



CALVIN COOLIDGE

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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PERMANENT EXHIBIT TO BE UNVEILED AT CALVIN COOLIDGE EDUCATIONAL CENTER ON JUNE 9, 2012

Plymouth Notch, VT. May 15, 2012 – A page in history will be revisited as Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin unveils the new Permanent Exhibit in the Pinney Room of the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center in Plymouth Notch, VT, on Saturday, June 9, 2012 at 10:00 pm.

Such an exhibit space was conceived by John Coolidge, the son of the President, former Governor Deane C. Davis, Dartmouth Librarian Edward Connery Lathem, Chairman of the Vermont Historic Sites Commission Vrest Orton, and others when they formed The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation in December 1960.

In 1961, Edward Connery Lathem eloquently stated his case for a memorial that would provide an educational experience for visitors. He wrote that “probably nowhere in America could be found a rural community so worthy of historical preservation as Plymouth Notch.” With the eyes of historian, he saw in the place these compelling qualities: It is a real village, not a contrived one....It exists in a strikingly handsome countryside....It is a place where important historic events actually occurred, for not only was a future-President born here, he also took his oath of office here....It has retained to this day an atmosphere that still releases a sense of the drama of those memorable events of its past.

In 1964 Mr. Lathem described plans for educative significance which include the “opportunity for deep study and understanding of the history and culture it represents. ...the Foundation will seek support of students from New England colleges and universities who will find here an appreciation of the universal need for self-realization and creative fulfillment which President Coolidge held sacred.”



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In 1967, the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, the Vermont Board of Historic Sites, the Vermont Historical Society, and The Woodstock Foundation found that what one organization could not do, another could and formed a strategic partnership. Sally Thompson compared the Memorial Area of Plymouth Notch to a rare gem. “Only in the hands of experts can it be polished and made available for public viewing.”

The public private partnership collaborated to construct The Coolidge Memorial Reception Center and Museum in Plymouth Notch, VT, in 1972. Mr. Lathem said that the aspiration of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation is: “reflecting within a museum installation not just this man and his deeds but also the fascination of the age of which he was a part. It is intended as a living memorial and a multi-faceted educational enterprise of national orientation and consequence.”

William B. Pinney, director of the Vermont Board of Historic Sites stated: “A Memorial to Calvin Coolidge cannot alone be a building, but also must be preservation of a way of life. ... Plymouth’s importance as a Historic Site cannot be overstated. It represents not only the preservation of the home of a President, but the entire surroundings that shaped his life and those of his ancestors before him. It combines his birthplace, his home, the home of his family, and the place for his inauguration, all in the untouched beauty of a Vermont village. It is complete with the original artifacts so vital to the portrayal of its history. It is truly unique among all Historic Sites of the Nation.”

In 2010 the President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center, dedicated by Governor James H. Douglas, added a new dimension to the Historic Site. The permanent exhibit space honors Calvin Coolidge and uses digital technology to elucidate and interpret his timeless fundamental values that are so relevant today.
