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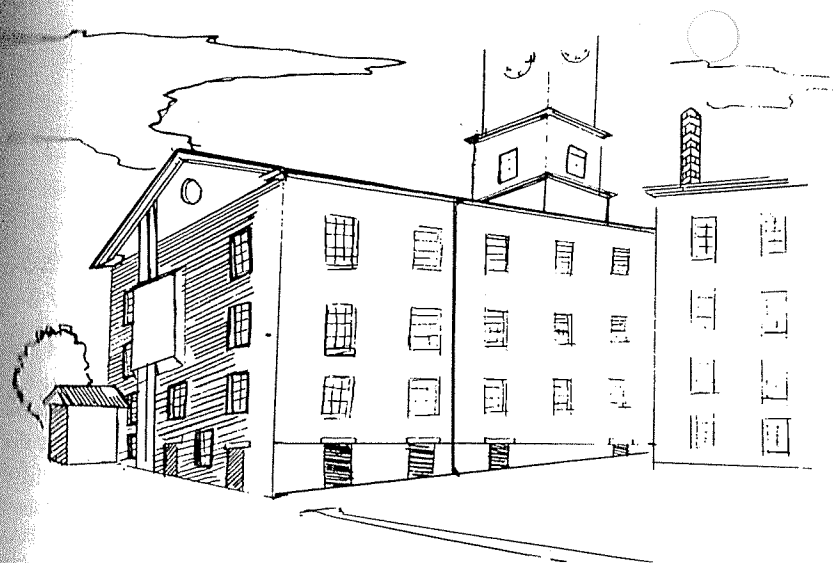
## The Last Shall Be First: The Amherst College Days of Calvin Coolidge

by Thomas W. Kilmartin

The train from Ludlow passed corn stalks and tobacco sheds as it sped south along the Connecticut River toward Amherst. Other than nervously rubbing the under part of his chin, young Calvin Coolidge sat motionless.<sup>1</sup> He was thin, with humorless mouth, and so pale that his hair looked more red than it was.<sup>2</sup> His upturned nose betrayed his personality, for Coolidge was painfully shy: as a youngster he used to run and hide to avoid greeting strangers.<sup>3</sup> Now, on a mid-September day in 1891, he was starting out for college.

It had not been easy for Coolidge to leave home. Having lost both his mother and sister, he was very attached to his father. John C. Coolidge was a stern-looking man who ran the general store at Plymouth Notch, Vermont. His remarriage a week earlier undoubtedly relieved young Cal—now at least his father would not be alone.<sup>4</sup>

When the train arrived at the Amherst station, Coolidge got off and carried his bags up Main Street. Then he walked the elm-shaded path across the town common. The buildings of Amherst College stood on and around a hill just south of the common. The most imposing was Johnson Chapel, a fine brick structure with a pillared portico and a square clock tower. It stood cramped between two plain-looking dormitories.



Johnson Chapel

Since both dormitories were run down, most of the students lodged in homes around the village. Coolidge roomed at “Mr. Trott’s,” a large brick house on South Pleasant Street. For his ground-floor room he paid \$60 for the year, plus 25¢ a week for upkeep. In addition, he had to supply wood for his fireplace and oil for his lamp. He lived at Mr. Trott’s with Alfred Turner, an athletic upperclassman who belonged to Chi Phi fraternity.<sup>5</sup> “My roommate,” Coolidge wrote in his first letter home, “seems like a very good fellow.”<sup>6</sup>

On Thursday, September 17, 1891, classes began. Coolidge took those studies prescribed for freshmen in the Classical Course: four hours a week of Greek and Latin and mathematics, and one hour of declamation.<sup>7</sup> In Greek class, Coolidge studied Homer’s *Odyssey* under Professor Levi Elwell, a peculiar man who was fascinated by the resemblance between himself and Socrates.<sup>8</sup> In Professor Ephraim Lincoln Wood’s Latin class, Coolidge read portions of the writings of Cicero. And he studied algebra and geometry under Instructor George D. Olds. “Georgie” was new to the faculty, a nervous young man with red hair. During one class early in the term, before he had learned his students’ names, Olds called on “my red-headed brother in the second row”—Calvin Coolidge.<sup>9</sup>

