



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

## February 2016 Newsletter

Volume VII Number II

### African American 4-H in Black History Month

The story of Black History Month began in 1915, 50 years after slavery was abolished in the United States (and one year after the passage of the Smith-Lever Act). In 1926 the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) sponsored a "National Negro History Week." The second week of February was selected to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976. (Excerpted from <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month> )

The National 4-H History team continues to build the repository of historically significant resources that document the history of African American 4-H programs.

#### Did you know?

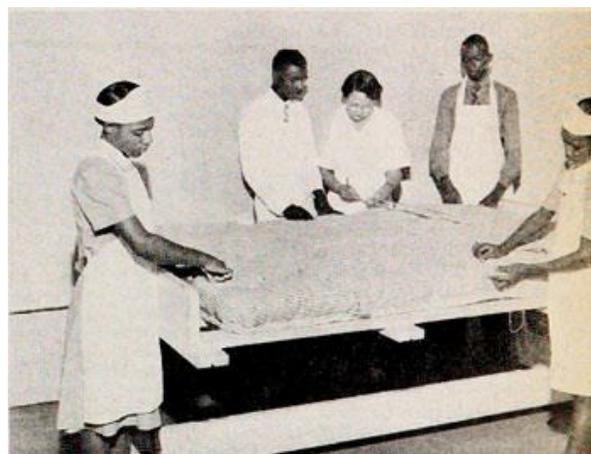
**In North Carolina** club work for African American youth began in 1914 with the organization of a group in Sampson County under the leadership of G. W. Herring. Participation grew steadily and by 1945 African American youth participation in North Carolina 4-H exceeded 29,000. "...the 4-H Club Foundation of North Carolina was founded in 1950 in order to raise money for the establishment of a camp for African American boys and girls." (*History of 4-H in North Carolina, NCSU Libraries, NC State University* [https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/greenrowing/4H\\_history.html](https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/greenrowing/4H_history.html) )

**West Virginia** initiated "camp-outs" in the 1920s for African American youth and had the first African American State 4-H Camp (Camp Washington-Carver), as well as many segregated county camps. Learn about the beginnings of this camp at: <http://www.marshall.edu/special-collections/cwc/PDF/Jordan-CWC2.pdf>



Camp Washington-Carver flag raising in Fayette County, WV. (Photo courtesy of the Camp Washington Carver Collection, West Virginia State Archives, photographer and date unknown.)

**4-H'ers from 11 Southern States** participated in the *American Negro Exposition* held in Chicago in the summer of 1940 to celebrate "the 75th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the achievements of African Americans." Extension had a prominent spot for the duration of the exposition with 4-H members giving demonstrations on projects and skills they were learning including sewing, canning, raising chickens and hogs, and peanut farming. (*4-H History Preservation Website* [http://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History/4-H\\_Promotion/Single\\_Story.asp?ps=161](http://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History/4-H_Promotion/Single_Story.asp?ps=161) )



Finishing off a mattress: a home demonstration worker shows how a mattress is completed while 4-H members assist at the 1940 *American Negro Exposition*. (National 4-H Club News)

### In 1965 black 4-H'ers in South Carolina

"attended the State 4-H Club Week at Clemson University, the National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC, and the National 4-H Congress in Chicago with white 4-H'ers from South Carolina for the first time." Passage of the Civil Rights Act brought changes to 4-H but not without challenges. When separate programs were eliminated, some programs were discontinued until adjustments could be made. (From *The History of South Carolina Cooperative Extension Service* by Clyde E. Woodall, <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/100/background/145.html> )

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (founders of Black History Month) has selected **Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories** as the theme for this year's celebration of Black History Month. It is to bring attention to the centennial celebration of the National Park Service and the more than twenty-five historical sites and the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom that are part of America's hallowed grounds, including the home of the father of black history, Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

You can map significant people, places, and events that help to tell the story of African American 4-H programs in your state by participating in the 4-H History Map Project at [http://4hhistorypreservation.com/History\\_Map/](http://4hhistorypreservation.com/History_Map/) and by getting involved in "Voices of 4-H History" at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/1890> .

