

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 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: This item is a small bank and was donated by Charles Markis.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Save Wednesday, April 29th for **Volunteer Recognition Night**. Again, this year it will be held at the Matinecock Masonic Lodge in Oyster Bay. A buffet will be served from 6-7 pm with the awards to be distributed at 7:00 pm. A flyer accompanies this newsletter.

WHO WON THE BATTLE OF THE GREASY GRASS?

If someone asked you that question your reply might be, “Who knows and who cares?” But if the same person asked, “Who won the Battle of the Little Big Horn?” you would know the answer immediately. Depending on your age, you would reply, “the Indians, or the Native Americans, or the



Sioux or the Lakota Sioux.” The buffalo hide (also referred to as a robe) in the foyer depicts that battle. When giving tours I always wondered why Custer wasn’t shown front and center. The answer is that the depiction on the hide is the section of the battlefield where *Major Marcus Reno* led the assault on the southern end of the Indian encampment. Reno’s charge was met with a furious counterattack led by *Sitting Bull* and *Gall*, and Reno was forced to make a hasty

retreat. Each figure shown on the hide has significance. The lower half illustrates the charge by Major Reno with the flag bearer in the lead. The upper half shows the retreat, also with the flag bearer leading, with Lakota warriors easily routing the soldiers. Reno himself is not depicted.

On June 25, 1876, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer had six hundred men. The Lakota (Sioux), Cheyenne and Arapaho in Montana had 1500 to 2500 warriors. The mounted Indian figures represent members of different tribes. The feathers in each headdress represent the “coup count” of that particular tribe member. Coup represents bravery by the wearer of the headdress, who has touched either a living or dead adversary in battle. Those warriors usually did not carry a weapon in hand-to-hand combat.

The figures in the top left and lower left hand corners represent “Spirit Dream Dancers”, good luck icons. A few weeks prior to the battle a ceremony was held in which the powers of the buffalo, elk, thunderbird and spider were invoked by animal dancers. The artist shows his belief that the easy success of the Lakota at the Greasy Grass was connected to these animal spirits. He shows them at the lower left (a Buffalo/Elk Dreamer) and upper left (an Elk Dreamer) of the hide.



Editors note: Information for this article is taken from the conservator’s report in the site’s archives.



TR’S WORDS OF WISDOM

“What would you say to the young men of our city, if you could speak to them with command this day?” asked *Julian Ralph*, a journalist of *Theodore Roosevelt*. “I would order them to work,” said Mr. Roosevelt, stopping short and clapping his hands together with quick emphasis. “I would teach the young men that he who has not wealth owes his first duty to his family, but he who has means owes his to the State. It is ignoble to go on heaping money on money. I would preach the doctrine of work to all, and to the men of wealth the doctrine of unremunerative work.”

The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill



Volume 11, Issue 3

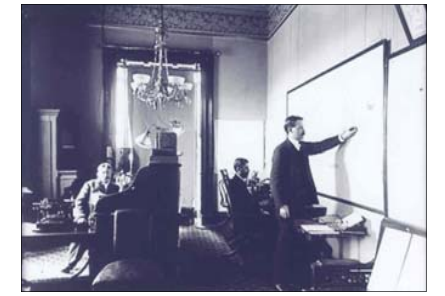
March 2009



New exhibit in Old Orchard of White House horses.



Turquoise vase on the mantle in the Drawing Room.



War Room at White House during Spanish American War, 1898.

WOODBURY RESIDENTS LEARN ABOUT TR



Residents of Woodbury Cove, a housing development in Woodbury, recently heard from *Brian Koch*, a thirteen year-old Syosset Middle School student. Brian prepared a fifteen minute video detailing segments of TR’s life and how he is the person to look to in this uncertain economy. Brian felt that President Obama, should be forceful and fearless in dealing with difficult decisions, as was Theodore Roosevelt

during his presidency. The young man entered the video in a Nassau County contest and came out with a medal for his efforts.

As part of a double feature that afternoon, volunteer *Milton Elis* spoke on the life and times of the Twenty-Sixth President and told the forty attendees stories that are rarely related to visitors during a forty-five minute tour of Sagamore Hill. The accompanying pictures were taken by *Barbara Elis*.



SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

Danielle Summa has been appointed a seasonal Park Guide. Danielle had been volunteering at Old Orchard. Previously, she had been a Park Guide at Fire Island National Seashore. Also joining the staff as a seasonal Park Guide is *Bernhard Muller*. Congratulations to book store manager, *Debbie Bulck*. Debbie has received a special award from Eastern National due to the outstanding record income that was brought in last year. Debbie graciously thanked members of the staff who assisted her in the sales effort.

BOARD OPENINGS ANNOUNCED

The Friends of Sagamore Hill is looking for a few new members for their Board of Directors. You can go far in no time at all. You can start as Secretary or Treasurer and work your way up to Chairperson. Interested? Contact Acting Chairman *Walter Fish* if you are interested in a positive, forward looking organization, whose sole function is to support Sagamore Hill National Historic Site. Walter’s phone number is 516-781-3849. His e-mail is FISHWAL@aol.com.

Contact him TODAY!

ABOUT CHARLES LEE

Charles Lee, TR’s coachman, had been with *Theodore Roosevelt* since the White House days. *Charles Lee* was the son of a man who had been the personal servant of *Robert E. Lee* (REL). Charles, had been an employee of General *Fitzhugh Lee*, REL’s nephew. *Fitzhugh Lee* had been a Major General in the Confederate Army and, following the war, had been elected governor of Virginia. *Grover Cleveland* appointed him to be Consul-General to Havana, in April 1896. Although Lee was a Democrat, Republican President *William McKinley* retained him in that position. When the United States declared war on Spain in April of 1898, McKinley made him a Major General of Volunteers, in command of the Seventh Army Corps. He did not see service in Cuba. After *Fitzhugh Lee* died in 1905, *Charles Lee* left the service of the general’s family to go to work for TR, when the latter was in the White House. Partially excerpted from the NY Times, January 7, 1919.

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

Congratulations to *Frank and Marie Konop* on the birth of their sixth grandchild, *Aiden Reid Konop*, son of *Andrew and Angie Konop* of Atlanta, GA.

SECOND GABLE LECTURE

On Tuesday, April 28th at Christ Church Parish Hall in Oyster Bay, U.S. Navy Commander *Henry J. Hendrix II* will discuss **“Theodore Roosevelt’s use of the United States Navy in Foreign Diplomacy.”** The program begins at 7:30 pm and is free. The church is located at 61 East Main Street.

YOU CAN’T SEE HIM

You can see him if you are a contortionist. Who? It’s the Japanese god of Benevolence and Hunting. If you look in the library, to the right of the doorway, there on top of the bookcase is a pottery figure. It is called *“The Old Man and the Deer”* and was a gift from *Admiral Folger*. However, be careful you don’t accidentally set off the room alarm.



TR AND THE BOONE AND CROCKET CLUB

As a young boy, TR was told stories of plantation life in Georgia by his mother Mittie and his Aunt *Anna Bulloch*. In addition to human personalities, the two women reminisced about fox hunting and two long-tailed driving horses named *Boone* and *Crocket*. Were the horses the inspiration for TR in naming the hunting club he formed *The Boone and Crocket Club*? Maybe?



WHERE DID HE GET HIS IDEAS?

One wonders where TR got his ideas, clever remarks, sage-like sayings and *bon mots*. According to *Charles Markis* in his presentation for the *Gable Lecture Series*, TR was influenced by the books he read. In helping Charles with his research, *Aurelie Miller-Hendry* and *Madeline Nelson* showed this writer the book *Our Young Folks*, which they were checking for appropriate relevance. In his autobiography, TR wrote that he enjoyed re-reading the series of stories that appear in this book. The book was a bound volume of an illustrated magazine for boys and girls and published in 1870. The following paragraph caught their eye.

“O Barbara! Think of all that is being done in the world!”
 “I know. But the little private things. They want to turn everything into a movement. Miss Trixie says they won’t have any eggs from their fowls next winter; all their chickens are roosters, and all they’ll do will be to sit in a row on a fence and crow! I think the world is running pretty much to roosters.”

HIDDEN FROM VIEW



This beautiful ceramic vase cannot be appreciated by visitors or staff, unless you are cleaning the Drawing Room. Its history is unknown but it sits on a shelf way above the fireplace mantel. This is an example of one of the many beautiful and interesting items in the house that cannot be seen by the public.

