



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

**January, 2013 Newsletter**  
Volume IV Number I



## **Over 20 Thousand "Hits" from all 50 states and 104 countries for 4-H History Website**

The 4-H History Preservation website - <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> - is reaching an ever expanding audience, sharing information about the history of 4-H. During the past 16 months the site has had over 20 thousand U.S. visitors representing every state. Internationally, visitors from 104 nations have been on the site. Over 400 other websites have linked to the 4-H history website.

A new feature on the home page, directly below the menu bar, shows the actual city of the last (or current) 25 guests on the site. It's always interesting to scan this listing when visiting the site. Also, check out the U.S. visitors by state tally on the bottom of the home page to see where your state ranks. Congratulations goes to California for currently having the most visitors of any state.

Our desire is to get as many of the state and county 4-H websites as possible to place a link on their website to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments about the website: - write: [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com) .

## **A Special Thanks To:**

**Bradley Kuennen**, Collections Assistant, Special Collections Department and University Archives, Iowa State University, for providing copies of over 30 4-H member manuals and leaders' guides produced nationally in the 1970s-80s, for digitization for inclusion on the 4-H history website.

**Minnesota and Washington** for recently introducing County 4-H staff to the 4-H History Newsletter.

**Jan Scholl**, Pennsylvania State University, for loaning the 4-H history team a cassette of the video programs for the popular Mulligan Stew TV series to use for digitization purposes.



## **Hands-On History: Connecting with 4-H Alumni**

It is estimated that there are over 60 million 4-H alumni in the U.S. Some of the parents and leaders in your 4-H program were probably in 4-H. Other people who live and work in your community were involved in 4-H clubs and programs.

4-H alumni are living connections to 4-H History. Learning more about their 4-H experiences and comparing them to what's happening in 4-H today can be an interesting and fun hands-on history activity.

In your club meeting or as an individual activity, talk with some 4-H alumni about their 4-H experiences. Compare what they did in 4-H to what you do now. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- What were the major 4-H projects?
- What did 4-H clubs do? What were their 4-H meetings like?
- What service projects did they do?
- What county, state and national 4-H events did they attend (such as camps, state conferences, National 4-H Conference or Congress)? What were they like? What did they do and learn? What impact did these have on them?

You might be surprised at how 4-H is the same and how 4-H has changed. You may find alumni who have stories that you want to capture in a Voices of 4-H History project interview. Find out more about that at: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/voices>. What are some of the other ways that you could use the information about 4-H and 4-H alumni in your community or county?

**To make a contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation Program;** please go to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> to check your options, or mail a check payable to **National 4-H Council** at:

National 4-H History Preservation Program  
National 4-H Council  
c/o Wells Fargo Bank  
PO Box 75375  
Baltimore, MD 21275-5375

Please write **4-H History Preservation Program** on the memo line of your check.

**Notice:**

If you know someone who would be interested in getting the National 4-H History Preservation Newsletter, it's now very easy to sign up online at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/newsletter>.

## Jennifer Nettles named 2012 Distinguished 4-H Alumni Medal Winner

She is the lead vocalist of the international super duo Sugarland and one of the most popular singer-songwriters in music today.

Since Sugarland exploded onto the music scene in '04 they have sold over nine million records, achieved eight No. 1 singles and have won numerous awards including trophies from the Grammys, AMAs, ACM Awards, CMT Music Awards and CMA Awards.



As a 4-H'er she was a member of Clovers & Company, Georgia's official 4-H performing arts group, for seven years. Her participation in the group is remembered for remarkable performances, including "Break It To Me Gently" in the 1990-91 show and in addition, Jennifer performed at National 4-H Congress in Chicago and National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC.

Jennifer grew up as a member of Coffee County, Georgia 4-H. In addition to serving on the Junior and Senior State Boards, Jennifer won Georgia State 4-H Congress honors for her Performing Arts project. She also served as a camp counselor at Rock Eagle 4-H Center from 1993-1995.



### 4-H Alumni Quote

"4-H really gave me my start in life. The heart of 4-H is values - especially people values," **Clayton Yeutter**, former Secretary of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representative for the Reagan Administration says. "Until I started showing beef cattle, I had no exposure outside an area of 10 or 12 miles. County and statewide 4-H competition made me realize the broader world," he said. Yeutter was a 1990 National 4-H Alumni winner.



4-H'ers connect with history as they collect the stories of family, friends and leaders who have their own 4-H histories to share.

## **Voices of 4-H History Heard in Six States and Counting**

Current pilot test states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, West Virginia, South Carolina, Missouri, and California will be sharing lessons learned and possibly some of the 4-H'ers interviews during the Galaxy IV Conference in September of this year. Early experience suggests that Multi-generational 4-H families seem to be very interested in participating.

