

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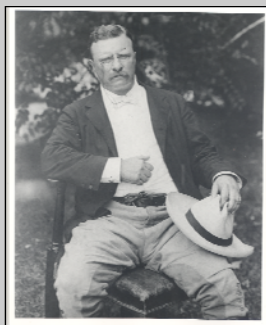
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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**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:** They all wore Nettleton shoes made in Syracuse.

## NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS GETS A SPOKESMAN

Thanks to *Wayne Wagner* and *Ginny Perrell* for forwarding the new video put out by the Nassau County Board of Elections. They showed the evolution of voting over the past century. Aiding them get their message of new electronic voting machines was *Theodore Roosevelt*. Much to our pleasure, the former president morphed into *Jim Foote* portraying TR. Go to <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/BOE/index.html> to view the entire video. Jim looks his most presidential.

## THEY LOVE ROOSEVELT

Thanks to history Professor *Natalie Naylor*, I learned about a recent survey of historians conducted by *Siena College*. The survey, completed in July of this year, dealt with the ranking of U.S. presidents.

### TR Moves Up in Presidential Rankings by Natalie Naylor

*Theodore Roosevelt* moved from fifth place in the ranking of presidents in 1982 and 1990 to second place in 2010, behind *Franklin Roosevelt* in the **Siena College Research Institute Survey** of more than two hundred presidential scholars. TR was in third place in the 1994 and 2002 polls but moved ahead of *Abraham Lincoln* this year. FDR has been in first place in all five of Siena's presidential rankings.

The poll asked for rankings in twenty specific categories, TR was top rated in imagination, willing to take risks, and court appointments, and rated second in luck, domestic accomplishments, and handling of the U.S. economy. The categories and those presidents at the top and bottom of the list:

20 Presidential Categories					
Top and Bottom Two in Each					
	Background	Imagination	Integrity	Intelligence	Luck
Top Rated	Jefferson	T. Roosevelt	Lincoln	Jefferson	Washington
Second Rated	J.Q. Adams	Lincoln	Washington	Madison	T. Roosevelt
Next to Last	A. Johnson	Buchanan	Harding	G.W. Bush	W. Harrison
Rated Last	Harding	Harding	Nixon	Harding	Hoover
	Willing to take risks	Avoid crucial mistakes	Court appointments	Domestic Accomplishments	Executive Appointments
Top Rated	T. Roosevelt	Washington	T. Roosevelt	Lincoln	Washington
Second Rated	Lincoln	Lincoln	F. Roosevelt	T. Roosevelt	Lincoln
Next to Last	Hoover	A. Johnson	Buchanan	A. Johnson	A. Johnson
Rated Last	Buchanan	Nixon	A. Johnson	Buchanan	Harding
	Foreign Policy Accomplishments	Handling of U.S. Economy	Party leadership	Relationship w/Congress	Ability to compromise
Top Rated	F. Roosevelt	F. Roosevelt	F. Roosevelt	L. Johnson	Lincoln
Second Rated	Monroe	T. Roosevelt	Jackson	F. Roosevelt	F. Roosevelt
Next to Last	G. W. Bush	G. W. Bush	Tyler	Tyler	G. W. Bush
Rated Last	L. Johnson	Hoover	A. Johnson	A. Johnson	A. Johnson
	Communication ability	Executive ability	Leadership ability	Overall ability	Present overall view
Top Rated	F. Roosevelt	Lincoln	Washington	Lincoln	Lincoln
Second Rated	Lincoln	Washington	Lincoln	F. Roosevelt	F. Roosevelt
Next to Last	G. W. Bush	Buchanan	A. Johnson	Buchanan	A. Johnson
Rated Last	A. Johnson	Harding	Buchanan	Harding	Buchanan

# The Rough Writer

## The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

Volume 12, Issue 8

September 2010



Oliver Cromwell



Maurice of Orange



William of Orange



Remington's Cree Indian

## VOLUNTEER TRIP TO ELLIS ISLAND

If you have not already sent in your reservation for a seat on the bus going to New York City on Tuesday, September 21, **DO IT NOW**. The fee, which includes lunch, is ten dollars per person. Please make checks payable to **The Friends of Sagamore Hill**. Please note that coffee and bagels will be available at 8:00 am behind the Visitor Center and the bus will leave **PROMPTLY** at 8:30 am. The registration goes to Josh Reyes at Sagamore Hill.