EXHIBIT CHANGES

The White House pets exhibit at Old Orchard has gone home and a new exhibit on presidential horses has just galloped in. In addition to the wall exhibits, curatorial staff will be displaying TR’s boots and gloves from the dressing room and his riding crop and saddle from the archives. Interpreters, after ending your tour, stop by Old Orchard and view the exhibit. There are eight panels and they will be on display through August. One entire panel is devoted to TR and his family.



“SLIPPERS” THE WHITE HOUSE CAT

Excerpted from an article written by *Jacob Riis*, 1906



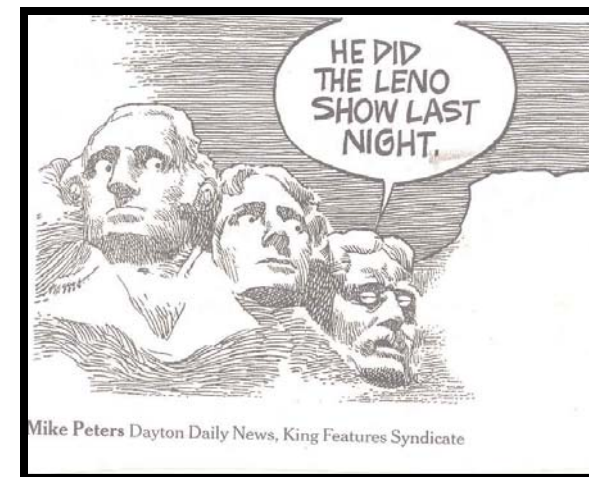
Doubtless there never was, and never will be, another cat that has had respectful homage paid to it by the representatives of so many great and little powers of the world. But such was the experience of *“Slippers”* in the year of grace 1906.

Slippers was the name of the White House cat. Gray in color and having six toes, it was this unusual foot-furnishing that earned him his name. *Slippers* had a way of absenting himself from his post for days and weeks at a time. But however long he stayed away, he never failed to turn up just before a big diplomatic dinner. How he knew I cannot tell. No one can. But that he did know is quite certain. Anyone who kept a steady eye on the White House did not need to be told by the newspapers when a state dinner was impending. When he saw *Slippers* sunning himself on the front steps, that was enough. The cards were out.

Thus came the historic occasion I hinted at. The dinner was over, and the President, with the wife of a distinguished Ambassador on his arm, led the procession from the state dining-room along a wide corridor to the East Room at the other end of the building, the ambassadors and plenipotentiaries and ministers following, according to their rank in the official world, all chatting happily with their ladies, seeing no cloud on the diplomatic horizon; when all of a sudden the glittering procession came to a halt. There, on the rug in the middle of the corridor, lay *Slippers*, stretched at full length, and blinking lazily at the fine show which no doubt he thought got up especially to do him honor. The President saw him in time to avoid treading on him, and stopped. His first impulse was to pick *Slippers* up, but a little shiver of his lady and a half-suppressed exclamation, as he bent over the cat, warned him that she did not like cats, or was afraid, and for a moment he was perplexed. *Slippers*, perceiving the attention bestowed on him, rolled luxuriously on the rug, purring his delight. No thought of moving out of the way was in *his* mind.

There was but one other thing to do, and the man who found a way to make peace between Russia and Japan, did it quickly. With an amused bow, as if in apology to the Ambassadors, he escorted her around slippers and kept on his way towards the East Room. Whereupon the representatives of Great Britain, and of France, of Germany, and Italy, of all the great empires and of the little kingdoms clear down the long list, followed suit, paying their respects to *Slippers* quite as effectually as if the war-ships of their nations had thundered out a salute.

But the honors the fates had in store for *Slippers* on that memorable night were not yet exhausted. As soon as [the President] had seated his lady, and before the last of the guests had reached the East Room, he excused himself, went back for *Slippers*, and carried him to Mrs. Roosevelt that she might pet and admire him. So he was safe from the vengeance of any White House servant.



TRIVIA



QUESTION: What is the function of this recent acquisition to the site’s collection of artifacts?

(Continued from page A)

If we look at a true disaster in TR pride, we have to look at Quentin. According to the author, Quentin, being the youngest, is the most protected by the entire family. The author feels Quentin was the most promising of all the boys but stated he always suffered from low self-esteem. At the beginning of America's entry into World War I, Quentin joined the Army Air Service but rarely wrote home because he does not want to tell the family he is not fighting like his brothers were doing. However, it was because of the shortage of planes that does not see action.



