

# Coolidge Club Blast #14

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## News from the Notch

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### Calvin Coolidge: Friend of the Native American

On June 13, 2014, with his visit to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in the Dakotas, President Barack Obama became the fourth president to visit an Indian reservation, which are overseen by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior.

In 1927 Calvin Coolidge became the first president to visit an Indian reservation. It is

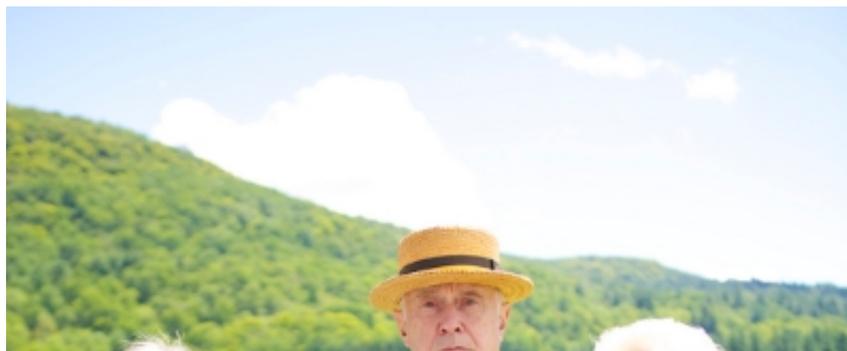
In 1927, Calvin Coolidge became the first president to visit an Indian reservation. It is appropriate that he was the first to do so since he is the only president known to have had Indian blood flowing in his veins, something of which he was proud. After him came Franklin Roosevelt, who in 1936 paid a brief visit to a Cherokee reservation in North Carolina while on his way to dedicate the Smokey Mountain National Park. Then, in 1999, Bill Clinton made his way to the Pine Ridge Reservation, where he gave a short talk.

President Coolidge made his historic visit to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation on August 17, 1927. At the time, he was vacationing in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He spoke to a large audience consisting of several thousand Indians as well as many whites. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Superintendent of the Pine Ridge Agency, and Chief Black Horn greeted the President. His speech that day, which probably ran about the standard 40 minutes, was a substantive one in which he discussed the varied and complex problems of Indian administration and praised the remarkable progress made by Native Americans in their social, educational, and industrial conditions.

Coolidge had a genuine interest in the well being of the American Indian. Like many Americans at the time, he wished to see them integrated into American society and he supported measures along that line. He also wanted to recognize their honorable and distinguished service in the Great War. Thus he happily put his signature on the Indian Citizenship Act on June 2, 1924, 90 years ago this month. His Administration undertook a major study of Indian conditions through the Department of the Interior and the independent Brookings Institution. This study, issued in 1928, was entitled "The Problem of Indian Administration," but was known more colloquially as the Meriam Report. It was the first such report done by the national government in over fifty years and led to a number of significant reforms ameliorating Indian conditions on the reservation.

--Jerry L. Wallace

*Coolidge Foundation National Advisory Board*





## Come Judge High School Debate!

The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation invites you to **participate as a judge** for our High School Debate Program. The Debate Program is a major part of our effort to bring Calvin Coolidge's heritage and values to a new generation of Americans.

The Debates will be held on **July 8 & 10 and August 1** here at Plymouth Notch.

Our partner again this year is the [Debate Institutes at Dartmouth](#). The Institutes are led by Nicole Serrano, a nationally-respected debate leader.

We will also have [home school students](#) from throughout New England at our August 1 Debate.

In the morning the students will be given a tour the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, led by Amity Shlaes, our Chairman and Diane Kemble, our Education Director. The tour will highlights aspects of the Historic Site that relate to the day's debate topic.

Following this, the students will participate in an economics seminar led by [Roberto](#)

Salinas-Leon of the Mexico Business Forum, Chairman Amity Shlaes, and Executive Director Matthew Denhart. The seminar will teach students economic reasoning that relates to the day's debate topic.

In the afternoon the students will participate in debate competitions that will be judged by **generous volunteers like you**, followed by a barbecue dinner and awards ceremony at 5:15PM.