Of course, there was more to Amherst College life than attending classes. College rules still required that students attend religious services every Sunday, as well as prayers every weekday morning at 8 o’clock in the chapel. Rules required, too, that students participate regularly at class drills.<sup>10</sup> Four afternoons each week Coolidge went to Pratt Gymnasium, where he changed into his blue flannel uniform with the letters “A.C.” stitched onto the front.<sup>11</sup> Then, with his classmates, he lifted light dumbbells and marched in military formation around the gymnasium floor.<sup>12</sup>

But Coolidge was different from the other boys at Amherst. His shyness set him apart. He was also very self-conscious of his quacking voice, which was caused by usually-congested nasal passages.<sup>13</sup> Consequently, he sometimes went for days without saying a word.<sup>14</sup> Maybe this was the reason for his frequent letters home: he had to "talk" to someone. On the rare occasions when he did speak, he made an effort at humor. For instance, whenever Mrs. Trott served lamb chops or leg of lamb Coolidge would push away his plate and drawl, "I don't eat sheep."<sup>15</sup> He never grinned to punctuate his jokes, so that other diners often thought his comments were dumb.<sup>16</sup>

For the most part, Coolidge kept to himself his freshman year. He did not join any clubs or associations, nor did he go singing through the streets or even calling on his professors like the other boys.<sup>17</sup> He did not drink with his classmates—in fact, the strongest drink he took was apple cider.<sup>18</sup> And he did not dance: his Victorian grandmother had once rewarded him one dollar for having not danced at a party.<sup>19</sup> Although there were two girls' boarding schools in town and Smith College was just a 15-minute ride by train, Coolidge dated no girls. He was too shy. He liked to look at them, though.<sup>20</sup>

Calvin Coolidge was different, yes, but he did not want to be. He was particularly eager to join a Greek-letter fraternity, for he knew how much it meant to be a Greek at Amherst College. But "Rushing Committees" did not interest themselves in Coolidge, and the quiet Vermonter remained an "Ouden," an outsider.<sup>21</sup>

So the unpledged Coolidge had a good deal of time to read and study. He spent many leisure hours in the library reading *The Federalist* and other books by and about his hero, Alexander Hamilton.<sup>22</sup> And he studied hard, sitting hour after hour at his flat-top desk with the bank of pigeon holes at the back.<sup>23</sup> Still, his grades were not good: his first-term average was only 68.<sup>24</sup> He reported his grades to his father, commenting that, "the marks seem pretty low, don't they?"<sup>25</sup>

The problem was that Coolidge was lonely. He had few friends. "I don't seem to get acquainted very fast," he stated in an October letter to his father.<sup>26</sup> In January, when he returned to Amherst after Christmas vacation at home, he became pitifully homesick: "I hate to think I must stay here 12 weeks before I can go home again." His hand trembled so he could hardly write. "Each time I get home," he explained, "I hate to go away worse than before and I don't feel so well here now as the first day I came here last fall."<sup>27</sup>

Coolidge's condition improved when things became more exciting. On February 18, 1892, the Freshman Class, with the sophomores giving chase, leapt onto a train to Westfield, where they held their class supper at the Park Square Hotel.<sup>28</sup> Afterwards, some of the boys became rowdy and stole signs from Westfield merchants.<sup>29</sup> There is no reason to believe that Coolidge was among the hooligans. In March, the College held a Republican National Convention of

its own. The candidates were James G. Blaine and Benjamin Harrison, and the boys went about the streets at night singing for the one they supported.<sup>30</sup> Coolidge favored the renomination of President Harrison, whom he had seen the summer before at the dedication of the Battle Monument at Bennington, Vermont.<sup>31</sup>

Still, however he passed his time at Amherst, Coolidge disliked the place. "I shall be so glad to get home once more," he confided in a letter to his father, "and be surrounded by all the associations that are dear to me."<sup>32</sup> On Friday, June 24, Coolidge took a train to Ludlow, where his father met and conveyed him to Plymouth Notch in a buckboard.<sup>33</sup>

