

The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill



Volume 10, Issue 10

December 2008



Gardner's Shed before



Roofing installation



Roofing job completed

BUILDING REHAB UNDER WAY

The **Gardener's Shed** is the first building on the site to receive a new roof. Contractors studying the TRH for future work have determined that the house's roof is in dire need of repair. We are hopeful that repair can be accomplished prior to the planned renovation of the house.

EASTERN NATIONAL BREAKS ALL RECORDS

Congratulations to *Debbie Bulck*, Manager of the book store and to all her helpers, for the yeoman work they did during the three day **150th Birthday Weekend** celebration. With four authors participating in the festivities, the book store amassed a supply of appropriate volumes. This permitted the recently published authors an opportunity to autograph their books for those in attendance. Including sales to Boy Scouts who visited a week later, the total sales volume exceeded \$10,000. WOW!

Now, with holidays due in days, the theme is Victorian. There are Victorian cookbooks, wooden toys, embroidery and chocolates for those last minute gifts. Debbie has plenty of items to use as stocking stuffers. For those who are or know TR buffs, there is a last chance to buy 150th memorabilia before 2009 arrives. Supplies of polo and t-shirts are limited. Don't forget the latest TR themed books. And always remember, volunteers, staff and Friends receive a 15% discount.

ANOTHER TR BOOK HITS THE STORES

The King and the Cowboy: Edward the Seventh & Theodore Roosevelt, Secret Partners written by *David Fromkin*. The reviewer details the book's many weaknesses. TR and the King never did meet but conducted their secret correspondence through emissaries. The reviewer feels that "the author lavishes his abilities on an account of a friendship that never really was." Based upon the review, I doubt if the bookstore in the Visitor Center will put out a rush order for this book.

TR- HERE THERE AND EVERYWHERE

by **Aurelie Miller-Hendry**

While on a tour of Ireland, my husband John and I once again discovered the far-reaching influence of TR's adventurous and forward thinking. The first day of our tour took us to the charming and quaint village of Ennis which houses the county Clare Museum. This small jewel of a museum tells the story of its people stretching from over 6,000 years ago to the present. The museum's beautifully displayed artifacts; original works of art; and inter-active experiences provide an exciting glimpse into the history and heritage of its people.

In one such inter-active experience, *Theodore Roosevelt* was featured prominently, since he came to the financial aid of *John P. Holland*, a favorite son of County Clare and the designer of the first successful submarine adopted by the United States Navy. Holland encountered many obstacles and was thoroughly discouraged in the pursuit of his dream. It was TR, while Assistant Secretary of the Navy, who came to his rescue. He approved the allocation of \$150,000 for the purchase of the submarine. Never one to shun adventure throughout his life, TR later became the first United States president to submerge in a submarine.

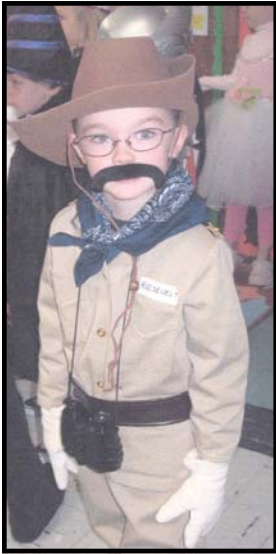
Perhaps this experience contributed in some small measure to the future idea- "Speak softly and carry a big stick- and you will go far."

Editor's Note- In a previous issue of the *Rough Writer* it was noted that *Theodore Roosevelt* became the "**Patron Saint**" of the submarine force. After his trip on the submarine, *USS Plunger*, TR advised the Navy's high command that serving on a submarine entitled the seamen to **hazardous duty pay**.

ROUGH RIDER RECOVERED

As the Rough Riders were leading a large group of people from the Grave Site to Sagamore Hill, *Ginny Uhlinger* had an equine malfunction and was thrown from her horse. Ginny sustained a few bruises and is now completely recovered.

