



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

## May-June 2016 Newsletter

Volume VII Number V

### On this Day in 4-H History

#### May

**May 8, 1914:** President Woodrow Wilson signs the Smith-Lever Act authorizing the establishment of the Cooperative Extension Service.

**May 12, 1961:** 4-H Peace Corps begins in Brazil, followed by similar programs in El Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela and Malaysia.

**May 22, 1928:** The Capper-Ketcham Act is passed by Congress expanding Extension work and encouraging agriculture and home economics in 4-H Clubs.

**May 24, 1922:** Westinghouse Radio Service broadcasts the first network 4-H radio programs, coordinated by the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, broadcasting every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**May 26, 1959:** Dedication of the Albert Hoefler Lounge and Dining Area in Warren Hall at the National 4-H Center.

**May 31, 1984:** National 4-H Council's Board of Trustees meets at the White House with their honorary chairman, President Ronald Reagan.

#### June

**June 6, 1945:** Congress passes the Bankhead-Flanagan Act which recognizes 4-H by name and authorizes nearly \$8 million of a total appropriation of \$12 million for furthering 4-H club work.

**June 16, 1927:** First National 4-H Camp is held (June 16-23) on the grounds of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C.

**June 16, 1927:** State 4-H Leaders adopt the National 4-H Pledge and the 4-H Motto at the first National 4-H Club Camp.

**June 19, 1956:** Ford Foundation approves a grant of nearly half a million dollars as the first major contribution to develop National 4-H Club Center.

**June 21, 1955:** President Dwight D. Eisenhower addresses the National 4-H Conference delegates in the Rose Garden at the White House.

**June 21, 1989:** Tennessee Dining Room at National 4-H Center is dedicated.

**June 30, 1914:** Margaret Lofgren, of Ulen, Minnesota, as the first champion bread-baker in the history of 4-H, meets President Woodrow Wilson at the White House.

**June 30, 2009:** The National 4-H Heritage Tree, a red oak, is planted on the National 4-H Center campus by charter members of the National 4-H Heritage Club.

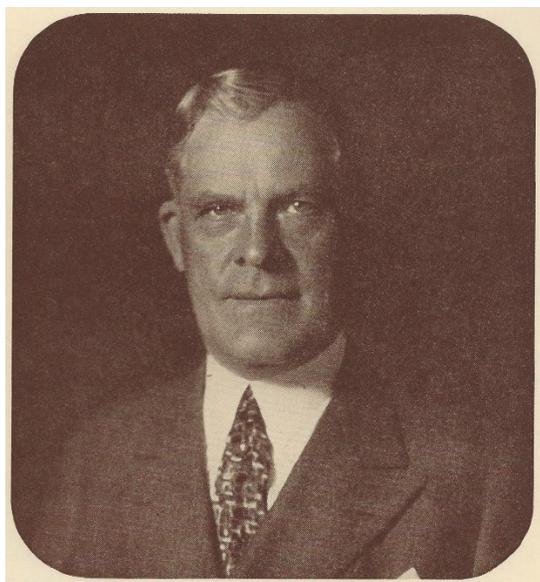


Tennessee Delegates to First National 4-H Camp, 1927.

While the first National 4-H Camp provided a tremendous experience for delegates, it also allowed 4-H State Staff from around the nation to conference and share ideas about the future directions of the national 4-H program. Because of the regional diversity of the program, it was difficult to productively express programmatic priorities to individual states and leaders without a formal annual meeting.

## Folks Who Helped Make 4-H Great

*This is the tenth and final article in the series, 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."*



**Thomas E. Wilson**

It is entirely fitting that this alphabetical series of ten articles should close with a review of Thomas E. Wilson's influence on today's 4-H program. For 4-H is made great by two widespread circles of cooperation. One is the teamwork of federal, state and county governments providing public financial support for 4-H. This is the source of the title "Cooperative Extension Service," parent agency to 4-H.

In the creation of the other important cooperative alliance in 4-H – that between business and government – this giant of the meat-packing industry, Wilson, played one of the leading roles.

Congress created the Cooperative Extension Service in 1914, thus establishing boys' and girls'

club work officially. Just four years after this starting date – in 1918 – Wilson made his entry into this field by playing meal host to a group of Iowa rural youths during the International Livestock Show in Chicago. This was one of the forerunners of today's national awards programs and the generous hospitality offered Club Congress delegates each fall by the large corporations of America.

Wilson also held a key spot in the creation of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, now called the National 4-H Service Committee. This group has been a meeting point between business and government since 1921. That was the year in which Wilson and a handful of other early friends of club work helped Guy Noble establish the National Committee as a service agency to 4-H.

Having taken over a nearly-ruined meat-packing business in 1916 to create Wilson & Co., this pioneer in 4-H support was under great pressure both financially and for his time and energy. Yet, Guy Noble has recounted, Wilson was always willing to give time and effort to club work whether to discuss organizational problems or to open doors for Noble with important businessmen who might support 4-H.