Almost unnoticed at Amherst College, he was a celebrity at the Notch: the townspeople asked him to deliver the Independence Day address. On his twentieth birthday, July 4, 1892, Coolidge appeared before his friends and neighbors and gave a star-spangled oration on "Freedom." After emotional references to Concord and Lexington and to Old Glory, he praised the founding fathers and then closed with these lines: "Let trembling tyrants hold their sway with arms and fleets and ride to empire through a sea of blood. Our flag is our defence, and where'er its folds are spread to catch the breeze, 'tis bound to bring respect and give protection. Prince, potentate, peer, alike pay homage to him who says: 'I AM AN AMERICAN!'"<sup>34</sup> The townspeople cheered when Coolidge had finished—perhaps just for that reason.

His local prominence notwithstanding, in September Coolidge was once again an obscure student at Amherst. And again he roomed at Mr. Trott's with Turner, who was now a senior. Because Coolidge often ate alone at Mr. Trott's, and because the price of board there went up to \$3.75 a week, he found another place to eat.<sup>35</sup> Later that year he moved to another room, at "Samuel Morse's," just a few numbers up the hill on South Pleasant Street. His roommate there was John Percival Deering, a young man from Saco, Maine. The new room was much less elaborate than the one at Mr. Trott's. But it was also less expensive, and that is what mattered most to the thrifty Coolidge.<sup>36</sup> He kept a careful account of all his expenses: \$3.50 a week for board, so many cents for newspapers, a nickel for a bag of peanuts.<sup>37</sup>

Coolidge spent his time carefully, too. Over his desk he hung a chart telling him when to work on each of his studies.<sup>38</sup> And his grades improved. He did fairly well in all of his sophomore courses except for Greek, in which he lost interest. One day in Greek class, Professor William S. Tyler, a shriveled old man, was reading to his students the orations of Demosthenes. At one point Tyler looked up over his steel-rimmed spectacles and spotted Coolidge napping. An account of the incident appeared in the class yearbook, *The Olio*:

The class in Greek was going on;  
Old Ty a lecture read—  
And in the row in front there shone  
Fair Coolidge's golden head.  
His pate was bent upon the seat  
In front of him; his hair  
Old Tyler's feeble gaze did meet,  
With fierce and ruddy glare.  
O'ercome by mystic sense of dread,  
Old Ty his talk did lull—  
"Coolidge, I wish you'd raise your head;  
I can't talk through your skull."<sup>39</sup>

Not surprisingly, Coolidge failed Greek that term.<sup>40</sup>

A somewhat more calculated incident occurred in Coolidge's sophomore German class. Gas had been leaking from the classroom burner for some time. One morning Coolidge appeared in class wearing a hat. When Professor Richardson asked him why, Coolidge removed the hat and pointed to his flaming red hair and said, "I was afraid there might be an explosion."<sup>41</sup>

In spite of his shyness, Coolidge was fond of what he considered to be pranks. One day he looked out of his window at Morse's and noticed that the Negro gardener was hard at work mowing the lawn. Coolidge grabbed an air rifle and started peppering the gardener with BB shot. Deering recalled that when the gardener screamed, "Cal laughed like the devil."<sup>42</sup>

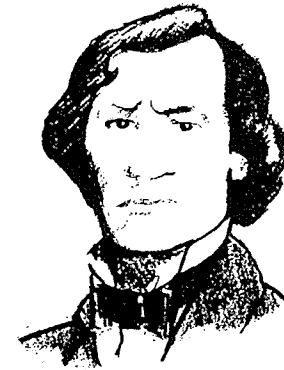
As in the year before, Coolidge amused himself, too, by attending the Amherst College football games as well as an occasional lecture or concert. He joined the Republican Club his sophomore year, and on October 31, 1892, he participated in a spirited torch-light parade in support of the GOP.<sup>43</sup> Coolidge was disappointed the following week when Harrison lost the election to Grover Cleveland. There is no sense in blaming the tariff or the Homestead affair, he explained in a letter to his father. Rather, the reason for the Republican defeat "seems to lie in the never satisfied mind of the American and in the ... desire to shift in hope of something better and in the vague idea of the working classes that somebody is getting all the money while they get all the work."<sup>44</sup>