JIM WATCH YOUR BACK!



A letter from a proud mother, Mrs. *Alice Quinn*, states in part “My son, John, age 5, is a huge fan of *Theodore Roosevelt* and thoroughly enjoyed the 150th birthday celebration at Sagamore Hill. I was telling the ladies at the gift shop that he was dressing up as Teddy for Halloween and they asked me to e-mail a small picture of him for the newsletter...”

Editor’s Note- Impersonators start younger every day.

WHAT WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

In January 1973, a troop of Russian acrobats visited Sagamore Hill. Curator *Jessica Kraft* asked the Russians if they could decipher the writing on what she referred to as “A Russian Object.” The visitors were unable to come up with a realistic translation. Note that the individual examining the Russian Vodka container is not wearing gloves, something Curator *Amy Verone* would not tolerate.



HOLIDAY PARTY A SUCCESS

It was a great evening even though Mother Nature tried to wash out the event. Volunteers, staff and members of the Friends of Sagamore Hill converged on the Swan Club in Glenwood Landing. They had the opportunity to mix with old friends, who work different days, whom they rarely see. The cocktail hour helped to relax everyone and the hors d’oeuvres were excellent. Our thanks go to *Ginny Perrell*, for coordinating the entire event, including the dinner menu, which was outstanding. The raffle prizes were very nice thanks to *Debbie Bulck* from Eastern National, friends of *Milton Elis* and *Jay Perrell*. The highlight of the evening was the singing of the quartet known as “Close Enough.” They included volunteers *Madeline Nelson* and *Toby Selda* with their partners, *Judi Anciewicz* and *Cyndy Gorman*.

Our special thanks go to the **Friends of Sagamore Hill** who underwrote part of the expenses for the evening. Unfortunately *Charles Markis* became ill just before the party, so we didn’t get a chance to thank him for putting together the flyer and receiving all reservations. Mother Nature threw in one more curve ball by flooding many of the roads that exited from the Swan Club.

FRIEND’S GABLE LECTURE SERIES SET

All programs in the **2009 John A. Gable Lecture Series** will be held on Thursdays at the recently refurbished Christ Church Parish Hall.

March 26- Speaker is *Charles Markis*, Chief of Interpretation

April 28- Speaker is *Dr. Hendricks* talking on TR & the US Navy

May 12- Speaker is the *Curator* of the Nassau County Museum of Art

More details will be made available after the start of the New Year.

MEDALS ARE SAFE AND SOUND

When *Walter Fish* went to the White House for the special *Theodore Roosevelt* 150th Birthday Celebration, he checked on TR’s Nobel Peace Prize and his Medal of Honor. Both items were on display for those attending the event. *Tom Ross* and *Josh Reyes*, also at the celebration, finally received a copy of their photo with the Bushes.

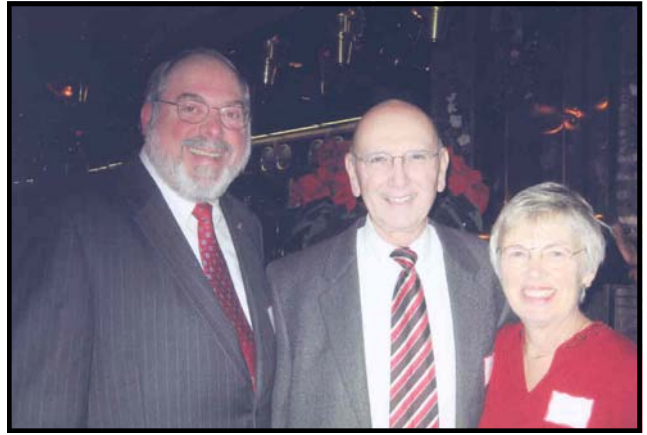
TRIVIA



Question:
What’s is this item and for what was it used? There are a few of them at Sagamore Hill.



