



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

## November 2015 Newsletter

Volume VI Number X

### On this Day in 4-H History

**November 1, 1962:** National 4-H Club Foundation announces a "Study of Urban 4-H" funded through a grant from the Ford Foundation.

**November 2, 1936:** Director of Extension Work, USDA, issues first authorization for a company to produce 4-H Club calendars, the approval going to the Thomas D. Murphy Company of Red Oak, Iowa.

**November 6, 1959:** First Open House for Chevy Chase community residents at National 4-H Center.

**November 18, 1948:** Incorporation of National 4-H Club Foundation of America; to establish a National 4-H Club Center and house International Programs.

**November 27, 1919:** First Armour Tour of boys and girls in Chicago is organized by Guy Noble of Armour & Co., the forerunner of what would become the National 4-H Congress.

**November 28, 1960:** Delegates to National 4-H Congress in Chicago see special premiere showing of the new 4-H film, "Tomboy and the Champ" by Universal Pictures.

**November 29, 1948:** Walt Disney Productions' film, "So Dear To My Heart" featuring Bobby Driscoll, Burl Ives and Beulah Bondik has its Chicago premiere during National 4-H Congress.

**November 30, 1953:** The first national 4-H alumni winners sponsored by Olin Corporation are honored during National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

### America's Highest Scoring Air Ace in World War II was a 4-H'er

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



Richard I. Bong  
24-Sep-1920 - 06-Aug-1945

Major Richard I. Bong grew up on a farm in Poplar, Wisconsin, as one of nine children, a member of a strong 4-H family, as noted in a feature in National 4-H Club News. While at Superior State Teachers College, Dick Bong enlisted in the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Program. One of his flight instructors was Capt. Barry Goldwater (later U. S. Senator from Arizona). He received his wings and commission as second lieutenant on January 19, 1942, only weeks after the U.S. declared war on Japan. Dick Bong became the United States' highest scoring ace, having shot down at least 40 Japanese aircraft during World War II [Surpassing Eddie Rickenbacker's American record of 26 credited victories in World War I.] Bong was a fighter pilot in the U. S. Army Air Force and a recipient of the Medal of Honor, at a special ceremony in December, 1944, from General Douglas MacArthur.

Near the end of the war, Major Bong became a test pilot assigned to Lockheed's Burbank, California, plant, where he flew P-80 Shooting Star jet fighters. On August 6, 1945, his plane's primary fuel pump malfunctioned and Dick Bong was killed; news of his death shared headlines in newspapers across the country with the bombing of Hiroshima.

Bong is well remembered and memorialized in several settings: the Richard Bong State Recreation Area on the old site of Bong Air Force Base in Kenosha County, Wisconsin; the Richard I. Bong Memorial Bridge in Duluth, Minnesota; Richard I. Bong Airport and Richard I. Bong Veteran Historical Center in Superior, Wisconsin; Richard I. Bong Bridge in Townsville, Australia; Richard Bong Theater in Misawa, Japan; as well as streets and avenues with his name in Glendale, Arizona, Anchorage, Alaska, Spokane, Washington, San Antonio, Texas, Mount Holly, New Jersey, and Okinawa, Japan.

#### **4-H Alumni Distinguished Themselves in World War II and Beyond**

As we celebrate Veterans' Day this month we would like to remember and share short stories about some of the many 4-H alumni that served their country proudly in the Armed Services. The following excerpt comes from "Wartime 4-H Support – World War II" which is currently being researched and written by the National 4-H History Preservation Leadership Team for inclusion of the website.

When the United States entered World War II in December, 1941, many older 4-H members and 4-H alumni enlisted in our country's military services, soon to be actively serving on the battlefields and seas of the war. There were an estimated 800,000 4-H alumni in total enlisted in the war effort.

Not surprising, many of these young men and women who had grown up on farms and experienced the "can do" attitude of successful 4-H projects and activities also became some of the heroes of the war.

Knocking out Japanese at Saipan and Tinian won a promotion for Marine gunnery sergeant Marion J. Franklin, former 4-H Club president at Mount Vernon, Illinois. As a scout with the fourth Marine Division artillery, he served with forward observer parties throughout the Marines' campaign, and was a crack shot, specializing in hunting enemy snipers. Fighting throughout the war, Marion became old enough to vote on November 11, 1944, near the end of the war.