On the whole, Coolidge's sophomore year was little different from his freshman: he was still very much alone. And so, he was happy to return to Plymouth Notch for the summer. As was usual, Coolidge helped his father in the store and on the farm, and for enjoyment he took part in local minstrel shows.<sup>45</sup> It took a lot of convincing from his father for him even to return to Amherst the following September.<sup>46</sup>

Coolidge and Deering moved to "Mrs. Avery's," a house on Prospect Street. The two boys were more than roommates—they were loyal friends. In the autumn of 1893 Deering refused a "bid" from one of the better fraternities when

that fraternity would not offer a similar bid to Coolidge.<sup>47</sup> And Coolidge returned the favor: when "Percy" was a candidate for the board of editors of the yearbook, Coolidge rounded up a few acquaintances to vote for him.<sup>48</sup>

That Coolidge even had acquaintances was due largely to his role as a loser in the "Plug Hat Race," a contest in which the juniors all wore toppers and carried walking sticks as they sprinted the length of the athletic field. The last seven to cross the line were obliged to treat the others to supper. Coolidge was among the last. At the banquet thrown by the losers on November 23, 1893, the toast master had Coolidge speak on the topic "Why I Got Stuck." He first turned his pockets inside out, showing his classmates that the oysters and the beer they were enjoying had left him penniless. He then remarked, "You wouldn't expect a plow horse to make time on the race track or a follower of the plow to be a Mercury." Coolidge ended by saying, "Remember, boys, the Good Book says that the first shall be last and the last shall be first." His classmates thereafter considered him a wit.<sup>49</sup>



Calvin Coolidge, at age 20.

Coolidge would not let his reputation as wit be forgotten, either. Dining with a number of other students at "Jack Collins's" one Saturday night, he refused to eat his frankfurters until after he was sure that Collins's pet dogs were alive and well.<sup>50</sup> There were other antics, too, and before long almost everyone knew the witty Coolidge. As he overcame his shyness and made friends, "Coolie"<sup>51</sup> became contented with his life at Amherst. "Grandma says huskings are plenty at the Notch and wishes I were there to take part," he reported in a letter to his father on October 12, 1893. "Yes so do I though no doubt I can find just as much amusement in my work and recreation as I could at a rural husking party."<sup>52</sup>

One consequence of this new contentment was that Coolidge's classwork improved. He now found his studies to be stimulating,<sup>53</sup> particularly debates and public speaking. A classmate recalled years later that, "It was in junior year that we discovered him. In that year we began debating and in debates we found that he could talk. It was a revelation. He was keen, concise, felicitous, and humorous. It was as if a new and gifted man had joined the class."<sup>54</sup> He was boastful, too: "In view of the fact that yesterday I put up a debate said to be the best heard on the floor of the chapel this term," he wrote his father in October, "can you send me \$25 the forepart of next week? I want to see the football game at Hanover."<sup>55</sup> In March 1894 he participated in an oratorical competition, and by vote of the students taking public speaking, he shared with a classmate the J. Wesley Ladd prize for the best oration.<sup>56</sup> Further recognition came in senior year. Though not the eventual winner, Coolidge was among 15 debators chosen to compete for the Hyde Prize of \$100.<sup>57</sup>

His performance in debates and in public speaking aside, the subjects that interested Coolidge most were history and philosophy. And in both he did consistently well. He studied five terms of history under the direction of Anson D. Morse. Professor Morse was tall and thin and not at all well, and he paced restlessly back and forth when he lectured. He concentrated on political history, both European and American and taught his students that good citizenship demands an understanding not just of liberties but of responsibilities. Coolidge studied philosophy under Charles E. Garman, a mysterious-looking man who was without a doubt the greatest of all Amherst College teachers. He used no texts, but distributed to the class pamphlets that he had himself printed on a small hand press in his cellar.

