

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

**Superintendent**  
Thomas E. Ross

**Editor**  
Milton Elis

**Layout/Design**  
Shaun P. Roche

**Contributors**  
Mark J. Koziol

**Comments?**  
**Milton Elis**  
1 Jarvis Avenue  
Syosset NY 11791  
516 921-3414

**Phone**  
516 922-4788  
922-4271 x16 Visitor Center direct line

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

**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
**Sagamore Hill National Historic Site**  
20 Sagamore Hill Road  
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

**The Volunteers of Sagamore Hill**  
20 Sagamore Hill Road  
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

## TRIVIA



**Answer:** For the benefit of the *Ken Burns* movie shoot, the bed in the Gate Room was made up to look like TR was sleeping there just prior to his death. All furniture and artifact pertaining to children were removed from the room.

## QUENTIN ROOSEVELT II AND THE NAXI (pronounced Noshy) POEOPLE OF CHINA by Mark Koziol

In June of 2009, Sagamore Hill received a donation of research material about *Quentin Roosevelt's* (TR JR's son) study of the *Naxi* culture of China in the late 1930s. Donated by *Cindy Ho*, the collection consists of the sum of her years of collecting data and research notes made in preparation for a museum exhibition she planned on curating, but she was never able to find a museum interested in hosting the exhibition.



TR Jr. and his son Quentin II during WWII.

The archival donation includes dozens of four by size inch photos and slides of *Naxi* artifacts of pictographic funerary tapestries that are held in both public and private collections; several scholarly books about the *Naxi* culture; photocopies of *Quentin Roosevelt's* Harvard University thesis about the *Naxi* culture (translated into Chinese); photocopies of Quentin's personal scrapbook and a photocopy of his personal travel diary that he kept when touring Asia.



Quentin II studying prayer scrolls.

*Quentin Roosevelt II*, 1919-1948, grandson of President *Theodore Roosevelt*, continued the family tradition of exploration. Influenced by hearing stories told by his father, TR Jr. and Uncle Kermit, of their 1920s trip to China, young Quentin traveled to China, in 1939, to explore the Lijiang Prefecture. It was here where he collected thousands of manuscripts, including dozens of *Naxi* funerary tapestries. Quentin's undergraduate Harvard thesis (graduating class of 1941) was written about the *Naxi* manuscripts.



Quentin II (right) and his research partner inspecting paintings from the trip.

In a journal article in *Natural History* published in 1940, Quentin wrote:

"(the *Naxi* manuscripts) ...were extremely rare... and the art of making the books has died out...the writing, unlike anything known elsewhere, superficially resembles the ancient Egyptians hieroglyphics."

### IS IT 20/20 HINDSIGHT?

A recent article on the Sunday Opinion page of the New York Times was by author *James Bradley*. Bradley's recent book about TR, "*The Imperial Cruise*", lays the blame for the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Theodore Roosevelt's policies at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. According to the author, because TR admired the Japanese above the Russians and Koreans any utterance or act favorable to the Japanese contributed to the attack thirty-five years later. Read the "*Imperial Cruise*" and see if your opinions of TR are swayed by Mr. Bradley, who also wrote "*Flags of Our Fathers*" about the flag raising on Iwo Jima.

# The Rough Writer

## The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

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Replacement windmill sail section (fan blade section) is raised into position.

### TING TANG CLOCK RETURNS

By now tour guides have heard the Ting Tang Clock in the Library sounding off on the quarter hour.

*Jacques Chalikian*, the fourth generation clock repairman from Oyster Bay explained that there are two sets of chimes, the eight bells sound which gives the clock its nickname and the Westminster chime, which is more "church-like" in its sound. He also advised that you can manually move the minute hand backwards unless you experience resistance, but under no circumstances, move the hour hand backwards. The Grandfather Clock has just been taken out for repairs.



### NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

Congratulations to *Adrian Bogart* and his bride *Emma* on their recent marriage. We wish them well. *Rose White* and her sister are now on a two week tour of Egypt. They will spend one week cruising and one week on the land. The tour is similar to that taken by TR and his family when he was a youth.

### BELATED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We never said **Thank You** to *Connie Purick*, a friend of *Max Kleinman's*, who again this year made the wreath that was hung on the door of the TRH. Connie, thank your for you time, energy and interest.

