

The Real Calvin Coolidge

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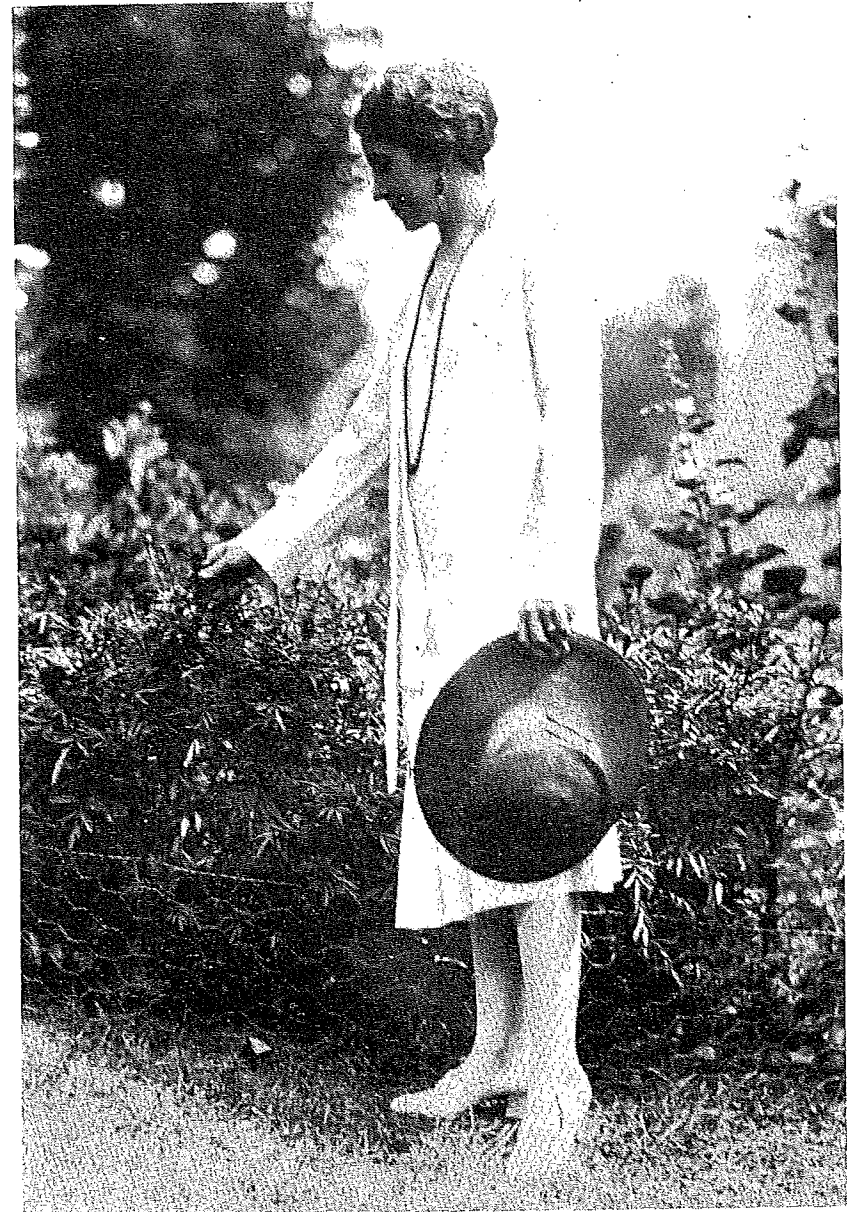
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The Real Calvin Coolidge is free to Foundation members.

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First Lady Grace Coolidge
(Photo courtesy Elwood Allen)

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The present issue is tenth in a series begun in July 1983, and celebrates the legacy of Grace Coolidge. Previous issues have reprinted materials from Mrs. Coolidge's articles in *Good Housekeeping* of 1935 and included new articles from members and friends. This issue contains material from individuals who knew Mrs. Coolidge and those who have studied her life and work.

Charlene McPhail Anderson wrote her essay while enrolled in a course on "First Ladies" taught at the University of Texas by Lewis L. Gould. Hers is an account of how Mrs. Coolidge instructed students at the Clarke School in Northampton. It carries the recommendation of John Coolidge, son of Calvin and Grace Coolidge.

Susan Webb, President of the Coolidge Foundation 1973-80 and Trustee Emerita, originally gave her essay as a talk to retired teachers in Vermont. She knew Mrs. Coolidge while growing up in Burlington.

David Pietrusza gathered material on Grace Coolidge for a slide show he developed for the Coolidge Foundation and presented it at the Union Christian Church in 1991. The baseball quarterly, *Elysian Fields*, originally published his article.

Lawrence E. Wikander, a trustee of the Foundation, gave a talk at the Annual Meeting in 1993, reading from his recent book on Grace Coolidge, and included an unpublished poem by Mrs. Coolidge that is presently in the Coolidge Collection at Forbes Library, Northampton.

Lewis Gould reviews the recently published Grace Coolidge: An Autobiography, edited by Lawrence E. Wikander and Robert H. Ferrell.

J. R. Greene, collector of memorabilia and writer of articles for the Coolidge Foundation, reviews Page Smith's book of a few years ago, Redeeming the Time, which is critical of President Coolidge.

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Grace Coolidge and the Clarke School for the Deaf

by Charlene McPhail Anderson

The role of First Lady of the United States is presently one not merely of high visibility but public activism. In the present century it has become a tradition for the First Lady to select a "project" to which she gives support. It is widely held that Eleanor Roosevelt was the first wife of a President to support openly a worthwhile cause, but there were others. Ellen Wilson took a prominent position in housing reform and her name was attached to a slum clearance bill that Congress passed at the time of her death.¹ Lou Hoover was active in support of the Girl Scouts.² Most important was Grace Coolidge who made a large contribution to children's welfare while in the White House.³ She opened a benefit fair for the Association for the Aid to Crippled Children and supported the Hospital for Joint Diseases, the Children's Hospital, the Campfire Girls and the annual Christmas Seals Drive.⁴ The cause that was dearest to her heart, however, was the education of the deaf and public awareness of their needs. It was in this area that she made the most lasting contribution.

Throughout her life Grace Coolidge took a profound interest in the education of the hearing impaired. As a child she lived near the home of John Lyman Yale, whose sister, Caroline, was principal of the Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Massachusetts.⁵ Grace often visited the Yales and once, when her father was ill, stayed with them for a week.⁶ Caroline Yale and her niece June, a teacher at Clarke, often discussed with Grace the need for help.⁷ At the Golden Anniversary meeting of the Alexander Graham Bell Association in 1940, Mrs. Coolidge, the president of the Association, related that during summers June Yale would occasionally bring a deaf child home for vacation. One summer it was Charles Scribner, son of a member of the publishing firm. When Miss Yale wished to be gone, she would call upon Grace to look after the youngster, which she did with pleasure. "So I became interested in the deaf very early, for I was only thirteen or fourteen years old then. I used to see Miss Yale in the summertime, and although I did not say very much about it to anybody, it became my purpose in life to see what I could do in the way of teaching deaf children . . ."⁸

The Clarke School employed the technique of oralism, which trained children in speech and speech-reading, and it was this technique that Mrs. Coolidge taught for three years.⁹ A pioneer school for teaching speech to the deaf, Clarke was founded in 1867 by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature. It was named after John Clarke of Northampton who made an endowment of \$300,000.¹⁰ The state purchased educational services from Clarke School for qualified children on

a per diem or per capita basis, although a considerable number of its students were private and the school was controlled by its own board.¹¹

Most schools for the deaf were using the manual method, and the founders of Clarke, headed by Gardiner Greene Hubbard, believed an oral method could be as effective in this country as it had proved in Europe. Thus the school assumed a unique position among schools for the deaf in this country, in that speech and lip-reading were used as the basic method of instruction.¹² The goal was to teach pupils entirely by oral method and, second, to create in the school the home atmosphere which surrounds the hearing child. There must be no barriers raised by the education of deaf children to separate them from hearing people. They must not be institutionalized nor segregated. They must not learn to communicate by any system different from that of their associates. They must be taught to speak intelligibly and read speech from lips of others and must be returned as quickly as possible to the ranks of hearing children to complete their education.¹³

The administrators and the faculty of Clarke believed that oralism must become an attitude of mind as well as a method. True oralism penetrates the child's mind and gives a sense of identity with associates; it emphasizes the ways in which he or she is similar instead of different. It gives courage to break down, as far as is possible, the one barrier capable of depriving a person not only of normal communication, but of acceptance by the world. At Clarke the deaf child learns to speak each word only by the most rigid application. As lessons in lip-reading progress, children learn to recognize names of toys and objects; they learn to obey commands; finally comes the actual production of sound.

