



# *The Real Calvin Coolidge*

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A Publication of  
The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
Plymouth Notch, Vermont 05056  
Phone: 802-672-3389 Fax: 802-672-3369  
email: [coolidge@vermontel.com](mailto:coolidge@vermontel.com)

## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The present issue is 12th in a series begun in July 1983 and is an expanded version to accommodate the many letters unearthed by Lawrence E. Wikander, former curator of the Coolidge Collection at Forbes Library, Northampton, Massachusetts. Mr. Wikander, retired librarian of Williams College, has compiled letters to President Calvin Coolidge from his Aunt Gratia Wilder of Plymouth Notch, Vermont and entitled that section, "Aunt Grace Writes Her Nephew". Mr. Wikander has also taken other correspondence from Calvin Coolidge's Personal Files where the president writes those entrusted to run the Coolidge farm property in Plymouth and receives their replies. This section is called, "Absentee Landlord". The commentary at the end of the letters is by Mr. Wikander.

Two book reviews are included in this issue. Jim Cooke, lifelong student of Calvin Coolidge, has commented on a new fictional book that will change many people's views of Calvin Coolidge and may even "resurrect his image".

Paul DiCarlo, Coolidge member, has reviewed Margaret Truman's book on First Ladies. A daughter of a president and first lady, Ms. Truman feels that she can assess them all. Without footnotes for any evidence, she is extremely critical of Calvin Coolidge, but admiring of Grace Coolidge.

Cynthia D. Bittinger, our Executive Director, has overseen the publication of this issue as she has for prior issues #8, 9, 10, and 11.

Professor Robert H. Ferrell has edited and reviewed the publication as he has for issues #10 and 11.

We thank all our volunteers for their devotion to this issue and our organization.

The Publication Committee:  
 Robert H. Ferrell, Chairman  
 John Coolidge  
 John A. Lutz  
 Robert A. Sharp  
 John A. Waterhouse  
 Lawrence E. Wikander

The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
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 Plymouth Notch, Vermont 05056

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The Coolidge Foundation solicits articles and remembrances concerning Calvin Coolidge, his family, and era. The Publication Committee of the Foundation reserves the right to edit materials to conform to the policies and format of the publication.

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Opinions and conclusions in *The Real Calvin Coolidge* are those of the authors and may not necessarily reflect those of the Coolidge Foundation.

*The Real Calvin Coolidge* is free to Foundation members. Inquires on membership should be sent to the foundation offices.

This issue is 12th in a series. Back issues are available for purchase year round through the Foundation offices, Box 97, Plymouth Notch, VT 05056. During the season (May to October) the Plymouth Notch Historic District sells copies at the State of Vermont's general store for \$2.95 each.

### I. Aunt Grace Writes Her Nephew

edited by Lawrence E. Wikander

Calvin Coolidge's mother, Victoria Josephine Moor Coolidge (March 14, 1846-March 14, 1885), had two older sisters, Sarah Jane Moor Pollard (April 8, 1841-November 1, 1935), familiarly "Aunt Sally," and Gratia E. Moor Wilder (December 30, 1843-January 5, 1932), familiarly "Aunt Grace." Aunt Sally lived in Proctorsville, Vermont, not far from Ludlow, and Aunt Grace lived in Plymouth Notch. A few letters from her to her nephew in Washington survive in the President's Personal Files and are here published for the first time. Presumably his replies were in longhand and not preserved.

*Plymouth, Vt.  
Aug. 15th, 1923*

Dear Calvin:

*It seems a little cheeky to address the president as dear Calvin but Yankees are that way. We went to the pilgrim night at Rockingham coming home stopped at Proctorsville Fred Pollard [cousin of Calvin Coolidge, son of his aunt, Sarah Jane Moor Pollard] said you had the highest power of any ruler on earth. That is quite a job. Everyone thinks you are the right one for it. Your father is having quite a time sometimes there are a dozen autos standing round.*

*"That man is blest who does his best and leaves the rest and worries not."*

*With love to both*

*Gratia Wilder*



*Vice President Calvin Coolidge and his Aunt Grace-- possibly a summit meeting on "the chicken business"*

*Plymouth, Vt.,  
Dec. 3, 1923*

Dear Calvin:

*Was glad to hear from you. I almost said "Poor boy" when I read you wished you were in Plymouth, Vt. Thought it a trifle cheeky referring to the highest position on this poor old sphere.*

*A few incidents since Aug. 1st. Sitting on the piazza considering the problems incident to the chicken business, when what I would call a \$4000 auto stopped in the road and a loud and cheerful voice called out "Where does Mr. Harding's father live". Taken by surprised I had not wit enough to tell him, but merely stammered, you must mean Mr. Coolidge. "yes, yes, of course, Mr. Coolidge". Westerner was almost written all over them.*

*John Hicks from Perkinsville came up with some friends, I think from Mass. A young man of the crowd said, "We have intended for a good while to have Calvin Coolidge for President but we never expected to get him in so easy".*

*Washing the milk cans one morn a very ordinary auto stopped in the road and a pleasant faced young woman said "Where is the Coolidge homestead" and added "I am very anxious to see the home of my president". The man merely smiled but said never a word. One auto stopped down near the horse barn the woman got out and went up the road, the man stopped & talked. He said his wife liked Harding but she just loved Coolidge. He guessed he would not go up to the house, he would let her do the visiting for both.*

*My granddaughter, Katharine Wilder, #40 Berkley St., Boston, Mass. (S.D.S.) wishes very much to get a postal card from you with your autograph. She would be very pleased proud.*

*With love and best of season's wishes to both,*

*Gratia E. Wilder*

Plymouth, Vt.  
Jan 9th, 1924

Dear Friends in the White house

I was very much pleased to get the pictures & thank you very much. They came all right and seem to be watching us all the time.

They are excellent likenesses.

I like them very much.

I was remembered by several on your account. The Misses Thompkins of N.J. sent small water color drawing and spoke of being descended from people of note. A lady by name of Miller of Kansas city sent lace for pillow cases which she had knit herself though I do not care for lace on my pillow cases & am well satisfied with a decent hem. Of course I could not write her that I raised chickens & even sold eggs. Others have remembered me that never heard of me before & though life has never been dull at our house there seems to be a little added zest these days.

I see by the papers you have quite a little entertaining on hand. You must be enjoying it especially shaking hands with 4000.

Well there are pleasant things enough for everybody which have most depends more on the person than the place.

With very best wishes for 1924

Yours

Gratia Wilder

Plymouth, Vt.  
Aug. 3rd, 1924

Dear Calvin & Grace:

I write this letter to congratulate you both on the successful year just past. It was quite cool here this morn almost a frost. We do not think it will have any effect on your campaign. We both went over to the cemetery after meeting. Mr. White carried us over there were a good many there.

There is no year however full of joy

But had some sorrow for alloy

I am sure you see this cemetery often in your minds. We will visit it for you.

With love,

Your Aunt Grace

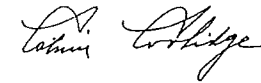
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 9, 1926

My dear Aunt Grace:

I want to thank you so much for your letter of sympathy and comfort. At a time like this, it is the messages of those who are nearest and dearest to us which bring with them real consolation.

Sincerely yours,



Plymouth, Vt.  
Jan. 19th, 1925

Dear Calvin & Grace

For kind remembrance & lovely xmas gift many thanks.  
Am entirely recovered from slight attack of grip.  
Am glad Sarah & Gertrude could come to see you.  
With very best wishes for 1925 I am as ever

Your aunt Grace



*The Coolidge Farm as it appeared in the 1920's when its occupancy and maintenance became Presidential concerns.*

### Calvin Coolidge: ABSENTEE LANDLORD

edited by Lawrence E. Wikander

Colonel John C. Coolidge, Calvin Coolidge's father, was independent and strong minded. In his final illness he repeatedly declined his son's wish to bring him to the comfort and care of the White House. He preferred his Plymouth Notch homestead. Of particular concern was the administration of the family farm, the traditional home of Calvin Coolidge's grandparents. This correspondence from the President's Personal Files reflects his close interest in the farm property. Edward J. Blanchard was the fellow townsman he trusted to act on his behalf.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1926

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Mr. Stearns will probably go up to Plymouth within two or three days and will confer with you to see if I can get you to look after the farm. Mr. Martin is there

and if he wants to stay another year I shall be glad to have him stay. If he doesn't want to stay, I rather think the best thing to do is to sell off the stock and discontinue farming. I wish you would talk with Martin, and any kind of a trade you want to make with him will be perfectly satisfactory to me, as I do not attach much importance to it anyway. Of course I expect to pay you for whatever you may do about it. You can tell Mr. Martin that I wrote to you and that Mr. Stearns will talk to you.