American boys of Japanese ancestry born in Hawaii made up the celebrated 100th Hawaii Infantry Division of the United States Army and one among them was Kenneth Otagaki, former 4-H Club member with a seven-year record of poultry project

experience on the Island of Molokai. A graduate of the University of Hawaii, he was an assistant in the University's dairy department, before enlisting. He closed out the war at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. because of combat wounds received at Cassina, where he lost a leg, an eye and several fingers.

Winner of the 100th Congressional Medal of Honor, Sgt. Oscar Godfrey Johnson, from Foster City, Michigan, was a member of the Sturgeon River Dairy Club five years and the Felch Forestry and Handicraft Clubs for each of several years. Sgt. Johnson's citation tells a story of supreme courage. Detailed to a forward scouting battalion, his party was ambushed by Germans. All others were killed or wounded. He himself was responsible for killing 40 Germans, silencing six machine gun nests, and caring for the wounded. Later he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor from General Mark Clark.

The October 1945 issue of National 4-H Club News announced that Col. Creighton W. Abrams is now home in triumph in Agawam, Massachusetts. Abrams was a 4-H'er for several years, raising baby beef. During the war he served as tank battalion commander with Gen. Patton's army. [Later, as a U. S. Army General, Abrams commanded the military operations in the Vietnam War from 1968-1972.]



#### **Folks Who Helped Make 4-H Great**

*This is the fourth in the 1962 series published in the National 4-H News highlighting the work of 4-H professionals who, in the judgement of surveyed Extension workers, contributed significantly to the growth and development of the 4-H program nationwide. We reprint each article as it was written in 1962.*

##### **A. B. Graham**

Rural one-room schools in this country were, at the birth of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the gathering place of youth without a great deal of hope. Or so many educators such as A. B. Graham thought as they observed the attitude of farmers and farm youth toward their own lot in life.

The farmer was then a “hick” in the eyes of city folks. Farming was a plodding existence, calling for not much ingenuity or thoughtfulness, many farmers felt.



Drawing from the May, 1962, National 4-H Club News.

To lift the vision of farmers was the goal of many early pioneers in boys’ and girls’ club work – O. H. Benson, T. A. Erickson and others. In Springfield township, Clark county, Ohio, school superintendent Graham decided to kindle new enthusiasm for rural life in the hearts of his students.

His technique for doing this was the formation, in January, 1902, of an agricultural “experiment club.” He showed members some litmus paper and suggested that they test the soil on their fathers’ farms. Later he introduced more science into club work with a microscopic examination of frogs’ blood circulation and other eye-openers for the farm youth. Perhaps the greatest contribution this pioneer made, however, was in building the prestige of 4-H Club work in the minds of Extension workers and the public alike. He left school work in 1915 to go to Washington, D.C., as head of agricultural specialists in the federal Extension Service.

Seeing the growing impact of 4-H on agriculture, Graham influenced federal Extension specialists to write 4-H bulletins and make suggestions for club work in the states.

W. H. “Billy” Palmer, who became the first state 4-H Club leader in Ohio in 1916 – shortly after Graham left the Buckeye state – and who built 4-H into a great program there, recalls that “about the only 4-H literature we had in Ohio in the early days was from

Washington D.C. It was written by specialists there.” Graham encouraged that help, he adds.

Graham was a prolific writer himself, and a practical philosopher who is still quoted widely. He did little writing about 4-H until his latest years of life, however, since agriculture was his primary interest. He had promotional abilities with which he served 4-H along with his ability as a practical educator.

Evidence of his practical nature is the fact that Graham started *local* projects in the early years in Ohio. He helped cast the mold for present-day 4-H Clubs by forming actual clubs (much of the early youth work in other places was in the form of contests), electing officers, promoting exhibits, drawing up report forms, and encouraging projects at home.

The 4-H pioneer started life on a Champaign county, Ohio, farm on March 13, 1868. He had several years’ experience before taking the Clark county job. In 1914 he took charge of Extension work at the New York School of Agriculture after serving as superintendent of Extension at Ohio State University for 9 years. His years of work at the Federal Extension Service began in 1915, and he retired in 1938.

Almost to the time of his death in early 1961, Graham was a tireless worker for 4-H in his native state of Ohio. He attended meeting after meeting to build youth work, a fitting climax to a life of service.

## 4-H History at NAE4-HA Conference



History Team members Dave Benedetti, Tom Tate and Sue Benedetti visit with Ohio 4-H Staffer about the National 4-H History Preservation Program.

