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Sagamore Hill



Qui Plantavit Curabit

“He Who Has Planted Will Preserve,” the motto of the Roosevelt Family

Her name was Ethel Carow Roosevelt Derby. She was born at Sagamore Hill in 1891. Her father, Theodore Roosevelt, was the U.S. Civil Service Commissioner under President Benjamin Harrison. She died 86 years later, in 1977, at her home in Oyster Bay, New York, the village where she had always lived.

Mrs. Derby was the guiding force in the efforts of the Theodore Roosevelt Association to preserve Sagamore Hill as an historic site after the death of her mother Edith Kermit Roosevelt in 1948. Because of Mrs. Derby, there is a Sagamore Hill National Historic Site. Her godson, former Congressman Leonard W. Hall, whose father worked at Sagamore Hill and was her ally in the move-

ment to save the historic house, has said: “The lady who led the charge up Sagamore Hill was Ethel Derby. ‘No’ was not in her vocabulary.”

In addition to the preservation of Sagamore Hill, Ethel Roosevelt Derby accomplished many other public services. She accompanied her husband, Dr. Richard Derby, whom she married in 1913, to France to work in the American Ambulance Hospital during World War I. She was the first Roosevelt to work in the war zone.

Throughout the years that followed she worked with the American Red Cross. She was Nassau County Chairman of the Red Cross during World War II, and later Chairman of the Nassau County Nursing Service.



Like her father Mrs. Derby was greatly interested in conservation and natural history. For over 40 years she served on committees at the American Museum of Natural History where she helped found the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund to provide research grants in conservation, ecology, and natural history study.

She was also an active member of other causes, such as the Oyster Bay

Community Foundation, a local public service which she helped found in 1965.

Mrs. Derby took a leading part in endeavors to preserve her father's memory and ideals. She was a frequent visitor at Sagamore Hill, often taking school children or other visitors through her childhood home. She was always available to help scholars, writers, and the public better understand Teddy Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States. She was an officer of the Theodore Roosevelt Association. On October 28, 1977, shortly before her death, she was awarded the Association's Theodore Roosevelt Distinguished Service Medal.

Dr. and Mrs. Derby had four children, a son and three daughters. Dr. Derby died in 1963. Mrs. Derby is survived by two daughters and nine grandchildren.

Ethel Roosevelt Derby combined the qualities of graciousness, gentleness, sweetness, serenity of spirit, and humility with those of strength, activism, courage, and determination. Her favorite quotation of her father's was on his heroic commission to his followers during the 1912 campaign — "In the long fight for righteousness the watchword for all of us is spend and be spent." That was Mrs. Derby's watchword to the end.

The Sagamore Story

Mrs. Reginald P. Rose

I had always known of Sagamore as had most of America, but I only saw the house twice before Mrs. Roosevelt's death. I went there in 1947 with Mrs. Richard Derby, T. R.'s daughter, and walked around the ground floor with no idea that in time I would come to know the house as well as my own.

After Mrs. Roosevelt's death in 1948 the question of the ultimate disposition of Sagamore Hill as one of the outstanding historic spots in the United States became the most controversial issue that had faced our community in years. Many residents of the Incorporated Village of Cove Neck felt that the intrusion of a public building violated their rights as residents. I at-

tended one meeting of the Village, only as an observer, and came away without too much hope that Sagamore could be saved – but even so, I felt strongly that the house should become available to the public.

The story of the saving of Sagamore Hill is a book in itself. It is not my story; it came through the untiring efforts of a small group who should be remembered if only for their wisdom and purpose in preserving the house of a great man.

The firm of Chapman, Evans and Delehanty were engaged as architects for whatever structural renovation was needed, and the work was placed under the direction of Mr. Robert I. Powell of that firm. A new heating system was in-



stalled, ceilings were replastered, and a new staircase was added to expedite the flow of visitors who would eventually go to the rooms on the third floor. By the spring of 1952, the house was sound again and ready to be returned to its former period in decoration. It was decided to restore it to the period of the presidency — 1901-1909 — the closing years of the gaslight era. The walls were stripped of their last paper, the electric brackets were removed, and the job of restoration began.

