

# Coolidge Club Blast #11

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## News from the Notch

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## The Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site

The **President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site** opens tomorrow, **May 24**, for its summer season! The historic site represents not only the preservation of the home of a President, but the surrounding environs that shaped his life and those of his ancestors before him. It combines his birthplace, the family homestead, as well as the homes of relatives and friends, all in the untouched beauty of a humble Vermont village. Its modest buildings and their surroundings constitute a historical site in which the story of rural American democracy is told and preserved. The site is owned by the **State of Vermont** and operated by the **Vermont Division for Historic Preservation**. Our friends **Bill Jenney, John Dumville, Laura Trieschmann** and everyone at the Division for Historic Preservation do a fabulous job.

Did you know the historic site comprises over 600 bucolic acres? The site includes the hilleide cemetery in which President Coolidge is now buried with the members of his

HILLSIDE CEMETERY IN WHICH PRESIDENT COOLIDGE IS NOW BURIED WITH THE MEMBERS OF HIS family, the Union Christian Church (c. 1840), the Florence Cilley General Store, a one-room schoolhouse, the Aldrich House, the Wilder Barns, the Wilder House, and the cheese factory. The village is complete with the original artifacts so vital to the portrayal of its history.

The site is also home to the **President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center**. For visitors, it provides educational exhibits that tell the story of Calvin Coolidge's path from the family homestead at Plymouth Notch to the White House in Washington, D.C.

**New this season is the special exhibit, "The Coolidges, Plymouth, and the Civil War."** The exhibit is part of the 150th anniversary commemorations of the American Civil War and examines this monumental event from the perspective of the Coolidge family and their neighbors. The story is told featuring period documents, graphics, and artifacts from private and public collections, and reveals President Coolidge's own keen interest in the subject. **The exhibit was selected as a "Top 10 Event" by the Vermont Civil War Sequicentennial Commission.**

We invite all to visit the State Historic Site this summer and experience the powerful simplicity and beauty of the village that formed our thirtieth president.

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# Happy Memorial Day

*"A nation that forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten."  
Calvin Coolidge*

As we celebrate Memorial Day we remember the many brave men and women who have given the last full measure of devotion to our flag and country. It is because of their courage and perseverance that we enjoy the liberties that accrue to citizens of a free society. We will never forget the tremendous sacrifices they have offered to preserve our freedom.

## Coolidge Presidential Economic Debate



This summer students from the **Debate Institutes of Dartmouth, DDI**, will be coming to Plymouth Notch on **July 8, July 10 and August 1** to tour the Historic Site, learn about Coolidge and compete in debate. In all, some 225 students from more than 116 high schools, plus China, will attend DDI and debate at the Notch.

This is an expansion of last year's successful debate tournament hosted at the Notch in partnership with the DDI and the Bush Presidential Center. The Bush Center produced a video of last summer's debate tournament, available below. In the video you will see some of the key partners who make this project possible: **Roberto Salinas-Leon**, our international economics instructor, **Nicole Serrano**, director of the

Debate Institutes of Dartmouth (learn more about Nicole below), as well as many of our debate judges including **David Pietrusza, Gaurav Tiwari, and Amb. Robert Dieter**. We hope you'll join us for this exciting program this summer. If you'd like to participate as a debate judge on any of the days **please email [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org) to sign up.**

[Watch the 2013 Video Here](#)

## Coolidge Foundation Home School Debate Camp

This summer we are pleased to launch our first annual Homeschool Debate Camp. Interested homeschool families are invited to learn more about this exciting opportunity and sign-up. All the details, [including the link to sign-up](#), are included in our program flier, below.



Join us in idyllic Plymouth Notch, Vermont for the first annual Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation Homeschool Debate Camp. Plymouth Notch is the birthplace and childhood home of America's thirtieth president. It is here that Calvin Coolidge took the Oath of Office in 1923 in a ceremony administered by his father, a notary public.

This unique historical setting is an ideal place for homeschool debaters to come for top-quality debate instruction and an opportunity to win college scholarship prize money.

- Special presentations by **Amity Shlaes, Matthew Denhart** and **Rushad Thomas** of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation and **Roberto Salinas-Léon**, president of the Mexico Business Forum.
- **Greg Rehmke** of Economic Thinking and experienced NCFCA alumni will lead sessions for beginning and advanced students in policy, Lincoln-Douglas and extemporaneous formats.
- Students will learn how American history and economic principles can give them an edge debating their

- Students will learn how financial literacy and economic principles can give them an edge working with their own annual topic.
- On Friday, August 1, homeschool campers will be invited to compete alongside high school debaters from the Debate Institutes of Dartmouth summer camp on an impromptu topic, with prizes in the form of college scholarship money for the winners.
- Campers will be lodged at the recently renovated Cortina Inn and Resort. **Parents are needed to Chaperone.**
- Camp begins at **11AM on July 30** at the Coolidge Foundation. The Cost is **\$150**, which includes lodging, all meals, and materials. Registration Deadline: **July 11, 2014.**
- For more information please email [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org).

REGISTER TODAY AT  
<https://coolidgefoundationdebatecamp.homeschooldebate.net>  
 (802) 672-3389 • [www.CoolidgeFoundation.org](http://www.CoolidgeFoundation.org)

## Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth



The Coolidge Foundation has established the **Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth**, a writing prize named after President Coolidge and Calvin, Jr. Writers aged 19 years and younger currently living in the state of Vermont are eligible to compete for the **first-place prize of \$1,500 and the runner-up prize of \$500.**

This year's Calvin Prize, the second annual, asks Vermont students to think about what factors will influence their decision to remain in Vermont or move elsewhere when the time comes. Furthermore, students are instructed to use Coolidge's *Autobiography* and other sources to address the issues they face and compare and contrast their own situation and decision-making process with that faced by Calvin Coolidge in his years as a Vermont youth. Learn more about the 2014 Calvin Prize by [clicking on this link](#).