Very truly yours,

*Frank W. Stearns, Boston businessman, was Calvin Coolidge's friend and political supporter. Herbert Martin had been the tenant on the Coolidge farm since April 1925.*

Plymouth, Vt.  
Mar. 1, 1926

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

*I am writing you just a few lines in regard to the farm. After I received your letter I saw Mr. Martin and told him what you said about staying another year. He said he would like to stay. Soon after Mr. Stearns went back your Father called me in and wanted to let me the farm but I told him it would be impossible for me to do so. I told him that Martin would probably want to stay, but he did not make any answer. Soon after I heard that he was trying to let it to a young man by the name of [Lynn] Cady who is living at present in Pinney Hollow. He has been to see your Father several times and has practically made a deal with him. I am wondering if your Father has said anything to you about it. Mr. Martin says that he does not care but I think he would like to know how it is going to work out. Your Father does not seem to want he should stay. I guess he has not paid him rent as per agreement. I think Mr. Wilder [Calvin Coolidge's uncle] is trying to rent him his farm. Will you kindly advise me what to do in regard to this matter.*

Respectfully yours,

Edward J. Blanchard

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1926

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

I talked with Father on the telephone and understood from him that Mr. Martin was not meeting his payments, and Father thinks he does not do any work on the farm. If Father prefers to have Mr. Cady, why of course he should have the farm. I was willing to have Mr. Martin stay, if he wanted and would try and meet his payments. I think you better speak to Father, tell him I have written to you and told you to do whatever he wants done. I hoped that he would not bother about it, but someone has been to him and, apparently, he has, so I suppose we had better follow his wishes.

Mr. Stearns reported to me that you had spoken to Mr. Martin and had gotten no satisfactory response from him. What ever you do will be satisfactory to me. The only thing I am thinking about is not having something that will bother my Father.

Very truly yours,



Plymouth, Vt.  
Mar. 3, 1926.

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

Since writing to you Monday I have learned that Mr. Martin is not going to stay on the farm. He has not told me so but he drove his cows up there yesterday and Mr. Wilder told me he had rented his farm to him. Now about Mr. Cady. If you want a tenant on the farm I do not think you can do any better. He is a sober industrious young man and his wife is an excellent house keeper. I think they would keep things looking much better than they have the past summer. Your Father seems to be very anxious that they should come there. If you do not want

a tenant there, I can dispose of the cows for you a little later.

Respectfully Yours,

E. J. Blanchard

John C. Coolidge, the President's father, died March 18, 1926.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

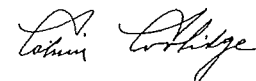
March 31, 1926

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Very soon I shall want to make out my inventory for the Listers. It is my understanding that there are seven cows at the farm and that there are about ten tons of hay. I have a copy of the inventory father made last year, though I have not yet looked at it, and I presume I can get the values from that. I wish you would drop me a line and let me know if my information is apparently correct. I suppose that things are going along all right on the farm, as I haven't heard anything to the contrary from you.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



Plymouth, Vt.,  
April 6, 1926.

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

I think everything is all right on the farm. Mr. Cady is getting ready to make sugar. He has set up an evaporator in the lot and has built a shed over it. I told

him he could take the tin roofing that was taken off the porch on your father's house to cover it with and it made just enough. He plans to tap about 400 trees. He is getting quite a number of orders for syrup. No sugar weather yet. There are seven cows at the farm. The listers have not been around yet, but they are listing cows at about \$50 each.

I notice that the roofing on the driveway that leads into the upper floor of the barn is nearly all gone. It was some kind of iron roofing and has rusted out and blown off. I think your Father was going to have Walter Lynds put on some roofing last Fall, but he did not get about it. It ought to be covered this Spring or Summer. I am wondering what you would want for a floor in the kitchen, it is very badly worn. Flooring is very expensive. I think spruce (matched) costs about \$90 per thousand. Of course there is any amount of good lumber that could be cut on the farm but it would have to season two or three years. I don't think they will want to touch the floor at present but thought I would mention it.

Now, about the hay. They do not list small amounts of hay and of course Cady will have to feed some of it and he will leave as much as he found when he went there. Martin used one small bent of your father's hay and he told Cady that he would replace it, but he has not done so yet. He told me a few days ago that he wanted to pay the balance of his rent. Said he was owing about \$20. I told him he would have to settle with Mr. Stickney [William W. Stickney, former Governor of Vermont and Coolidge's family lawyer]. I understand he has paid up to Nov. 1st. I do not think of anything more.

E. J. Blanchard



Recollections and Stories of Plymouth, Vermont  
Published by Vermont Publications

Edward J. Blanchard,  
Plymouth townsman.  
His loyal attention  
prompted the  
President's grateful, "I  
don't know what I  
would do without you."

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1926

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Thank you for your letter of April 6th. You can have the driveway roof put on to the barn in any way that you think proper. For the floor in the kitchen, I should suppose some good spruce boards would meet all the requirements of a floor that would be smooth and useful. I do not think it is necessary to have them matched, but if you think that would be better, and would make the floor really better, I have no objection to it. Mr. Martin was to pay \$300 for the farm a year and is paid up to the 1st of November, so I suppose that the balance of five months would be due. You can take any money that he offers you and send it to Mr. Stickney or to me.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 19, 1926

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

I presume the cemetery around my father's grave needs to be cleaned up. I know how you are pressed for work, but I do not know of any one else that I could get to do it. I wish very much that you would attend to it for me, taking away the old spruce boughs that may be there and making the place as presentable as you can because a great many people visit it. I am enclosing you a small check, which if it is not enough to pay for it please let me know.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 12, 1926

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

I do not know what arrangement we had with Mr. Cady about paying rent on the farm. He has been there now for something over six months and so far as I know he has made no payment and said nothing about it. Perhaps you may know what he expects to do in that direction. I do not know whether he was under the impression that he was to pay through you or send his rent directly to me. Perhaps you could find out and let me know.

I understand he is going away and expects to leave some one to look after the place while he is gone. I should have preferred to have him stay on the farm, but I thought it best to let him do as he wished about it. He said something about your keeping an eye on the place while he was away. I hope you will be able to do that.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



*Plymouth, Vt.  
Oct. 21, 1926*

*Hon. Calvin Coolidge*

*Dear Sir:*

*I should not think it would be advisable to send the flowers for Calvin Coolidge, Jr.'s grave much longer. We have cold nights now and this morning there is nine inches of snow.*

*Very truly yours,*

*E. J. Blanchard*

[At foot of letter, in another hand]

Phoned Miss Randolph [Mrs. Coolidge's social secretary], to discontinue

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

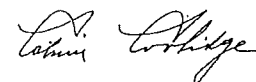
October 25, 1926

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Your note came to me recently saying that snow has begun to come, so I have directed that sending flowers be discontinued for this season. I am enclosing you a check for looking after them and helping me in other things during the summer.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



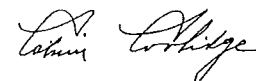
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 28, 1926

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Enclosed is a bill and letter which I have received from Mr. Cady. I wish you would look at the cows some day and see if they are all right. I imagine from his letter that he spent his money as it came in and finds himself without any money with which to pay his rent. I noticed they had done some papering and, I presume, painting downstairs. Upstairs, I much prefer that no painting should be done. He ought to get his bills together for whatever he has paid out on account of repairs and submit them to me. I do not like to have matters drag along, because then I never get around to attend to them. Whenever he wants to pay out anything on account of the farm, I would like to have him let you or me know about it, how much it is, and have it settled at once. As I would like the letter and the bill returned to me, I am enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope. I want to thank you again for all of your help. I do not know how I could get along without you.

