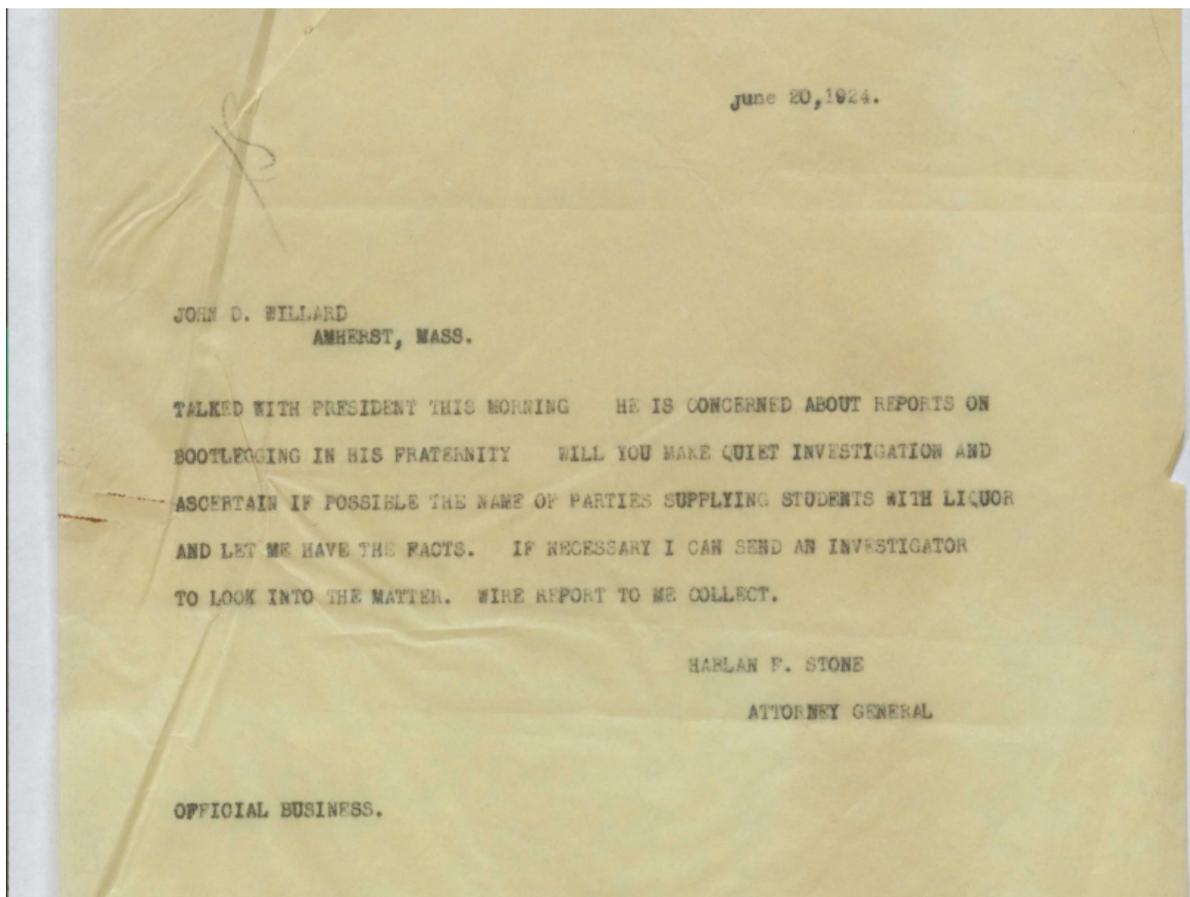


# Coolidge Club Blast #8

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## News from the Notch

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Will my child get in trouble at college? And how can I stop it?

Those are the questions parents ask themselves when their children set out for university. President Coolidge was no different -- as evidenced by a telegram recently uncovered in the Library of Congress by researcher Sim Smiley. The wire was from Attorney General Harlan Stone, Amherst Class of 1894, to a federal agent.

Stone wrote about the president:

"HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS ON BOOTLEGGING IN HIS FRATERNITY [STOP] WILL YOU MAKE QUIET INVESTIGATION AND ASCERTAIN IF POSSIBLE THE NAME OF PARTIES SUPPLYING STUDENTS WITH LIQUOR AND LET ME HAVE THE FACTS."

The fraternity Stone references was Phi Gamma Delta, which President Coolidge, Amherst '95, had joined in his senior year.

But why should Coolidge care?

In 1924, Prohibition was the law of the land. Coolidge hadn't led the dry movement, but he always believed in upholding the law. Reports were that bootleggers were selling liquor to the boys on campus.

What's interesting about this letter is the direct approach. Unlike many other presidents, Coolidge understood that the presidency was no throne. His job, as chief executive was to serve the office and restore the country's trust in it. He was loath to take advantage of his status to get help for a personal issue.

This aversion played out even in his personal life. Coolidge made sure that his sons moved with respect through the rooms on Pennsylvania Ave. One night when John Coolidge, the President's son, returned late from a party and in casual clothes, he asked his father if he might come to dinner. Coolidge told him he must dress up because he was dining with the President.

The answer to the mystery of the uncharacteristic intervention lies in the date. The telegram went, on "official business," on June 20, 1924. That was the June before John would enter Amherst. Coolidge was worried John would drink in college. The president cared so much about John that he would breach his own rules. In this one moment Coolidge reminds us that presidents are like the rest of us.

A full investigation into this matter ensued, with even J. Edgar Hoover, then acting director of the Bureau of Investigation, getting involved. To read the correspondences related to the investigation, [click here](#).

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## Presenting... The Coolidge Dollar!





The **2014 Calvin Coolidge Presidential \$1 Coin** is [now available](#) from the **U.S. Mint**. We received our first batch this week, thanks to the generosity of **Jerry Wallace**. We'll celebrate the new coin on **Monday, May 5**, with a great event at the **Union League Club** in NYC. For fun, above is a picture of some of the coins we'll be giving to event guests next week.

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## 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. 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, 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.

[Watch the 2013 Video Here](#)

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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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## 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 replying to this email.**

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

- **May 5:** Come celebrate the **U.S. Mint's** release of the **Coolidge Presidential Dollar Coin** with a special event at the **Union League Club in New York City**. Our speaker for the evening will be **James Grant**, the author, publisher and monetary policy expert. The event begins at **6:00 p.m.** and is sponsored by **The Lehrman Institute** and **Marketfield Asset Management**. Please RSVP to (212) 588-9148 or [CoolidgeEvents@CapitalHQ.com](mailto:CoolidgeEvents@CapitalHQ.com).
- **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*, respond to this email.**
- **July 8: Presidential high school economic debate at Plymouth Notch.** To judge, reply to this email.
- **July 10: Presidential high school economic debate at Plymouth Notch.** To judge, reply to this email.
- **August 1: Presidential high school economic debate at Plymouth Notch.** To judge, reply to this email.
- **August 1: Annual "Under the Tent" Summer Gala at Plymouth Notch.** Tickets required. Ticket info coming soon.
- **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.

This past week, Coolidge Foundation chairman Amity Shlaes spoke about Coolidge to a full school assembly at **Phillips Exeter Academy**. Shlaes also shared Coolidge with students at **St. Vincent College** in Latrobe, PA.

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