Quentin WWI



A SOLDIER AFTER FIRE—
ROOSEVELT'S SON READY
If Americans were drawing today we can imagine
the young man, Captain Archibald Roosevelt, the
Chief's third son, as "a type." In this last,
re-bred youth he would find his ideal ally—
Captain Roosevelt is on duty in France.

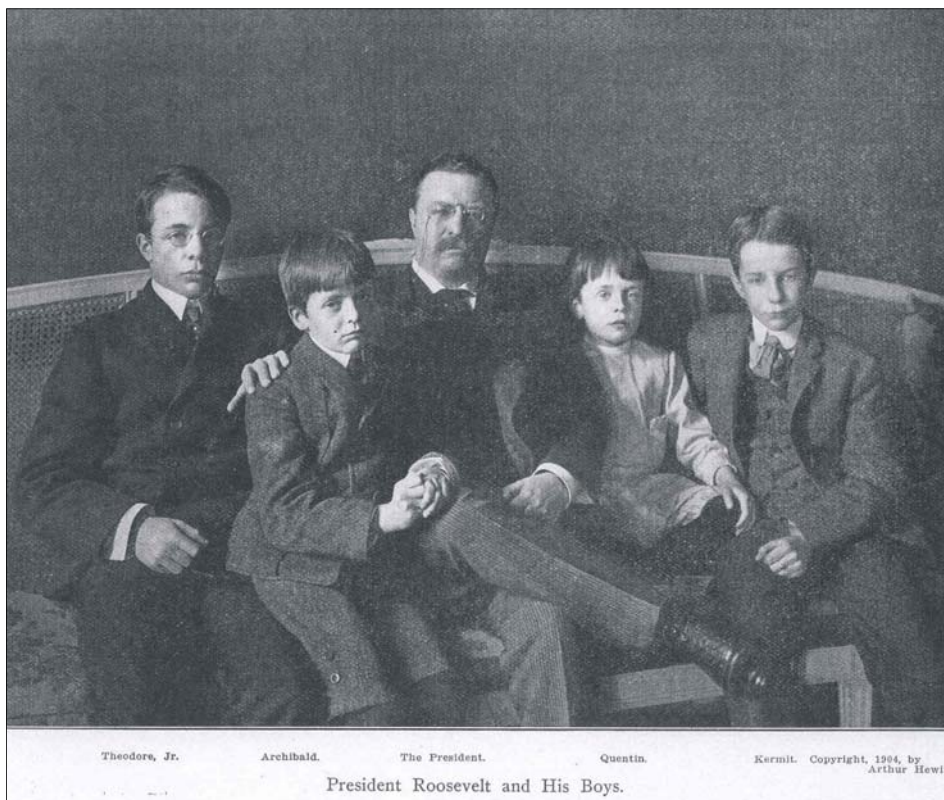
Archie WWI

Quentin was outwardly light-hearted. He is down to earth and has a lack of discipline. He was an average pilot, but was a first rate administrator. His men loved him. One of his mechanics said, "He always sees that his men are taken care of before he thinks of himself." On July 20, 1918, the Germans announced that they had shot down Quentin's plane and he was dead. The book states that Quentin was fatalistic. His favorite poem was *I have a Rendezvous with Death*. This son of the former president felt if any one of the family was to be killed, he hoped it would be him because his brothers had wives and children. He is buried next to his brother Ted in Normandy, and is the only World War I soldier buried in a World War II cemetery.

Quentin, Kermit and Ted all die during the wars. Archie survives both wars. He too suffers from depression for many of the same reasons the other boys do. He is jealous of his brother Ted's success. Still one sees the Roosevelt pride really become apparent with Archie. He was distinguished in both World Wars. In WW I, he earned the Croix de guerre and the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. He fought alongside Ted, although Ted was a Major and Archie was a 2nd Lt. He was severely wounded and discharged with 100% disability.

When the United States was attacked at Pearl Harbor, Archie tried to reenlist but was turned down because of his age and disability. It always helps to have a relative in high places like your cousin the president. He was given a command in the US Army's 162nd Regiment, Forty-First Division in New Guinea. Archie and his men played an important role during the Solomon Islands campaign. He was wounded again in the same knee that caused the disability in WWI. As a result, Archie is the only American to ever be 100% disabled in two wars.