In each pamphlet was a problem for his students to solve, and this he forced them to do on their own, by weighing all the evidence and accepting only what was true. He had a profound affect on all of his students.<sup>58</sup> As Coolidge later wrote, "We looked upon Garman as a man who walked with God."<sup>59</sup>

When Coolidge arrived at Amherst to begin his last year at college, he found waiting in his mail a commendatory note that his French professor, Edwin A. Grosvenor, had sent the previous June. "What I most value," Grosvenor wrote, "is the continuity and regularity of excellence in your daily work." Coolidge was very pleased with the note and mailed it home for his father to read. "Send it back when you write," he instructed, "such letters are not common in college and I am proud enough of it so I want to keep it."<sup>60</sup>

Coolidge had changed remarkably since his freshman days, and he himself realized it. "It does not seem very far from home to be down here now," he wrote his father in September, "and a senior does not look so big or a college training such a great thing as they used to look, when I was a freshman. But they are just the same as they always were, all of them, it is only I that have changed."<sup>61</sup>

Early in September the seniors began making plans for their commencement activities. Someone suggested Coolidge for Grove Orator, whose task it would be to give an amusing speech at Class Day exercises. However, classmate Robert Bridgman wanted the honor. Several of Bridgman's friends called on Coolidge one evening and suggested that he withdraw his name from consideration. "If I conclude to withdraw," Coolidge responded, "I'll let you know." He never did let them know, and in the elections held on September 21 his classmates elected him Grove Orator by a vote of 53 to 18.<sup>62</sup> "I am very much pleased to be elected Grove Orator," he wrote his stepmother. "I got it because the class thinks I am the best man for the place."<sup>63</sup>

As seniors, Coolidge and Deering rented two rooms on the second floor at "Dr. Paige's," the house next to Mrs. Avery's on South Prospect Street. Dr. Paige was a veterinarian. He took a liking to young Coolidge, and together they would make evening calls to nearby farms.<sup>64</sup> Also lodging at Dr. Paige's was Carl Gates, a very religious youth who planned to enter the ministry. His bookcase was filled with Bibles and books on theology. One evening Coolidge took a stick and began pushing every other book off the shelf. Gates watched for a while and then exploded: "What are you trying to do, Cal?" "Do!" Coolidge replied, "I'm trying to teach you to swear."<sup>65</sup>

Had it not been for these occasional pranks, Coolidge would have been totally unexpressive. Even as a senior he was a reflective youth of few words. He would spend an entire evening at a friend's room, with "Hello" and "Good-night" his only remarks.<sup>66</sup> Coolidge did express some feeling in his romantic writing during senior year. To the October 1894 issue of *The Amherst Literary Monthly* he contributed a piece entitled "Margaret's Mist," a legend he had probably heard the previous summer when he visited Ausable Chasm in upstate New York.<sup>67</sup> The tale concerns a fair maiden named Margaret Meldon. She falls in love with a young man whom she believes to be a geology student from London. The evening before their planned marriage, Margaret discovers that her lover is a highwayman. She confronts him at the lake:

"Waldo Martin," said the emotionless Margaret, "I need no explanation. I know you now. How I have loved you! How I've trusted you! Robber! Murderer! Betrayer! Yet I cannot expose you. I love you still. Go over the earth in freedom. Expiate your crime. I plead for you before a Higher Tribunal."

While speaking she had moved toward the pool, and, with her eyes still fixed upon the man whom she had loved, she plunged beneath its eddies. The black water closing over her buried the sorrowing maiden forever beneath its bosom.<sup>68</sup>

Fortunately, Coolidge had little time for such writing. On November 24, 1894, he read in the *Amherst Student* that the Sons of the American Revolution was to award a silver medal for the best essay by an Amherst senior on the topic

"The Principles Fought for in the War of the American Revolution." Coolidge entered the contest and submitted an 8-page essay. "The struggle was not between nations, or for new principles," he wrote. "It was not so much a revolution, a propagation of new ideas, as the maintenance of the old forms of representative government of chartered rights and constitutional liberty." He concluded his essay:

