



National 4-H History Preservation Program

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4-H'ers Honor Smith and Lever During Second World War



Georgia and South Carolina 4-H'ers each raised \$2 million or more to honor their state legislator by selling war bonds so that a warship like the one above could be named for Hoke Smith and another for Frank Lever.

During this centennial year of the passage of the Smith-Lever Act creating the Cooperative Extension Service, it is appropriate to recall one 4-H activity recognizing the creation of that legislation from 70 years ago.

Midway in the Second World War, the Extension Service in cooperation with the Maritime Commission worked out a unique incentive to 4-H achievement on the home front. It was proposed that states be permitted to name Liberty ships after a 4-H or Extension pioneer as a reward for bond sales and exceptional service in food production and conservation.

Liberty ships were the cargo carriers of the war. They were standardized freighters, 441 feet long and of 10,800 tons capacity. They carried food stuffs and war materials abroad, and brought back such scarce items as chrome ore, balsa wood, copper, rubber, ivory, manganese, jute, burlap, hides, tea, coffee and quinine. They cost about \$2 million apiece and this was the goal of the 4-H bond sales.

In response to the "Name-A-Ship" campaign, the state 4-H youth intensified their war activities. Georgia club members raised almost \$10 million in a war bond campaign and produced in one season enough food to fill a 10,000 ton ship. Their ship was launched and duly named "Hoke Smith," in honor of the Senator who, as member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, co-sponsored the Smith-Lever Act.

In South Carolina, similar efforts resulted in the launching of the "A. Frank Lever," thus commemorating on the high seas the other congressional sponsor of the original Extension Act, Representative Asbury Francis Lever, a member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

In all, 40 ships were christened in these 4-H "Name-A-Ship" campaigns. In the cabin of each ship was placed a plaque stating that the ship was named by 4-H club members of the state, and near the plaque was a history of the man for whom the ship was named, written on parchment and permanently mounted under glass.

4-H Trivia

What to Name the Baby?

Always a BIG decision. That little baby has to live with that name for the rest of their life. The March, 1986, issue of National 4-H News reports that if you want an unusual name for your newborn calf the Bear Creek Beavers 4-H Club in Portage County, Wisconsin, recently published a list of more than 1,500 cow names in alphabetical order.

Teen Filmmakers Exhibit and Learn at 2014 FilmFest 4-H

Teenage filmmakers from nine states exhibited forty youth-produced films at this year's FilmFest 4-H in St. Louis, August 3-6. Sixty teens and leaders participated in the educational programs at the festival. Activities included viewing and discussing

the teen-produced films and participating in a series of workshops conducted by film industry professionals. The topics included design, writing, casting, filming, lighting, sound, stunts, makeup, costuming, animation, control room operation, and remote satellite transmission.



2014 Filmfest 4-H delegates learn more about film-making in the shadow of the iconic St. Louis arch.

Among the many highlights:

- Emily Hagins, youngest Hollywood film director and writer, shared her Hollywood-based filmmaking insights from an unprecedented youth perspective;
- Film producer and editor, Russ Weston, winner of four Emmy and six Telly awards, conducted workshops for the youth in the remote satellite truck and control room on how remote productions get to our television screens; and
- A visit to the nationally acclaimed "CoolFire Studios" in St. Louis where participants visited with professional directors, animation artists, sound producers and film producers as they worked in their studios.

Twenty nine films were pre-selected by judges to be viewed in five categories: Documentary, Narrative, 4-H Promotional, Animation, and "Voices of 4-H History." The top three in each category were recognized during the program along with a vote for the audience favorite. An upcoming History Newsletter will list all of those recognized with a listing of the three winners in each category. At that

time, all of the recognized films will appear on the 2014 FilmFest 4-H website.

According to Tom Tate, the History Team's representative at the festival, "2014 FilmFest 4-H prepared future leaders to communicate more effectively in changing times."

Five films from the "Voices of 4-H History" category were selected for viewing at this year's festival. The three top place finishers in the category were:

- Clay Ferguson, (San Leandro, CA), "100 Year Anniversary: 4-H and the Alameda County Fair;"
- Eric Glaze, (Waynesville, OH), "A Centennial of Extension with Dr. D. Howard Doster;" and
- Kelsey Hibl and Brittany Berger, (Dickenson, ND), "Voices of Stark County 4-H."