### Why Presidents like 4-H

Ron Drum: Maine State 4-H Staff

*Since February is the month that we honor US Presidents, we felt that this was a great time to ponder an item Ron wrote when he returned home from last year's NAE4-HA Conference.*



4-H'ers with President Jimmie Carter.

I just recently got home from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) Conference, held in Portland, Oregon, last year. Just like so many others who attended, I ate too much, slept too little, and learned not nearly enough (although that wasn't for the conference's not trying!). The NAE4-HA Conference is one of the highlights of the 4-H year annually, especially if one is seeking more information about all that we do as 4-H "agents."

If **John Quincy Adams**, our sixth US President, is to be believed, the NAE4-HA Board has much to be thanked for. JQA once said:

*"To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is...the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind."*

I agree!

He could have also been saying that about 4-H, if 4-H had been around when JQA was around. I think JQA would have liked 4-H. I think his father, **John Adams**, our second President, would have liked 4-H, too. He once said:

*"I thank God I have a head, a heard, and hands which, if fully exerted all together will succeed in the world."*

**Dwight Eisenhower** (#34) would have agreed with John. He once said:

*"Hand and head and heart were made to work together, they should be educated together."*

I think lots of our Presidents would have liked 4-H. **Theodore Roosevelt** (#26) would have been right in there with them had he been aware of what was happening in various communities across the country concerning clubs and kids while he was president (1901 – 1909). In fact, he got the Extension youth development ball rolling when he told America:

*"If you are going to do anything permanent for the average man, you must begin before he is a man, the chance for success lies in working with the boy, and not the man."*

I KNOW Eisenhower liked 4-H. At least he liked the 4-H'ers. Ike said so! He began his 1959 National 4-H Center dedication speech saying, "...I like the 4-H'ers." Then he went on to list why he liked them. For example, one reason he identified was

*"I like 4-Hers because they are dedicated to excellence. They want to do things better."*

Lots of Presidents liked us for that reason. **Harry Truman** (#33) told 4-H'ers gathered in the Rose Garden in 1952:

*"As one who helped organize one of the first 4-H clubs in my state, I congratulate you on your theme for this year, 'Better Living for a Better World.'"*

I think Truman really did like – and personally know – 4-H. He apologized to another group of 4-H'ers saying, "There is one thing I overlooked this morning. I forgot to put on my 4-H button, for which I apologize." Truman made many speeches from the end of a train as it moved from town to town while he was in office and in many of those speeches, he'd reference 4-H. Yup, Harry liked 4-H.

**JFK** (#35) told 4-H'ers:

*"Through your emphasis on Head, Heart, Hands, and Health you are making a valuable contribution to our country's welfare and progress."*

**Bill Clinton** (#42) told us:

*"You know, if every kid in America were in 4-H, we'd have about half the problems we've got. I believe that."*

I just can't imagine Clinton and **Richard Nixon** (#37) agreeing on much, but they apparently agreed on 4-H! When Nixon was Ike's VP he told a group of 4-H'ers:

*"With young people like yourselves growing up in America, I know tomorrow is in safe hands."*

Hmm, could that be a "4-H GROWS HERE" reference?

**Woodrow Wilson** (#28) told 4-H'ers:

*"in America we have only one title to nobility and that is achievement. You 4-H'ers have won that title."*

And **Herbert Hoover** (#31) rounds out the group by adding:

*"The work of the 4-H club is fundamental. It is developing ... leadership, molding character and building citizenship."*

Right he was!

**Calvin Coolidge** (#30) was a president many thought of as stern, with few words. But 4-H'ers did make him laugh when they paraded past him with a sign that read, "We like Coolidge 'cause Coolidge likes us." It must have been true 'cause 4-H'ers never lie, right?