## NEW TRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After nearly a year without a full time executive director, the Executive Committee of the *Theodore Roosevelt Association* has announced the appointment of *Terrence C. Brown* as Executive Director and he will assume his position on September 13. Mr. Brown comes to the TRA from the *Society of Illustrators* where he had been that organization's director for the past twenty-four years. *Terrance Brown* is a native New Yorker. He and his wife Catherine live in Pleasantville, NY.

*Howard Ehrlich*, the Interim Director of the TRA will remain with the organization until Mr. Brown becomes knowledgeable about Theodore Roosevelt. Howard will also return to his position of Adjunct Associate Professor at *Adelphi University* and to his position as a seasonal Park Guide of the National Park Service at *Sagamore Hill National Historic Site*.

## TR STATUE TO MOVE

The equestrian statue of *Theodore Roosevelt*, currently on the grounds of the *Boys and Girls Club of Oyster Bay*, is set to be relocated to the island across Berry Hill Road from the present site. *John Hammond* of the Friends of Sagamore Hill and Oyster Bay Town historian said the planned dedication date will be around the second week in October when all the landscaping will be completed.

## HE WAS AHEAD OF HIS TIME

The following extract from *Kathleen Dalton's* fine book, *Theodore Roosevelt: The Strenuous Life*, page 57, published in 2002, highlights how far ahead of most contemporaries was TR's thinking.

*Theodore Roosevelt's* senior thesis at Harvard was on "*The Practicability of Equalizing Men and Women Before the Law*," in which he asserted that "in an ideally perfect state of society strict justice would at once place both sexes on an equality", including equal rights of inheritance, the vote, and the right to go to law school. Anti-suffragist *Francis Parkman* had argued against "putting the ballot into hands unable to defend it", but TR, though he conceded that military service might be a legitimate criterion for voting, pointed out that women might even become "effective combatants [sic]" at some later date. He took the position, rare in a day when Harvard medical students demonstrated against the admission of a female student and very few private colleges or professional schools admitted women, that women should have equality before the law because, "though placed by education and surroundings at a disadvantage," women were "in no wise inferior as regards quickness or acuteness." Though Parkman and many others warned that "suffrage erodes civilization," TR did not see the dangers to men posed by the advancement of women. He was willing to compromise with the fairer sex that he wrote that a woman should not be forced to assume her husbands name upon marriage.

THERE IS NO PLACE TO HIDE

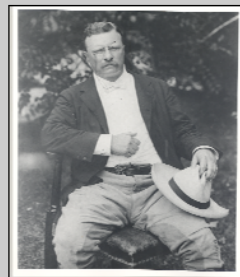


This writer was in Syracuse to attend a wedding. After the event, on my way home, I decided to visit the *Erie Canal Museum*. The museum was located near where I was staying and *Mark Koziol* had been the director before coming to Sagamore Hill. One of the displays showed the quote (which mentioned *Theodore Roosevelt*) and that is this month's TRIVIA question.