Although all the Roosevelt women played an important role in the **Pride**, they are not stressed in this book.



Theodore, Jr.

Archibald.

The President.

Quentin.

Kermit. Copyright, 1904, by
Arthur Hewitt

President Roosevelt and His Boys.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE LION'S PRIDE

Editors Note: *Gerald Alfani* is a fairly new member of the Board of the *Friends of Sagamore Hill*. Since joining the Friends, Gerry has learned a great deal about *Theodore Roosevelt*. However, until he began reading *The Lion's Pride*, his knowledge of TR's sons was lacking. For readers who are not familiar with Ted, Kermit, Archie and Quentin, here are Gerry's observations.



Ted Jr. WWII

Edward J. Renehan, Jr's book *The Lion's Pride*, addresses two areas. First there is *Theodore Roosevelt*, the **Lion** of the title. Second is **Pride**, as in the **Lion's** family and also the pleasure the **Lion** takes in his family. With the Old Rough Rider, there is an extreme feeling of patriotism and nationalism, which may even be classified as jingoism. These virtues, given to his family, especially his sons, are what is expressed in this volume. The book also discusses the effects of the **Lion** on his children.

It is difficult being the child of a famous person. This was especially true for *Theodore Roosevelt's* son, Ted. The young man idolized his father. He mentioned to his mother that he was not worthy of his name. Edith told TR of Ted's feelings to which the Old Rough Rider replied: "Darling, I'm so very proud of him. He has won high honor not only for his children but, like the Chinese, he has ennobled his ancestors. I walk with my head higher because of him." In many ways he is his father's son. Ted was wounded in France during World War I

and was sent home. When he arrives home, the younger Roosevelt refuses to see a doctor for his wound and only wants to eat dinner. Dr. *Richard Derby*, his brother-in-law, examines the wound in Ted's leg and said that it was infected and must be opened and thoroughly cleaned at once. His family wants him to stay home after the leg has healed but he returns to France and fights in the Second Battle of the Marne.

To keep the kindled flame of American brotherhood, discovered in the war, alive, Ted helped found the *American Legion*. This action is reminiscent of his father staying in contact with the Rough Riders from the Spanish-American War. Like his father, he serves as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Also like his father, his family ties are strong. Ted is fondly remembered as a loyal advocate and ally. This young man took pride in the fact that his father was the first president to entertain a black person at the White House and the first to appoint a Jew to his cabinet. Ted, in turn, became a member of the board of directors of Howard University, the NAACP and the Jewish Anti-Defamation League.

Ted was also active during World War II. At age 54, he asked to be taken out of the reserves and be put on active duty. General *George Marshall* put him in command of his old unit, the 26th Infantry Regiment of the First Division. He played a key role in the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion at Utah Beach. He was with the fourth Infantry Division at that time and received the Medal of Honor for his actions, a feat that escaped his father during his lifetime.

The author considers Ted, Jr. a tragic figure. This is because, in his mind, he was not living up to the high expectations of his father. However, one has to think about Kermit when we look at tragic figures. Similar to his father, Kermit was a sickly youth. Also, like the **Lion**, he had a flair for languages and was an avid reader. He enjoyed the outdoors. He joined his father on both the safari to Africa and the expedition to explore the River of Doubt in Brazil.

Like his brothers, Kermit values the Roosevelt's pride in one's country. He joins the British Army at the outbreak of World War I and is appointed an Honorary Captain. He fought in Mesopotamia, where he was awarded the Military Cross. The British decided that they could not risk the life of a famous American and he was made an officer in charge of transport, where he does an excellent job. When the United States entered the war he was transferred to the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF.)



Kermit WWI

At the start of World War II, Kermit again joins the British Army and becomes a Second Lieutenant thanks to the help of *Winston Churchill*. He served with honor in Britain's raid on Norway. Although Kermit drank, his former alcohol consumption did not seem to be a problem. Now it became a serious health issue. Kermit had an enlarged liver which was complicated by his previous case of malaria. He was given a medical discharge from the British Army. This led Kermit into additional trouble. He would disappear at times and drank heavily to forget his problems. His wife Belle asked President *Franklin Roosevelt* for help. FDR's solution was to give Kermit a commission as a Major in the US Army. He was stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska where he worked as an intelligence office. This did not help. Kermit ended his battle with alcoholism and depression by committing suicide.