

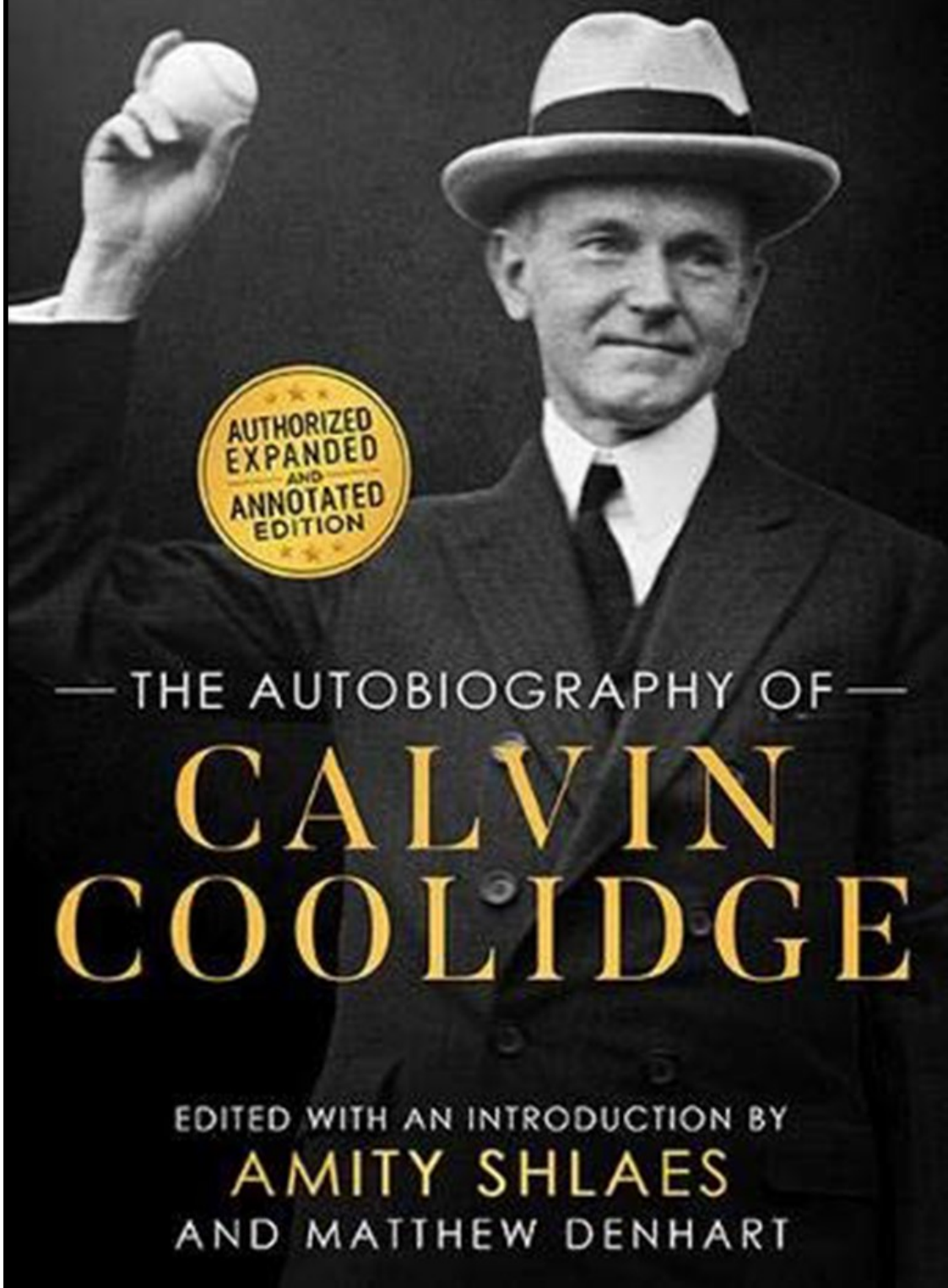
Chairman's Report

Annual Meeting

July 3, 2021

"The forgotten classic of presidential writing"