4-H History was a prominent part of the exhibit area during the National 4-H Agents’ Association meeting last month in Portland, Oregon. Not only were we busy talking with people in our booth but throughout

the exhibit hall with invitations and buttons being handed out as well as several cooperative efforts.

A team of volunteers helped staff both the 4-H History Preservation Program booth and the Esri booth to recruit nominators for the National 4-H History Interactive Map. Nearly a hundred new sites were nominated at the conference by filling out forms and adding green pins for the new Points of Interest on the map in the history booth.



Arizona and New Mexico staffers point to locations of the Points of Interest they have just nominated for the 4-H History Map.

Many lined up to give donations to receive a set of the six newly-printed historical 4-H calendar art post cards which will soon be available for sale on the 4-H Mall. Others signed up to receive the newsletter and the online News Service, more information about the mapping and oral history projects and to offer historic publications and audio-visual materials for digitizing.



Historical 4-H Calendar Art post cards soon to be on the 4-H Mall.

So many amazing stories were being told that we couldn't keep track of them all. How could we make sure we didn't lose these stories next year? Esther Worker of Esri suggested that we talk to next year's conference planners. They are now exploring a sound booth for taping oral histories at next year's NAE4-HA conference in New Orleans.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this year's conference were the many people who came by just to say hello, and to tell us that they enjoy using the

website and newsletter in their programs. In fact, one of our readers (and newsletter contributor, Jenny Morlock, Ohio) invited us to see her entry in the poster sessions which was inspired by our asking her to share her story about their local 4-H history room in an article we carried in the April 2015 issue of this Newsletter. She used the newsletter as one of her handouts in the display.



Preserving 4-H History at the local level can be very interesting.

We were also pleased to be a part of the newly organized 4-H History Committee discussion on how we can work together with NAE4-HA to better use and share all 4-H History resources for the common good. Kudos to Betty Gottler, NAE4-HA Historian for organizing and leading that effort!



Last but not least, during one of the busy times at our exhibit a green character came dancing up the aisle. Sue Benedetti went out to meet her/him but in all the hubbub didn't manage to get the name. Was it Chris Clover? Where is he/she from? Anyone who knows about this character, please contact us at [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

## NAE4-HA Attendees Map Their 4-H History

4-H educators nominated new locations for the National 4-H History Map at the recent National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) meeting in Portland, Oregon. Visitors to the 4-H History Preservation Program Exhibit viewed the 119 locations currently posted to the Map, and those

who wanted to add a site filled out a form and put a green pin into that location on the paper map. On return home, 4-H educators will work with youth and adults to round up old photos, clippings, related web sites, that will make their historical 4-H location more interesting to the internet users of the 4-H History Map, as they travel across the United States.



These nominations are the first steps in the process of getting countless historically significant 4-H sites documented on the growing, internet-based atlas of 4-H history. Forty-four 4-H educators from 27 states (AZ, CO, FL, GA, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NE, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SD, TX, WV, and WY) committed to grow a history mapping effort in their state and will get youth and adults involved in identifying historically significant 4-H locations in their communities.

These new state 4-H Map teams will identify locations to be nominated, reviewed, approved, and loaded into the interactive National 4-H History Map. Reviewers and approvers will follow up with the nominators to get more complete information, such as photo/video/text, on the points of interest (POI) before the sites will be posted to the 4-H History Map..

It's easy to join in this effort. Putting up a US or state map at a 4-H event attended by 4-H teens, volunteers, staff, and alumni, who know 4-H sites that should be documented, is a very effective way of recruiting new suggestions for your area to take a rightful place on this 4-H History Map. In Portland, it was important to have attendants that were excited about the project so that they could build interest and collect contact information from those who express interest in getting involved.

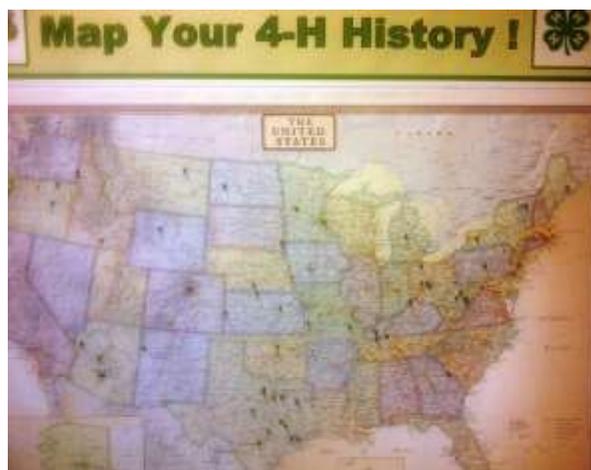
Maryland and Texas have committed to events in November to increase the number of locations and points of interest documented on the Map.