An historic photograph of the Library showed a small pattern paper with a deep wallpaper border. The narrow cornice moulding below the border had been removed and was put back so

that the pictures might be hung as they were in the 1900's. In the files of the Theodore Roosevelt Association was an excellent photograph of the President seated at his desk — a picture that established a number of facts. It showed the thin curtains, the desk ornaments, and the nickel plated telephone. The chairs and tables, the pictures on the wall, the bronzes, and the ornaments on the mantel were all placed according to the early photographs.

In some ways the Drawing Room was the most difficult and yet the most rewarding room in the house with which to work. The photographs indicated that it resembled a New York drawing room rather than one in a coun-



try house although a sense of less formality appeared in the picture. The room was dressy and charming, but neither heavy nor ornate.

A letter of Mrs. Roosevelt's mentioned that the walls were blue and this baffled me for some time. By the tones of gray in the photograph, it was apparent that the walls were lighter in color than the woodwork. Finally, by the simple expedient of scraping the woodwork in small patches all over the room the lovely blue color emerged. Under the blue was bare wood so it was immediately obvious that the original color had been found.

While all the color work was going on, a close inspection of the photo-

graph showed a metal ceiling and cornice in the drawing room, long since gone. I felt it very important to restore these two typical details; and Mr. Ralph Howell, the contractor, found me the proper ceiling and moulding. It took a lot of work to find them; they are rarely made for modern houses and Mr. Howell's enthusiasm for correct restoration was of the greatest help. Now the walls and ceiling were done, the Aubusson rug was laid, the bear and other skins put back and the furniture was placed.

Virtually all the furniture in this room is original and in its former place. One table was added, a close companion to the one formerly next to the sofa.

From the photograph I could see the type of material used for upholstery and curtains and knew from Mrs. Roosevelt's letter that the over-curtains were blue and the sofa cushions red. Then when I found a scrap of the original upholstery material in a trunk upstairs, everything began to fit in its proper place.

J. Thorp and Company most generously donated all the material used in the house and their tremendous help in working to achieve the proper feeling of the time cannot be overemphasized. The sofas and chairs were returned to their original tufted and buttoned state of upholstery, the lace curtains were generously loaned by the Museum of the City of New York and the Sèvres orna-

ments and lamp replaced as before. As a last touch the serene and lovely picture of Mrs. Roosevelt was hung over the bookcase to show that this was her room and reflected her taste. The portrait originally hung in the library where it could not have been seen by the public, and the new place for it seemed a logical and correct move.

In the North Room, at the end of the hall, very little was changed and no additions were needed. The only major change was with respect to the position of the President's portrait. It formerly hung to the right of the steps and, since it would have been impossible for the public to have a proper view