—Craig Fehrman, author of *Author in Chief*



— THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF —
**CALVIN
COOLIDGE**

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
AMITY SHLAES
AND MATTHEW DENHART

Opening the Coolidge Community

This summer finds America opening up. The Coolidge Community is also opening up. At the Notch the weekend of the Fourth of July, high schoolers from across the nation come together to compete under white tents for the Coolidge Cup in a sport Coolidge loved, competitive debate. Fireworks are scheduled to light the sky July 3, and Vermonters are driving in to sit on the grass. The annual parade to the cemetery will mark Coolidge's birthday, July 4th. We are glad to cooperate for the ninth year with the State of Vermont and President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in this project. The mandate of the Coolidge Foundation is to educate Americans about Coolidge and his timeless values of thrift, restrained government and civility.

From its home in Plymouth Notch, the Foundation works nationally and fulfills its mandate in three ways. The first is research and outreach. The second is Coolidge Debate and Declamation, a program which draws in hundreds of young people each year. Third comes our Scholars and Senators program. This report will review for readers the recent efforts of the Foundation and cover coming events in which members of the Coolidge Community may participate.

During the past year of quarantine and time at home, the Foundation did much to reach out to the Coolidge Community virtually. We mounted several new telecast initiatives. The first is the popular "Setting the Record Straight" Coolidge history webinar series, which features knowledgeable speakers in one-hour Zoom seminars. One of our more memorable webinars featured a Coolidge Foundation trustee, the Honorable Kurt Schmoke, former mayor of Baltimore and president of the University of Baltimore. President Schmoke spoke on Coolidge's civil rights record. Another timely webinar featured Coolidge debate director Jared Rhoads, also a health policy scholar, on Coolidge and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic (Coolidge, serving as lieutenant governor at the time, led a drive to recruit nurses and orderlies). A new podcast, *The Coolidge Way*, is hosted by former Vermont Governor James Douglas, available on all major podcast services and on our website at www.CoolidgeFoundation.org/The-Coolidge-Way/.

Second, this past year we launched a Coolidge Virtual Library Project. The aim is to digitize and offer all that is available of Coolidge's speeches and key papers on our website. For this project we recruited volunteer editors, "Coolidge Scribes," who copyedit and also supply their own comment on any Coolidge text they edit. We are gratified by the strong response to our call for volunteers. Nearly 100 "Coolidge Scribes" have contributed to this project. One such Scribe, John Sullivan, a graduating senior who attends St. Andrews in Scotland, digitized dozens of speeches—from Scotland! Building the digital library demands many resources. There is more to digitize. A gift of any amount, no matter the size, will help the Coolidge Virtual Library. Those interested in making a gift to support this project will find our Coolidge Virtual Library campaign on the fundraising website GoFundMe.

People often ask tough questions about Coolidge. Recently for example Nobel Prize winner Robert Shiller alleged on television that Coolidge contributed to the Great Depression. The best way to respond to such a challenge is substantively. Our staff rallied around *Coolidge Quarterly* editor

Rob Hammer to produce an entire edition of the *Quarterly* on the topic of Coolidge and the Great Depression, available on our website [here](#) and in the Foundation office.

A final item in the outreach category: A year ago, you read that the Coolidge Family and Foundation were undertaking to publish a new annotated version of Coolidge's *Autobiography*. This volume, now available, builds on the tremendous version published a decade or so ago by the National Notary Association. The new edition contains comments by Coolidge Family members Christopher Coolidge Jeter, Jennifer Coolidge Harville and by Coolidge Vice Chair and former Vermont governor Jim Douglas. The book was published over the winter and has been a smash success thanks to extraordinary efforts by the Foundation's new executive director, Dean Ball, and several key donors (among them Vice Chair E. David Coolidge) we were able to give the families of all 4700 candidates for the Coolidge Scholarship a copy of the new volume. That volume is available for sale in the shop and at the Foundation office, as well as on our website or Amazon. Look for the one with the baseball on the cover.