The National 4-H History Preservation program provides sponsorship to FilmFest 4-H as part of its "Voices of 4-H History" initiative. For more information, visit <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/voices/>.

Native American 4-H History Now On Website

The draft chapter of Native American 4-H History is now posted on the 4-H History Preservation website in the National 4-H History section. The story below – now over 70 years old – is a great example of young Native Americans and how they have embraced 4-H. We welcome the addition of more history stories involving Indian reservations and Indian 4-H clubs. Please write us at info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

In the early years of Indian 4-H, programs for white children were merely adapted to the reservations. Skills in clothing, food production, grain and animal production, demonstrations and fairs were often a part of reservation life. The advent of 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) did provide for some additional service to Indian children, but their numbers remained small in comparison to most other minority participants.

While there is little record of early 4-H and Native American history initiating from the national level, a number of states containing reservations worked with the tribal councils in a variety of ways. A number of features on Native American 4-H activities

appeared in issues of National 4-H News from the 40s through the early 70s. Here is one example:

“Their Fightin’est Indian 4-H Club” was called the most patriotic outfit in Oklahoma (June, 1943, issue). One fourth of the 52,000 youth enrolled in Oklahoma 4-H clubs in 1943, according to State Leader Paul G. Adams, are Indian youth. Some of the finest state winners Oklahoma has sent to the National 4-H Congress have been of Indian descent, he adds. “Win the war now, smoke the peace pipe later,” is the slogan of 4-H Indians in the “Sooner State.”



Riverside Indian 4-H Club members rehearsing for one of their dance numbers. L. to R: Beatrice Tahmalikera, Billie Tonpahhote, Lucy White Horse, Lee Monett Tsatoke, Myrtle Ann Beaver and David Joinkeen. (National 4-H News, June, 1943)

According to county agent L. I. Bennett, “they’re the hardest fighting group of warriors in the country.” All members of the Indian Riverside 4-H Club, the largest all-Indian 4-H Club in the state, use their 4-H club projects to help Uncle Sam furnish food to the boys on the firing lines. They have a keen interest in seeing that food gets to the front because 18 Club members are fellow tribesmen who have joined the Army, Navy or Marines since Pearl Harbor. “You’ll never find a more patriotic group of young people than these 4-H Club Indians,” contends Bennett. As the older boys join the armed forces their projects have been taken over by younger members of the club and carried to completion. The girls can foods produced in the club’s Victory Gardens.

In addition to growing food, members of the Riverside Club are just as active in other 4-H project areas. At the State Round-Up Andrew Pahmahmie placed in the blue ribbon class in the State 4-H Style Dress Revue contest. Bernice Paddlety and Alva Mae Tapedo won a gold medal with their dairy

demonstration at the State contest, Ruth Sardongi and Alva Walker won trips to the American Royal at Kansas City for placing first with their paint demonstration, and Luke Tainpeah and Tom Kauley were blue ribbon winners in the poultry demonstration contest. At the Caddo County Fair 53 of the club’s girls made exhibits, winning a total of 82 ribbons.

“Thanks for America” was the main theme of their Achievement Week last December to climax the year’s work. Instead of holding an achievement banquet as many clubs stage at the end of the year, this Indian Club celebrated their 1943 achievements in typical Indian style by setting aside an entire week for the program. Each of the five daily programs was centered around an ‘H’ in the clover emblem, and one for home. One day the training of the head was stressed, another day the heart, then the hands, health, and then the home.

To make a contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation Program; please go to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> to see your options, or mail a check payable to **National 4-H Council** to:
National 4-H History Preservation Program
National 4-H Council
PO Box 37560
Baltimore, MD 21275-5375

Please write **4-H History Preservation** on your check.

4-H History Preservation Website and My Welcome to the World of 4-H

Credit: Story by Chad N. Proudfoot, WV State 4-H Staff

In the spring of 2012, I was still relatively new to the Extension Service and very new to the world of 4-H as I had originally been hired in Extension’s Community Resources & Economic Development unit. So, when I was asked to teach the Heritage Class at Older 4-H Members’ Conference (OMC – one of our three major state camps for 14-21 year olds), I was both excited and terrified. I had not grown up in 4-H, and a year before this I could not have told anyone what the four Hs even stood for; now I was being asked to teach a two-hour class for four days at a major camp. “These kids will eat me

alive!" was my first thought, but then I began looking for resources to plan my lessons.