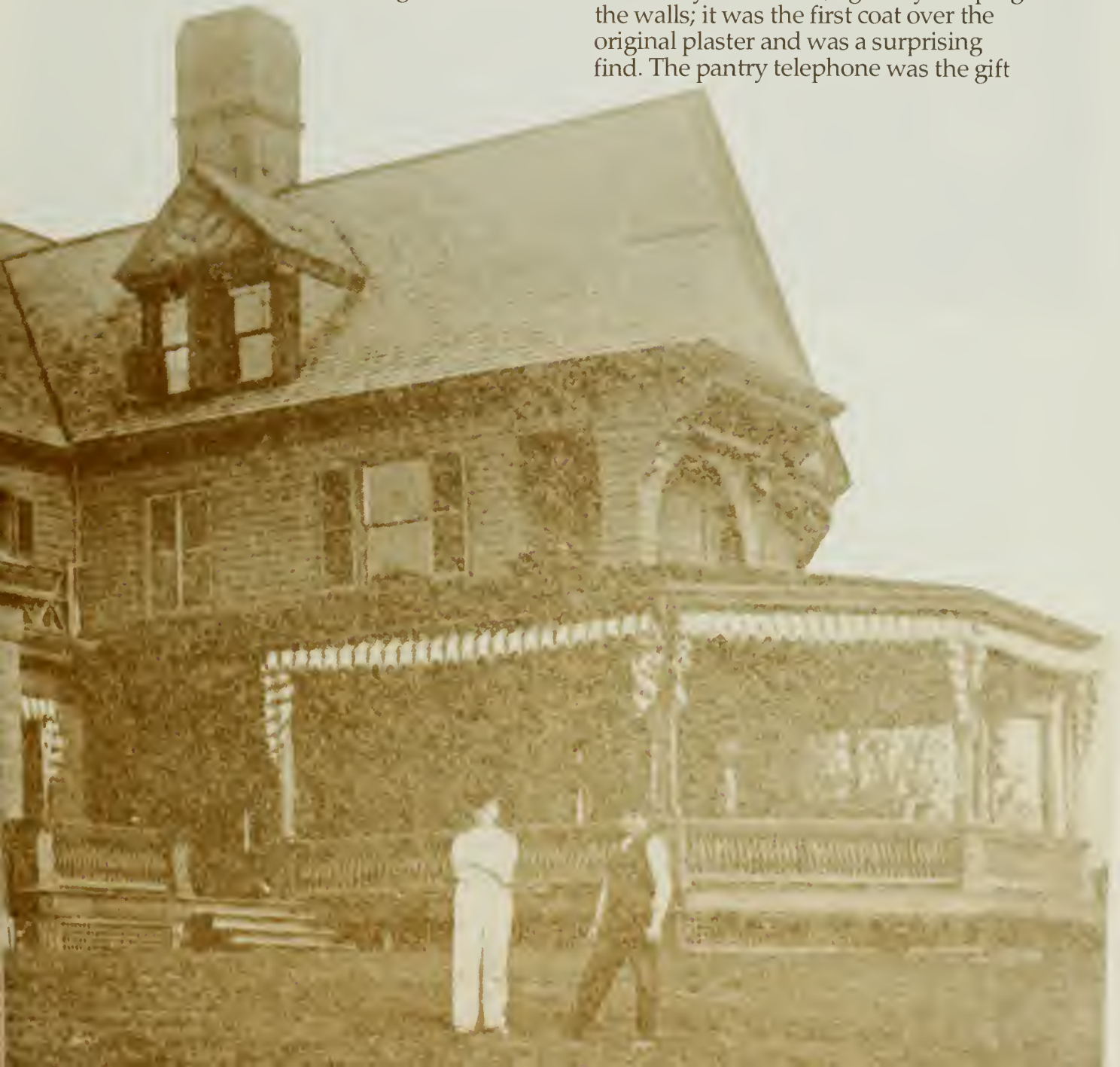


of it in that spot, the end of the room seemed the ideal placing—and many favorable comments of visitors have justified this decision. The wallpaper in the panels was repaired and saved; the furniture was put back in its original place; the bronzes, books, and heads all were returned to their former positions. The Rough Rider hat, sword, and binoculars were hung once again on the antler of the elk head, as the President had originally placed them.

An historic photograph of the Dining Room showed clearly that the furniture was the set bought in Florence

by the President and Mrs. Roosevelt on their wedding trip. This was returned to Sagamore by a member of the family to whom it had been given and the dining room today is exactly as it was originally. Close inspection with a magnifying glass indicated that the wallpaper had a small design and Strahan and Company were able to find the paper now on the walls which closely resembles the former paper. I had no guide to go by for curtains so I used the coloring of the paper and screen in selecting the velvet draperies.

The unusual and lovely color of the Pantry was found, again by scraping the walls; it was the first coat over the original plaster and was a surprising find. The pantry telephone was the gift





of the New York Telephone Company since the original one had been removed, but the family remembered that the only telephone in the house was on that pantry panel until the President felt the pressure of business and had one installed in the library.