Very truly yours,





Plymouth, Vt.  
Nov. 4, 1926

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

When I talked with Mr. Cady about the rent I told him to send the bill for what he had done on the house and also to make a payment on his rent, but it seems he has not done either. They went away with the rest of the party from Plymouth Oct. 24th and are now in St. Louis, Mo. He left his brother and wife to look after things. He is doing the chores and cutting wood. I wonder if you have read anything about this expedition which Herb Moore [Herbert L. Moore, Calvin Coolidge's roommate for one year at Black River Academy] has organized. It consists of the Plymouth orchestra and four couples who have gone to dance. And the orchestra are to get \$75.00 per week each with the exception of Mr. Wilder who gets \$100. per week. I understand they have signed a contract that may keep them twenty eight weeks. I don't know what Cady can be thinking of after all that has been said to him about going away. Perhaps he won't be good for anything when he gets back. He will probably have a swelled head. Walter Lynds went so he did not get the work done at the cemetery. I have seen the cows and they look like good ones and Mr. Cady says they give a good mess of milk. If it had not been for the commission and trucking the price would have been about what I would call them worth, but there did not seem to be any cows for sale around here. I am writing Cady again about his rent. Two men are putting slate on the church now. Aurora [Aurora Pierce, housekeeper at the Coolidge homestead] is all right I think. She has been chopping and sawing up an apple tree that blew down back of the house. Dick Brown is the representative at Montpelier this year.

I do not think of anything else that would interest you.

Yours truly,

E. J. Blanchard

I received your check for which many thanks.

Plymouth, Vt.  
Oct. 23, 1927

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regard to the flowers. We are having cold nights now and I do not think it would be best to send them much longer. It snowed a little yesterday and Saltash was white this morning. I think things are going on about the same as last year on the farm. Cady has a lumber job now. He has five horses on the farm several men working for him. They are working on what was the James Mulloy farm. I saw Aurora picking apples today. Last week she went to Hartland with her brother Pete came back the same day. I don't believe she has been away from home before for five years. Would you want to sell your sleigh the one that was your Father's. It is down in Mr. Aldrich's barn I think.

Mon. morning. Another cold night down to twenty above.

Very truly yours,

E. J. Blanchard

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

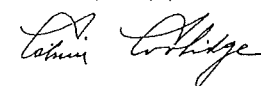
October 26, 1927.

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Your letter has just come to hand, for which I thank you. Mr. Cady wrote me one time that one of the cows he got turned out to be very bad about milking. I told him to see if he could exchange it. I have never heard from him. I think I suggested that he talk to you about it. I am enclosing a check for my taxes and the balance for yourself for looking after the flowers, etc. during the season.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



Plymouth, Vt.  
Jan. 22, 1928

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing check for \$3.45 which is one fifth of the amount paid by Herb Moore and Azro Johnson for the use of the cheese factory the past summer. There were a good many repairs to be made and we told them that if they would fix it up and pay the taxes they could have it. Next year if they have it the rent will be more. They said they thought they could pay \$100. but they will have to get more milk than they did this year or I do not think they could afford to do it. They had only about one thousand pounds of milk per day. We have had a mild winter up until now. Yesterday we had about 12 inches of snow and it is very cold and rough today. Mr. Cady is in Bridgewater with his two teams drawing pulp. He has a young man doing his chores. Edna went in to see Aurora one day last week. She is all right. I guess Dick Brown had carried in some papers and she was reading about your trip to Cuba. I don't think she takes any papers.

The cow that troubled Mr. Cady by kicking when he was milking her has given him no trouble this Summer. He says there is one of the old cows that ought to be turned in for beef as she does not give much milk. I told him it was a good time to do so as beef is high, but I don't think he has done so.

My cousin Loran Pinney who lived in Washington died on Christmas day with cancer. He was 49 years old. My Mother has been in very poor health this winter.

Very truly yours,

E.J. Blanchard

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

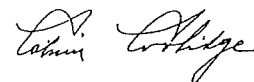
January 24, 1928

My dear Ed:

Your letter and check for \$3.45 has been received. Please accept my thanks for looking after this matter for me. I note what you say about the cows. I think it would be well to turn the old cow for beef and get another one to take her place. I suppose it will be necessary also to have some wood drawn for the house. If Mr.

Cady wants to do that, I should be pleased to have him. He can probably find some at the limekiln lot.

Very truly yours,



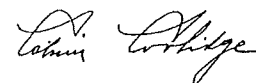
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1928

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

When the snow goes off I wish you would see to picking up on our lot at the cemetery. I have wondered if it did not get washed in the heavy storm you had last fall. I have not heard anything from the farm for a very long time, except what you have written to me. I do not know whether anything was ever done about the cow to which you referred. I am also anxious to know if the wood has been drawn for the house. Perhaps you can let me know about these things. With best wishes to all of your family, I am

Very truly yours,



Plymouth, Vt.  
Mar. 11, 1928

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

The lot at the cemetery is in good condition. The storm that we had last fall did not damage it in any way and Walter Lynds did a good job on the bank. The cow that Cady said he thought ought to be turned for beef, he now says that she is going to freshen this Spring so he will probably keep her through the Summer. I spoke to him about the wood for Aurora and he said yes he would get some but I don't know when he intends to cut it. He has not cut any for himself yet nor any

sugar wood although he plans to build a sugar house and tap six hundred trees he seems to have so much work away from home that he never has time to do what he wants to at home

I went in and saw Aurora this morning and looked at her wood. She has plenty of fire wood but said she was short of chunks said she had spoke to Cady to get her some. I think that some of the wood that he cut at the Lime Kiln lot last winter for her went over to the farm. The snow is about two and one half feet deep now but they keep the road open for cars. We have just been listening to a sermon by Dr. [Samuel Parks] Cadman which we enjoy very much. We get them every Sunday as plain as if he were in the room. Mr. and Mrs. Wilder are well this winter. Perhaps if you should write to Cady about the wood he would get about it, although it will soon be sugaring weather here.

Very truly yours,

Edward J. Blanchard

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

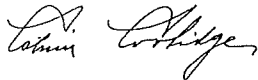
September 26, 1928

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

I do not recall receiving any tax bill for this year from our town. I wish you would be kind enough to get one and send it to me here.

Some time ago your letter about Mrs. Pinney came. She probably does not understand that all I could do for her I did, which was to qualify her to hold a position under the government. There are many thousand who are like qualified under the Civil Service. All that the qualifications means is that she is prepared to take a place, if there is any place where she is needed. I do not have anything to do about getting places for any one. You need not bother to tell her this, because she already knows it.

Very truly yours,



On September 10, Edward J. Blanchard had forwarded to the President a letter from Mrs. Loran Pinney, his cousin's widow, who desired a position in the Federal service.

Plymouth, Vt.  
Oct. 1, 1928

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

I am inclosing tax bill. I sent one Sept. 1st but it must have gone astray. We are having very cool weather here now. The west mountains have been covered with snow. We should have warmer weather in Oct. but if it continues cold will let you know as it will not pay to send the flowers.

Very truly yours,

E. J. Blanchard

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 2, 1928

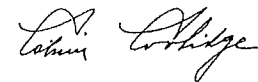
My dear Mr. Blanchard:

I am obliged to you for your letter with the tax bill. We do not seem to have any record of the former bill here. It possibly may have gone to Northampton.

I have noted what you say about the weather, and should it continue cold~ so that things freeze, I shall depend on you to keep me advised.

Thanking you for your kindness, I am

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 19, 1928

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

The east side of the house at the farm has begun to leak some. It will need about six thousand shingles to cover it. I think there are one thousand at the house back of the shop. I understand from Mr. Cady that Walter Lynds is willing to do this work. If he is, I wish he would have it done right away, and while he is there with the ladder I wish he would put one or two boards on the north end of the shed. He can probably find some that are weather beaten perhaps on the farm somewhere, or laying out that would be all right to put up there instead of new white boards.

If you will speak to Mr. Cady about this and see that the shingles are bought and work done, I should consider it a great favor.

Very truly yours,



*Plymouth, Vt.  
Oct. 25, 1928*

*Hon. Calvin Coolidge*

*Dear Sir:*

*I was at Ludlow yesterday and saw Mr. Proctor about the shingles. He has four grades the best are 7.25 per thousand and are sawed quartering. He strongly recommends that grade to use on a house as he says that he knows they give longer service. The grade I use cost 6.00 they are extra clear but not sawed with the grain. Should you want to use the best grade let me know. Walter Lynds will do the work but has to finish digging his potatoes first. We are having frosty nights now, and I do not think it best to send the flowers after Nov. 1st.*

*Respectfully yours,*

*E. J. Blanchard*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

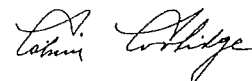
October 28, 1928

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

I suppose we better have the best grade of shingles, and while Mr. Lynds is there I think I remember there was one of the middle boards gone off the ridge pole at the barn that ought to be put back on. I am giving orders about the flowers.