Debate and Declamation: Debate Director Jared Rhoads led the Foundation in a banner year. Thanks to the support of the Luddy Schools of North Carolina, a string of independent, charter and parochial secondary schools founded by Coolidge Foundation Trustee Robert Luddy and his wife Maria, we host Coolidge debate preliminaries for the Coolidge Cup throughout the year at these institutions. We also work with numerous other leagues around the country to identify qualifiers for the July Coolidge Cup.

In 2020 and 2021, Jared also introduced several new events: one was a competition exclusive to Vermont that challenged Vermont children to memorize Coolidge's "Vermont is a State I Love," the speech he gave after the rough year of the Vermont Flood. A number rose to the challenge; a video of young Vermonters reciting the post-Flood speech is [here](#). This year declaimers from across the nation will compete in a new Coolidge Cup event: reciting other Coolidge speeches. High school debate requires rigorous oversight and coaching to be successful. We're pleased to report that Professor Ben Voth of Southern Methodist University has joined us for the ninth time to oversee the work of judge training and tabulation. We like to see friends move ahead. Since we've known Ben, he's received tenure at SMU, a tribute to the kind of detail work he delivers to Coolidge. Finally, the Coolidge Foundation is launching a new contest, the Coolidge Citizenship Challenge. The Challenge asks young people to learn the basic facts (plus a few about Coolidge, naturally) of the sort new citizens must learn for the naturalization test. The host of this contest is Coolidge Foundation Trustee Janice Brown, a former federal judge.

The Coolidge Scholarship and Senators Program: The Coolidge Scholarship is a four-year full ride college scholarship for academic merit. Competitors enter the contest in the fall of their junior years of high school. Coolidge Scholarship candidates may attend any U.S. college to which they are admitted. Each student candidate must write three essays—a personal statement and two essays on Calvin Coolidge. This year some 4,700 candidates competed, up nearly 40% from last year. Thousands of teachers, coaches and mentors provided recommendations for these candidates.

We are always seeking to build community and friends for Coolidge. Each recommender has received a voucher to claim a free ticket to tour the Notch. Ten semifinal-round juries led the selection of the Coolidge Scholarship finalists. Twelve finalists joined us in Plymouth Notch this past week to interview for the scholarship. Final decisions are being made, and the winners of this

year's contest will be announced in mid-July. With the addition of this year's new class, there will be more than 20 Coolidge Scholars. This spring marked a milestone for the program—our first Coolidge Scholar, Sam Reddick of Tennessee, graduated from college. Sam graduated with top honors from Rice University where he studied kinesiology and biochemistry. During the Covid crisis Sam remained on campus to lead the student EMS service, working on the front lines. Sam was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, received a special service medal from Rice, and was named one of Rice's top ten graduating seniors. Sam is currently applying to medical school.

Upcoming: The 2023 centennial of the Coolidge presidency approaches. In the quarantine period the Foundation, led by Trustee Garland Tucker, laid the plans for the year. In Washington, we hope to host a major conference on **Coolidge and the American Project**. One benefit of Coolidge House is that we already have a base for such policy events. At the Notch this week, you may see cameraman. They are filming a documentary about the President, led by Coolidge Foundation Trustee Steve Forbes. The Notch is also a key base for the Centennial. We hope to plan several major group tours of the Notch. A large event around the anniversary of Coolidge's historic inauguration at Plymouth (early August, 2023) will also take place.

At the Notch meanwhile there is so much to do. Please do visit two exhibits at the Notch right now: the state's wonderful exhibit on the 1920s, complete with flapper dress patterns and wonderful images of the Coolidges. An exhibit on Woman Suffrage, marking the centennial of Suffrage for Women, lines the walls of the Great Room. The Calvin Coolidge 5k and "I Do not Choose to Run" one-mile walk, is set for October 2, 2021 to take place in Plymouth Notch. Watch *News from the Notch*, our twice monthly blast, for the date of our annual Christmas Open House.