The Kitchen woodwork had been painted green in recent years and was returned to its varnished glory. Those were the days when the painters wished they had never seen me; removing two coats of paint from woodwork was a long and tiresome job. It seems hard to believe that the stove in Sagamore was never changed, but it was used for cooking until 1948. The tables and chairs are the same, in fact all that was added was the sugar barrel and the wall brackets.

Going up to the second floor, the first room that should be mentioned is

the one that was President and Mrs. Roosevelt's bedroom. The wonderful Chinese bedspread gave the room so much color that the upholstery material was picked with a view to blending in with the furniture rather than having any contrast. The last small touches were added — the little hurricane lamp that the President carried when he walked down the outside stairs in the evening, Mrs. Roosevelt's table dressing set and smelling salts, and the room now recaptured the spirit of those who lived there.

As there were no early pictures for reference for the bedroom floor, once the basic pieces of furniture were put back, it was necessary, in some rooms, to use a little imagination as to what might have been. Every research fact that could be found or remembered was utilized,



and, beyond that, family things were used to best advantage with a piece added here and there.

In the President's Dressing Room the bureau and wash stand are family pieces and the very unusual rocking chair was a gift. The Navy cloak that hangs on the door is a cloak that President Roosevelt often wore. In a bureau drawer I found the R of S. towels embroidered by Mrs. Roosevelt to keep the laundry from being confused with that of other members of the family living in Cove Neck.

In one of Mrs. Roosevelt's letters she had mentioned that the "red bathroom was a great success." The bathroom, when I found it, was painted gray with varnished woodwork. The latter showed no signs of ever having been painted. This was the conservative era

of white bathrooms. Finally, by dint of paint remover, turpentine and a knife, the Pompeian red emerged from its gray covering; and it became apparent that Mrs. Roosevelt's red bathroom was, once more, to become a great success. The fringed towels were put back, the splash board rehung and the shaving stand set up by the window.

The large bedroom at the head of the stairs where Mrs. Roosevelt lived in the last decade has its original furniture and ornaments. A chair was added to take the place of one formerly in the window and the furniture was recovered in materials suitable for the period in order to match what many feel is the prettiest wallpaper in the house.

The family nursery was reconstructed by Mrs. John W. Mackay. We both felt that straw matting would have



been used in a nursery at that period and people tell me that even the aromatic smell brings back their childhood. I know it does that to me and I can remember the slippery feeling of the matting on my bare feet. Curiously, it was the hardest single item to find in the restoration of Sagamore. I went, unsuccessfully, from one importing firm to another, and it was finally through the kindness of Mr. James Keillor, Vice-President of B. Altman, that one roll was discovered in New York. It was given to Sagamore by the Mallison Company.

All the furniture in the nursery belonged to the Roosevelt family, the crib, bed, washstand, chairs, and sewing machine. Most of the toys were originally played with at Sagamore, though Mrs. Mackay added a few of the period

that she was able to find. The Teddy Bear that sits in the small chair to the left of the tiny table was, appropriately enough, the gift of the man whose father made the first Teddy Bear and asked to name it after Mr. Roosevelt.

In the southwest bedroom, known to the family as the "Gate Room" the furniture is earlier in period than that in the other bedrooms. The rocking chair is the only addition and was given by Miss Mary Fanny Youngs, from whose family the Sagamore Hill property was purchased in 1884.

A special word must be said of the lighting in the house. There was no electricity in Sagamore until after the period of the presidency; gas brackets, Welsbach burners, and kerosene lamps provided the illumination. Fortunately, many of the old lamps had been wired



in more modern days, and we merely replaced them on tables. The gas brackets had been removed but the original backs were still on the walls and showed the correct location for the gas outlets. Each one was wired as a concession to modern living and then the hunt for the gas arms began. Mr. Elisha Dyer walked up and down Second and Third Avenues in New York and located a few; others came from the Ford Museum at Dearborn; and, gradually, enough pairs and single arms were collected. I was anxious to show the different varieties of fixtures used at the period, straight arms, curved arms, with hinges, and all different kinds of globes. It seemed somewhat easier to find the simple arms than the elaborate ones needed for the ground floor. Eventually, however, I located a gas chandelier from the Grand Union

Hotel in Saratoga Springs, and was able to use the arms for the brackets now in the Drawing Room and Dining Room.