Important lessons learned so far center on recruiting potential interviewees, training youth interviewers, acquiring equipment for use during the interview, and editing. Criteria have also been developed for selecting interviews that can be submitted to FilmFest 2013.

Additional pilot test states are being recruited for start-up in early 2013. The "Voices" team has been following up with interested staff in 30 states to encourage them to consider becoming pilot sites. An orientation conference call is scheduled for states interested in learning more about Voices of 4-H History project on February 22, 2013. To reserve a seat for this conference call, please email [tateace@aol.com](mailto:tateace@aol.com).

Following the "Town Hall" presentations, exhibition, and distribution of 500 rack cards on the Voices of 4-H project at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents meeting in Orlando in late October, the new Voices of 4-H History web page was accessed several hundred times in a month's time.

National 4-H Council recently selected and trained state teams for 4-H Alumni Engagement Pilot work. Voices of 4-H History team met the 4-H alumni engagement team to raise their awareness of the 4-H History Preservation Team and its 2013-2014 plans for engaging 4-H alumni in being interviewed by current 4-H members, recording the history of their 4-H experiences. Members of the Alumni engagement project team from several states have since expressed interest in exploring ways to work with the Voices of 4-H team in 2013. The follow-up includes the conference calls for new potential pilot test sites (mentioned above).

The Voices team is also planning for visibility of 4-H History projects at the Galaxy IV conference in Pittsburg, PA in September, 2013. The proposed concept is built on the idea of sharing with Galaxy conference attendees the plans and progress of Voices of 4-H History as a basis for a comparable model to develop a Voices of Extension project by all program areas for use during the 2014 centennial of Cooperative Extension. The proposed workshop and exhibit would include showing films and methods developed by pilot test states.

## **New Section on 4-H History Website Features Preservation and Restoration**



Oklahoma State 4-H program has developed a number of restoration and preservation projects. This framed photo of one of the 1941 National 4-H Congress dinners became the project for one Oklahoma 4-H'er.

The 4-H history website features preservation and restoration of history as a new section this month. "Preserving 4-H History" can be reached from the menu bar on the homepage, or you can get there directly at: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/HistoryPreservation.asp>.

The new section includes: Why Preserve 4-H History? Why is 4-H History Important? Using History to Strengthen the Future, and Restoration and Preservation.

Under the Restoration and Preservation section we intend to include a number of direct links to helpful information on restoration and preservation geared to the 4-H-age audience, including tools by state or county 4-H programs. Several links from Oklahoma are already included and we welcome hearing about other similar items. Write us at: [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com).

## Preserving Family 4-H History



Annie Bragg, restorer; her mother, Theresa Gabrish-Bragg and sister Julie Bragg proudly show Aunt Edith Gabrish-McDowell in this 1941 National 4-H Congress photo which was restored by Annie. They represent three generations of 4-H in their family.

Many 4-H families have framed or unframed photos of local, county, state and national 4-H activities and events in their attics, basements or hanging on their walls. This issue of the National 4-H History Preservation Newsletter has touched on many of the connections that could take place when you find such a photo.

We found the following story on the Oklahoma State 4-H website that does a great job of tying several of these things (and generations) together. We wanted to share the short version below:

The journey of a photo and frame restoration and preservation project is demonstrated by using a large photo of the delegates to the 1941 National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. The project was undertaken by 9-year-old Annie Bragg of Cleveland County, Oklahoma.

The photograph was found after her great-grandmother, Julia Gabrish, died. Her great aunt, Mary Gabrish-Offutt, found it and kept it for many years, donating it to the Cleveland County 4-H Office. Annie's Great Aunt, Edith Gabrish-McDowell, is pictured wearing a black dress and necklace with the 1941 Oklahoma delegation to the Congress. Annie learned more about her family, 4-H and the history of the photo. The photo was taken at the Stevens Hotel Congress banquet. Annie explains that Great Aunt Edith was a Cleveland County 4-H member and later an extension agent in Murray County (Sulphur, Oklahoma). Annie is proud that her family's 4-H history goes back 75 years and that three generations have gone to National 4-H Congress: Great Aunt Edith, her mother Theresa Gabrish-Bragg and Annie's sister Julie Bragg.

This presentation truly tells a family 4-H history and how restoration of an heirloom skillfully done by a 9-year-old can provide enjoyment and education on 4-H past for family and community in years to come. This project also demonstrates that 4-H photos can help tell the history in several ways. To learn more about the Oklahoma 4-H Restoration and Preservation project visit: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/HistoryPreservation.asp>.

## Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team

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

Visit: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>

Tweet: @4H\_History