Thanking you for your assistance, I am

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

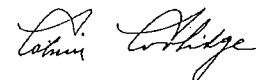
November 13, 1928

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

As I have not heard further from you about the house, I assume the work is going on all right. The last time I was home I thought the house was needing painting, but I imagine that one better be done in warm weather. I am enclosing you a check which I wish you would accept for all the things I have been calling on you to do.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



Plymouth, Vt.  
Dec. 7th, 1928

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

I will write you in regard to the shingling. I had the shingles brought up from Ludlow nearly a month ago but Walter Lynds did not get around to start the job until about two weeks ago. He got about fifteen courses laid and then there came a snow storm and he has not been able to do anything since. I carried over some of the shingles that were back of the old shop but when we opened them found that they were spotted so that Walter said they were not sound enough to use. I presume they can be used to patch with. I am hoping that it will warm up soon so that he can finish it up. He has to go to Montpelier about Jan. 1.

Have you received any rent on the cheese factory this year. I received a check for rent in June as did Mr. John Wilder, [Calvin Coolidge's uncle] but Sarah Stickney told me a short time ago that she had not received anything. If you have not received the rent I will look after it. They were to pay \$100. this year but guess they had to pay out something for repair my check was about \$17.00 I think.

Many thanks for the check that you sent me. Your Thanksgiving proclamation came in very clear here as did Mr. [David] Lawrence's talk about the room. They are still working on the road and bridges but not a bridge has been finished yet. Only the abutments are in place.

We have about ten inches of snow here. Perhaps Cady told you that he sold one of the cows last summer. Sold her for beef she was an old cow and did not give any milk sold her for \$60. He said at the time he would get one to take her place but he has not done so. I think the check was drawn to him but I have not seen it. He is working on the road with his truck. I do not think of anything else at this time.

Respectfully yours,

E. J. Blanchard

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1928

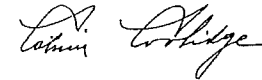
My dear Mr. Blanchard:

I have your letter about the shingling. I hope they will be able to get it done and that meantime water will not get into the house. I suppose it is too late now to do anything about the chimney, because the mortar would freeze in this cold weather. Mr. Cady told me he had sold the cow, but he never sent the money to me. I do not seem to be able to get him to pay his rent. I presume that he has bought things for the farm which have taken all the money he has received.

The only pay I have had for the cheese factory was a check of three or four dollars that you sent me one time a year or more ago. I should be pleased if you would look that up for me. I may be able next summer to look after things a little better than I have been.

With kindest regards to you and your family, I am

Very truly yours,



Plymouth, Vermont

Dec. 30, 1928

Hon. Calvin Coolidge

Dear Sir:

I though I would let you know that they have the house shingled at last. I think Cady helped Lynds finish it. It took six and one quarter thousand. There is one bunch left. Mr. Derby tells me that the largest spruce tree on the Lime kiln lot has blown down this summer. Said it was an immense tree he said lumbermen had tryed to buy it of your Father for a derrick stick a few years ago. I should

*think it ought to be saved.*

*We have had a mild Dec. only a little snow now. I spoke to Mr. Johnson about the rent on the factory and he said they would send it soon.*

*Very truly yours*

*E. J. Blanchard*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 2, 1929

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

I note what you say about the house having been shingled. I suppose nothing has been done about the chimney and that it is so cold now the mortar would freeze. I should be glad if you would undertake to dispose of the spruce tree. I am sorry it was not sold when some one wished to buy it. I have not heard anything from Mr. Johnson about the rent of the factory, but no doubt he will attend to it soon. If you see anything of Mr. Cady, tell him I wish he would look after some wood for my house to keep Miss Pierce warm. I am sending a check to N. F. Proctor at Ludlow for six and one half thousand shingles at seven dollars per thousand, and sixteen pounds of nails at ten cents a pound, making a total of \$47.10. I assume this is correct.

With best wishes to you and your family for the New Year, I am

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 9, 1929

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

A few days ago I had a letter from Mr. Cady in which he suggested that he would let me have a three-year-old heifer in exchange for one of my cows that he sold. I told him he might speak to you about it. Perhaps you can look at the heifer some time to see if it is all right. You can use your judgment about it, and do not need to take trouble to write to me.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



## *II. The Lynn Z. Cady Letters*

Colonel John C. Coolidge particularly wanted the Cadys to take over the family farm after the departure of Herbert Martin. Their maintenance of the property pleased the President, but Cady's casual business methods proved occasionally irritating.

[Memo from the White House Files]

Lynn Z. Cady,  
Plymouth, Vt.

Sends President can of maple syrup, one Gal. can.  
Sent to House

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 19, 1926

My dear Mr. Cady:

Thank you very much for the maple syrup. It has just arrived and I have not yet had an opportunity to sample it, but I am sure it will prove delicious.

Very truly yours,



[In President's handwriting.]

P.S. I have used some and find it very fine. I think the House has ordered some but if you need a market for some let me know.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1926

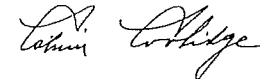
My dear Mr. Cady:

In addition to what there is at the farm I should like to let you have at no additional cost whatever hay there may be around my father's house. He owns some land there on both sides of the road that will cut short enough to keep a horse. I have a letter from Aurora. She would like very much to have the garden plowed and harrowed. I don't know whether you have time to do anything of that kind. I wish you would use your own judgment about it, because it is a matter of no particular importance. If you want to plow it and harrow it, I should beg lad to pay you for it.

I thought one time that the bridge leading into the upper floor of the barn was not very strong. There is a danger that the sleepers may be rotting off where they go on to the abutting wall. I think it has been braced, but you better look at that carefully and see that it is safe for use before you throw any hay over it. The little lot on the road that goes up to the hill adjoining the limekiln lot has usually

been a mowing, but I think you might just as well pasture it. All that you need to do would be to open the fence on the lower side or on the upper side. The land north of that mowing belongs to us. A man named Norton made some sort of claim to it. I don't know whether he is asserting it now or not. If he is ever on there cutting any timber, I wish you would at once notify Governor Stickney, who will take measures to prevent his action. He started to cut there one time and father stopped him. I do not think he has ever meddled with it since.

Very truly yours,



Plymouth Vt.  
May 27, 1926

*Hon Calvin Coolidge*  
*Washington, D.C.*

*My Dear Sir:*

*Your letter received and would gladly cut the hay around your father's place.*

*I have been up and prepared the garden spots for Miss Pierce and I told her some time ago that when ever she wanted any thing that I would gladly help if she would mention about it.*

*At the present time the Stringers under the drive way that you spoke about seem to be safe but the roofing is gone but I think Mr. Blanchard is going to see about recovering.*

*As yet I haven't seen about turning the mowing into pasture which you mentioned but will soon.*

*There are a number of things I'd like to talk to you about and hope if you make Plymouth a visit this season I will be able to see you I remain*

*Very Respectfully Yours*

*Mr. Lynn Cady*

Plymouth Vt.  
Sept. 22 1926

Mr. Calvin Coolidge  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir-

We would like to ask you a favor and have you advise us as to what you think best. Since you were in Plymouth this season and it was advertised in the newspapers that you listened to that Plymouth music across the way, the theater in Boston and New York have requested this orchestra to furnish them music for 6 weeks beginning November first offering us a very good salary.

By Nov. 1st the falls work will be completed nothing to do except the care of the stock. We could get a responsible man to do the chores and ask Mr. Blanchard to sort of see that things were right about the place during our absence

We will not agree to anything with this company until we hear from you.

What we care to know is would this be satisfactory with you. Haven't bought any cows yet have looked around some and have about 3 in view. I find that good cows are about \$100 a cow. These are large Holsteins about 3 years of age. Would like to know your advise about the cows.

