Department of Interior's registry of National Historic Landmarks. We welcome visitors to our website at www.calvin-coolidge.org