As the second chairman of the National Committee, Wilson gave some 37 years of conscientious service to 4-H club work. He succeeded E. T. Meredith in this position in 1924 and held it until 1958, shortly before his death.

Some of the specific benefits which Wilson brought to 4-H Club work besides the ones already mentioned could easily be overlooked, because their influence on the program has been subtle. They were important just the same.

For instance, his insistence on getting the finest of speakers and entertainment at the Wilson-sponsored Club Congress banquet set a standard of quality for all future sponsors. His bringing to 4-H support the cream of the business world established an unimpeached relationship that still exists. His support of 4-H in its early days lent much-needed support at a crucial time. His high personal standards set a lifetime goal for the 4-H members he so much enjoyed meeting.

Wilson's respect for the importance of young people led him to work with many youth agencies. Speaking of 4-H, he set forth the goal of all leaders in club work today: "We all want to aid boys and girls

to achieve, to learn and to become self-reliant citizens." This 4-H pioneer certainly earned the title accorded him by his associates, "The business god-father of 4-H Club work."

*This is the last in a series of articles describing the influence on today's 4-H program of ten outstanding pioneers in 4-H. these articles have included the following people: E. W. Aiton, O. H. Benson, T. A. Erickson, A. B. Graham, A. G. Kettunen, Guy L. Noble, C. B. Smith, R. A. Turner, Miss Gertrude Warren, and Thomas E. Wilson. Individual articles from the series are available on the 4-H History Website <http://4-historypreservation.com>*

## Your National 4-H History Preservation Team Needs your Help

**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** at:  
National 4-H History Preservation Program  
National 4-H Council  
PO Box 37560  
Baltimore, MD 21297-3560

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

## 4-H Beanie Babies – CLOVER the 4-H Bear (4-H Club Exclusive)

*The following story is from the National Compendium of 4-H Promotion and Visibility on the National 4-H History website at [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.Com/History/4-H\\_Promotion/](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.Com/History/4-H_Promotion/)*

In 2004 through 2006, in keeping with the Beanie Babies craze which was sweeping across the collectors' world, Ty Beanie Babies produced "Clover, the 4-H Bear" as a 4-H Exclusive, sold only through the 4-H Mall (not at retail stores) and as an internet exclusive.

The toy bear featured the bright green and white 4-H emblem on its chest and a matching green ribbon tied in a bow around its neck. A Ty paper tag is affixed to the left ear. Inside the tag reads: "Clover, Date of birth October 2, 2004, Heads together to think things through, Hands that will work hard for you, Healthy living that we share, Hearts that show how much we care." The Beanie stands approximately 8 ½ inches tall. The bear was available in gold fur, white fur, and tan fur.



A separate Ty Beanie Babies project was "Johnny the John Deere Bear," which was also a 4-H exclusive. The emerald green fur bear had a yellow and green John Deere logo on its chest, and a yellow visor cap on its head with a green 4-H emblem on the front, and a matching yellow ribbon tied into a bow around its neck. Its paper Ty tag in its left ear reads: "Johnny, Date of birth June 26<sup>th</sup> 2006, Everyone across the land, Work together hand in hand, Live well; love well; think things through, And you'll succeed in what you do!"

## Hands on History 4-H and Military Connections



Marie Kyte, Tuscarawas County, Ohio and her soldier brother. Marie is telling of her poultry Club achievement after which she insists on some war stories.

The opening story of the May, 1919, "Soldiers of the Soil" magazine tells the story of Marie Kyte in Tuscarawas County, OH. In the spring of 1918, her brother ordered 30 eggs for hatching. But before the eggs arrived, her brother volunteered for military

service. He recruited Marie to carry on with the poultry project.

The chickens earned some first place breed prizes at county and state, and third in the poultry contests at the state fair. This earned her a trip to the state university for Farmers' Week, where she shared her poultry record and secrets of her success.

Marie confided in her brother that the prize awarded by a local bank was the start of a savings account. Combined with her poultry project earnings, Marie was saving to pay to go to college.

May, 1945, would mark the end of WWII in Europe. That month's issue of National 4-H Club News shared the encounter of two Oklahoma 4-H alumni far from home. Eating in the officers' mess in Bizerate, North Africa, the two Navy men came face-to-face. "Wayne Thorndyke!" said one, "Mark Synar!" responded the other. They talked of their military travels and stories from home. Wayne had gone home on furlough a few months earlier and visited several 4-H stock shows and the State 4-H Week. "I marvel at the job the younger 4-H'ers are doing feeding and fitting stock," he said. His mother and little sister carried on the home and herd duties with helpers during Wayne's time away – like Maria Kyte had done with her brother's poultry several decades earlier.