Very Truly Yours

Lynn Cady

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 23, 1926

My dear Mr. Cady:

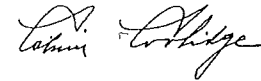
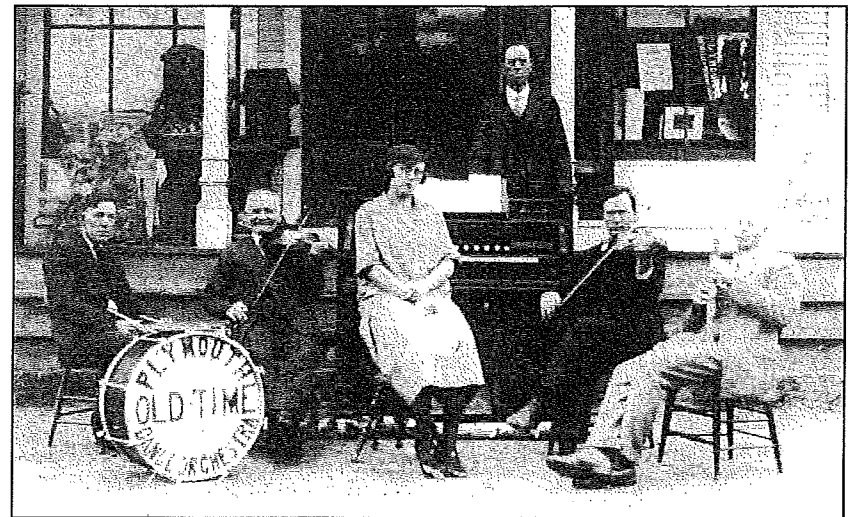
You can use your judgment about buying not more than three cows. The price seems to be higher than you had thought likely when I talked with you. I presume that Mr. Blanchard would know about the going price of cows at this season.

You will have to use your judgment about leaving the place to go with the orchestra. Of course, I should not wish to have my name used in any theatrical

advertising. Before you decide to go I would suggest that you carefully look up the concern that is seeking to employ you to find out about their standing and the probability of getting your pay. Hotel accommodations are very expensive in the large cities, and the cost of travel and clothing is considerable. You can figure that all out for yourself and decide what you may wish to do about it. I am guessing that you would not find it financially of much profit, but the experience might be pleasant or it might not.

I was very much pleased with the way you and Mrs. Cady are keeping the farm and the home. I hope you will fix up the house to your entire satisfaction and be willing to continue your stay there. If there is anything you wish me to do to help you at any time about the farm, I wish you would let me know. I do not know whether you have done anything about the north wall in the cellar. It ought to be rebuilt.

With best wishes, I am  
Very truly yours,

Old Time Dance Orchestra of Plymouth, Vermont  
Lynn Cady, Uncle John Wilder, Cassie Cady, Herb Moore, Lewis Carpenter,  
Clarence Blanchard (left to right)



Carpenter-Mitchell Bldg.,  
Salem, N.J., Sept. 22, 1926.

Honorable Calvin Coolidge,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear President Coolidge:

Upon learning that you had advised Mr. Lynn Cady who operates your Vermont farm, to purchase two or three more good cows, we have offered him the services of our organization. A copy of our letter to Mr. Cady is enclosed. Hoping that we may have this opportunity of serving yourself and Mr. Cady, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Allen N. Crissey]  
Eastern Extension Representative,  
Holstein-Friesian Ass'n. of America

Carpenter-Mitchell Bldg.,  
Salem, N.J., Sept. 22, 1926.

Mr. Lynn Cady,  
Plymouth, Vermont,

My dear Mr. Cady:

Information has come to me that you are in the market for two or three good cows. From the information at hand I take it that you desire Pure Bred cows of good producing ability.

As the Eastern Extension Representative of this Association, I travel throughout the East promoting the breeding of Pure Bred Holsteins, and shall be pleased to locate animals immediately of proven ability for your consideration.

If you will permit us to be of service to you in this way, I shall see that you are supplied with cows that give you absolute satisfaction, cows that will make a handsome profit in comparison with the average grade cows, and they will cost you a surprisingly small amount of money. We want to see you successfully started in the breeding of Pure Bred Holsteins.

There is no charge whatever for my services. Please wire me collect or write me at once advising whether I shall assist you as I am leaving here shortly for a trip through New Jersey and New England.

Sincerely yours,  
Eastern Extension Representative.

## Relatives, School Chums and Friends of President-Coming Here With Old Time Dance Orchestra

### Exponents of the Quadrille and Square Dances Frown on New Fangled Twists of the Charleston and Black Bottom

From the stock and spot that gave this nation its thirtieth President comes the Plymouth, Vermont, Old Time Dance Orchestra. Among their members are relatives, former school chums and certainly all friends and boosters of President Coolidge. To the majority of their number this trip will mark their first view of a city boasting a population larger than 10,000 souls. The personnel includes "Uncle" John Wilder, the 81 year old uncle of President Coolidge, who recently won an Old Fiddler's Contest in Boston; Herbert Luther Moore, 57 years old, known as "the caller" of the old fashioned dances, and school chum and room mate of Calvin Coolidge; Mr. and Mrs. John Cady, present tenants of the Coolidge farm at Plymouth Vermont, and occupied by the Coolidge family since 1781; Clarence E. Blanchard, a cousin of the President and the present Moderator or presiding officer at the Freeman's Meeting or controlling board of the Village of Plymouth, and Louis Carpenter, first violinist and a school mate of Coolidge.

With the exception of "Uncle" John with his Boston trip and Herbert Moore, who was a member of the Coolidge - Dawes, Plymouth to Golden Gate Caravan in the 1924 campaign, the band members have never visited a city of any size or importance.

In the small town of Plymouth, the innovation of the Charleston and other new fangled dance steps have come to them via the radio, but they have not only stuck religiously to the old fashioned dances but banned the Charleston forever and a day. The theatrical tour arranged for them through William Morris comes somewhat as a lark for them. "Uncle" John declares he feels that the trip will make him five years younger. All own rich farm lands and insisted on waiting until harvesting was over before they took to the road. The program will include Lady Washington's Reel, Hull's Victory, the Portland Fancy and the Quadrille.

This band was organized more than 12 years ago and holds its weekly dances in a hall directly over the room in which President Coolidge was born. The hall was made possible thru the financial aid of the late Col. John Coolidge, former owner of the property.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 24, 1926

My dear Mr. Cady:

The Holstein Friesian Association of America sent me a copy of the letter they sent you. Of course, I do not care to go into the breeding of fancy stock. If you get two or three cows you want to get some good substantial cattle. It may be that the man who wrote you could recommend something, but I should presume that it would be accompanied with a desire for a fancy price, which is not what is wanted.

I do not know whether you have done anything about getting ready for sugaring. As you know that has to be done in the fall. I should be willing to do something about equipping the place to make sugar if I knew that you were going to stay there and look after it. The wood for that purpose ought to be got and piled up this fall, so that it will become dry before spring. I should suppose that it would be necessary to put up something in the way of a sugar house and build an arch, though I do not know just what is required with the modern evaporator.

Very truly yours,



*Plymouth Vt.  
Oct. 1, 1926*

*Mr. President  
Washington D.C.*

*Mr. Blanchard and I were in Ludlow and talked with Mr. Stearns [John Stearns (1867-1944) ran livestock commission sales in Ludlow; information courtesy of Mr. Herbert Stearns, his great-nephew] in regard to cows, he says that he can get me two or three good straight young cows that freshen in the Spring the price arranging from \$50 to \$75 per cow or cows that freshen this fall around \$100 to \$150 per cow. Mr. Blanchard says he thinks that the best I can do. I told Mr. Stearns I would get advise from you and let him know. I did*

*not make any reply to the copy I received in regard to the Holstein Friesian Association as I didn't think it anything wanted,*

*As to sugaring I already have quite a bit of sugar wood cut, I put up a temporary sugar house last spring and it might do another season. The modern evaporator does not require to build an arch as they are built in form to move in and set up are legs. The arch is made of sheet iron. We would like very much too have a good modern sugaring outfit here and would see to same if you advise.*

*We are very much pleased to know that you and Mrs. Coolidge were satisfied with our work on the place this season and if we are satisfactory to you, we would like very much to stay, therefore we could make better plans this fall that would make the work easier and yet do better by the place in the spring.*

*The Theatrical company has been here again and offered a good salary with expenses all paid, we took your advise and found by references the Co. had good standing. The whole orchestra cared to go as well some of the Towns people not included in the orchestra are going for 6 weeks beginning on or about Nov. 1 st. We have arrangements made that we could leave without making any interference here.*

*We also requested the agency not to use your name in any theatrical advertising.*

*Have seen Mr. Lynds about the cellar wall and he agreed to see about it, but hasn't been here yet.*

*Is there anything up to the other house that you'd like done before winter, I already have cleaned the stovepipes and chimney and have told Miss Pierce where ever she wanted anything, to speak about it.*

*We hope this letter is not too long as to cause you too much bother. I remain*

*Very Truly yours*

*Mr. Lynn Cady*



*Lynn Cady and Uncle John Wilder*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 2, 1926

My dear Mr. Cady:

Your letter has just come in. You might look around and see what you can do about an evaporator and let me know about it. If you want two or three cows that will cost fifty to seventy-five dollars, you can go ahead and get them. I should think you had better have some that will begin to give milk in the spring rather than in the fall.