The school grew, and a training class was established for teachers. In 1892 the trustees extended teacher training to prepare oral teachers for other schools.¹⁴ After graduating from the University of Vermont in 1902, Grace Goodhue enrolled at Clarke to train in techniques she would need to teach deaf children. It was a choice that would influence her life. She would receive the training to make a substantial contribution to the causes of the deaf and it was there that she met Calvin Coolidge.¹⁵

Grace was in her second year of teaching when Calvin Coolidge appeared in her life. She lived in Baker Hall with other teachers and Coolidge boarded nearby in the home of Robert N. Weir, a school steward. One day as she watered flowers outside Baker Hall, she glanced up at the Weir house and saw a man standing by the window shaving. She was astonished because the man wore only his hat and his union suit. She gave a hearty laugh and immediately turned away to continue sprinkling the flowers. Coolidge heard the laughter which focused his attention on Grace Goodhue. He learned that she taught at the school and he began watching

her with interest, but they did not meet again until Weir arranged a meeting. Weir's comment on that occasion has been widely quoted — that having taught the deaf to hear, Miss Goodhue might perhaps cause the mute to speak.¹⁶

A former student, recalling days at the school, said, "We thought she was very nice and the children tried to peep through the crack in the door whenever Mr. Coolidge came for we wanted to see her and her beau. The crack was not very big so we made excuses to pass the door very often. This was not so convenient and after they were engaged they used an upstairs reception room. Mr. Coolidge laid his hat on the floor. We thought Miss Gracie Goodhue very pretty and after they were married they came to see us at the school very often."¹⁷

When the Clarke School celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1917, Mrs. Coolidge was present. She stood on the steps of Hubbard Hall and shook hands with boys and girls she had once taught. She had her picture taken with them and they told her what they had been doing since they left Clarke and started on careers. In 1921, she was elected to membership on the board of directors of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf.¹⁸

When Coolidge was elected Vice-President and the Coolidges moved to Washington, the world came to know Grace Coolidge as her friends and associates had known her. Frances Parkinson Keyes, a noted author and wife of a senator, once wrote of Mrs. Coolidge, "I doubt that any vice-presidential hostess has ever wrung so much pleasure out of Washington or given so much in return . . . She is the only woman in official life of whom I have never heard a single disparaging remark in the course of nearly twenty years."¹⁹

After the death of President Harding, the Coolidges moved into the White House where Grace became a favorite with the staff who nicknamed her "Sunshine." People spoke of her warmth and her lack of political ambition. She appeared to be a woman thoroughly at peace with herself. Even Washington society considered her the most natural First Lady since Mrs. Grover Cleveland.²⁰

Early in her husband's term of office, Grace realized the opportunities that had been afforded her and wrote of her feelings to a group of friends with whom she had a lifetime correspondence. "Daily, I am impressed anew with the responsibility and opportunity which has been given me in coming to this wonderful old mansion. In no sense does it overwhelm me, rather does it inspire me and increase my energy and I am so filled with the desire to measure up to this God-given task that I can almost feel strength poured into me."²¹ As First Lady she frequently invited students from the Clarke School to visit the White House.²² Other deaf groups visited, and on one occasion a group of graduates from the Public School

for the Deaf in New York City presented gifts they had made.²³

Grace invited prominent deaf people, and she and Helen Keller were photographed on the rear portico. Miss Keller recalled the occasion: "I found Mrs. Coolidge one whose heart is responsive to every whisper of sorrow. She told me she had always been interested in the deaf — she had taught the deaf at Northampton many years ago — and added that she would be happy to help brighten the dark world of the sightless."²⁴

Controversies concerning oral versus manual techniques appeared in the press and on occasion included Mrs. Coolidge. An article in the *New York Times* which reported President Coolidge's visit to Vermont accompanied by Mrs. Coolidge noted that a student from Clarke presented a bouquet to Mrs. Coolidge who smiled thanks for the message conveyed by the student's fingers.²⁵ Bessie Leonard, principal of Clarke, responded sharply that "no sign language has ever been permitted at the school, which uses the oral method in training the deaf."²⁶

Mrs. Coolidge steadfastly refused to be interviewed and was constantly being persuaded to change her mind. At a luncheon attended by women reporters, she rose as if to make a speech. Instead, she raised her hands and made a speech in sign language. It was evidently the only time she ever used it and may have learned a few phrases for the occasion. Her son John commented, "Clarke is strictly an oral school. Sign language is not taught there. I am sure my mother did not know how to use it."²⁷

At a special meeting of the board of Clarke School in 1927, Clarence W. Barron presented an ambitious plan for raising the endowment. At a regular meeting the plan for \$2,000,000 for the school was discussed.²⁸ Barron, a long-time friend of the President, was manager of Dow Jones and Company, publishers of the *Wall Street Journal*. Talking with reporters he explained that he had just discovered that the deaf "gave us the telephone and in forty years nothing has been done for the deaf and dumb." It was at Clarke that Melville Bell had come to teach many years earlier. Gardiner G. Hubbard asked Bell to teach his four-year-old daughter, Mabel, who was deaf. In gratitude Hubbard gave financial backing to "a toy" invented to assist in the instruction of the deaf. The inventor was Bell's son, Alexander, and from this invention came the telephone and, later, Alexander Graham Bell married Mabel Hubbard.²⁹

In belief that a research department would assist scientists in the study of deafness and bring understanding of some of its more obscure causes, President and Mrs. Coolidge lent their names to the proposed fund, which became the Coolidge Fund.³⁰ They were eager to see the school's activities expanded, especially in the prevention of deafness and ascertaining what influence disease, he-

redity, or other conditions had in causing deafness.³¹ But Coolidge insisted that no one be "forced" to take part on account of friendship with himself and Mrs. Coolidge.³² They both felt that to promote a cause that benefitted an institution that was so important to them might be construed as self-interest.³³ Once the President received a letter from Caroline Yale asking "whether or not we might continue to use your name as Chairman of our Endowment Committee. Realizing, as you must, the great value to the School of such service, we venture to hope that you will still allow the use of your name as heretofore." He accepted but stated he could not "permit the use of his signature on the various letters and appeals which were going out in connection with the Endowment Fund Campaign."³⁴

Barron made a report to President Coolidge in 1928 concerning a luncheon held in New York to discuss the campaign. "Nearly everybody expressed surprise that they had never heard of the Clarke School, or the cause for which I pleaded," Barron said. "Mr. Herbert L. Pratt, who seemed very much interested, and others, suggested an organization committee to enlist a larger New York committee to raise at least \$800,000 privately in advance of the public campaign. The consensus of opinion at the luncheon yesterday was that under the name of Coolidge, the task would not be difficult to raise quietly the amount I had asked for from New York."³⁵ With assistance on the board, Barron invited prominent citizens to luncheons where the campaign and programs of the school were presented. Barron's health failed, and he died, but the program continued.