The great land of America had a part to play in the history of the world that could best be performed by making it an independent nation. England's great work was to plant colonies. America could not aid in that work. It was her place to found a great nation on this side of the Atlantic and bring out the conception of free government. And when this was done, then America stretched out her hand over the sea to aid the oppressed of Europe, to furnish them a place of refuge, and as soon as they could assume the duties, make them citizens not alone of our United States, but of the world.<sup>69</sup>

Coolidge won the silver medal and later, for the same essay, he won a gold medal worth \$150 for having written the best paper submitted from any college.<sup>70</sup> Although he kept quiet about both awards, Coolidge had reason to be pleased.<sup>71</sup>

He had even more reason to be pleased when he received an invitation, finally to join a fraternity. Harry Otto Rhodes had been a member of Phi Gamma Delta at Wittenburg College in Ohio, and when he transferred to Amherst he organized a chapter of "Fijis" there. Among the charter members was none other than John P. Deering. Prompted by Deering, the fraternity sent a committee to Dr. Paige's asking Coolidge to join.<sup>72</sup> Rhodes explained the reason for the visit: "Coolie, we three have come as a committee from Phi Gamma Delta fraternity to ask you to become one of us." Coolidge sat stiffly at his desk and replied, "Yes."<sup>73</sup> That was all he said, but he was really very excited. It was half way through senior year and he finally felt accepted.

About his future he was uncertain. "I have not decided what I shall do next year," Coolidge wrote his father in January 1895, "shall probably go into the store or go to a law school at Boston or New York, that is about as far as I can get and think you will have to decide what I shall do." "I expect to sell out the present in terms of the future," he added, "and am not in any hurry to get rich."<sup>74</sup> Three months later Coolidge wrote, "I have not decided yet that I want to leave Plymouth, not because I like the place to live in, I do not, not because I could do more good there, there are larger fields, but because I may owe some debt to the place."<sup>75</sup> In June, when asked what he would do after graduation, Coolidge replied, "Nothing, I reckon—must rest after these four hard years."<sup>76</sup>

Scholastically, they had been years of steady improvement. Coolidge did well in all of his senior courses: philosophy, Italian, debates, history, and English literature. When he had completed his college studies his cumulative decimal average was 78.71, just enough for him to be graduated *cum laude*.

On Sunday, June 23, 1895, the commencement activities began with the Reverend Henry A. Stimson preaching the Baccalaureate Sermon. On Monday, Dwight W. Morrow won the Hardy Prize Debates when he answered in the negative the question, "Is it true that the most highly civilized nations are degenerating?" Later in the day John E. Lind, '98, who read Irwin's "The Historic Codfish," and William C. Duncan, '97, who read Dagonet's "Christians at the Workhouse," shared the Kellogg Prize in declamation. Tuesday, June 25, was Class Day. At 9:30 in the morning, the seniors assembled near the College Church, where Joseph A. Powell, the class president, planted the traditional ivy. Then Edward J. Bishop gave the Ivy Oration and William J. Boardman delivered the Ivy Poem. At 2:30 the members of the graduating class proceeded to College Hall, where Dwight W. Morrow read the Class Oration and Charles T. Burnett, the Class Poem.<sup>77</sup>

In the late afternoon of Tuesday the seniors assembled at the College Grove. There they lighted their corn-cob pipes and listened to Coolidge deliver the Grove Oration. It was a humorous speech, packed with wisecracks about the faculty and about college life in general. Coolidge repeated his more clever remarks.<sup>78</sup> He closed the oration with these lines:

Gentlemen of the Class of '95: Oh! You need not look so alarmed. I am not going to work off any song and dance about the cold, cruel world. It may not be such a misfortune to be out of college. It is not positive proof that a diploma is a wolf because it come to you in sheep's clothing..... Wherever we go, whatever we are, scientific or classical, degreed or disagreed, we are going to be Amherst men. And whoever sees a purple and white button marked with '95 shall see the emblem of a class spirit that will say, "Old Amherst, doubtless always right, but right or wrong, Old Amherst!"