I suppose I shall have to have some one get some wood for my house during the fall and winter, and put it in the barn and shed when snow goes off in the spring. It may be that my house will need some banking up or something like that around the shed to keep the water from freezing during the winter. Some of the wall has fallen down between the shed and the barn, and I think that if the wood was piled in at that place it would keep a great deal of wind out.

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 6, 1926

My dear Mr. Cady:

I do not know whether you have done anything about putting some doors at the front of the drive into the barn. This ought to be done right away, and I wish you would get some one and have it attended to. It is needed you know to keep out the wind for the safety of the roof.

Very truly yours,



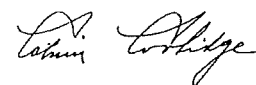
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1926

My dear Mr. Cady:

Your letter has been received. Whenever you wish to incur any expense on the farm that you want me to pay, I wish you would first arrange with Mr. Blanchard, have the bill made out for it at once after it has been incurred, and have it approved by him and sent to me for payment. You now have a good dairy and in the future ought to be selling cows instead of buying them. You ought to manage your herd of cows with that in mind. I wish you would make out your bill for whatever repair work you have had done and submit it to me at once. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Blanchard.

Very truly yours,



Plymouth Vt  
October 1926

Hon Mr. Coolidge  
Washington D.C.

My Dear Sir:

*Mr. Blanchard spoke to me about the rent, at the time I made the trade with him he said his suggestion was to get the repairing done and then take it from the rent. I have an account of everything but as the repairing is not all done. It has not been figured up. Now I will be pleased to do whatever you want done about the rent;*

*Mr. Stearns delivered me 3 cows which seem to be very good stock. I am enclosing the bill which he gave me.*

Very Truly Yours,

Mr. Lynn Z. Cady

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1927

My dear Mr. Cady:

Your letter of January 12th enclosing three bills, \$12.75, \$17.10 and \$31.90, has been received and these amounts will be credited to you. I hope everything is going along all right with you on the farm.

It will be necessary to have some wood drawn for my house, cut up, and put under cover. As you know, I am relying on you to do that for me.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,



Plymouth, Vt.  
Feb. 14, 1927

Hon Calvin Coolidge  
Washington D.C.

My Dear Sir;

Your letter was received and have all your wood cut and drawn out of the woods. Am going to have it sawed and split up into a pile and let it be for awhile allowing it a chance to dry some before packing in the woodshed, Miss Pierce has a plenty there for sometime yet. I need some plank and boards to do repairing about the buildings, there doesn't seem to be any around here that one could buy ready cut, Mr. Blanchard told me that his idea was the bet way to cut it from the place and have it sawed.

Since I wrote you I could use the same evaporator I did last spring the man has decided he has use for it himself and I had my plans made to sugar Don't know where I could rent another but have had chances to buy, I am enclosing a letter which I had recently giving an offer which is as reasonable as could be expected, Would you kindly advise me as to these matters, and everything is alright and getting along good.

Thanking you I remain

Very Truly Yours

Mr. Lynn Cady

Vermont Evaporator Co. of N.Y., Inc.  
Modern Sugarmakers' Utensils  
St. Regis Falls, N.Y.  
Feb. 4th 1927

Mr. Lynn C. Cady  
Plymouth Vermont

Dear Mr. Cady;

I have just returned from a meeting of the Board of Directors at which I took up in detail the proposition of furnishing you with an evaporator for the President's farm.

We fully realize that it would be quite an honor to install an outfit on this farm and I am authorized to submit you the following proposition.

We have on hand at the present time in our warehouse a 4 x 10 Vermont evaporator and arch complete. This has a brand new arch and stack. The heater or back corrugated pan is a brand new one. The corrugated pan which is directly over the fire and the syruping pan have been used two seasons. This machine complete sells for \$350.00. If you would be interested in it, we would be willing to ship it to you for \$150.00. We can furnish you with buckets at the rate of \$36.00 per hundred. We can furnish you with covers for \$8.00 per hundred, and sap spouts for \$2.00. These prices, of course, we should expect you to treat in an absolute and positive confidence.

The evaporator on which we quote you is in the pink of condition. We will guarantee it to be mechanically perfect.

If you wish time on this outfit, we would be willing to give you our regular terms which are one-half May first next and the balance May first 1928. We assume that this property is being installed with the full sanction of the Honorable Doctor Coolidge.

Assuring you that we should be glad to be of service to you and awaiting your advice, we remain

Yours very truly,

Vermont Evaporator Co.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 16, 1927

My dear Mr. Cady:

I am glad to know that you have cut some wood for the house and that everything is going all right. I meant to tell you that last year there was much more rain than usual, which kept your pastures in good shape. If you have a little more dry weather, I am afraid your feed will be short for 10 cows. Once or twice the man on the farm has hired the Kensie lot. I think it belongs to Allen Brown. You might want to consider that. I think they paid \$25 a season for it. You can use your judgment about buying the evaporator. Of course, if you get it I would like to have it with the understanding that you are going to stay on the farm, as if you should leave I should probably close up the farm.

I hope you and Mrs. Cady had a comfortable winter and were able to save something out of your orchestra trip. I should cut some spruce trees on the lime kiln lot and draw them into the mill and have them sawed so as to have some spruce lumber. You better make out an account and submit it to me for what you have been doing as soon as you get the wood done.

Very truly yours,



*Plymouth Vt.  
Feb. 21, 1927*

*Hon. Calvin Coolidge  
Washington, D. C.*

*Dear Sir;*

*Your reply of the 16th was received and wish to say to you that we will gladly stay on the farm and have worked with this plan in view as we have much interest in farming and a great pleasure to be here in Plymouth on this place and would like to note to you. We hope you are satisfied with the care we have given it.*

*Now, I am ordering the evaporator as it is nearing the sugar season also 300 sap buckets and by your reply I didn't understand whether you were to purchase it or if I would. I have already hired Mr. Herbert Moores pasture with the understanding I am to have it as long as I stay here, Mr. Blanchard has the Henzie lot now.*

*We did have a very interesting trip with the orchestra and was able to save considerable owing to the fact that my brother did exceptionally well for me here He made no more expenses than is generally necessary. We have been very comfortable indeed this winter having no difficulties whatsoever thus far. We hope we are 'not' annoying you with our letters but we feel that a good understanding is much better than to take chances and do the wrong things.*

*Wouldn't it be advisable to get out lumber a plenty to put up a sugar house, this spring or summer to make good place for the new sugaring outfit?*

*Thanking you I am*

*Very Truly Yours*

*Mr. Lynn Cady*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 23, 1927

My dear Mr. Cady:

You can do whatever you wish about the evaporator and the 300 sap buckets. When I was a boy we had quite a number of tin sap buckets, which are probably on the place. As you know, there is quite a difference in tin and you ought to be sure that these are a good quality of tin before you purchase them. I will do whatever you wish about paying for them. Of course, I do not really care to put much money into the place because I can never get it out. It isn't a great matter, but I have purchased cows for \$200. What you wish now is some \$250 more. My taxes last year were \$117.00 and this year they will be something more, though that includes the house, so you will realize that the rent is only nominal. If I were trying to make a business proposition and I had to invest more money, I should want more rent, but you and Mrs. Cady are so satisfactory on

the place that I am willing to do anything for you within reason. If you will get out some lumber and have it sawed, you can of course have the cost of sawing charged to me, and build you a sugar house if you wish.

I am always glad to hear from you.