The newspapers reported the progress of the fund and at the same time praised Mrs. Coolidge. An editorial in the *New York Times* concerning the fund stated, "Through no other medium can Americans so appropriately show appreciation of the gracious presence in the White House of one who was a teacher of those on whose behalf the fund is sought - the deaf. She has met the responsibilities which come inevitably to the First Lady of the Land with an ability, simple dignity, grace and charm that have made her admired by and beloved of the whole nation."³⁶ The *New York Herald Tribune* similarly praised Mrs. Coolidge in an editorial titled, "In the Hearts of Her Countrymen". It stated in part, "Mrs. Coolidge long ago won all hearts by her natural grace and the flawless tact of her deportment as the mistress of the White House, the First Lady of the Land. Her buoyancy, her complete friendliness, her shining sincerity, the unflinching rightness of her bearing in every vicissitude of her high station have endeared the President's wife to Americans."³⁷

Mr. Charlton proposed a letter to be widely distributed, "sending it to 4,000 or 5,000 names throughout the country." It said in part, "The whole country admires and esteems very highly the First Lady of the Land, and I am sure you share this feeling. Is there any way better that we may show our regard for her than by

completing the Coolidge Fund for Clarke School and the deaf? One contributor wrote, 'I am making this donation as a very slight token of my appreciation of Mrs. Coolidge, in my estimation, the most wonderful First Lady that has ever lived in the White House. The entire nation is proud of her.'" It is not clear whether this letter was mailed as planned by Mr. Charlton, but it clearly indicates the important position Mrs. Coolidge held in the success of the campaign and the esteem afforded her by the public.³⁸ Clearly the Coolidge Fund had become, more than anything else, a tribute to Grace Goodhue Coolidge.

While keeping a low profile in solicitation of funds, the Coolidges were in contact with those who directed the Coolidge Fund Committee. Frequently their advice was sought and they were apprised of the status of the campaign. Through their secretaries, Mary Randolph and E.T. Clark, they corresponded with volunteers, contributors, and committee members. Mrs. Coolidge signed and mailed photographs, and Mr. Coolidge wrote personal notes.³⁹ Many of the contributors made large pledges, but there were many contributions under \$100.⁴⁰ Pupils of the school raised \$3,000 through a Christmas sale of articles made in the manual training and sewing departments.⁴¹ President Coolidge consented to the sale of his private book plate, for \$5 a copy, designed by Timothy Cole, a well-known engraver, who etched the house in which the President was born, and below was the inscription, "Calvin Coolidge."⁴²

With the completion of his term of office Coolidge and his wife returned to Northampton, but Mrs. Coolidge continued to be active in her concern for the deaf. In the chapel of Hubbard Hall at Clarke on March 13, 1929, she presented the \$2,000,000 fund. Before the student body, which could not hear the words, but listened with their eyes to the speakers, she presented the letter to Caroline Yale.⁴³ The Clarence W. Barron Research Department was established to study experimental phonetics, the heredity of deafness, and the psychological difficulties of the deaf child.⁴⁴ Mrs. Coolidge continued to be active in her concern for the deaf, visiting classrooms and taking an interest in the high-fidelity equipment being tested. She followed experiments with large hearing aids and appraised the results of a five-year experiment showing that children who used them advanced faster.⁴⁵

As the years passed, Grace Coolidge's interest in deaf children never flagged. The National Institute for Social Sciences in 1931 awarded her their medal for "distinguished social services in behalf of the deaf at the Clarke School . . . and for her fine personal influence exerted as the First Lady of the land."⁴⁶ After the death of her husband in 1933 she continued her work, and in 1935 became president of the board of Clarke.⁴⁷ When the school celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1942, she opened the program with presentation of a flag and flagpole, gifts of an

anonymous friend.⁴⁸ In 1951 a building on the campus of Clarke was dedicated to Caroline Yale. The dedication ceremony took place on commencement day and Mrs. Coolidge took part, delighting the children with a running series of informal questions and comments.⁴⁹ Mrs. Coolidge was named honorary president of the Volta Speech Association and in 1952 participated in its summer program meeting where she gave the welcoming address.⁵⁰

In 1955 the Clarke School announced that Mrs. Coolidge would lead a national drive for \$3,000,000, the school's centennial program, which would reach maturity in 1967.⁵¹ She hoped this fund would bring the same educational opportunities to deaf children as those enjoyed by the hearing.⁵² During these years she sent notes to friends, often in her own hand, encouraging support of the Clarke School. In a letter to Clark Griffith, president of the Washington Senators baseball team, she said, "I think that you will be interested in hearing about the work we do with deaf children at Clarke School. A little later we shall ask you to endorse a plan which we have to make it possible to increase the efficiency of our plant. We call it our 'Development Program'."⁵³

Grace Coolidge died on July 8, 1957 and so ended a lifetime of service to others. Fifty years of her life had been spent in service to the deaf. Her concern reached farther than the "project" of a First Lady. She once told Dr. Pratt, Clarke's president, that she felt teaching of the deaf was a vocation to which one could give one's whole being.⁵⁴ This she did, as a youthful girl entertaining a deaf boy on summer vacation, as a young professional teaching deaf students, as First Lady familiarizing her countrymen with the needs of the deaf, and in later years continuing support for research into the causes of deafness. With her warmth, genuineness, and kindness Grace Coolidge will be long remembered as one of the most publicly active First Ladies of our century.

Charlene McPhail Anderson, a student of Professor Gould's at the University of Texas, wrote her essay for his class on First Ladies and edited it for our edition. Her father was in the Secret Service during the 1920s and served President Coolidge while on assignment.

Notes

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2. Carl Sferrazza Anthony, *First Ladies* (New York: William Morrow, 1990), p. 436.
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4. *New York Times*, Dec. 13, 1925; Nov. 21, 1925.
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8. "In Memoriam: Grace Goodhue Coolidge," *Volta Review*, vol. 59 (Sept. 1957), 297.
9. *New York Times*, Oct. 3, 1928.
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11. *Handbook of Speech*, 1971 ed., p. 407.
12. "A Half Century of Progress in the New England School," *Volta Review*, vol. 41 (Oct. 1939), 562.
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14. *Volta Review*, vol. 41 (Oct. 1939), 564-565.
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16. *Ibid.*, p. 9.
17. Marietta Andrews, *My Studio Window* (New York: Dutton, 1928), p. 377.
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21. Ross, p. 110.
22. Anthony, p. 420.
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26. *Ibid.*, Oct. 3.
27. Anthony, p. 643.
28. Coolidge papers, agenda for meeting of board of trustees, Mar. 9, 1927.
29. *Boston Globe*, July 25, 1927, Coolidge papers.

30. *New York Times*, Jan. 6, 1929.
31. *Ibid.*, Nov. 13, 1928.
32. E.T. Clark to Paul Shoup, Dec. 15, 1928, Coolidge papers.
33. Anthony, p. 422.
34. Caroline Yale to Coolidge, Sept. 10, 1923; Coolidge to Caroline Yale, Sept. 12, Coolidge papers.
35. Barron to Coolidge, Feb. 9, 1928, Coolidge papers.
36. *New York Times*, Nov. 16, 1928.
37. *New York Herald Tribune*, Nov. 21, 1928, Coolidge papers.
38. W.B. Dickinson to E.T. Clark, Jan. 11, 1928, Coolidge papers.
39. Mary Randolph to L.A. Krigbaum, Nov. 1, 1926, courtesy Lewis L. Gould; Dickinson to Clark, June 7, 1928; for the Coolidge Fund see file 2, president's personal file, Coolidge papers.
40. Supplementary list of contributions, Feb. 2, 1929, Coolidge papers.
41. *New York Times*, Jan. 28, 1929.
42. *Ibid.*, Feb. 13-14.
43. *Ibid.*, Mar. 13.
44. Ross, p. 313.
45. *Ibid.*, p. 313.
46. *New York Times*, May 8, 1931.
47. *Ibid.*, Oct. 18, 1935.
48. *Volta Review*, vol. 42 (Dec. 1942), 684.
49. *Ibid.*, vol. 53 (Aug. 1951), 372.
50. *Ibid.*, vol. 54 (Apr. 1952), 168.
51. *New York Times*, Mar. 19, 1955.
52. Ross, p. 312.
53. Grace Coolidge to Griffith, Dec. 11, 1954, courtesy Lewis L. Gould.
54. Ross, p. 314.



First Lady Grace Coolidge visits with children at her beloved Clarke School. Courtesy of the Clarke School, Northampton, MA.

Grace Goodhue Coolidge

by Susan Webb

Among the long list of Vermont women who have done much for our state for many generations, Grace Coolidge deserves special recognition. I feel that perhaps I shall be telling you some stories about Mrs. Coolidge that you already know. I am happy, however, to talk about one of my favorite ladies.