However, the man who succeeded him in office, Herbert Hoover, summed things up best when he told 4 H'ers:

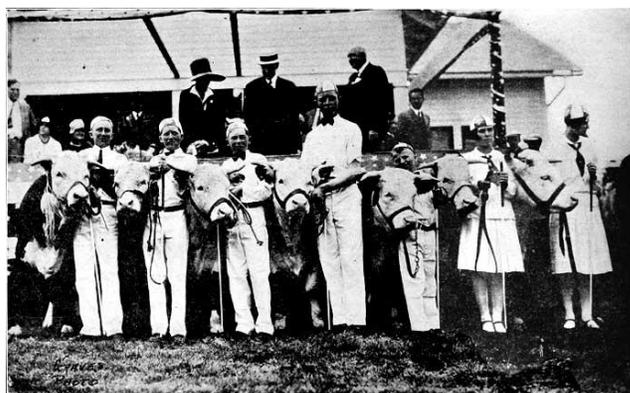
*"The club work which you share with almost a million other boys and girls in 4-H clubs in every part of the nation is one of real accomplishment .... Your program and your future leadership is its great promise."*

Every President since **William Howard Taft** (#27) – all 18 of them, including our present President, **Barack Obama** (#44) – has met with 4-H members, discussed the future with them, given 4-H'ers encouragement, asked them for help (**FDR** [#32] even asked 4-H'ers to rededicate their heads, hearts, hands, and health to VICTORY in 1945!), and thanked them for what they'd given.

In January, 2017, #45 will be inaugurated. We don't yet know who that will be, but we can be sure 4-H will be present at the start (**Check out the Inauguration CWF opportunity recently announced**). Will he or she meet with 4-H'ers? He or she will if we, as President John Adams suggested, exert our head, heart, and hands all together toward that goal!

## US Presidents as Honorary Chairmen

The Following article is taken from the "National Compendium of 4-H Promotion and Visibility" on the 4-H History Website at [http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H\\_Promotion](http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H_Promotion)



Dawes County, Nebraska, 4-H Baby Beef Club calves exhibited for President and Mrs. Coolidge

In 1924, although the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work was only three years old, Director Guy Noble apparently had enough faith in the little fledgling organization to boldly ask the President of the United States to be their honorary chairman. Calvin Coolidge said "yes," and, well, as they say, the rest is history.

Every President after Coolidge, up through Bill Clinton in the 1990s, held the role of Honorary Chairman of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, then National 4-H Service Committee, and finally, National 4-H Council – a string of 76 years.

So, what did this actually mean? To our knowledge, no President ever attended a board meeting, however the entire board did go to the White House to meet with their Honorary Chairman while Ronald Reagan was President. And, President Richard Nixon traveled to Chicago to address the delegates at the National 4-H Congress's 50th Anniversary. Presidents often hosted 4-H groups in the Oval Office or the Rose Garden and President Eisenhower cut the ribbons to open the National 4-H Center. They almost always sent a formal letter about National 4-H Week which could be used in the press kits, and sometimes sent Holiday Greetings to "all 4-H'ers" in December. Plus, having the name of the President at the top of your list of board members on the Annual Report didn't hurt, particularly when it came to fund raising.

Learn more about the history of 'US Presidents and 4-H' on the 4-H history website at <http://4-HHistory.com/?ps=16>



1926 National 4-H Pennant

### On this day in 4-H History

**February 6, 1963:** The "World Atlas of 4-H" is published by the National 4-H Foundation indicating 84 4-H and similar-type programs in 75 countries.

**February 11, 1986:** The 4-H television series, "Blue Sky Below My Feet - Adventures in Space Technology," is produced in cooperation with NASA, premiers at the National 4-H Center.

**February 13, 1984:** Missouri Room and adjacent Danforth Court are dedicated at National 4-H Center.

**February 14, 1951:** National 4-H Foundation conducts a dedication and Founder's Day on the site of the future national 4-H training center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, having just purchased the Chevy Chase Junior College which had operated on the site; Smith, Turner and Warren Halls are named.

**February 15, 1945:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt sends message to "All 4-H Club members in the United States" in appreciation of achieving their impressive wartime goals.

**February 15, 1984:** Movie "Get the Message?" produced by Kraft in support of the 4-H Health program relating to alcohol issues is premiered at the National 4-H Center.

**February 22, 1902:** County Superintendent of Schools O. J. Kern holds first club meeting of farm boys in the county court house in Rockford, Illinois.

**February 25, 1991:** Luke Schruben Board Room is dedicated at National 4-H Youth Conference Center.

**February 27, 1976:** The Board of Trustees of the newly incorporated National 4-H Council holds its charter meeting.

### It's a Great Year for 4-H Calendar Art!

The National 4-H History Preservation team is delighted to announce that already this year not one or two, but **three** pieces of original calendar art were found by 4-H Staff. In the seven years since we started working to preserve national 4-H history, only one other National Calendar painting outside of the 4-H Center had been discovered, purchased and presented to the National 4-H Council for the permanent collection.

