



National 4-H History Preservation Program

August 2010 Newsletter

Do You Know Where Your 4-H History Records and Artifacts Are?

A group of former and present National 4-H Staff members organized a team over the past two years as we realized that national 4-H history records were difficult to locate and access. Important documents are scattered among several national repositories and store rooms. To date we have found educational materials, original artwork, documents, photographs, oral histories, films and slide sets/film strips, of national 4-H history in:

- National Archives;
- National Agricultural Library and Special Collections;
- Library of Congress;
- National 4-H Council storerooms;
- IFYE Alumni Association; and
- Many State University and 4-H Centers



Expanding Mission

The Team, through exploration, realized that having the records in several different places is a good idea as each repository has a different mission and different capabilities to process and store different kinds of materials. As a result of our research we decided that it would be redundant to create a National 4-H

History Archives. However, we also felt a huge need to try to make the 4-H history at all levels as accessible as possible to people around the US as well as the World. The past few months we have:

- created a National 4-H History Website <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>
- created a National 4-H Collecting Website <http://4-HCollecting.com>;
- digitized deteriorating 4-H history books, magazines, newsletters, reports etc. to share electronically;
- attended national Extension Service related meetings to learn about the interests and current 4-H historical work at county and state levels;
- encouraged state and county 4-H staffs to preserve and share their own histories;
- searched the web for state 4-H histories, museums etc.;
- inventoried materials currently stored at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center (valuable historic resources which have not been preserved or archived); and
- searched for and collected indexes of 4-H materials archived at the major national repositories.

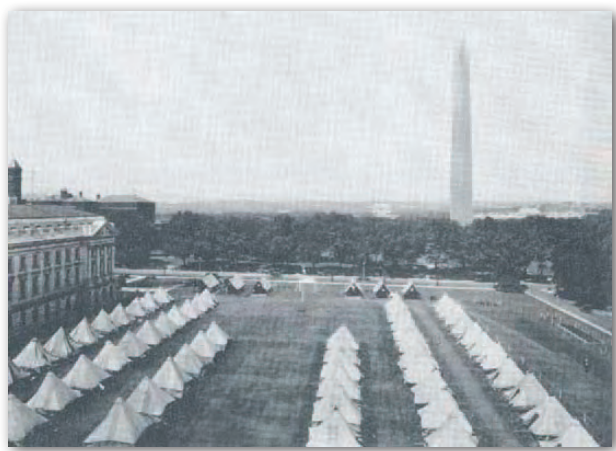
4-H History on Twitter

To make it easier to follow updates to the 4-H History Preservation Program and its websites, a Twitter ID has been created. The History Preservation Team will tweet news as available. There are already several clubs and county 4-H programs that are signed on. You can follow the National History Program on: Twitter at [4H_History](#).

4-H History Needs You

A strong state presence on the 4-H history preservation site is important to the overall national 4-H history preservation effort because that's where the true value of 4-H history resides; it depends on you, the state and local 4-H staff members. You will notice when you visit the main history website (<http://4-Hhistorypreservation.com>) that there is a local section. The national site provides live links for every state and territory where you are welcome and encouraged to:

- Designate state contacts to work with our 4-H History Preservation Team from your home base;
- Demonstrate your efforts in documenting and sharing state and local 4-H history; and
- Announce live links to websites you may have which support 4-H history in your state or territory.



There are several other things that you can do to make sure that 4-H history is available to anyone who is interested: Notify the national team if you have digitized relevant 4-H history documents that can be incorporated into the national website;

- Find out and share where to get state documents digitized at reasonable cost;
- Help to locate lost items;
- Volunteer your expertise and/or time to the local, county, state or national level

to make sure that relevant materials are located, archived and shared throughout the system;

- Donate funds to:
 1. Refurbish and preserve major 4-H artifacts such as original art work for National 4-H Calendar and Poster Programs, other art work and early audio-visual 4-H films, tapes, slides, photos etc.;
 2. Digitize 4-H documents, histories, studies and all types of audio-visual archival material at the National 4-H Center, 4-H USDA and National Agricultural Library;
 3. Maintain the two national 4-H history websites and other communications networking throughout the Cooperative Extension System;
 4. Assist national and state repositories to acquire, restore, improve storage and accessibility of 4-H history manuscripts, photographs and artifacts; and
 5. Provide insurance and physical protection for all significant 4-H art and artifacts at the national level, whether displayed or stored.

To make a contribution please mail a check payable to National 4-H Council to:
4-H History Preservation Program
National 4-H Council
Attention: Carolyn Fernandez
7100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-4999



We are searching for...

Future issues will include a regular column on items that are needed to complete a section of the website or a collection to be archived. Currently we're looking for:

1. A pamphlet written in 1903 by Dean Thomas Hunt of Ohio State University on Clark County farm youth organization (A.B. Graham's efforts);
2. USDA Circular 85 (c 1927) by George E. Farrell which outlines 10 years of club work under the Smith-Lever Act (1914-1924). It gives the history of club work from its earliest beginnings;
3. Samples of 4-H comic strips entitled "Fletcher the 4-H'er" which appeared in the 1960s and 1970s, by Joe Bursch, cartoonist; and
4. (book) "When Old Songs Were New, The Story of Our Famous Songs," written by Howard Southgate in 1938. 32p. Published by National Committee on Boys & Girls Club Work.



4-H History Idea Award

We would like to include at least one new idea of how 4-H history is being preserved at the local, county or state level in each issue of this newsletter as a way of sharing methods, techniques and successes throughout the country. Please send a description of not more than 100 words about how someone/club in your state is preserving 4-H history to: Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com. These ideas will be showcased at the annual NAE4-HA meeting each year as well as shared in this newsletter.



National 4-H History Preservation Team

The individuals who created and currently serve on this national team of volunteers are:

Sue Benedetti, Chair, *USDA 4-H, retired*;

Larry Krug, Website Coordinator, *4-H Council, retired*;

Eleanor L. Wilson, *USDA 4-H, retired*;

Sue Fisher, *4-H Council*;

Jim Kahler, *USDA 4-H Headquarters Staff*;

Tom Tate, *USDA Extension, retired*;

Dave Benedetti, *4-H Council retired*; and

Rick Moses, *Webmaster*.