Grace Goodhue was born in Burlington and lived on Maple Street just below the C. P. Smiths' lovely garden. It was a simple, loving home with her parents, Captain and Mrs. Andrew Goodhue. Captain Goodhue had been appointed steamboat inspector for the Champlain Transportation Company by Grover Cleveland. Quite naturally Grace grew up with trips around the lake on the steamers as a part of her life. But didn't we all? Sunday School picnics were planned to go by boat to Crown Point and Fort Frederic. It was possible to travel all the way from New York City to Burlington by boat.

Grace is said to have inherited her warm, friendly spirit from her father. Captain Goodhue was generally at the front door of the College Street Church on Sundays to greet attendees and, if it happened to be snowing, with a small whisk broom in hand to brush off the snow on their coats. I still remember Captain Goodhue and my father stopping to chat about their daughters when they met on their way downtown. By that time Grace Goodhue had become Grace Coolidge, first lady of our country. But that didn't matter; they found experiences to share.

Grace's mother was made of sterner stuff, a New Englander, reminiscent of our grandmothers, very reserved, of deep conviction. Her pride and independence made her appear stiff to strangers.

These were the years when sledding parties took place. Maple Street was often closed off, so one could coast all the way to the bottom of the hill on bobsleds. There were also sleighing parties, and skating on the lake.

Grace Goodhue first attended the little school at the corner of Maple and South Union Streets run by Miss Cornelia Underwood. I remember Miss Underwood later after she had closed her school—a large, somewhat forbidding, but gracious lady.

Grace entered the University of Vermont in 1896. Her friends knew her as a lively, outgoing girl with an unquenchable thirst for good times, an infectious laugh, and the knack of endearing herself to others. She loved music and it became a

lifetime interest. She joined in the college parties, loved to dance, and of course went sleighing with her friends. She was one of the founders of the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, so-called because sororities had not come into existence then. Captain Goodhue fixed up the attic of their Maple Street house so the girls could hold their meetings in it.

Grace was more interested in the events going on about her than in her textbooks, according to her biographer Ishbel Ross. She wrote a theme entitled "Life." It was returned to her with the comment, "I suggest that you refrain from writing upon this subject until you have had more experience."

After graduation she took a step that gave direction to her life and brought her in touch with the man who would be her husband and the thirtieth president of the United States. She had been hearing a great deal about the Clarke Institute for the Deaf in Northampton, Massachusetts. Miss Caroline Yale was the principal and her brother lived just down Maple Street from the Goodhues. Through their friendship Grace became interested and decided to go there to teach.

The story is told that one day when she was watering the flower borders outside the Clarke School building, she happened to look up at the house next door to see a strange spectacle. A man stood at the window shaving and he had on a hat. She burst out laughing, then turned away and continued to water the flowers. The man was Calvin Coolidge. He was caught by her merry laughter and began to ask who the lady of the laugh was, found out, and began to watch her with interest. He appealed to a mutual friend who arranged a meeting.

After all, they had Vermont in common. Both were intent on their chosen careers, although one was very serious, reserved to the point of taciturnity according to his biographer. He was living a frugal, lonely life except for his political interests. The other was a lively girl, interested in people, reaching out to them with her friendship. Living in Burlington was quite different from growing up in Plymouth Notch. But their values and goals were much the same.

Soon Calvin went right to the heart of the matter. By the summer of 1905 visits were made to Burlington and Plymouth. Calvin's grandmother put the final approval on Miss Goodhue when she said to Calvin, it is reported, "That's a likely looking girl, Calvin. Why don't you marry her?" "Maybe I will, grandma," he replied, his own decision already having been made.

Captain Goodhue liked the young lawyer and came to regard him highly. Mrs. Goodhue was harder to convince and never failed to give Grace the credit for Calvin's success.

They were married in Burlington in the fall of 1905, in the Goodhue parlor. Grace wore a gray dress and carried autumn garden flowers. They went to Montreal for their honeymoon but after a week Grace could see that her husband was anxious to get home to Northampton and his work there, so off they went.

The depth of their love and their understanding of each other comes through as a bright and shining light as one reads the story of their lives. She was gregarious, he solitary, she joyous and impulsive, he serious and cautious, but both possessed wit. Grace's humor was open and friendly, Calvin's wry, unexpected, hard to understand because of his poker face. She never failed to pick up his jokes and he was amused by hers.

They lived simply in a double house, as we used to call them, on Massasoit Street in Northampton. Grace Goodhue may have thought she was marrying a country lawyer, but even in his Amherst College days his friends saw potential leadership in Calvin Coolidge. He became mayor of Northampton, went on to be speaker of the Massachusetts House and was elected governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Two sons were born, John in 1906, Calvin, Jr., in 1908. I remember their mother describing to me how she made costumes for their plays and shared with them many of their activities.

A friend who lived on Massasoit Street nearby told me how John played doctor to her dolls very seriously, but that Calvin was a tease. The boys attended public school and worked to earn money for their small charities. All four members of the family were active in the Congregational Church. Mrs. Coolidge enjoyed being mother and homemaker, the role her husband saw for her.

When her husband became governor, Mrs. Coolidge led the grand march at the inaugural ball. Frank Stearns, the governor's closest friend and political adviser, stood watching her. He wrote to Dwight Morrow, Mr. Coolidge's Amherst classmate, "One of his [Coolidge's] greatest assets is Mrs. Coolidge. She will make friends wherever she goes and she will not meddle with his conduct of the office." Mr. Stearns was steering the Coolidges to the White House.

Most of us remember the governor's words in ending the policemen's strike in Boston: "There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, any time." This brought strong backing for Governor Coolidge to run for the presidency. When he was offered the vice-presidency, he accepted. After his election his law partner, Mr. Hemenway, was heard to say more prophetically than he realized, "With your luck, I wouldn't want to be in the president's shoes for

anything in the world." Mrs. Coolidge had proved to be an able campaigner. Again Mr. Stearns paid tribute to Grace when he said to the new vice president, "You must have seen coming events fifteen years or more ago when you chose Mrs. Coolidge to be your helper in the work for others you do and are destined to do."

It was at the beginning of the vice-presidential campaign that I came to know Mrs. Coolidge. She was at home on a visit to her parents and invited four of us, thirteen-year-olds, to come to see her. It was exciting to be meeting a potential vice-president's wife. I shall never forget that delightful evening. Her friendliness reached out to us and we felt very important when she pinned campaign buttons (Harding - Coolidge) on our coats as we were leaving. Then and there we were promised to the support of Calvin Coolidge for vice president. But it was not only our visit of one evening that made us love her. Next morning when the four of us, my sister, myself, and two friends, went by to school, she was in an upstairs window waving to us and whenever she was at home, there she was with her friendly gesture.

The four of us watched that campaign with eager interest and when the election was over and Calvin Coolidge had won, we sat down to compose a letter of congratulations. Soon after, each one of us received a letter on White House stationery thanking us for ours. These letters were written in her own handwriting and signed "Grace Goodhue Coolidge." Every teenage girl needs a heroine. Grace Goodhue Coolidge became mine. I made up my mind that if ever I was to be in the position of meeting many people, I wanted to have her graciousness and understanding.

The Coolidges moved to Washington. Life changed for them, of course. They lived at the New Willard Hotel. Mrs. Coolidge's parties were well attended. The story of President Harding's death and the swearing-in of the thirtieth president in the simple Plymouth farmhouse is too familiar to repeat here.

Those years were known as the flaming twenties, the years of speak-easies, motor cars on back roads, flappers, easy prosperity. No matter, a family lived quietly and easily in the White House, keeping an atmosphere we believe is truly American, upholding values most Americans believe in. Mrs. Coolidge loved children and was always happy when they were rolling eggs on the White House lawn or having tea with her upstairs.

Throughout all the years she kept in touch with her college friends whom she called the Robins. Her round-robin letters to and from them are a priceless treasure as they tell of her life in the White House and her reactions to a variety of

situations. One letter went astray until it was finally found pigeonholed by the Secret Service. Mrs. Coolidge quickly made it clear that she was receiving letters from very dear friends of many years and, as she said, she was a human being before she was a president's wife and she counted herself fortunate to have friends who still regarded her as a human being. Would the Secret Service not regard with suspicion any letter arriving with a strange beginning such as "Dear Goody" or "Dear Honey-Elephant" or signed "The Witch?"