The first two of this year's discoveries were made by Allen Auck, Ohio State 4-H Staff. The third was found by Jim Kahler, National History Preservation Team. (Incidentally, he's the person who found, bought and donated the only other one in the history of our team's work!)



1978 National 4-H Calendar art is being donated to National 4-H Council by Allen Auck and J. Eric Broches.

**You Can be a Calendar Art Detective** and join these two to help “bring back the 4-H Art. Please be on the lookout for published calendars and original art to help document this rich visual history of 4-H.

Some of the best places to look are antique shows and malls, internet art sales and even flea markets and farm sales. We are not only looking for the original art but also copies of any and all published 4-H calendars.

The national 4-H calendar program was originally authorized in 1937 but the first calendars that we have seen are from 1942. The last known 4-H calendar produced by a company is from 1991. We would like to have an image of every calendar printed between 1939 and 1991.



1977 National calendar painting will be donated by Dave and Sue Benedetti of the National 4-H History Preservation team.

All three of the “new” art pieces were painted by James E. Seward for the Shaw-Barton Calendar Company of Coshocton, Ohio. At this time, we believe that he created at least 18 National 4-H Calendar paintings beginning with the 1970 calendar and going up through 1987 and possibly longer. Seward also was one of 100 artists from around the country picked for the National Arts in the Parks Competition. He was also commissioned for portraits by many organizations. His paintings grace the walls of such companies as the General Motors Corporation, the Wells Fargo Bank, The McDonald Investment Company, and the Will Rogers Museum in Oklahoma.



We believe this art piece was created for a 1985 National 4-H Calendar. It was purchased and will be donated to the national collection by Jim Kahler, 4-H National Staff, NIFA, USDA, and member of the National 4-H History Preservation Team.

Remember, we’re looking for both original art and printed calendars to fill in the blank spaces in the archives of the National 4-H Calendar program. The calendar itself, a photograph or a scan of any calendar with the 4-H Clover on it will help us document what calendar company produced it and what year it was released. For some paintings we are missing records of the year or title or the name of the artist. Having a copy of the printed calendar itself would give us that information. Right now we have two pieces of original art and six photographs of 4-H calendar art but we don’t know the year, the title of the image or – in some cases – which calendar company produced them.

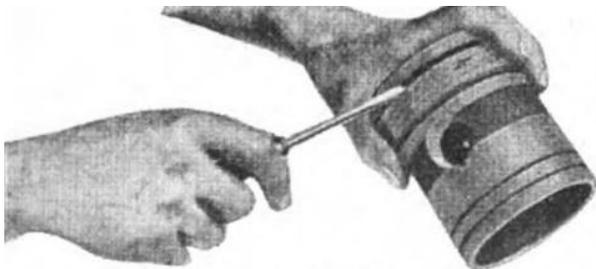
You can learn more details about the National 4-H Calendar Program and what records we have found on your 4-H History website at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/Calendars>

## Hands-on 4-H History

### 4-H Mechanical Engineering

Engineering has been a 4-H program area since the early years of the program. Maintaining engines in farm machinery and equipment has been a valuable skill for youth to learn for many decades. In more recent years, projects like small engines and robotics have expanded engineering learning opportunities to more youth beyond the farm.

The February, 1920, issue of Farm Boys' and Girls' Leader had a detailed article about Junior Farm Mechanics. The illustrated article told how to scrape and tighten bearings, clean carbon from piston rings and grind valves to improve engine efficiency.