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1927

Dear Mr. Cady:

Your recent letter has been received. A request has come from Aurora that she wants some fences fixed around the house. It may be that some of the picket fence up and down the roads has been broken down by the winter snow. That ought to be patched up, and perhaps a single rail or a board run from the corner up towards the barn door, and another one from the corner up towards the southeast corner of the house is what she wants. She says the cattle get into the lot.

We shall be glad to buy some maple syrup from you. We could take six or eight gallons, or perhaps ten when you get around to send it down. I did not hear anything from Lynns so I do not know whether he did say sugaring on my land this year or not.

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

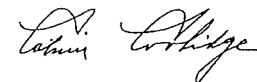
April 5, 1927

My dear Mr. Cady:

Since I wrote to you yesterday I find that our housekeeper, Miss Riley, has written to you about some maple syrup. If you will regard her letter and my letter as the same order it will be all right. Otherwise, we might get more syrup than we can use.

When the snow gets off and the ground is somewhat settled I wish that you go over to the cemetery and clean up around the south end of our lot. It will probably be necessary to take away some old spruce boughs that were there and replace them with some fresh ones. This will have to be done once or twice during the summer. I had arranged with Lynds to do some stone work there, but I suppose he has never gotten around to do it. If you see him you might ask him if he has any idea when he will be able to put it in and have the banks covered with and so that it will not be necessary to put up any spruce boughs. When you send the syrup please send your bill along with it.

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 26, 1927

My dear Mr. Cady:

The bill for the maple syrup has been received, which I note is for eight gallons. I presume it has come by this time.

I understood at the house that they had received one or two other gallons from you. I wish you would let me know if that is the case so that I can give you credit for the full amount. We have had maple syrup coming in from several of

our Vermont friends so that I was not quite sure just how much you had sent in all.

As soon as you have had an opportunity to fix up the bank at the cemetery I wish you would send me your bill for that,

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 6, 1927

My dear Mr. Cady:

I am glad to know that the work is done at the cemetery. Unless I hear from you to the contrary I will credit your bill on your account. It will be all right for you to use any of the fencing that is left on the farm. You can make such disposition of the cow that you get from Mr. Stearns as you and Mr. Blanchard think is best, and do the same about the cow that is getting old. I should think both of these would better be exchanged. It is rather doubtful if I shall be in Plymouth this summer. I hope that you have got the cemetery cleaned up and sod put on the side hill so that it will stand up and all the ground back of the headstones leveled off and growing to grass.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,



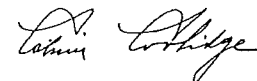
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 13, 1928

My dear Mr. Cady:

Some time ago I sent word to you through Mr. Blanchard that I wanted you to cut some wood for my house. It is getting very close to spring and I am somewhat anxious to have this done. I wish you would attend to it right away. You might be able to get Mr. Blanchard to help you two or three days at it.

Very truly yours,



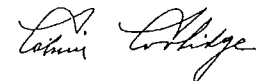
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1928

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is a memorandum of your account, as I understand it. I think you will find it correct. I note what you say about things at the farm and the house, and I hope they are going along all right. I trust you may have a good sugar season. I understand that you will get some wood for the house to take care of Aurora.

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1928

My dear Mr. Cady:

I wish you would send me ten or a dozen gallons of maple syrup. I suppose you have that amount that you can let me have. If you do not have that much to sell, you can probably get the balance from Walter Lynds. I think Miss Riley, our housekeeper, may write you a similar letter, but these two letters are only one order. I shall not need more than twelve gallons.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



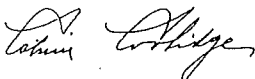
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 16, 1928

Dear Mr. Cady:

Last spring I ordered some maple syrup from you, for which I do not think you have ever sent any bill. I wish you would send a bill right away so I may know how much to credit you.

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 18, 1928

Dear Mr. Cady:

When I came away I asked you to see what could be done about the roof on the east side of the house and let me now. I do not seem to have had any word from you yet. It seems to be a considerable time since you have done anything about the rent. Perhaps you ought to give that some attention also.

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

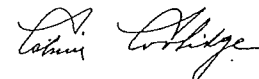
October 20, 1928

Dear Mr. Cady:

I suppose when the roof is being shingled would be the best time to fix the chimney. I do not know who there is around there that can do that kind of work. It is evident that the last time it was done the mortar was very poor. If it is cold enough to freeze, it would be necessary for you to keep a fire going two or three nights.

I have written to Mr. Blanchard to help you about getting some shingles, etc., for the roof. I should, of course, be glad to have you help Mr. Lynds do the shingling, if you are to do so.

Very truly yours,





**III. Walter H. Lynds**

A native and lifelong resident of Plymouth.

His handyman's skills were often utilized by President Coolidge.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1926.

Dear Sir:

Father writes me that you would like to use the sugar lot at the limekiln. Of course, any arrangement you want to make with him about it is perfectly satisfactory to me. My own notion about it is that sugaring is quite uncertain on account of the weather, and you ought to wait and see how you come out before you agree to pay very much. So far as I am concerned, I would be glad to let you go ahead on that basis. If there is any wood that is down, and I think there is considerable in the back lot, some of it soft wood, I have no objection to your taking that out and using it and paying for that whatever you may think it is worth to you. Perhaps it is not worth any more than it costs to draw it out.

I am perfectly willing that you should take the limekiln sugar lot and draw out any wood that is done, and pay such price as you think the whole thing is worth. If you want to go ahead on that basis without bothering father further, you can drop me a line to that effect.

Very truly yours,



Jan 14, 1926  
Plymouth, Vermont

President Calvin Coolidge  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Jan. 12th received. The proposition in regard to the limekiln lot accepted

Thanks.

Respt yours

Walter H. Lynds

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

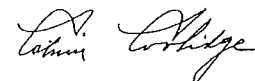
October 2, 1926

My dear Mr. Lynds:

When I was at home I noticed that the north wall of the cellar at the farm needs to be laid up. I do not know whether it is the moisture or what has caused it, but it has sprung in. That same wall has done this once or twice before. Mr. Cady said that you indicated that you would be willing to re-lay this wall. It ought to be done before winter, so I hope you can attend to it.

I am sending you copy of a letter that I am sending Mr. Mulloy, who is going to set a stone for me at the burying ground. Unless you have already put in the stone work that I have mentioned to you, perhaps you and he may meet to confer together. The foundation which he will put in goes down five feet.

Very truly yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1927

Dear Mr. Lynds:

A gallon of maple syrup came from you the other day which may have been already acknowledged, but I wanted to thank you for it personally. I think you sent us some syrup last year, and I do not know whether I ever sent you any pay for it. In case I did not, if you will let me know how much it is I should be glad to send you a check.

I suppose you have never had time to put in the wall at the cemetery about which I spoke to you. I should be glad to have you do that at your earliest opportunity.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



*Plymouth Vt  
May 2, 1927*

*President Coolidge,*

*Washington D.C. Please accept can of syrup sent under separate cover by mail.*

*That you might enjoy a sweet reminder from your native state*

*Sincerely,*

*Walter Lynds*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

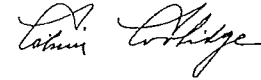
May 6, 1927

My dear Mr. Lynds:

I want to thank you for making syrup last year and sending it to me and also for the can you sent me this year. I do not imagine you found the lime kiln lot very profitable and I do not wish you to pay me any money for it. I am therefore returning you the check. I wrote you the other time because I was afraid that I owed you something and was neglecting to pay it.

With best wishes to you and your people, I am

Very truly yours,



## BOOK REVIEWS

John Derbyshire

*Seeing Calvin Coolidge in a Dream*

(New York: St. Martin's, 1996)

This novel is extraordinary. Fiction, yes; yet accurate, insightful, perceptive in its understanding of the Coolidge character. And when it comes to Coolidge's life, wonderfully free from the usual errors inflicted by historians and often biographers. Throughout the author quotes the Coolidge autobiography extensively and accurately.

John Derbyshire's narrator, T. C. Chai, a Chinese immigrant and former Red Guard, is happily married to a beautiful young wife, Ding. He learns that an old lover, Selina, is also living in America, and schemes a reunion with this ghost from his past. Coincidentally, he has another obsession — the thirtieth president of his adopted land. He tells us, "I had read all the Coolidge biographies and memorials. I had read Coolidge abused by Mr. Mencken, mocked by Mr. White, patronized by Mr. Schlesinger, psychoanalyzed by Mr. Bradford, calmly set in place by Mr. McCoy, and canonized by Mr. Fuess. Let me tell you, when I have these enthusiasms I stop at nothing." Is there a better summation of Coolidge historiography?