Both Coolidges were fond of dogs. The white collies, Prudence Prim and Rob Roy, went with them about the White House and on their walks and slept close by at night. She wrote to the Robins of their amusing ways. Her most famous portrait was done by Howard Chandler Christy; Rob Roy was in the picture. Someone sent a small raccoon as a gift. It was intended for a Thanksgiving dinner, but instead was kept as an amusing pet the president carried in to show to guests until it became too big and went to a zoo.

The president was devoted to his wife. He was an undemonstrative man but haunted the mailroom for her letters when she was away. On finding such a letter, he would pocket it and lock himself away until he had read it. The words in his autobiography express the depth of his feeling: "From our being together we seemed naturally to come to care for each other. We thought we were made for each other. For almost a quarter of a century she has borne with my infirmities and I have rejoiced in her graces."

Tragedy was a part of Calvin Coolidge's entire life. His mother and sister died when he was young and the loss of his younger son during the presidency was summed up in his words, "When he went, the power and the glory of the presidency went with him." The Coolidges went through this experience with the fortitude to be expected of such deeply spiritual people, but they never recovered from their sense of loss. Calvin Junior had been a sensitive, perceptive boy who had handled the life of a president's son well. He was reported to have been more like his father than John, full of humor. His parents tried to carry out what they felt he would have liked them to do.

Mrs. Coolidge had begun to write poetry even in college. Five years after Calvin Junior's death she wrote a poem that she said wrote itself and sent it to the editor of *Good Housekeeping* because, as she said, "I have often received letters from mothers who have shared my experience and I hope that the poem might spread comfort."

You, my son,
 Have shown me God.
 Your kiss upon my cheek
 Has made me feel the gentle touch
 Of Him who leads us on.
 The memory of your smile, when young,
 Reveals His face,
 As mellowing years come on apace.
 And when you went before,
 You left the gates of heaven ajar
 That I might glimpse,
 Approaching from afar,
 The glories of His Grace.
 Hold, son, my hand,
 Guide me along the path,
 That coming,
 I may stumble not,
 Nor roam,
 Nor fail to show the way
 Which leads us - Home.

The Coolidges came to Plymouth Notch on frequent trips. Mrs. Coolidge enjoyed the countryside, made friends with their neighbors. She was fond of the president's father. Each day she would walk down the road to Calvin's grave, bringing bouquets of wildflowers. Life could go on quietly at the Notch despite the work for the president in the executive office established over the post office across the street.

The president's one extravagance was on clothes for his wife. He picked out gowns and hats on his walks about Washington with Colonel Starling, his chief aide in charge of security. He liked bright colors and one day his eye was caught by a black velvet gown with bright scarlet strips running from neck to hem. "What do you think of this," she asked Miss Randolph, her social secretary. "It wouldn't be bad without these," was the reply. "But that's what he likes about it, this is what took his eye," Grace Coolidge pointed out. Mrs. Coolidge carefully explained to her husband that the dress was too large a size and had to be sent back, but she knew his love for her and took care not to hurt his feelings. He liked to choose her clothes, but when he did not choose to run for another term as president, he never even told her and when someone told her, she simply replied, "Isn't that like the man. He never gave me the slightest intimation of his intention; I had no idea."

The time came to return to Northampton. They were glad to be going home. She read widely, kept up with books familiar to us all and with her work for Clarke School.

In 1930 the University of Vermont bestowed an honorary degree upon her with the citation, "All ours when the school girl lived and worked among us; ours still though not unshared when the First Lady cast her kindly spell of act and speech and manner over the hearts of a nation; ours now when we honor in her guise the crown of achievement, the art of arts, the power of grace, the magic in a name." It was my own graduation that year and I remember the charming lady in her doctor's gown coming across the platform to shake my hand and that of my twin sister when we received our diplomas. That was truly Mrs. Coolidge. There was no way one could ever forget her or not love her.

She took joy in John's marriage to Florence Trumbull in Connecticut and in her two granddaughters. These all carry on the family closeness, supporting each other at Coolidge events.

Two more poems of Mrs. Coolidge show her depth of understanding.

The Quest

Crossing the uplands of time
 Skirting the borders of night
 Scaling the face of the peak of dreams,
 We enter regions of light
 And hastening on, with eager intent
 Arrive at the rainbow's end,
 And there uncover the pot of gold
 Buried deep in the heart of a friend.

Watch-fires

Love was not given the human heart
 For careless dealing
 Its spark was lit that man
 Might know Divine revealing.

Heaped up with sacrificial brands
 The flame, in mounting
 Enkindles other hearts with love
 Beyond the counting.
 Reflected back into each life
 These vast fires, glowing
 Do then become the perfect love
 Of Christ's bestowing.

Mrs. Coolidge understood her husband's failing health. As she said, the death of their younger son was a severe shock and the zest for living was never the same for him afterward.

After her husband's death she carried on alone. She loved to travel without the ceremony of the White House years. Wherever she was on a Sunday, she attended church and sang all the hymns without looking at the hymn book. She kept up her interest in music and her work for the deaf.

She was seventy-seven when she attended the dedication of the Calvin Coolidge Room of Forbes Library in Northampton in 1956. Governor Christian Herter seeing her there said, "With Mr. Coolidge, to the great satisfaction of this community, came the lovely lady whom he married in 1905 and who has lent to every office which he held, including the highest, the charm of her gracious, outgoing personality. We share with her today some rich memories which must come to her on this occasion."

We too have rich memories of her. She will be our special First Lady always, a Vermonter in the finest tradition.

Susan Howard Webb is a Vermonter, born in Burlington, a graduate of the University of Vermont, and has been a state legislator. The Foundation is delighted to offer her memories of Grace Coolidge.

Grace Coolidge—The First Lady of Baseball

by David Pietrusza

Baseball is as American as the presidency itself (although the reverse cannot always be said), and many a ball fan has inhabited the White House.

History (OK, it wasn't history—it was only Bill Stern) documents that on his deathbed, Lincoln begged Abner Doubleday not to let baseball die. In any case, Honest Abe's successor, Andrew Johnson, was the first sitting chief executive to be recorded as taking in ball games, a circumstance which precedes the founding of the National League. True, some presidents such as Grover Cleveland were downright hostile to the national pastime, even rudely rebuffing invitations to view a game, but others, such as Garfield, Hoover, Nixon, and Bush were well known "cranks." It is even believed that Dwight Eisenhower briefly played minor league ball under an assumed name.

Surprisingly, the greatest White House baseball enthusiast of all time was not to be found within the ranks of our chief executives, but rather was one of our first ladies.

The spouse in question is Grace Goodhue Coolidge, the beautifully effervescent wife of dour Calvin. Known for decades as "The First Lady of Baseball," she was a fixture at Opening Days, World Series, ordinary games at Fenway (and there were many ordinary ones in her day), and camped in front of the radio at home tuned in to any game within range.

"I venture to say," she wrote to close friends in the 1950's, "that not one of you cares a hoot about baseball but to me it is my very life"—and she meant it.

Husband Cal wasn't exactly a fan himself, being unathletic and tightly focused on law and government. "Games did not interest me much though I had some skill with a bat," Silent Cal wrote of his days at Ludlow, Vermont's Black River Academy. Regarding his Amherst years, he noted that while the school "won its share of trophies on the diamond...In these field events I was only an observer..." On the eve of the 1990 American League playoffs his son John (a loyal if somewhat skeptical Red Sox fan) recalled that as for playing ball with his father, he would have "nothing more than a catch. He [Coolidge] was not at all athletically inclined."

But Grace was Cal's direct opposite in baseball as in so many other fields. There is some controversy over when—and why—Mrs. Coolidge became such an

aficionado. Some say she was so smitten from her youth. If so she may have been presumed to have been a fan of Northampton's ill-fated Connecticut State League team, the Meadowlarks, when her husband was mayor of that city. No record of such an interest exists, however.