This year's debate topic will be impromptu, but we will send judge materials in advance. As always, we will have our judge trainers on hand.

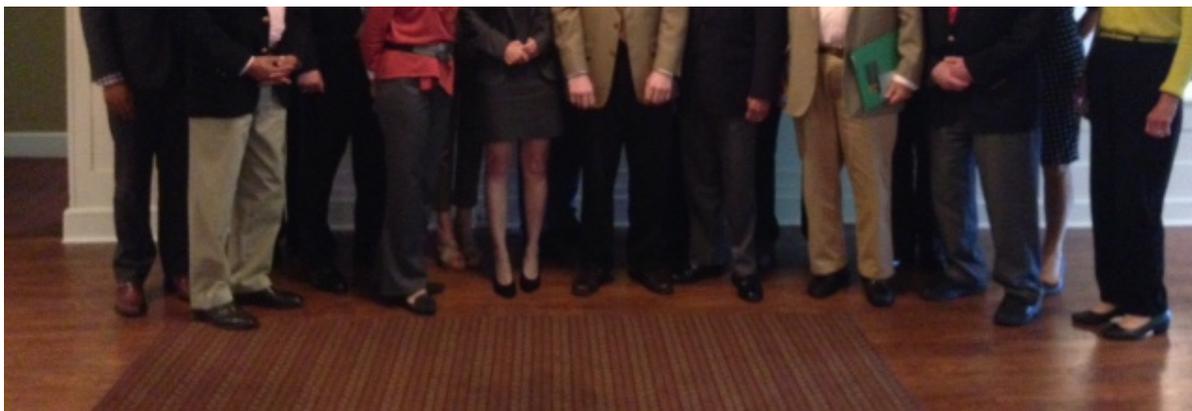
The Coolidge Foundation is proud to welcome these young Americans and encourage them to learn more about American history and economics, and particularly about our thirtieth president, Calvin Coolidge.

To judge, please R.S.V.P by no later than Thursday, July 3 to [events@calvin-coolidge.org](mailto:events@calvin-coolidge.org) or 802.672.3389 ext. 113. Please visit our web page on Debate [Here](#).



Watch the 2013 Video Here





## Scenes from the Spring Trustee Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation met today at the Woodstock Inn for a board retreat and spring meeting. The retreat was facilitated by **Dr. William Beach**, Chief Economist of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget, and **Dr. Bruce Cole**, former head of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Visit the Coolidge Foundation Mural at the Vermont History Expo!

Muralist Terry Sylvester of Brattleboro has brought the iconic photo of Edison's, Ford's

and Firestone's Plymouth visit to life for our exhibit at the 2014 Vermont History Expo (June 21 and 22). The life size mural, painted in shades of black, white, and gray, invites the viewer in to "join the conversation" and think about the changes in technology of the 20's and the changes today, all brought about by the creative process. A chair will be provided and photos encouraged.

In this photo taken 90 years ago in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, Thomas Edison, who is deaf, and Grace Coolidge, teacher of the deaf, lean in towards each other. President Coolidge is flanked by Harvey Firestone and Henry Ford and is signing a sap bucket for Henry Ford's Wayside Inn. Coolidge's father looks on proudly.

The commissioning of this mural was supported by a grant from the Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation. Over the summer and fall, the mural will be in the Schoolhouse, just down the road from the Coolidge Homestead where the photo was taken. After that, it will be downstairs in the Coolidge Classroom in the Museum and Education Center, so the mural will be available for many visitors, including the hundreds of students that visit the site each year with their teachers.

The Vermont History Expo: *Artists & Artisans: Vermont's Creative Heritage*, will be held on June 21 and 22, 10:00AM to 5:00PM, at the World's Fairgrounds in Tunbridge, Vermont. Over 150 history and heritage organizations offer fascinating exhibits sharing community history from all over the state. Artists, artisans, musicians, authors, crafters, and genealogists complete this history-filled heritage extravaganza! More information can be found at <http://vermonthistory.org/expo>.