To Tom Ross
With best wishes,
[Signature]





SETTING THE STORY STRAIGHT

The furniture in the Master Bedroom (Mother's Room) was made by *Daniel Pabst* in Philadelphia. TR Senior purchased the pieces in 1876 and had them installed in his home at 6 W. 57th Street in Manhattan. TR inherited the furniture and brought them to Sagamore Hill. They were floated in by barge. How the furniture was originally arranged is open to debate. The Park Service, upon receiving the house in 1963, left most of the furniture as they found it. The armoire had been placed in the Master Bedroom. *Ethel Derby* was quoted as saying that the piece never was in the Master Bedroom but was in the Nursery.

During the 1980s, a House Furnishing Plan relying on original photographs of the rooms during the Roosevelt's tenure was developed. This was used in 1993 as a blueprint for the furniture arrangement.

From 1963 until 1993, the armoire remained in the Master Bedroom but was moved to its present location when the house was renovated in 1993. The picture shown is from September 1992 and shows the room as it looked then. Note, that to the left of the large bed is the Herter Bros. cabinet, now located in the Drawing Room.



VISIT TO SITE BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF

On Tuesday, December 9, 2008, Sagamore Hill NHS teamed up with folks from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and conducted a filmed oral interview of former Congressman *Lester Wolff*, at the entrance to the North Room.

Lester Wolff was Congressman of the 3rd District from 1965-1980. Wolff was involved in several conservation initiatives locally and nationally with his most significant being the Oyster Bay Wildlife Refuge established in December 1968. The establishment of the Refuge was the death knell of the Rye-Oyster Bay Bridge.

The interview lasted about 3 hours and was filmed by *David Cooper* and *David Klinger* from the US Fish & Wildlife Service based in Shepherdstown, WV. In addition, *Mark Madison* who is the historian for the US FWS participated. The questioning for the interview was led by *Mark Madison*, *Josh Reyes* and *Dave Klinger*. Josh hopes to incorporate portions of the Wolff interview into his graduate school project.

HOORAY FOR TOM!!

Congratulations to *Tom Twiname* who has just learned that he has passed all tests and requirements to become a member of the US Park Police. His orientation and training begin on Jan. 4. We are planning a farewell party for him. We are sorry to lose him but offer our best wishes as he begins this new chapter of his career.

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

During the three day 150th Birthday Celebration, twenty-eight volunteers turned out to help. Superintendent *Tom Ross* is personally thanking each one and presenting them with special commemorative coins minted for the festivities.

Former Volunteer *Evelyn Heath* sends her regards and holiday good wishes. Evelyn retired to devote more time to her husband Bill. Thanks to the miracle workers at St. Francis hospital, Bill is now a new man. We wish them both a healthy new year.

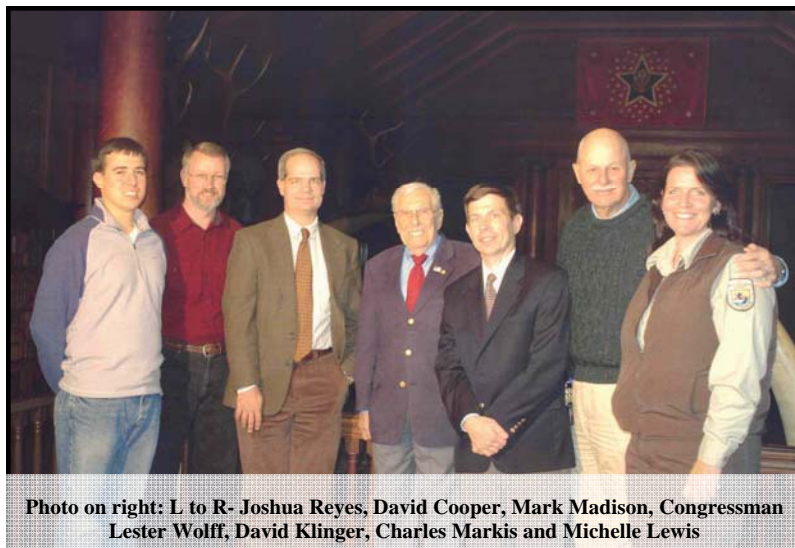


Photo on right: L to R- Joshua Reyes, David Cooper, Mark Madison, Congressman Lester Wolff, David Klinger, Charles Markis and Michelle Lewis