I had learned that Heritage Class had become a little stale in the past couple of years, where students made small heritage crafts and the like, and it was not very exciting. I also learned that the mission of OMC is to develop leadership, so I decided to take a new approach with the class. I wanted to focus on a different topic each day, and for there to be meaningful discussion with those in the class.

As I was putting my ideas together, I spoke with our state 4-H leader, Debbie McDonald, who was very supportive of my thoughts for a revamped Heritage Class. She gave me a card for the National 4-H History Preservation Team, and suggested that I look at their website for guidance. When I looked online, I could hardly believe all of the amazing resources that came pouring out! I was able to develop the four topical days regarding the history of 4-H and music in the 4-H program just from what I found on the website.

My favorite use of the site came from the section on 4-H films. I decided to make the final day of my Heritage Class into "movie day," because the campers were tired and needed some time to relax. But I also determined that our movie must fit our goals, and that we would have a discussion. The 4-H History Preservation website lead me to the film "The Green Promise" starring Walter Brennan and Natalie Wood. When I previewed it, I found the film to be a bit dated, but I thought that it still had a great message, could certainly be used for programming, and *might* be something that the Heritage Class participants would enjoy.



Still photo from "The Green Promise".

I could never have dreamed how much the kids in my class loved and appreciated this film! They hung on every word, and when it was through they had a great discussion about the film's message, the time period in which it was made, what about it was

relevant or not relevant to today, and a host of other topics. I could not have been more excited. It was at the end of that week that I knew 4-H was the right place for me.

A few months after that class, the Extension Service moved my appointment to the 4-H Youth Development Unit as the Cultural Resource Specialist, and I became the first full-time Extension Historian and the Historic Preservation Officer of Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp.

Now I use the National 4-H History Preservation website on a regular basis, and it is one of the first resources to which I point anyone when they are looking for any aspect of 4-H history. I have used the site to develop curriculum, write flag ceremonies, and to allow others to appreciate all of the culture and heritage that is enveloped in the 100+ years of the 4-H program. As a new member of the 4-H family, I now proudly say the 4-H Pledge, sing "The H's Four," and use the myriad resources available to promote the heritage of the best youth development program the world has ever seen.



A Special Thanks to:

- Bradley J. Kuennen, Iowa State University Archives, for sending several copies of summary reports of Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work from the early 1950s.
- Kim Pond, Massachusetts 4-H Staff, for sending national 4-H member and leader manuals and national 4-H ambassador training materials.
- Dan Lindquist, former Wyoming 4-H'er and current art restoration expert who recently donated the preservation of one National 4-H Calendar and one National 4-H Poster original art from the 1950s and 60s.

We are Looking for National 4-H Congress Programs from Any Year

We'd especially like printed Official Programs and Souvenir Booklets (two companion items) from National 4-H Congress from 1994 and earlier.

The 4-H History Preservation Team has representative copies of both items for the years 1966, 1967 and 1968. We also have the Official

Programs for 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1980, 1983, 1985, but not the Souvenir Booklets.

We are also seeking 4-H Congress event programs including the Final Banquet, Pops' Concert, Firestone Breakfast, International Harvester Luncheon, Ford Motor Company Luncheon, General Motors Luncheon, Assembly Programs, 4-H Dress Revue, and any delegate awards program banquets. We would like to borrow these for digitizing for the national 4-H history website. Please contact info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com. Originals will be returned.

“Voices of 4-H History” Update

In 2011, **Montana** 4-H began the process of celebrating its 2012 Centennial. The Montana team developed a Centennial Guide for the counties, including a 4-H Heritage Family program. Each county prepared a Centennial Display documenting their county's 4-H History, and the displays traveled to several statewide events during the yearlong celebration.

Montana 4-H worked with Montana PBS to produce a television documentary: “4-H – Six Montana Stories.” Youth completed applications to be considered to take part in the project; six youth and their families were selected, who were followed through a 4-H year and also captured footage themselves. View the documentary online at <http://watch.montanapbs.org/video/2260061763/>. The premier took place at Montana 4-H Congress. In addition, "Heritage Project," an excellent heritage project book was developed providing dozens of great suggestions for successful youth 4-H history projects.