Others hold that she turned to the national pastime to salve the grief resulting from son Calvin, Jr.'s tragic death in July, 1924. John Coolidge has clarified matters: "I don't think she was interested in baseball at all when my father was Governor of Massachusetts. A friend of the family would take [brother] Cal and me to Fenway. My mother and father never went. If her interest came from the time of Cal's death, it was only coincidental. It was only after they got into the White House that she became interested. There was no interest when my father was Vice-President."

In any case, during the Roaring Twenties, the first lady could be seen at Washington's Griffith Stadium quite regularly, often chatting with Senators players (she attended the wedding of boy-wonder manager Bucky Harris in October, 1926—of course, he was marrying the daughter of an administration official) and keeping hubby Calvin from bolting the park after perfunctorily performing his duties as ceremonial first-ball tosser.

"She used to come to games," recalled Harris, "and sit right by the Senators' dugout. She came to the games with Cal and stayed there when the President would leave early. And then she'd come to other games alone."

"All the Washington players knew her and spoke to her. She was the most rabid baseball fan I ever knew in the White House."

During the first game of the 1924 World Series which featured the local Senators versus John McGraw's New York Giants, the president, never one to idle time on entertainments, suddenly stood up to leave. Washington had never been in the World Series before. The immortal Walter Johnson was on the mound. It was the ninth inning, the score knotted at 2-2. Grace Coolidge sputtered, "Where do you think you're going? You sit down," as she grabbed his coat tails.

The chief executive sat right back down.

She even got Calvin to sit through the twelve innings of Washington's seventh game victory. A photo of the first couple taken as the winning run scored shows Cal unusually animated and Grace looking like the cat that ate the canary.

In game five of the 1925 World Series, however, Cal got away with departing after the third inning with Pittsburgh ahead of Washington 2-1. But Grace

stood her ground as the Nats battled back to tie things up on right fielder Joe (not Bucky) Harris' home run before ultimately losing 6-3. She hung on to the bitter end, cheering loudly, and scoring every play.

When the first lady could not get out to a game, she employed that new-fangled device, radio, to pull one in, either at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue or on the *Mayflower*, the presidential yacht. And if nothing was available via the airwaves, she would saunter over to the presidential telegraph room to learn a score or two.

Her interest in radio play-by-play continued for the rest of her life, well past the advent of more advanced technology. "She always listened to the radio, never on television," recalled John Coolidge. "She liked to visualize it, said the TV picture was somewhat limited. Of course, television was less advanced back then. She never owned a television, a friend lent her one, but she preferred the radio. She liked to keep busy, she liked to knit during those radio broadcasts."

"Time is not wasted while I listen in on the ball game for I put it on the chair seats," she somewhat defensively noted, referring to some exquisite needlework she had done for her family.

Her passion for the sport intensified after leaving the White House and after her husband's death in 1933. American League president Will Harridge never forgot the first lady who so enthusiastically cheered on the Senators. At the beginning of each season his circuit bestowed an exceedingly thoughtful gift on her.

Every spring Mrs. Coolidge would receive a tasteful, monogrammed leather handbag from Harridge. It would be outfitted with special compartments to hold both her season pass and an American League schedule. She made sure she got full use from each year's gift.

After World War II her baseball interest hit its peak. In November, 1948 we hear of her attending a baseball father-and-son banquet at Northampton's Edwards Congregational Church. Philadelphia A's right-hander Joe Coleman, a Massachusetts boy, was guest speaker. Mrs. C. not only kept busy by asking the most perceptive questions, she also supplied the answers. When Coleman was totally stumped by a lad asking if there had ever been a World Series triple play, the former first lady whispered out to him, "Bill Wambsganss, Cleveland infielder in the 1920 World Series," recalling the famed unassisted triple-killing.

Although an avid Red Sox fan, Grace had other concerns as well. "She hoped for a Subway Series, but the Braves went to Milwaukee," recalls John Coolidge. "Lou Perini gave her a pass, but she never went much."

She would tune into Red Barber and Connie Desmond on Brooklyn Dodger broadcasts, where she learned that for a mere quarter and a Post cereal boxtop, she could obtain a genuine Red Barber 1948 baseball guide. Grace got not only the guide, but a personal letter from the Old Redhead. The former first lady was so thrilled she wrote to her son about it.

Grace would inform others as well. “She’d tell me about some of the plays she liked that she had heard on the radio,” recalled Red Sox manager Joe Cronin. “We had a day for her to help out a home for deaf children a couple of years back. She was unable to attend that game since she wasn’t feeling too well.”

“They’d trek over to Boston,” recalls John Coolidge. “There were three of them, a friend, Mrs. [Florence B.] Adams, a local retired MD [Dr. Collins] and they’d take off at the drop of a hat, either for a day game or they’d stay over. They’d do this several times a year.”

“This was before the days of the Massachusetts Turnpike. They’d take some local road, say, Route 2. To go from Northampton to Boston there was no thru road.”

In one trip to Fenway in July, 1949, Mrs. Adams was beamed by a foul ball as the trio sat near the Sox dugout. A good sized lump was raised, but no serious damage was done.

And at an advanced age Grace was taking even longer baseball jaunts. The American League supplied her with World Series tickets, and we know she traveled to New York in 1949 (where she met up with Herbert Hoover) and to Philadelphia in 1950. When she could no longer attend in person, the American League sent her “amazing arrangements of flowers.”

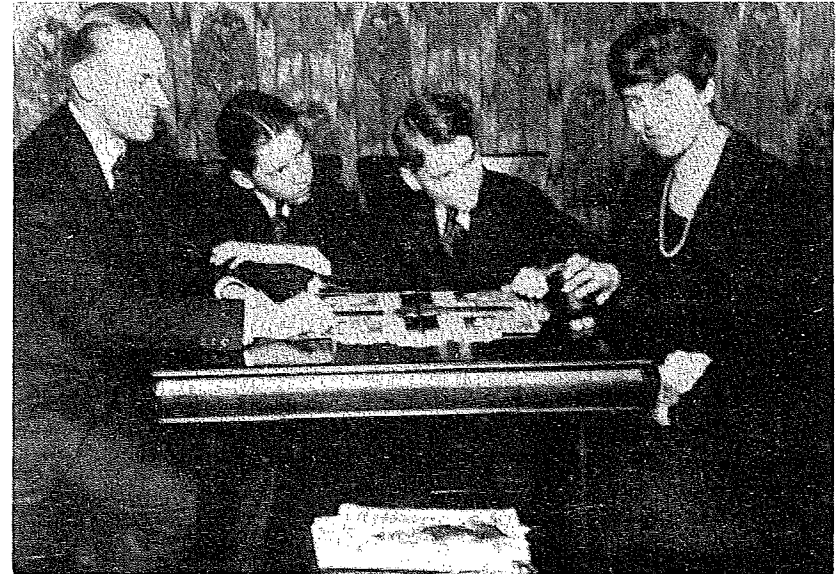
And the former Washingtonian still followed events along the Potomac, showing some chagrin with the newly-elected President Eisenhower. “I think the President is making a mistake,” she wrote to friends in April, 1953, “in not postponing his vacation for a day in order to throw out the traditional first ball.”

It was when she would no longer haul herself over to the shadow of the Big Green Monster that her closest friends knew she was beginning to fade. She admitted—like a true Coolidge—that she feared dying in a public place because of the publicity that would ensue.

When death took Grace Coolidge in July, 1957, the *Boston Globe* termed her in its headlines, “Long Active Red Sox Fan.”

That she was.

David Pietrusza, a Coolidge Foundation member since 1990, is national president of the Society for American Baseball Research. His books include: Baseball’s Canadian-American League, Major Leagues, and Lights On!, the story of night baseball.



The Coolidge family, during the governorship period, playing parcheesi; Calvin John, Calvin, Jr., and Grace.

Address to the Annual Meeting of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation on August 1, 1993

At the Annual Meeting of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation last August, Lawrence E. Wikander, co-editor with Robert H. Ferrell of Grace Coolidge: An Autobiography, read excerpts from the book.