This newsletter is produced by Milton Elis and the Volunteer Advisory Board for the volunteers and staff of the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may



ART AT THE TRH

The Roosevelts loved the artist *P. Marcus-Simons*. However, TR and Edith differed on the spelling of his name. Edith wrote about a gift she received from *Marcus Simon*. She was referring to the painting *Victory*, which hangs in the foyer near the rhino horns. TR in a 1914 letter, referred to *P. Marcus Symonds*. He was praising the artist for his style (allegorical) and that the artist was unappreciated during his lifetime. A web search brought up two different names- *Pincus Mar-*

cius Simmons and *Pinkney Marcus-Simons*. With the help of *Shaun Roche*, we were able to find facts that *Pinkney Marcus-Simons* was our man and the pictures displayed on the web site were all allegorical.

The TRH has four of Simons paintings. *Victory*, as mentioned above and the other three are all in the North Room: *Seats of the Mighty* over the Japanese Nobility Chest; *Where Light and Darkness Meet* over the fireplace mantel and *Porcelain Towers* on the far wall, under the Borglum eagle. Other paintings in the North Room are *Pittsburgh*, over the piano, done by *Fritz Thanlow*; *Grand Canyon*, next to the Samurai Sword, by *Lucien Whiting Powell* and *Theodore Roosevelt as a Rough Rider*, painted by *Feodor Encke*.

TRIVIA- *Grand Canyon* was painted by Powell and the first person to navigate the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, was a one-armed, Civil War veteran, Major *John Wesley Powell*.



National Park Service
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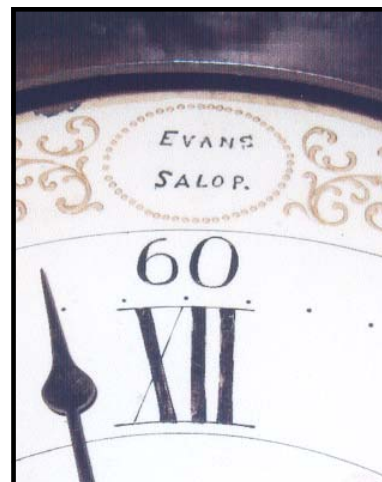
TRIVIA



Answer: The item is a **Tinder Pistol**. The item with the handle is a stone that is soaked in oil that is kept in the container. It is then ignited and used to light the tinder in the fireplace

GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK

The tall case clock in the foyer was purchased by TR's grandfather, *Cornelius Van Schaack Roosevelt* in Sheffield, England in 1826. The face of the clock says "Evans" and below that "Salop." The clock was manufactured in Shropshire, in southern England. The word **Salop** is the Roman for Shropshire. The major city in the area is Shrewsbury. According to information in the site's archives, the location of manufacture is certain but the manufacturer is in question. There were three Evans clock factories in Shrewsbury and its environs in the late 1700's and early 1800's. *Williams & Evans* and *Evans & Barnett* were located in Shrewsbury. *James Evans* was located in Oswestry. This type of clock was also known as a "column clock." The term "**grandfather's clock**" originated with auction houses in the early 1920's when the song "*My Grandfather's Clock*" was popular.



THERE WERE CELEBERTIES AND THEN THERE WAS TR

A celebrity might give a collector a signed napkin but not *Theodore Roosevelt*. He autographed a chip of wood. The story: TR chopped down a tree in August 1910. On September 16, 1910, TR signed a wood chip which said, "This wood chip is from a tree chopped down by *Theodore Roosevelt- Julien Holz*." TR signed the chip at the office of Outlook Magazine and had his signature witnessed.