### GABLE LECTURE SERIES SET FOR 2010

The **Friends of Sagamore Hill** has just announced the schedule for this year's **John A. Gable Lecture Series** which will be held in the Parrish Hall of Christ Church, 61 East Main Street, Oyster Bay. There is no charge for the program which begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the doors will open at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23- "*Theodore Roosevelt at Camp Wikoff, Montauk, New York*". The speaker will be *Henry Osmers* author, tour guide and Official Historian of the Montauk Point Lighthouse.

Tuesday, April 27- "*Theodore Roosevelt: his Life, Health and Death*" Presented by *Mark Koziol*, Museum Technician at Sagamore Hill and former Curator at the Erie Canal Museum.

Tuesday, May 25- "*Theodore Roosevelt, Panama and the Panama Canal*." Speaker will be *Robert McMillan*, Author and former Chairman of the Panama Canal commission.

### QUEREAU GENEALOGY

In the site's archives, there is a copy of the *Quereau* family genealogy. One branch of the family had anglicized the spelling to *Carow*. One entry was for Edith's aunt, *Laura Frances Carow*, shown in the accompanying photo of a miniature. We know about Edith's sister *Emily Carow*, whose picture hangs at the entrance to the South Bedroom but Edith also had a brother, *Robert Kermit Carow*, who only lived to be six months old. Perhaps that is why her second son was named Kermit.



The site has received a \$10,000 grant to fund a special **Teacher-Ranger-Teacher** program. This plus the **Travel Trunk Program** which is in development, will enable the staff to go into the schools and bring *Theodore Roosevelt* into the classroom. While the house is closed, this program will fill in for missed the opportunity of students visiting the house. As currently projected, the house is now slated to close in 2012. Funding for a 2011 closing was recently removed from our budget.

**CURATORIAL HOLIDAY PARTY ROCKS**

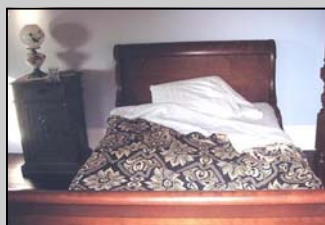
Actually, the word **rocks** was only used to get you to read this article. The party was really a subdued event. The number of volunteers assisting the Curatorial Division has increased over the past few years and due to the prohibitive cost of holding the event in a restaurant, the party was held in the conference room at Old Orchard. Not all of the volunteers are as young as *Helen Kurita*, age 6 (shown) or as old as *Milton Elis*, geriatric (not shown). Most are able to walk up and down without taking the elevator. All express their thanks to Amy, Sue, Mark and Shaun for hosting a nice holiday event.



**HOUSE TO BE OPEN MONDAY & TUESDAY OF PRESIDENTS' WEEK**

In addition to our regular hours on Wednesday through Sunday, Superintendent *Tom Ross* has made arrangements for the TRH to be open on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 15 and Tuesday, February 16. With the Federal holiday and local schools being closed, he anticipates a busy week with plenty of visitors. Children's author *Leslie Kimmelman* will be here on Wednesday, February 17 and at 2:00 pm and will read from her book, "*Mind Your Manners, Alice Roosevelt*"

**TRIVIA**



**Question:** Why did the bed in the Gate Room look like someone had just slept in it?

**NEW EXHIBIT: THE WEST WING**

Sunday, February 14 will be the official opening of the exhibit "*West Wing: Workshop of Democracy*" currently installed in the lobby of Old Orchard Museum. It was during TR's tenure as President, that the West Wing was constructed.

**DO YOU WANT TO BE CONFUSED?**



Catalogue item #SAHI 6691 describes the **peccary**, the boar-like animal, related to the pig, whose head hangs in the Library on the southeastern wall. According to the catalogue card, the peccary dates to 1892 and is mentioned in TR's book the "Wilderness Hunter" pages 348-360. In the same file, is a copy of the Cornish (NH) Quarterly dated June 1984, which relates the story of TR's visit to Cornish, New Hampshire and the wild boar he shot on August 29, 1902 which now "hangs in Sagamore Hill."\* The President's own account of the hunt is quoted in the September 6, 1902 issue of the Vermont Journal. Apparently TR borrowed some clothes for the hunt and a cartoon also appearing in the Quarterly pokes fun at TR with the following poem.