Cleaning carbon from piston rings

Several decades later, a 1945, issue of National 4-H News announced the Live Power Program competition that covered the care and operation of farm tractors. Members and volunteers enrolled in the 4-H farm tractor maintenance program from 14 central and western states were eligible. County winners received a sterling silver medal. The top county winner received a \$15 scholarship to attend the state Tractor Maintenance Clinic. One representative from the top state group received an expense-paid trip to National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

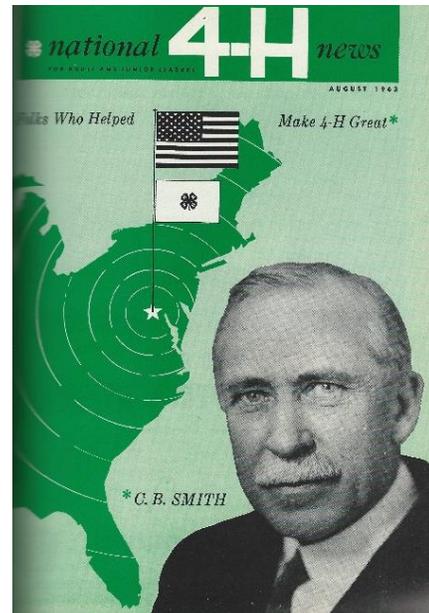
### Hands-on History

Today there are a variety of opportunities in engineering projects at the county, state, multi-state and national levels for 4-H members in tractor, small engines, robotics and more. If you have club members or volunteers who are involved in these programs, ask them to talk about their project work. If you don't have any members in these programs, invite a local business person to talk to your club about safe operation and maintenance of engines that your members might work with. Talk to your 4-H educator about 4-H project opportunities in

engineering at the county and state levels. It could start a new project interest in your group!

## Folks Who Helped Make 4-H Great

*This is the seventh in the series of 10 articles, reprinted from 1962 National 4-H News, which featured people identified by Extension Service professional staff members as "folks who helped make 4-H great."*



### C. B. Smith

Many 4-H workers have a deep-seated philosophy about 4-H. It's a special gift to be able to lend words to such feelings about this youth movement. And one of the more articulate speakers and writers on this subject was Dr. Clarence Beaman Smith, who spent 26 of his some 40 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in serving Extension work and, as part of it, boys' and girls' club work.

In his poetry and prose, Smith put into words the feelings that he and many other pioneers of club work developed as they saw – but not from the sidelines – the movement grow and flourish. For Smith and his fellow trailblazers transformed their feelings into an action program.

In several ways does today's 4-H Club work reflect Smith's contributions.

The youth program's strong position in overall Extension work is partly a result of his vigorous backing in early years, when many agricultural

workers “didn’t have time” for club work. Smith was instrumental in setting up the policy-making 4-H Subcommittee of the formal Extension organization.

As has been said for all the 4-H pioneers discussed in this series, Smith exerted a strong influence for high standards in club work. He didn’t deprecate material things, but he stressed high ideals in youth training. This Federal Extension worker helped establish the memoranda of understanding which put the Smith-Lever act of 1914 into operation by creating Cooperative Extension Services in individual states.

In his position of national leadership, Smith helped create the first National 4-H Club Camp (now National Conference). He opened that 1927 gathering – housed in tents on the U.S.D.A. grounds – with a talk on 4-H in which he stressed that “education is not preparation for life but life itself.”

Smith was born in a one-room log cabin at Howardsville, Mich., the son of Alonzo and Harriett Smith. In the words of one biographer, “Here Dr. Smith learned the fundamental values of life – work, thrift, neighborliness, integrity ...”

After attending high school in Gaylord, Mich., Smith borrowed \$40 from his parents and started out for the state agricultural college at East Lansing. He worked his way to a B.S. degree in 1894 and an

M.S. degree in 1895. After one year as a high school principal, he joined the U.S.D.A.’s Office of Experiment Stations. In 1912 he was made Chief of the Office of Cooperative Extension Work for the entire country, and in 1932 was appointed Assistant Director of Extension. He held this position until his retirement in 1938, after which he continued to write and speak for 4-H.

What kind of man was this 4-H pioneer, who died in 1948? Two of his early co-workers, Gertrude Warren and Paul Taff, describe him as “a great character” with a kindly face and a businesslike manner, a deep thinker and careful organizer. His decisions were fair and were based on strong convictions.

But the continuous thread of philosophy, made evident in his poetry and prose, seems the outstanding trait of C. B. Smith, who wrote:

“The biggest thing (parents) can leave (their children) is an ambition to do and accomplish, to endow them with healthy minds and bodies ... Yes, there is growth in struggle. And it is our business in 4-H Club work to place before rural people the things in life most work striving for.”

### Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team:

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