After the audience had settled down a bit, Charles A. Andrews delivered the humorous Grove Poem, in which he mentioned many of his fellow seniors—but not Calvin Coolidge.<sup>79</sup> That evening, Alfred A. Roelker won the Hyde Prize for his oration, "A Gift of the Twentieth Century." The next day, the Class of 1895 filed into College Hall. After sitting through speech after boring speech, the 76 graduating seniors received their diplomas from President Merrill E. Gates.

After the summer at home, Coolidge would return to nearby Northampton, where he would study law and begin his amazing political career. Historians portray Coolidge as a poker-faced man who said little and accomplished even less. With an understanding of his college days, however, one respects him more. He was surprisingly witty and had his successes despite poor odds when he entered. A shy young man who won friends the hard way, Calvin Coolidge would later become Governor of Massachusetts and President of the United States.

## NOTES

1. John P. Deering, "I Roomed With Cal in College," as told to John Hurd Jr., *The Boston Sunday Globe* (August 12, 1923), Editorial and News Section, p. 7. Recalled Deering, "Cal always had a habit, a queer habit, of rubbing the under part of his chin."
2. See Calvin Coolidge, *The Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge* (New York, 1929), the photograph after p. 136.
3. Robert M. Washburn, *Calvin Coolidge, His First Biography* (Boston, 1923), pp. 63-64.
4. Coolidge, *Autobiography*, pp. 51-52.
5. Claude M. Fuess, *Calvin Coolidge, The Man from Vermont* (Boston, 1940), p. 46.
6. Coolidge to Mrs. Carrie Coolidge, September 20, 1891, in Edward Connery Lathem, ed., *Your Son, Calvin Coolidge* (Montpelier, 1968), p. 21. All of Coolidge's letters hereafter cited are understood to have been found in the Lathem book.
7. "The Course of Study," *Catalogue of Amherst College for the Year 1891-92* (Amherst, 1892), pp. 28-41.
8. Claude M. Fuess, *Amherst: The Story of a New England College* (Boston, 1935), pp. 235-36.
9. Fuess, *Calvin Coolidge*, p. 50.
10. *Catalogue . . . 1891-92*, pp. 56-57.
11. Coolidge to Mrs. Carrie Coolidge, October 25, 1891, p. 26.
12. Coolidge, *Autobiography*, pp. 56-57.
13. Donald R. McCoy, *Calvin Coolidge, The Quiet President* (New York, 1967), p. 8.
14. "The Coolidge Grade of Presidential Timber," *The Literary Digest* CXV (May 8, 1920), p. 61.
15. Reminiscences of Frederick Houk Law in Grace Coolidge et. al., "The Real Calvin Coolidge," Part IV, *Good Housekeeping*, C (May 1935), p. 252.
16. William Allen White, *A Puritan in Babylon* (New York, 1938), p. vii.
17. "Calvin Coolidge, Amherst '95," *Amherst Graduates' Quarterly* XII (February 1924), p. 81.
18. White, *A Puritan in Babylon*, p. 37.
19. Washburn, *Calvin Coolidge*, p. 14.
20. Alfred Pearce Dennis, "The Man Who Became President," in Edward Connery Lathem, ed., *Meet Calvin Coolidge: The Man Behind the Myth* (Brattleboro, Vt., 1960), p. 17.
21. Fuess, *Calvin Coolidge*, pp. 47-48.
22. Deering, "I Roomed With Cal in College," p. 7.
23. The desk thought to have been used by Coolidge is in The Edward Hitchcock Room of the Robert Frost Library at Amherst College.
24. Mr. John Coolidge granted the author permission to examine the President's college transcript.
25. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, January 14, 1892, p. 30.
26. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, October 15, 1891, p. 25.
27. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, January 6, 1892, p. 27.
28. *The '95 Olio* (Amherst, 1893), p. 26.
29. *The '94 Olio* (Amherst, 1892), p. 34.
30. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, February 28, 1892, p. 31.
31. Coolidge, *Autobiography*, pp. 57, 49.
32. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, March 8, 1892, p. 32.
33. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, June 19, 1892, p. 35.
34. From Cameron Rogers, *The Legend of Calvin Coolidge* (Garden City, N.Y., 1928), pp. 56-58.
35. Coolidge to Mrs. Carrie Coolidge, September 21, 1892, p. 37.
36. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, January 6, 1893, p. 45.
37. Reminiscences of John C. Coolidge in Lathem, *Meet Calvin Coolidge*, p. 24.
38. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, October 9, 1892, p. 39.
39. "An Episode in the Greek Room," *The '95 Olio*, p. 153.
40. All of Coolidge's biographers overlook his failing grade of 50 in sophomore Greek.
41. Reminiscences of Walter W. Breck in "When I Was in College with Calvin Coolidge," *The Boston Sunday Globe* (August 12, 1923), Editorial and News Section, p. 7.
42. Deering "I Roomed With Cal in College," p. 7.
43. Coolidge, *Autobiography*, p. 57.
44. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, November 13, 1892, pp. 40-41.
45. Arthur F. Fleser, "A New England Education: The Early Career and Rhetorical Training of Calvin Coolidge," *Vermont History*, XXXV (July 1967), p. 157.
46. Coolidge, *Autobiography*, p. 60.
47. Fuess, *Calvin Coolidge*, p. 53.
48. Reminiscences of W. J. Blair in "When I Was in College with Calvin Coolidge," p. 7.
49. Fuess, *Calvin Coolidge*, p. 52.
50. Deering, "I Roomed With Cal in College," p. 7.
51. Coolidge was nicknamed "Coolie" by some of his classmates. See "'Cal' Coolidge at Amherst" by Professor Henry W. Lawrence, an undated *Boston Sunday Post* clipping in the Coolidge material at the Robert Frost Library.
52. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, October 12, 1893, p. 47.
53. Coolidge, *Autobiography*, p. 60.
54. Reminiscences of Jay T. Stocking in "Calvin Coolidge, Amherst '95," p. 86.
55. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, November 2, 1893, p. 50.
56. *The Amherst Student* (March 17, 1894), p. 171.
57. *The Amherst Record* (May 22, 1895), p. 8, cited in Lathem, *Your Son, Calvin Coolidge*, p. 70.
58. Claude M. Fuess writes about Professors Garman and Morse in *Calvin Coolidge, The Man from Vermont*, pp. 57-60, and in *Amherst: The Story of a New England College*, pp. 238-41.
59. Coolidge, *Autobiography*, p. 65.
60. Lathem, *Your Son, Calvin Coolidge*, pp. 58-59, including the letter Coolidge wrote to his father on September 10, 1894.
61. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, September 11, 1894, p. 60.
62. John C. Coolidge, "My Son Calvin Coolidge," as told to Joe Toye, *Boston Traveller* (August 6, 1923).
63. Coolidge to Mrs. Carrie Coolidge, September 23, 1894, p. 72.
64. Fuess, *Calvin Coolidge*, pp. 49-50.
65. Deering, "I Roomed With Cal in College," p. 7.
66. Reminiscences of Lucius R. Eastman in "When I Was in College with Calvin Coolidge," p. 2.
67. Fuess, *Calvin Coolidge*, pp. 62-63.
68. J. Calvin Coolidge, "Margaret's Mist," mimeographed copy, Amherst College Archives.
69. Calvin Coolidge, "Prize Essay," mimeographed copy, Amherst College Archives.
70. *The Amherst Student*, January 25, 1896, p. 120.
71. Coolidge, *Autobiography*, pp. 73-74.
72. Fuess, *Calvin Coolidge*, p. 53.
73. Duff Gilfond, *The Rise of Saint Calvin* (New York, 1932), pp. 18-19.
74. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, January 7, 1895, p. 68.
75. Coolidge to John C. Coolidge, April 21, 1895, p. 69.
76. Reminiscences of Carleton A. Kelley in "When I Was in College with Calvin Coolidge," p. 2.
77. *The '97 Olio* (Amherst, 1895), pp. 88-94, gives the order of events during graduation week.
78. "Calvin Coolidge, Amherst '95," p. 88.
79. See "Class of '95: Class Day Exercises," *The Amherst Student* (Commencement Number, 1895), pp. 263-70, for the text of all Class Day orations and poems.