West Virginia Voices of 4-H history team reports that they have received a grant and will be working in July and August to begin implementation of a youth filming project that will be done in the Fall of 2014. The project will take place with several county 4-H teen leader groups being trained to conduct oral history interviews with some "WV volunteers and Extension staff" who were leaders in WV 4-H.

Know someone who would like to get this newsletter? It's very easy to sign up for it on: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> Just click on Home & News in the left hand menu bar, then on Newsletter; fill in your information and you'll get the next issue.

4-H History Project Comes to Life for Missouri Youth

Credit: Story and Photo by Linda Geist, University of Missouri Extension; Story Source Velynda Cameron

Fourteen-year-old Michaela Higginbotham of Bolivar expected to learn about the history of Polk County 4-H when she began working on a national 4-H history project. But she was happy to uncover her own family's rich 4-H tradition as well. She is one of Polk County 4-H members who helped gather and display 4-H memorabilia in the county's museum as part of the National 4-H History Preservation Program. Cards stored in the county courthouse chronicle the projects her grandfather, uncles and cousins enjoyed while they were members.

As a six year member of Woodlawn 4-H club, Higginbotham is following in her ancestor's footsteps. She discovered a picture of her great-grandmother (who died before she was born) who was a Volunteer Leader, as is Michaela's mother, a 10-year Polk County 4-H alumna currently leading her club's bread project. She also unearthed a picture of her mother on the front page of a special 4-H section of the local newspaper.



Polk County 4-H'ers Michaela Higginbotham and Jacob Toombs look over some of the 4-H memorabilia they helped collect for a display in the Polk County Museum in Bolivar, MO.

Courthouse records also showed that the ancestors of 12-year-old Jacob Toombs of Bolivar participated in beef projects; one of the most dedicated volunteers on the history project, Jacob now shows Hereford cattle in 4-H.

University of Missouri Extension 4-H youth development specialist Velynda Cameron learned about the national “Voices of 4-H History” project at a previous 4-H FilmFest in Branson. Members were asked to make audio and video recordings of former members as part of the celebration of the 100th

anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, which created the national cooperative extension system.

The Polk County Commission offered 4-H memorabilia found in courthouse storage, and a small, enthusiastic group of 4-H members expressed interest in having Polk County represented in the national project. They painstakingly pored through newspapers, microfilm and 4-H annual reports to gather information. Their research shows that Polk County 4-H club work began in 1926 with two garment-making clubs and 15 members. By 1928 there were 54 clubs in the county and 422 active members. Today there are 10 clubs and 186 members, Cameron said.

The Bolivar Herald-Free Press published articles seeking memorabilia from former 4-H'ers, and current members began interviewing alumni from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Items began pouring in, including an extensive collection from 84-year-old Betty Ammerman, who had kept a diary of her 4-H days.

Museum curator Margaret Vest suggested the group put a display in the "school room" section of the Polk County Museum, since 4-H groups met at rural schools and teachers often led projects. Ammerman's diary gives glimpses of the past such as "How to Cover and Make a Stool for a Dressing Table from a Nail Keg" in 1942.

Higginbotham volunteers at the Polk County Museum and encourages older family members to go through the museum with her because the displays often inspire them to tell her stories about their past. "This project is really special to me because I can see what other people have done," she says. She's hopeful that future generations will be inspired by her love of 4-H. "I like visiting other places, going to contests and going to Achievement Day. I just love 4-H. It's really, really fun."

A video of the club's history is on the Polk County Extension Center website at extension.missouri.edu/polk/4h.aspx.

Polk County's 4-H club is the first club in Missouri to participate in the "Voices of 4-H History" program, which aims to increase public awareness of 4-H by collecting and preserving audio, video and print information. Cameron encourages others with 4-H memorabilia to contact her at cameronv@missouri.edu.

Zulu Proverb: To go forward; we must first look back.

Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team:

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Larry L. Krug, Vice Chair; *National 4-H Council, retired*
Eleanor L. Wilson; *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*
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Kendra Wells; *University of Maryland 4-H, retired*
Tom Tate; *Extension Service, USDA, retired*
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Gary Deverman; *National 4-H Council, retired*
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