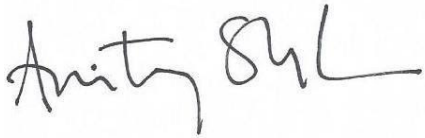
We plan to close out the year with our annual New York Gala, which takes place this year on December 9 at the Union League Club in New York City. Please consider joining us. Our guest speaker will be Anthony Kronman, a law professor at Yale and a former law dean, author of the recent book, "The Assault on American Excellence." Also featured will be Coolidge supporter Mike Keiser, entrepreneur, and founder of the legendary golf center at Bandon Dunes. Mr. Keiser will speak at the reception on entrepreneurship, excellence, and golf.

Those in Vermont please do consider attending the Christmas Open House – date to be announced. Our staff members are key to high-quality work. Please take time if you are at the Notch to seek out and introduce yourself to our new executive director, Dean Ball. Dean joins the Foundation from the Manhattan Institute, where he led another program that involved building a network of young people, the Adam Smith Society. Coolidge Fund President Matt Denhart, with the Foundation now a decade, leads the scholarship, development, and Foundation finance. We employ staff with a record of demonstrated excellence in program and policy. Program director Rob Hammer ably manages our scholarship process, handling a workload that four or five others might do at a college admissions office, while also overseeing other programming. Jared Rhoads is typical of the high caliber of talent that honors the Foundation by joining us. Mr. Rhoads, who joined us in 2018 as debate director, also serves as lecturer at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice. Mr. Rhoads serves as director and capstone project advisor at the MPH graduate program. We are grateful to the dedication of John Ferrell who assists all programs and has taken a lead in organizing education visits to the Notch. C.C. Borzilleri and Mr. Ferrell have done a superb job coordinating our new "Coolidge Scribe" volunteer effort. William Pettinger and Joanna McCool, two recent college graduates, joined our team this past year.

As our programs continue to grow around the country, Plymouth Notch remains the heart of our Coolidge education efforts. The State of Vermont maintains this historic site beautifully, enabling our guests, and thousands of others, to learn about Coolidge. We deeply value our strong relationship with the State of Vermont and thank especially site administrator Bill Jenney along with State Historic Preservation Officer Laura Trieschmann, and Historic Sites Section Chief Tracy Martin.

Thank you, most especially, to our members and supporters who sustain our work and make it all possible.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amity Shlaes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.


Amity Shlaes
Chairman

Appendix A: Debate Program Impact

COOLIDGE DEBATE IMPACT

· SINCE 2013 ·

 **>45,000**
STUDENTS
debating Coolidge Foundation topics

 **\$261,000**
INVESTED to bring
1,260 DEBATERS
to Coolidge's Homestead

 Approximately
\$68,500
awarded in **PRIZES**

 nearly
2,600
rounds of **DEBATE**


70
TOPIC
EXPERTS
have
briefed
debaters

 **430** **JUDGES**
have volunteered over **2,700** **HOURS**

207 **ROUNDS OF DEBATE** 
on the fairness of taxes in 2021

 **5** **COOLIDGE CUP**
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

All Coolidge Debaters receive briefs on their debate topics detailing the most important arguments for both sides.

20

BRIEFS

125+

AFFIRMATIVE
ARGUMENTS

125+

NEGATIVE
ARGUMENTS

360

PAGES

462

ACADEMIC LEVEL
CITATIONS

Appendix B: Scholarship Program Impact

COOLIDGE SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

· SINCE 2016 ·



Over

\$7,050,000

awarded in **SCHOLARSHIPS**



Over

1.7 Million
VISITS

to coolidgescholars.org

38,240

ESSAYS

written about Calvin Coolidge



Almost

53,000

REFERENCE LETTERS SUBMITTED



440

Coolidge
Senators



22

COOLIDGE
SCHOLARS

369 \$\$

STUDENTS

awarded scholarships
at some level



Applicants from all

50 STATES

6

YEARS

22

SCHOLARS

66

FINALISTS

440

SENATORS