With Memorial Day coming at the end of that month, the magazine included a quiz about the proper display of the American Flag.

### Hands-on History

Citizenship is a 4-H mission area. Test your group's knowledge about flag etiquette by taking the quiz about the proper displaying of the flag from the May, 1945, magazine. Invite a current or former member of the military or representative from the VFW or American Legion to talk about flag etiquette and the history of Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day in the years following the Civil War, to honor men and women who died while serving in the U. S. military.

Learn about the 4-H Military Partnership program to support military families in the U. S. and deployed around the world at [www.4-HMilitaryPartnerships.org](http://www.4-HMilitaryPartnerships.org). Your group might plan a special event or activity to support military families in your community.



### James Cagney's Fondness for 4-H

The following story is from the *National Compendium of 4-H Promotion and Visibility on the National 4-H History website* at: [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.Com/History/4-H\\_Promotion/](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.Com/History/4-H_Promotion/)

Academy Award winning actor James Cagney, considered one of the top film actors of all time, had a fondness for 4-H and particularly the content area involving soil and water conservation.



Soil and Water Conservation - Raymond C. Firestone, Executive Vice President (front row, second from left), and James Cagney (front row center), talk about soil saving advantages. Listening are the national 4-H Club Soil and Water Conservation winners, chosen near the close of 1955, at the 34<sup>th</sup> National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. Winners in the Firestone-sponsored contest received all-expense paid trips to the Congress and \$300 college scholarships from the Company. In the picture, front row, from left: Phil B. Jones, Richview, IL; Mr. Firestone, Mr. Cagney, Melton Frosch, Mabank, TX; and Lyman J. Walke, Kellerton, IA. Back row: Herman Robbins, Charolottesville, IN; John Mott, Hartwick, NY; Chester Todd, Topeka KS, Stephen Hansen, Gardenerville, NV and Joe Thomas McFerrin, Fayetteville, TN.

Cagney was born and raised in New York City, however, a lecture on soil conservation to which his mother took him as a child sparked a life-long interest in farming and conservation. In later years he spent parts of the year on two farms he owned, one in Dutchess County, New York, and the other his Martha's Vineyard farm.

The actor promoted soil and water conservation wherever he saw an opportunity. In 1956 he appeared in a 4-H film encouraging young people to take care of their natural resources.

The previous year, James Cagney attended the 1955 National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. He related to the delegates how he had gotten interested in conservation at the age of 11 when his mother took him to a lecture on conservation in New York City. Cagney also told the delegates his favorite line from the movies: from "Dead End" it was "Look Mom I'm Dancing." He said this reminded him of 4-H'ers who are always energetic and dancing and hold much of the promise for our nation's future.

### Do you Have Your Historical 4-H Postcards?



You can buy them from the 4-H Mall at <http://bit.ly/4HPostcards>

### What do you know about the National 4-H History Map?



GIS Team Leaders discuss the progress made on developing the National 4-H History Map during the 2016 International mapping conference in San Diego last week.

As many of you know, a group of 4-H map makers and the 4-H History team have been

working together over the past year to make a map of 4-H history across the country. A new GIS team of 21 4-H members and adult leaders from Tennessee, North Carolina, New York and California has just been selected and trained to keep that map updated and running with new and existing points of interest (POI).

4-H'ers, alumni and staff can nominate POIs as a way to preserve 4-H history across the country. Learn what's already been nominated in your own state and other states by visiting the map site at <http://arcg.is/1QBM4Qf>

Each month you can pit your knowledge against other interested map explorers by correctly answering the monthly 4-H Map quiz. The correct answers for this month will be posted in next month's newsletter. Four correct answers and you'll win a historical 4-H prize.

### June 4-H Map Quiz

**How many states have posted the location of their Land Grant Institution or Institutions? How many states have posted more than one?**

**HINT:** Look for the **building icons** by zooming in on each state to make sure that you don't miss any in your count at <http://arcg.is/1QBM4Qf>

Send your answer with your name, state and e-mail address to [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

### Spaces Available at FilmFest 4-H 2016



A national 4-H youth film event in Kansas City, Missouri, July 31 - August 3 is celebrating it's 6<sup>th</sup> year as it welcomes teens who are looking for the chance to work with people from the film industry

and gain valuable insights in film, planning, production and performance according to Bradd Anderson of the Missouri 4-H office. The event is hosted by Missouri 4-H in partnership with National 4-H and the Missouri Film.

Youth can learn how things are done in the movies from film industry professionals and explore how their creative plans can be accomplished with youth

expertise and a teenager's budget. Past guest artists have included actors, producers, editors, special effects gurus, makeup artists, pet trainers and more. There will also be daily screenings of the work of 4-H'ers who have entered their videos in this year's competition.

For more information on this year's program and costs and a link to register go to <http://filmfest4-H.org>

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

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