TR IN THE TIMES

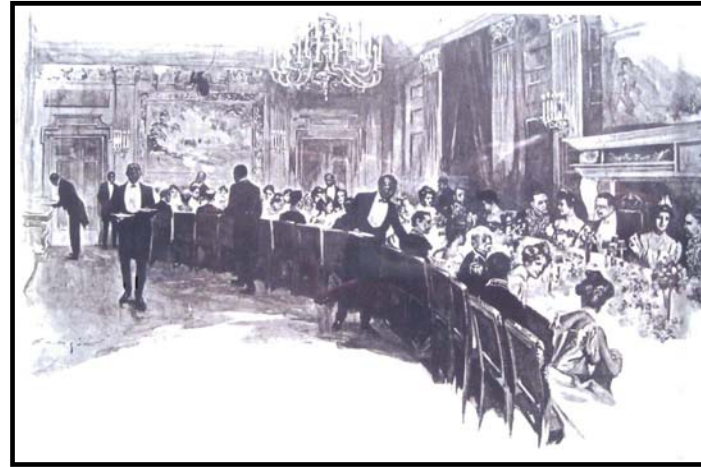
Last month, on August 29, the New York Times ran a small article entitled, **Back Then: August 29, 1910** and featured a picture of TR. They wrote, "On Aug. 29, 1910, when the idea of holding primary elections was novel and ex-President *Theodore Roosevelt* supported them for New York, the New York Times took note of a primary contest in Virginia between an incumbent Democratic congressman, *Harry L. Maynard*, and a challenger, *William A. Young*...." The rest of the article never mentioned TR but closed with the line, "This is, moreover, not the first time it has been demonstrated in Virginia that a poor man is practically barred by the primary from public office."

TRIVIA

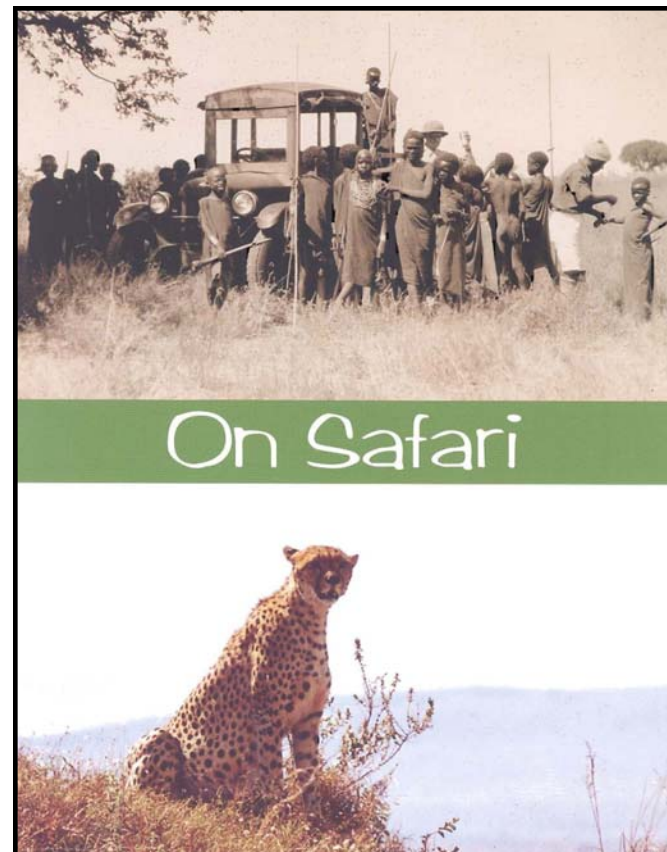


A sign in the Erie Canal museum asks the following question.

QUESTION: What did "Black Jack" Pershing, the Wright Brothers, Lucky Lindy and Teddy Roosevelt have in common?



My family and I were in Providence, Rhode Island. We visited the *Culinary Arts Museum*, part of *Johnson & Wales University*, where they display the Presidential Collection: correspondence or food related memorabilia about presidents. And there he was, *Theodore Roosevelt* peering down at me from two photographs and two signed letters. One of the photographs showed a state dinner in the newly renovated state dining room of the White House, and TR was seated next to the British Ambassador (actually his wife). When I told the Museum Director, *Richard Gutman*, that I collect TR related information for this newsletter, he advised me that one of the first displays he had mounted when he started as director five years prior, was "On Safari" which featured *Theodore Roosevelt* and covered safari food. The post card announcing the exhibition is shown here.