- Dwayne Murphey, Maryland State 4-H History Map leader, has an event planned

for the Maryland Teen and Volunteer Forum in Ocean City. They'll use the same props (foam poster board, US Map, with pins to indicate locations) which proved effective at NAE4-HA.

- Dr. Tamra McGaughey, 4-H Educator in Dallas County, TX, will be working with the state 4-H office to further the project. She stated, "This will be an awesome opportunity for 4-H youth to learn historically about the Texas 4-H program."

Think about sites/locations/points of interest that could be nominated from your community, county or state. Also help in the search for old photos/video/texts that will enhance the value of the points of interest which you propose to be documented.



Every month, new sites/locations will be added to the "smart phone accessible version" of the map, for use by 4-H families traveling across the U. S. So join the effort to get members, leaders and alumni to participate. It is **your** 4-H history!

Try out the online version of the 4-H History Map at [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History\\_Map](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History_Map)

For more information on the 4-H History Map project contact Tom Tate, [tateace@aol.com](mailto:tateace@aol.com) or Jason Rine, [Jason.Rine@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Jason.Rine@mail.wvu.edu)

### Get History News Fast

Sign up for 4-H History News Service at: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation/News/>

## Hands on 4-H

### ***Bundle Up – 4-H Clothing and Textiles***

As the weather gets colder, we're changing into our winter wardrobes, perhaps unpacking knit hats and gloves. November historically has been a significant month for 4-H clothing and textile members because of the national contests held during the month.

In the early years of 4-H, interstate and international expositions were places where winners of state 4-H project competitions were featured. The November, 1919, issue of *Boys' and Girls' Farm Leader* featured the Wisconsin 4-H dyeing demonstration team. The girls demonstrated how dyeing a faded dress could make it look like new. The team was chosen to represent Wisconsin after competing with nine other teams from other regions of the state and then against demonstration teams in poultry, potatoes and canning.



Georgia Hageman, a 12 year old member from Nebraska, was lauded for her clothing entries which earned eight first prizes, including Dress, Petticoat, Corset cover, Night gown and Collective Sewing Exhibit by individual and by county. Her clothing entries earned her \$32.75 in prizes. Also printed in this issue is a photograph of the New York 4-H Garment Booth at the Eastern States Exposition.

The November, 1945, issue of *National 4-H News* announced the Clothing and Dress Review categories among other national award categories for 1946.

It would be the 6<sup>th</sup> year for the National 4-H Clothing Achievement Award, which emphasized skill and knowledge related to clothing construction, care, repair and conservation. The awards, sponsored by the Education Bureau of the Spool Cotton Company of New York, included medals for county winners, trips to National 4-H Congress for state winners, and \$200 scholarships for 12 national winners.

Dress Review inspired girls to increase skills in choosing materials and styles, and in planning costumes suitable for work and play needs, or for important public affairs.

In their spotlight to 4-H Leaders, Martha Hensley, Montana Extension Clothing Specialist, was shown directing Mrs. Clarence Terlson in a demonstration to 4-H leaders on using a simple electric sewing machine. It was Mrs. Terlson's first experience with an electric sewing machine.

### **Hands-On 4-H History**

Basic sewing skills are helpful for anyone to have to sew on a button or quickly repair a garment. If you have club members in a clothing or textile project, invite them show their garments, knitting, crocheting or similar work or present a demonstration for the club. For a community service project, have a clothing or coat drive to donate to families in need.

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

**Sue Benedetti, Chair;** *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*  
**Larry L. Krug, Vice Chair;** *National 4-H Council, retired*  
**Eleanor L. Wilson;** *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*  
**Jim Kahler;** *4-H National Headquarters, NIFA, USDA*  
**Chad Proudfoot;** *West Virginia University*  
**Kendra Wells;** *University of Maryland 4-H, retired*  
**Tom Tate;** *Extension Service, USDA, retired*  
**Melvin J. Thompson;** *National 4-H Council, retired*  
**Ron Drum;** *Maine 4-H Foundation*  
**David E. Benedetti, Secretary;** *National 4-H Council, retired*  
**Rick Moses, Webmaster.**

**Email:** [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

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