The restoration of Sagamore Hill is not finished; ornaments and furniture originally in the house will come back in due course and in time take the place of later additions. It is the hope of those of us who had the privilege, the experience and, above all, the great pleasure of restoring this house that we have preserved the spirit of the era and helped to give to the American people the house of a great family.

The author has served as the Chairman of the Sagamore Hill Committee of the Theodore Roosevelt Association. With Mrs. Richard Derby, Elisha Dyer, and others, she supervised the original restoration of Sagamore Hill.

Copy courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities.

Theodore Roosevelt and Sagamore Hill: A Chronology



1858—Theodore Roosevelt is born on October 27 in his family's New York City brownstone house, now the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site, 28 East 20th Street. His parents are Theodore and Martha Bulloch Roosevelt.

1880—T.R. graduates from Harvard University, and marries Alice Hathaway Lee of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

1881—T.R. is elected at the age of 23 to the New York State Assembly from a Manhattan district; reelected 1882 and 1883.

1882—*The Naval History of the War of 1812* is published, the first of more than fifty books written by T.R.

1883—T.R. purchases land on Cove Neck in Oyster Bay, Long Island.

1884—A daughter, named Alice after her mother, is born on February 12. Then, suddenly, on February 14, T.R.'s mother and wife both die. Two weeks later, T.R. signs a contract for the construction of a house at Cove Neck. In June T.R. goes to Medora, North Dakota, where he operates cattle ranches for the next two years.

1885—Construction of the house that came to be called "Sagamore Hill" is completed.

1886—T.R. returns East to become Republican candidate for Mayor of New York. He is defeated. In December, in London, he weds his childhood friend Edith Kermit Carow.

1887—Theodore and Edith take up residence at Sagamore Hill. Theodore, Jr. is born September 13.

1889—T.R. is appointed to the U.S. Civil Service Commission by President Benjamin Harrison; he serves until 1895 and works to replace the "spoils" with the merit system. Son Kermit born October 10, 1889.

1891—Daughter Ethel Carow is born August 13.





1894—Son Archibald Bulloch is born April 9.

1895—T.R. is appointed to the New York City Police Board and serves as President until 1897.

1897—T.R. is appointed Assistant Secretary of The Navy by President William McKinley. Son Quentin is born November 19.

1898—T.R. resigns as Assistant Secretary of the Navy in May to help Leonard Wood organize the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, soon known as the “Rough Riders,” for service in the Spanish-American War. The Rough Riders land in Cuba in June, and capture San Juan Hill on July 1. The regiment is mustered out at Montauk Point, Long Island in September, and that month, at Sagamore Hill, T.R. is notified of his nomination for Governor of New York. T.R. elected Governor on November 8.

1900—T.R. nominated for Vice President on the Republican ticket with President McKinley. Notification ceremony at Sagamore Hill on July 12; elected Vice President November 6.

1901—March 4, T.R. takes oath of office as Vice President. On September 14, after the assassination of President McKinley, T.R. takes the oath of office as the twenty-sixth President of the United States at the Wilcox House, Buffalo, New York. At 42 years old, T.R. is the youngest President in American history. In October T.R. institutes the Northern Securities suit under the Sherman Act, beginning his policy of “trust busting.”

1902—T.R. settles the Anthracite Coal Strike, the first time a President had intervened in a strike on behalf of the general public. The same year, with the passage of the Reclamation Act, Roosevelt begins his policy of conservation. Under the Roosevelt administration, the first federal bird and wildlife preserves are established; the area of national forests is increased from 43 to 194 million acres; five new national parks are created; and “natural monuments,” such as



Muir Woods, are set aside, protected under federal law.