FRIENDS GALA TO HIGHLIGHT TR MEMORABELIA

The *Friends of Sagamore Hill* will be holding their annual social get together on Thursday, September 23, 2010. The event will be held at the Sagamore Yacht Club, in Oyster Bay. The **Gala Friends Night by the Bay** will feature a buffet supper and an open wine, beer and soda bar. The event will run from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm and feature *Sue Sarna* showing "Secret Treasures from TR's Basement." These are items never before publicly displayed.

Space is limited so get your reservation in quickly. Checks for \$75 per person are made payable to **The Friends of Sagamore Hill, Inc.** and are to be sent to The Friends at P.O. Box 270, Syosset, NY 11791. Any questions will be answered by *Ginny Uhlinger* at 516-364-1869



SAGAMORE HILL GETS STATE-WIDE PUBLICITY

The August 2010 issue of *Car & Travel*, the magazine of the AAA featured the **Historic Northeast and Five perfect places to explore our regions past**. The table of contents featured a large picture of TR while on page nineteen was a story about Sagamore Hill. The article referred to the site as "the crown jewel of Long Island's opulent Gold Coast." The unique part of the article is that it described Old Orchard and the museum but then stated, "...but the true gem of the house is its 'backyard', the half-mile nature trail behind the house with oak trees shading our journey and ospreys diving into the nearby water. The walk includes a seemingly endless (and rickety) wooden boardwalk over Eel Creek Salt Marsh and down to the natural beach on Cold Spring Harbor. It is a perfect spot to escape the worries of the day and to imagine the Roosevelts taking a quick dip." The writer of the article must have visited the site a few years ago, before the bridge was rebuilt by the Navy Seabees.

JUSTUS TO ALL NEWS FROM THE CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION



SAHI radios will be losing weight. New lithium batteries, nearly half the weight of the current batteries, are on order and should arrive on site shortly. Radio harnesses will also be coming and are for the use of volunteers. A shoulder or strap mounted microphone will be available which will make radio transmission easier and quicker.

A new suggestion box for visitors has been ordered and will be placed in a prominent location in or near the Visitor Center. A new comment book has been installed at Old Orchard and is getting use from visitors.

During the month of October we will be re-keying the TRH. More details will be made available as the date approaches.

Sat. Sept. 25 is Public Lands Day which will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon. We hope to attract volunteers to help clean up certain areas of the site. The clean-up of the beach and the removal of invasive plants are the prime targets. No fees will be charged on that day.

Sat. Oct.23 is Sagamore Hill Days Family Festival. We will be celebrating TR's birthday four days early.

**A reminder:** If you will not be working at the time and day for which you are expected, please notify Josh Reyes at ext. 26 or write your information on the board over Debbie's desk in the Visitor Center.

TRH WALK THROUGHS CURTAILED

All walk-throughs will be limited to 20 people only. These tours will only be available at 4:20pm and 4:40pm.

\$500 YOURS FOR THE TAKING

The taking has to do with pictures of national parks and the \$500 is yours if your photo is one of those selected. Each year Eastern National holds a contest to select ten new images for the collectible **Passport To Your National Parks** stamp series. Image submissions of national parks with special events or anniversary celebrations during 2011 are encouraged and a brief statement about the event should be enclosed with the photograph. **National parks previously featured on Passport stamps are not eligible for the contest.** The contest is only open to NPS employees and VIPs, who can submit photos from parks not yet featured even if their own park has been highlighted. **NOTE:** Sagamore Hill has been previously featured. For a list of those parks that have previously been featured, go to [www.EasternNational.org](http://www.EasternNational.org). For further clarification contact Eastern National at 215-283-6900 ext.158. The complete announcement is on the bulletin board in the staff room of the TRH.