--Diane Kemble  
Education Director

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## 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 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)



## Coolidge at the National Home School Debate Competition

## Debate Competition

Earlier this week Coolidge Foundation Program Associate Rushad Thomas attended the National Tournament of the National Christian Forensics and Communication Association (NCFCA). The national tournament involved hundreds of home school students competing in a vast array of speech and debate contests. Rushad served as a judge for extemporaneous and prepared speech contests, as well as a team policy debate.

"Attending this competition has been tremendously inspirational," Rushad said. "The students who worked so hard to make it to nationals could rival any seasoned politician with their poise and oratorical skill."

The NCFCA National Tournament gave Rushad an opportunity to recruit for the Foundation's Summer Debate Camp for home school students, and he reports that interest in the debate camp, the Foundation, and President Coolidge were all very widespread among participants and their parents.

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### 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](#).

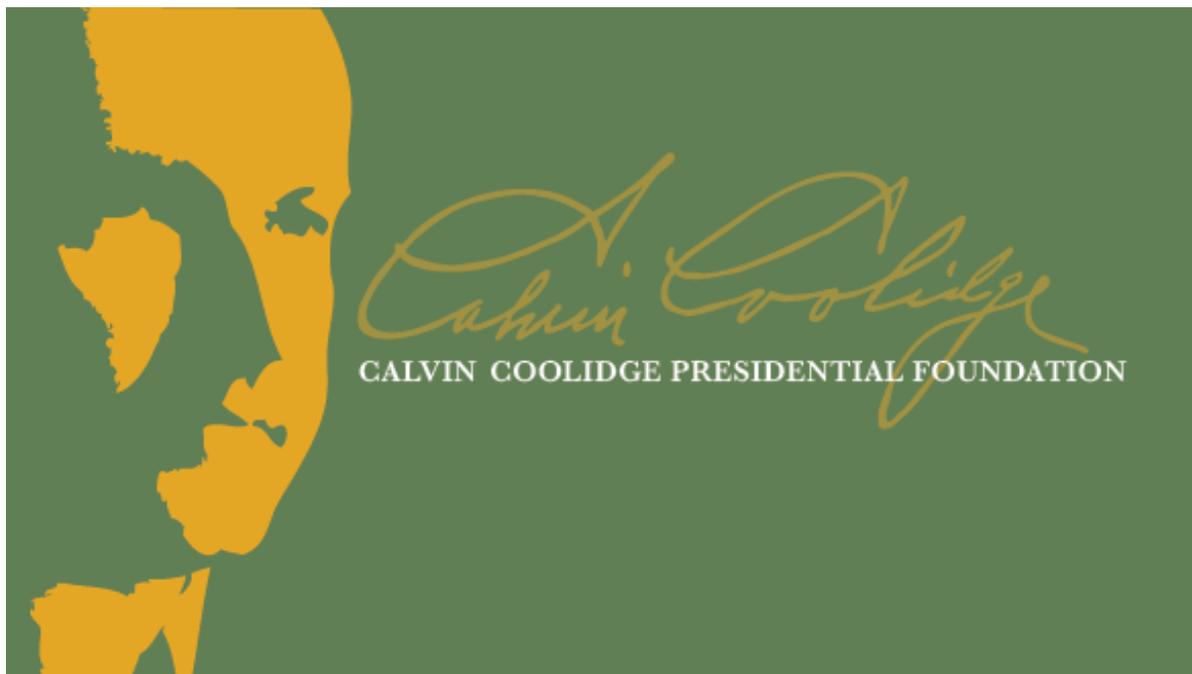
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## Chapter Six Is On the Web!

Be sure to check out our audio recording of Chapter 6 of *The Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge* over on our [YouTube Channel](#)! In Chapter 6 President Coolidge discusses the day-to-day ins and outs of his time in the White House. 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!

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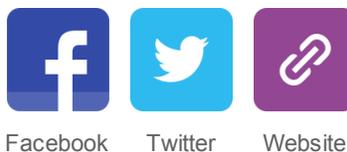
## Coolidge Foundation Updates

**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 with keynote speaker former Vermont Governor James H. Douglas**. 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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