He focused on her devotion to Christian service. Beginning with an account of her father's joining the church and her poignant early childhood Sunday School memories and ending with her chairing the drive for the organ fund of the Edwards Church in Northampton, Massachusetts, there are continuing references to her "church homes." Reminiscences of anniversary gatherings in the Hancock, New Hampshire church of her forebears link with descriptions of Sunday services on the Presidential yacht, *Mayflower*, in the twenties.

Calvin Coolidge's reluctance formally to join a church before his Presidency can be contrasted with Grace Coolidge's encouragement of her sons to affiliate with the church the Easter they were 12 and 13.

Fittingly for the surroundings in the church Wikander concluded by reading an unpublished poem written by Grace Coolidge when her thoughts dwelt on the Plymouth Church and Cemetery. She titled it "Communion."

A quiet place, amid enfolding hills,
Green grass beneath my feet
And overhead, blue sky
With in between long, distances
To dream about;

Within a green-roofed house,
Sweet memories blessing every room;
Across the road, a small white church
Whose open door invites to prayer;

And, just around the turn,
On yonder hill, God's plot
Where sleep His dead-and mine-
Beneath two guardian pines;

So dear a place on earth,
So near the home called heaven;

And yet, the unwise ask,
Where is thy God.

Book Reviews

Grace Goodhue Coolidge, *Grace Coolidge: An Autobiography*
Edited by Lawrence E. Wikander and Robert H. Ferrell
(Worland, Wyoming: High Plains Publishing Company, Inc., 1992) 120 pp., \$24.50
(hardback)

During the last decade, Grace Coolidge has gained long overdue recognition as one of the most popular and stylish First Ladies of this century. The republication of Ishbel Ross's *Grace Coolidge and Her Era* by the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation in 1988 brought back into print an early classic of First Lady biography. Now, Lawrence E. Wikander and Robert H. Ferrell have compiled and edited Mrs. Coolidge's autobiographical magazine articles from *American Magazine* in 1929-1930, along with unpublished reminiscences. The result is a brief and very readable autobiography. High Plains Publishing has produced an attractive volume that will introduce a new generation of readers to the charm and wit of Grace Coolidge.

The entire book is a delight to read, and the information on Mrs. Coolidge's background and early years in Vermont is fascinating. She wrote about her participation in Pi Beta Phi during her college years at the University of Vermont, and her connection with this fraternal organization that became a sorority is an aspect of her life that merits further research. There are some illuminating passages about the origins of Mrs. Coolidge's lifelong concern for the education of deaf persons arising from her work at the Clarke School. The chapter on her marriage to Calvin Coolidge demonstrates the strong ties of affection and mutual respect that bound them together for more than twenty seven years.

The core of the book describes Mrs. Coolidge's years in Washington from 1921 to 1929. She evokes a now vanished time of formal public receptions for the Vice President's wife in their hotel rooms, and the highly structured social customs that organized the lives of government spouses. Once she became First Lady in August 1923, Mrs. Coolidge moved on to the national stage with what she called "a sense of detachment-this was I and yet not I, this was the wife of the President of the United States and she took precedence over me." Few First Ladies have commented with more insight about the ambivalence that a presidential wife feels about becoming a political celebrity.

The chapters on the White House routines are very informative about the demands made upon a First Lady. Mrs. Coolidge dealt with the social occasions that the public saw—the musicals, the garden parties, and the Easter egg rolls on the White House lawn. There is also an interesting discussion of their vacations during the presidency. In 1924 show business figures came to the White House to endorse President Coolidge for election in that year. Mrs. Coolidge joined the stars in the campaign theme song, “Keep Coolidge.”

The White House was renovated during the last years of the Coolidge presidency before they gave way to President Herbert Hoover and Lou Henry Hoover in March 1929. These anecdotes are so rewarding that most readers will wish that Mrs. Coolidge had written more. Further glimpses of her style as First Lady can be found in the engaging memoir of her Social Secretary, Mary Randolph, *Presidents and First Ladies* (1936).

The editors have presented Mrs. Coolidge’s text clearly, with just enough explanatory notes to clarify what she was discussing. The publishers have provided a helpful map, chronology, and many attractive photographs. The star of the book is Grace Coolidge. Visiting the White House in 1926, Will Rogers said that she was “chuck plumb full of magnetism.” Readers of her autobiography will soon discover how right Rogers was about Grace Coolidge.

Lewis L. Gould

Lewis L. Gould is Eugene C. Barker Centennial Professor in American History at the University of Texas at Austin where he teaches a course on First Ladies. He is editing *America’s First Ladies: A Biographical Encyclopedia*.



Grace Coolidge, later years and a new era. The 1950s.

Book Reviews

Page Smith, *Redeeming the Time:
A People's History of the 1920's and the New Deal*
(New York, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1987) 1205 pp.

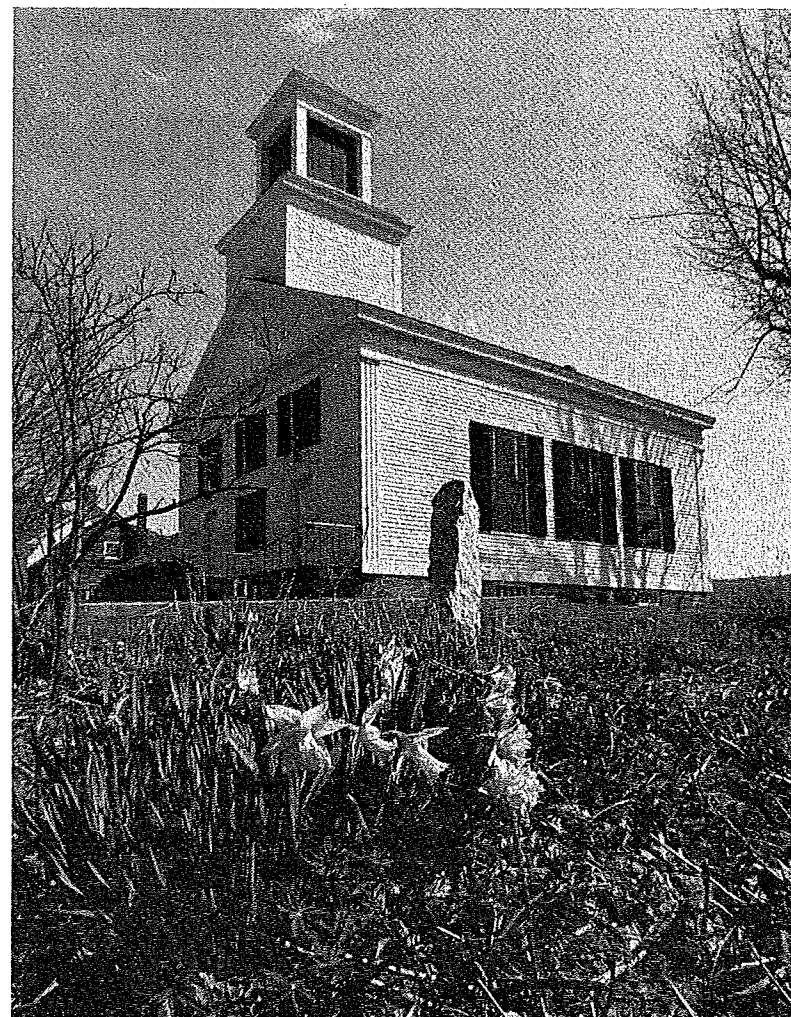
Here is the eighth and final volume in an enormous *People's History of the United States*, begun with two volumes in 1976 on colonial America and the Revolutionary War. If people's history means an informal (no footnotes, no bibliography) view of the past, with emphasis on the lives of little known people, Smith has met that definition in the present book. He delves into rarely noticed aspects of the decade, such as the under side of life in the South, black Americans, and the history of the left, notably the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

But, like many historians, he gives much more coverage to the New Deal than to the preceding decade, and describes the latter as "one of the more bizarre in our history." And his coverage of presidential politics in the 1920's is disappointing. Perhaps this is because, as the author admits in his introduction, his academic field is early American history, the rest of the nation's past being "relatively unfamiliar." His account of Calvin Coolidge's presidency is deplorable. To his credit he quotes Henry Stoddard, although the purpose of the quotation seems to be to criticize, not praise, nor demonstrate the "odd affection" voters felt for Coolidge as a "reassuring symbol of classic American values." But he also relies on William Allen White to draw the president as "a dumb, starved suppressed young Yankee," and such other authorities as Irwin H. (Ike) Hoover, Henry L. Mencken, Frank Kent, and Gamaliel Bradford. He correctly concludes that Coolidge was "cautious, thrifty, pious, silent, and doggedly ambitious." Smith adds that the president was "a decent enough man whose mind was furnished by a benumbing inventory of cliches, which he fortunately doled out with a parsimony characteristic of his Vermont origin."