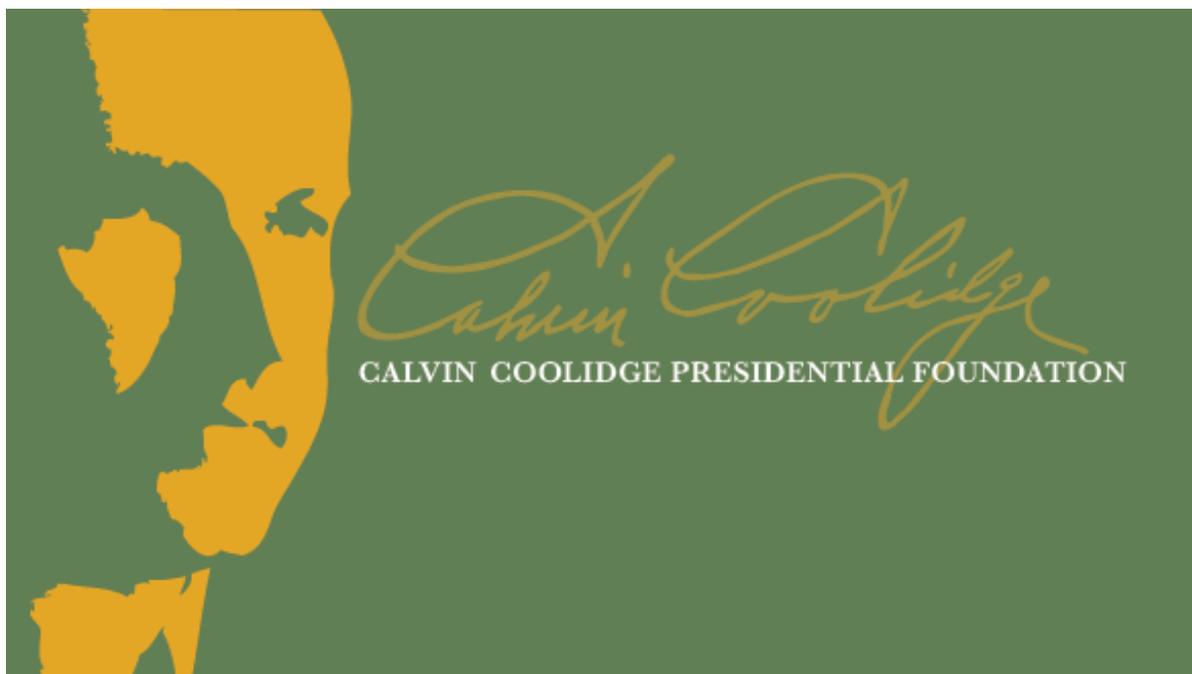
## Chapter Three Has Arrived!

Be sure to check out our audio recording of Chapter 3 of *The Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge* over on our [YouTube Channel!](#) A new chapter will be released each week! In Chapter Three President Coolidge discusses his early experience as a lawyer in Northampton, Massachusetts, as well as his first foray into elected office. Please enjoy and share!

**Remember we will be having a big group reading of the *Autobiography* on July 4 in Plymouth Notch.** Email us at [Events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:Events@calvin-coolidge.org) to sign-up to read!

## Check Out Our Blog!

Be sure to keep an eye on our Coolidge Blog! We have a great new piece written by Coolidge Foundation friend John Hendrickson about President Coolidge's reverence for Alexander Hamilton. You can find that blog post by [clicking here](#).



## Coolidge Foundation Updates

**Coolidge needs your mind, wisdom and voice this summer!** We have a very full calendar of events for summer 2014, and there are many opportunities for Coolidge Club members to get involved. Please join us **July 4 to read from the *Autobiography***. Please also come to the Notch on **July 8, July 10, and August 1 to judge our high school debaters**. Also join us **August 2** to celebrate the inauguration of President Coolidge with the Foundation's annual meeting, a reenactment of the 1923 inauguration, and a presentation by author Reeve Lindbergh. **Let us know if you can help by emailing [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org).**

Here's a comprehensive list of date reminders for your calendar

- **June 21-22: Vermont History Expo** – This year's expo takes place at the **Tunbridge (Vt.) Fairgrounds**. Come see the Coolidge Foundation's exhibit, prepared by Diane Kemble.
- **July 4: Celebration at Plymouth Notch**. Join us for the traditional march to the cemetery, readings and wreath-laying at the gravesite, and a group reading of the Coolidge *Autobiography* in the Union Christian Church. **To sign up to read from the *Autobiography*, [click here](#). Have Questions? Email [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org).**
- **July 8: Presidential high school economic debate at Plymouth Notch**. To judge, email [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org).
- **July 10: Presidential high school economic debate at Plymouth Notch**. To judge, email [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org).
- **August 1: Presidential high school economic debate at Plymouth Notch**. To judge, email [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org).
- **August 2: Coolidge Foundation's Annual Meeting** and Plymouth Old Home Day with speaker **Reeve Lindbergh**. We will also hold a **reenactment** of Coolidge's 1923 inauguration as President. Actor **Jim Cooke** will be on hand for this.
- **August 2: Annual "Under the Tent" Summer Gala at Plymouth Notch**. Tickets required. Ticket info coming soon.
- **August 11: Naturalization Ceremony at Plymouth Notch**. Ceremony begins at 1:00 p.m. Open to the public.

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