1903— Under T.R.'s leadership, the U.S. begins construction of the Panama Canal.

1904— T.R. officially notified of nomination for President at Sagamore Hill on July 27, is elected in November by landslide majority.

1905— T.R. successfully mediates the peace in the Russo-Japanese War. For his efforts he is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He is the first American to win a Nobel Prize in any category. North or Trophy Room is added to Sagamore Hill to provide space for receptions.

1906— Pure Food and Drug Act, Meat Inspection Acts are passed, milestones in consumer protection. The Hepburn Act is passed to regulate railroads.

1907— The American Great White Fleet is sent around the world on tour.

1908— T.R. declines to run for reelection as President, and supports William Howard Taft, who is elected.

1909— T.R. leaves the White House and embarks on an African expedition for the Smithsonian Institution.

1910— After a triumphal tour of Europe, T.R. returns to the U.S. On August 31 at Osawatimie, Kansas, T.R. delivers his "New Nationalism" speech, calling for a continuation and expansion of his reform policies as President.

1912— T.R. breaks with President Taft, who has sided with the conservatives in the Republican Party, and becomes a candidate for the G.O.P. nomination. T.R. sweeps the popular primaries, but Taft is renominated and Roosevelt's followers organize the Progressive Party, nicknamed the "Bull Moose" party. T.R. nominated by the Progressive convention on August 6, and calls for extensive reforms, including votes for women and welfare measures. On October 14 in Mil-



waukeee, Wisconsin, T.R. is shot by a fanatic, but survives and continues the campaign. In November the Democratic candidate Woodrow Wilson is elected due to the split in the normal Republican vote; T.R. comes in second, Taft third.

1914—In February T.R. begins an 800-mile expedition on the uncharted River of Doubt in Brazil. The river is later renamed the “Rio Roosevelt.”

1915—As World War I is raging in Europe, T.R. campaigns for military preparedness and opposes President Wilson’s neutrality policy.

1916—T.R. is renominated for President by the Progressive Party but declines and backs Republican Charles Evans Hughes against Wilson, who is reelected.

1917—U.S. enters World War I; T.R. offers to raise regiment for service but is refused by the Wilson administration.

1918—Quentin Roosevelt, now a fighter pilot in France, is killed. T.R. tours the U.S. for the Liberty Loan, and in the fall leads the Republican Congressional campaign. When the Republicans win, observers predict T.R. will be nominated for President by the G.O.P. in 1920.

1919—On January 6, age 60, T.R. dies in his sleep. Two days later, he is buried in Youngs Cemetery, Oyster Bay.

1948—Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, age 87, dies at Sagamore Hill.

1950—The Theodore Roosevelt Association purchases Sagamore Hill.

1953—On June 14, President Dwight D. Eisenhower dedicates Sagamore Hill as an “historic shrine” open to the public.

1963—The Theodore Roosevelt Association gives Sagamore Hill and the T.R. Birthplace in New York City to the American people. The areas are entrusted to the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Sagamore Hill

PRESENT PRESIDENT WITH SOUVENIR OF OYSTER BAY



Participating in ceremonies making Theodore Roosevelt's Oyster Bay home a National Shrine last Sunday were: (rear) Girl Scout Betty Jean Michie, Eagle Scout Peter Wiler presenting President Eisenhower with Oyster Shell Souvenir, symbolic of Oyster Bay suitably inscribed, "To President Eisenhower, Oyster Bay's 300th Anniversary." In the front row are Brownie Martha James, Cub Scout David George and Boy Scout Gerald Raymon. Leonard W. Hall, National Republican Committee Chairman, appears in the background at President's left.

—Vincent, Glen Cove.

Dedication Of Sagamore Hill Sunday Attracts Thousands

Crowds Brave Elements To See Dwight D. Eisenhower Pay Tribute To 'T. R.' Here

Despite inclement weather, an estimated crowd of 20,000 braved the roads from Mitchel Field to Oyster Bay and another crowd of 10,000 welcomed President Eisenhower and other prominent national figures at the dedication of Sagamore Hill, home of the late President, Theodore Roosevelt as a national shrine here on Sunday.