"*Seeing Calvin Coolidge in a Dream* is a masterpiece of style and entertainment that could carry a money-back guarantee." *Boston Globe*

"John Derbyshire who is neither Chinese nor American, has written a novel about a Chinese immigrant in America that fairly takes the breath away. No one who reads this novel will ever think of Calvin Coolidge in quite the same way."

*Washington Post*

"In Derbyshire's able hands Coolidge comes to signify all that Chai sees as right with his adopted country America. . . it may do more to resurrect the image of President Coolidge than any new biographer or academic champion could ever hope."

*Modern First Editions Collectors' Bookline*

"It is charming."

*Detroit Free Press*

"If you like an affable comedy that balances some fairly serious political observations between its humorous episodes, then *Seeing Calvin Coolidge in a Dream* by John Derbyshire is the book for you."

*Tucson Daily Star*

"This extraordinary first novel combines originality, humor, satire and warmth as it skillfully juxtaposes two cultures and a fascinating cast of characters."

*Rocky Mountain News*

"A beguiling first novel by a former teacher and journalist, may be the quietist novel yet written about revolution, communism, capitalism, sexual politics, and Calvin Coolidge."

*Pittsburgh Tribune Review*

"In an age of glib political gurus who too often parody themselves and our uncritical culture, Derbyshire understands that Calvin Coolidge increasingly looms as a giant of common sense, realistically low expectations and straightforward, uninflated language. Improbable as it seems readers of this book may begin to feel a burgeoning admiration for "Silent Cal" second only to Chai's."

*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

In an interview John Derbyshire shared his personal view of Calvin Coolidge: It was President Coolidge's "very distinctive and attractive character" that most impressed him, he said. "His humor, his philosophy of life appealed to me, it was Taoist. He believed in the virtue of stasis. A slogan of Taoism translates to "by doing nothing you accomplish everything."

*New York Times*

My own enthusiasm for Mr. Derbyshire's novel might be further explained by one character— "An actor, from Boston, named Mr. Ruggles himself a New Englander, who had made a minuscule career out of one-man shows featuring famous New Englanders."

In chapter eleven T. C. Chai with wife and child journey to Vermont to see the fall foliage, to visit Coolidge's native place, and also to see Mr. Ruggles' impersonation of Calvin Coolidge. In Plymouth Notch they learn that an issue of handicapped accessibility has caused the Coolidge Foundation to cancel Mr. Ruggles performance in the church. Disappointed, they tour the homestead and birthplace, sample Moxie at the general store, and conclude with a visit to the Coolidge grave. Coolidge's Bennington speech, "Vermont is a State I Love," is quoted in entirety. I would be interested to learn how many people will make the trip to Plymouth based on their reading of this chapter? It will be many, I suspect.

*Review by Jim Cooke*

*A long-time member of the Coolidge Foundation, Jim Cooke is an actor, born in Vermont, now living in Boston. He has made a minuscule career out of one-man shows featuring famous New Englanders .*

Margaret Truman,

*First Ladies: An Intimate Group Portrait of White House Wives*

(New York: Random House, 1995)

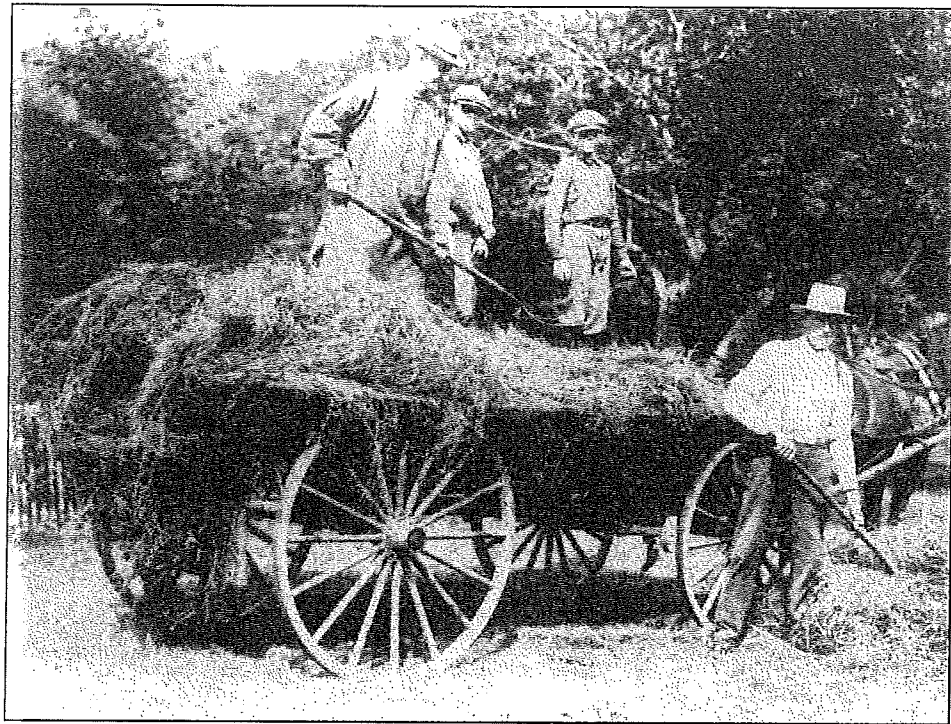
This book is a portrait of first ladies, presented from the perspective of a former inhabitant of the White House. The author's firsthand experience provides color and inspiration for the book.

A chapter is devoted to Grace and Calvin Coolidge, at the expense of President Coolidge. It is ironic that Margaret Truman expresses a great deal of praise for the president's wife "willowy Grace Coolidge had a magical smile and a warm greeting for everyone," (p. 245). She nonetheless writes that "If he were my husband I might have become the first lady to assassinate a president." Grace Coolidge is heroic and angelic, Calvin Coolidge dictatorial and overbearing. This chapter is written from a feminist point of view. The author grants the benefit of the doubt to Grace, while she does not show this generosity toward the former president. Calvin was domineering and made his wife give up horseback riding after the first lesson. Grace's husband did not allow her to stay out past 6:00 p.m. or to dance in public. He did not like Grace to know her appointments in advance. There was one instance when the first lady asked the secret service for her weekly schedule, to the dismay of her husband. The president practised frugality in the White House, except for buying Grace clothes to compliment her slender figure. The author states that Calvin's admiration of his wife was a factor concerning her tolerance of her domineering husband.

Ms. Truman claims that Calvin Coolidge would never have risen higher than mayor of Northampton if his devoted wife had not assisted him, and that Grace's warm, gregarious personality neutralized the chilling effect of her husband's disposition. The first lady managed to keep conversations alive at dinner parties, while the taciturn Calvin would sit in almost complete silence. Grace had a talent for talking to people and was liked by everyone—Grace "remembered everyone's name and was a genius at small talk." Chief Justice William H. Taft said Grace was "very nice" and the comedian Will Rogers stated she was "chuck plumb full of magnetism." The first lady's congeniality was illustrated by a story in which a tourist entered one of her receptions uninvited and Grace put the woman at ease and allowed her to stay. Grace entertained many people at the White House including both politicians and movie stars. Her cheerful disposition and bright smile caused the White House staff to give her the nickname of "Sunshine."

According to Ms. Truman, Calvin shared his teasing sense of humor with Grace. Even though they were very different personalities, they complemented each other. Grace tried to persuade her husband to allow her to redecorate part of the White House, and formed a redecoration committee that included Lieutenant Colonel Ulysses S. Grant III, grandson of President Grant. Under his direction the Green Room was transformed into an attractive colonial-style parlor. The room included a reproduction of a "settee" from the era of President George Washington, Hepplewhite tables and chairs, and an attractive portrait of President Thomas Jefferson. Grace departed from the White House bursting with pride concerning this accomplishment.

*Review by Paul D. DiCarlo, Coolidge Foundation member since 1991, from Mountain Lakes, New Jersey*



*The President and his two sons, Calvin and John, help the President's father, Colonel John Coolidge, with the hay in Plymouth, Vermont.*