In the course of offering these judgments the historian incorrectly reports Coolidge's father as a lawyer, places the later president at Amherst in the class before he arrived, relates the wrong succession of attorney generals in the Coolidge cabinet (an important lapse because it involves the Harding cabinet holdover, Harry M. Daugherty), and brings Herbert Hoover to Coolidge's summer White House a year early.

A more balanced and error-free view of the 1920s, with the same "people's" perspective, is Geoffrey Perrett's *America in the Twenties*. ©1992 by J.R. Greene

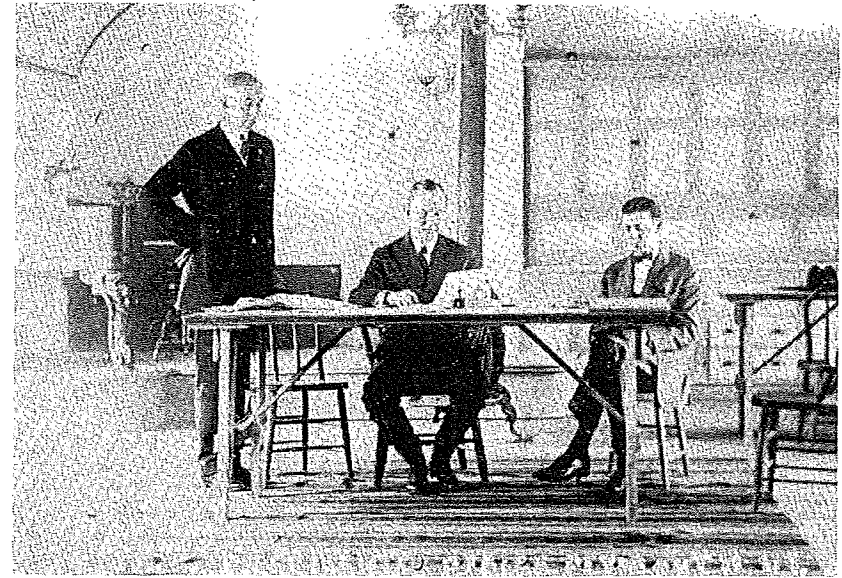
J.R. Greene has been a member of the Foundation since 1985. An ardent collector of Coolidge memorabilia, he is the author of *Calvin Coolidge: A Biography in Picture Postcards* (1987) and other books of historical interest.



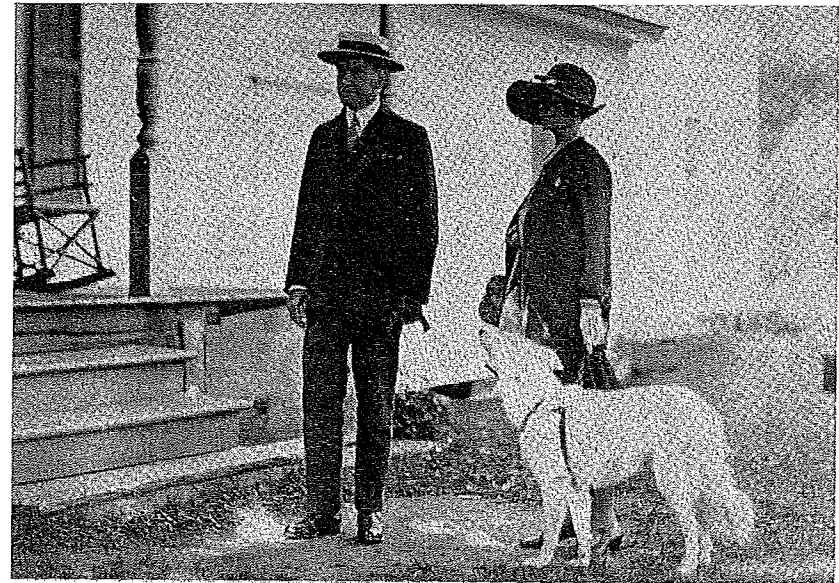
Union Christian Church, Plymouth, VT



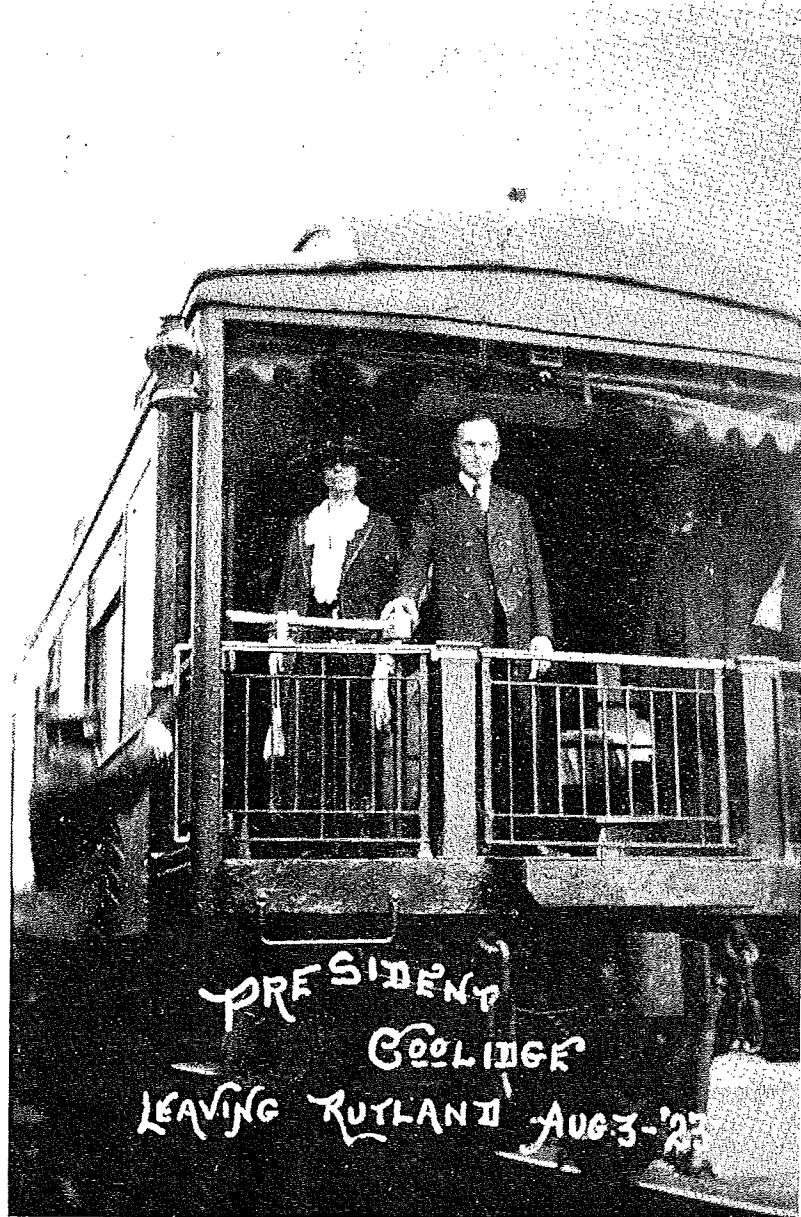
Plymouth Notch Cemetery: gravestones of Calvin, Grace and Calvin, Jr. among six generations of Coolidges



President Coolidge in Summer White House (over General Store) at Plymouth Notch, VT., with his Executive Secretary and Stenographer, 1924.



President and Mrs. Coolidge with their dog, Prudence Prim, in front of Homestead.



Grace and President Calvin Coolidge leaving Rutland for Washington to take over Presidency after Harding's death. August 3, 1923