The dedication, by Governor Thomas E. Dewey and President Eisenhower took place on the front porch of the 69-year-old building. Former President Herbert Hoover and Leonard W. Hall, chairman, Republican National Committee, who also spoke, pointed to the endearing qualities of Americanism symbolized by the memory of "T. R."

President Eisenhower was greeted by Archibald Roosevelt, only surviving son of President Theodore Roosevelt and by former President Herbert Hoover.

The President was then shown through the old house by Mrs. Ritchie and Mrs. Alice Roosevelt, "T. R.'s" daughters.

McCoy, pres-

July 8th Deadline For Clerk-Carrier

Oyster Bay Postmaster John J. ... applications for the Civil Service position of substitute carrier-clerk must be filed not later than July 8th.

The substitute job carries a starting rate of \$1.61 1/2 per hour and application may be obtained at the local Post Office.

Local Youth Will Represent Legion At "Boys State"

Quentin Roosevelt Post, No. 4, Selects Tad Brown As Delegate To Colgate University

Tad Brown of East Norwich, student at Oyster Bay High School, has been elected to ...



Associated Press

GREETINGS: President Eisenhower being welcomed at Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, by former President Herbert Hoover.

Theodore Roosevelt's Home Made Shrine by Eisenhower

By JAMES A. HAGERTY

Special to The New York Times

OYSTER BAY, L. I., June 14—Sagamore Hill, home of Theodore Roosevelt, twenty-sixth President of the United States, and its summer capital from 1901 to 1908, became today a national shrine, dedicated by Dwight D. Eisenhower, the thirty-fourth President, and Thomas E. Dewey, Governor of New York.

[Text of President's speech at Oyster Bay is on Page 10.]

Speaking from the front porch of the 69-year-old building, from which Theodore Roosevelt spoke when notified of his nomination for Vice President on the Republican ticket in 1900 and for President in 1904, President Eisenhower issued a proclamation designating the week beginning today as "Theodore Roosevelt Week."

Members of the local committee

T. R.'S DESCENDANTS STIR ECHO OF PAST

Antics of Great-Grandchildren Enliven Events at Oyster Bay —20,000 Line Approaches

By EDITH EVANS

a U.S. Shrine.

The Texts of Eisenhower Speeches at Dartmouth and Oyster Bay

Following are the texts of President Eisenhower's addresses yesterday at Dartmouth College, from the Columbia Broadcasting System's recording, and at Oyster Bay, L. I., as recorded by THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Speech at Dartmouth

President Dickey, Secretary Pearson, members of Dartmouth's family, and their friends:

Your president possesses a brash bravery approaching foolhardiness when he gives to me this platform in front of such an audience with no other admonition except to say, speak informally and giving me no limits of any other kind.

He has forgotten, I think, that old soldiers love to reminisce, and that they are in addition notoriously garrulous. But I have certain limitations of my own. I learned throughout these many years, and I think they will serve to keep me from offending too deeply.

But even if I do offend, I beg in advance the pardon of those families and friends and sweethearts that are waiting to greet these new graduates with a chaste handshake of congratulation, and assure you that any overstaying of my time was unintentional, and just merely a product of my past up-bringing.

First, I could not pass this occasion without the traditional congratulations to this class—the completion of four years of arduous work at a college of such standing as Dartmouth, and of which there is no higher.

Next, I think I may be pardoned if I congratulate you on the quality of the addresses you have heard today up to this moment. I think that your commencement address and the two valedictory addresses establish a standard that could well be one to be emulated even here in the future.

Subject Fun and Courage

Now, with your permission, I want to talk about two points—two qualities today—that are purely personal. I am not going to be an exhorter, as Secretary Pearson has said. I want to talk about these two things, and merely suggest to you certain ideas concerning them.

I am going to talk about fun—joy—happiness, just fun in life. And I am going to talk a little about courage.