"It wasn't Roosevelt's rifle ball  
Cut short the wild boar's breath  
The boar saw Teddy's misfit rig (outfit)  
And laughed himself to death."

Perhaps the 1906 animal head replaced the 1892 one. Or maybe the 1892 kill never was preserved. Conservator *Catherine Hawks*, who did work on the head in 1989 thought it was a boar found in the Northeast and not from the Southwest. Curator *Amy Verone* thinks the animal more closely resembles a peccary. *Mark Koziol* is researching photos of the Library taken prior to August 1902.

\*The Cornish Quarterly's description.

**WRONG TR CAPTIONS?**  
by *Mark Koziol*

Over the summer, a conscientious visitor pointed out what he thought was an error in captioning an image in the first room of the OOM exhibitions. The photo in question shows a young teen-aged TR posing with his family during their 1872 European trip. After discussing the question with Curator *Amy Verone*, researching the photo's caption history as seen in other books, it was determined the exhibition photo was indeed captioned correctly and many of the books over the years have printed the wrong caption.



*Elliot, TR, cousin Maud, Corrine and cousin John.*

Mis-labeled captions have been found in: *Life and Times of Theodore Roosevelt* by *Stefan Lorant* (captions reverse TR and his brother Elliot) and *Mornings on Horseback* by *David McCullough*

**CONDOLENCES**

Our sympathies go out to Park Guide *Bernie Muller*, his wife *Dorothy*, and their family. Bernie's mother-in-law *Rita Johnson* passed away a few days ago after a brief illness.

**KEN BURNS AND THE THREE ROOSEVELTS**

By *Mark Koziol*

From June 23 to 25, 2009 three members of the *Ken Burns*'s film company, *Florentine Films*, visited Sagamore Hill in the first of many trips to examine the photo archives and tour the TRH. *Ken Burns* is now producing an ambitious six-part, 12 hour documentary about the life and times of *Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt*. The program will air on PBS TV in 2013.



Left to Right, the lighting director, producer/editor, and cinematographers set up a shot.

Producer/editor *Paul Barnes*, producer *Pam Baucom* and still photographer *Daniel White* spent three days touring, with the Curatorial staff, the TRH multiple times and took many photos of the rooms, asked questions and observed the natural light coming into the home. They plan to film the interior and exterior of the TRH in the next year during the four seasons.

Paul, Pam and Daniel spent two days examining the SAHI Photo Collection in detail, taking digital photos of many of the better photographs in the collections, including the TR images made by the *Pach Brothers, Frances Johnston* and the *McFarland Company*. They also enjoyed examining the dozens of Roosevelt family photo albums, including *Ethel Roosevelt's* personal photo album of candid photos of the family at SAHI.



"I never had the room this bright."

There shall be more visits in the next few years, especially before the TR Home is closed to the public for extensive rehabilitation projects.

Editor's note: On January 11, 12 & 13, chaos seemed to be in charge of the first floor of the TRH. Wires, cables and lights were everywhere as the film crew from *Florentine Films* filmed the North Room and Foyer. Even with out actors, the filming of the alcove took four hours. Before the camera rolls, the lighting is adjusted dozens of times. In one planned shot, light was reflecting off the hilt of TR's sword in the Elk. After many suggestions, *Shaun Roche* was dispatched to turn the sword over. Viola! No reflection. Now you can understand why these documentaries take three years to make.



**FAREWELL PARTY FOR PAUL DAMA**

*Paul Dama* received a Farewell Party on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The maintenance staff turned out in force and gave him a figurine in Park Service uniform and holding a post hole digger. Paul always has a happy demeanor and loves to engage anyone in conversation. The farther right the conversation goes the more Paul loves it. But post holes are his specialty. He has built more fences than *Abraham Lincoln* and his coworkers gave him a plaque made from an old fence post. A twenty-three year veteran of the US Army, Paul has completed nearly nine years of non-military federal service. Only fifty-seven, Paul will have to wait a few years before he can collect his second pension. Not one to sit still, Paul and his wife will soon be touring Italy. We will miss his friendly face and his take on politics.