Now, as to fun, to get myself straight at once, for fear that in my garrulous way I might stray from my point, I shall say this:

Unless each day can be looked back upon by an individual as one in which he has had some fun, some joy, some real satisfaction, that day is a loss. It is un-Christian and wicked, in my opinion, to allow such a thing to occur.

Now, there are many, many different things, thoughts and ideas that will contribute—many acts of your own that will contribute to the fun you have out of life. You go along the bank of a stream in the tropics and there is a crocodile lying in the sun. He looks the picture of contentment.

They tell me that often they live to be a great age—a hundred years or more. Still lying in the sun, and that is all they do.

Now, by going to Dartmouth, by coming this far along the road, you have achieved certain standards, and one of those standards is, it is no longer so easy for you to have fun—you can't be like a crocodile and sleep away your life and be satisfied. You must do something, and normally it must involve you.

—It's a rite,

The President Dedicates Sagamore Hill as a Shrine



Associated Press Wirephoto

View of crowds in front of Theodore Roosevelt's home in Oyster Bay for informal ceremony



The New York Times

Members of the Roosevelt family watch proceedings from the porch of the house. Left to right: Mrs. Alice Longworth and Mrs. Richard Derby, daughters; Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt and Mrs. Quentin Roosevelt, daughters-in-law. The boys and girls in the foreground are the Roosevelt great grandchildren.

vett Week" By the President of the United States of America—A Proclamation:

Whereas Theodore Roosevelt holds an honored place in the annals of our country as a spirited soldier, a farsighted statesman, an intrepid explorer and a forceful writer, and

Whereas the dedication of Theodore Roosevelt's home at Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, New York, as a national shrine is to take place during the week of June 14th, 1953; and

Whereas the Congress by a joint resolution approved on June 13th, 1953 has designated the week beginning June 14th, 1953 as Theodore Roosevelt Week in honor of our former President and has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe that week by paying tribute to the achievements and memory of Theodore Roosevelt;

Now, therefore, I, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon the people of the United States to observe the week beginning June 14th, 1953, as Theodore Roosevelt Week by paying tribute to the achievements and memory of that great American. And I urge interested individuals and organizations to take part in appropriate ceremonies commemorative of the inspiring role of Theodore Roosevelt in our national heritage.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal. (President signed his name to the dedication certificate) which I trust makes this ceremony the beginning of a week of spontaneous tribute to one of the greatest Americans that we have produced.

An Army Custom Referred To

I want to refer for a second to the Army and some of its customs. In its schools and its educational system we are required to study the processes, the acts, the decisions of leaders of the past.

Now, contrary to popular notions, these studies are not confined to the decisions of military commanders. We look up and study the actions of leaders to see what were the problems facing them; how did they analyze them; how did they reach their decisions, what did they do?

One of the men who was a favorite for study in my generation was Theodore Roosevelt.

Now there is one thing that I should like to say—to speak about—that I learned during that study. We are apt, I think, when we cast our minds back to dramatic figures of the past to overdramatize them. For example, Of Teddy Roosevelt of the Rough Riders we like to think in his relationships with the Congress that he galloped down Pennsylvania on a spirited charger with his sabre drawn, rushed into the Senate or the House, demanded what he wanted and rode out with everybody cowed.

And that, in more or less a rough similarity is paralleled in every picture we have in our minds of what he did.

Some Misconceptions Cited

But the fact is he was a wise leader. He wasn't a swash-buckler and he was not a hothead in his shop.

Governor Dewey has spoken to you about the illness of his predecessor he had to Albany. And when he went there he found that a great branch of his party headed by Mr. Platt was terrified at some of the programs for which Teddy Roosevelt stood.

Thomas Collier Platt Representative and twice a Senator, was one of the most powerful G. O. P. politicians in the last decade of the nineteenth century. He was a factor in the election of Theodore Roosevelt as Governor of New York in 1898 and in se-



Produced by:
The National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



In cooperation with:
The Theodore Roosevelt Association