

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

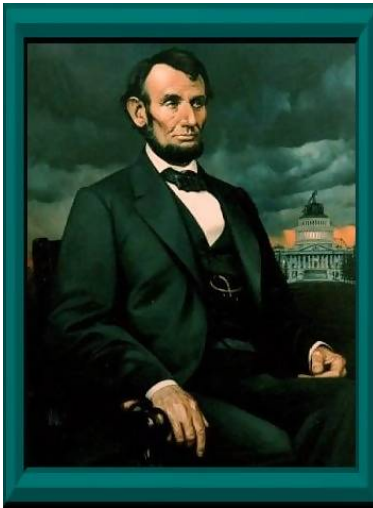
## TRIVIA



**ANSWER:** The bowl sits on the round table in the North Room next to the Japanese Samurai Warrior.

## DID TR SNUB LINCOLN?

By Mark Koziol



We are aware that TR, Elliott and Edith watched *Abraham Lincoln's* funeral cortège as it proceeded up Broadway in Manhattan. They watched from a window in his grandfather's house. But where was he during Lincoln's reburial in 1901?

The month of September 1901 was an extremely busy time for *Theodore Roosevelt* and for the country as well. At the beginning of the month, Vice-President *Theodore Roosevelt* was enjoying a family vacation in the Adirondack Mountains. At the end of the month, he was running the country as President of the United States. Ironically, a week after the assassinated President McKinley was buried; the body of President *Abraham Lincoln* was reburied for the last time in Springfield, Illinois.

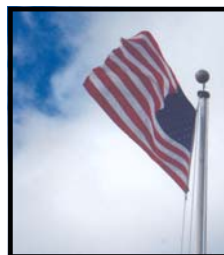
Following his assassination in 1865, President Lincoln was buried, with high honors in Oakwood Cemetery in his hometown of Springfield, Illinois. Shortly afterward, an elaborate monument and mausoleum was created to house the president and his deceased sons. On the night of November 7, 1876, two thieves attempted to steal Lincoln's body and hold it for ransom. They failed because several Secret Service agents, observing and then closing in on the thieves, disturbed them, causing the villains to flee into the night. Several days later, the two grave robbers were arrested in Chicago. This led officials to rebury Lincoln in a more secure manner in the cemetery.

By 1900, the Lincoln tomb and monument was in need of repair and expansion. President Lincoln's body was disturbed yet again and removed from its resting place to a less secure location, making it vulnerable to grave robbers. Despite an extensive renovation, *Robert Lincoln* was not happy with the tomb repairs because he feared his father's body remained vulnerable to would be grave robbers. Therefore, *Robert Lincoln* went to extremes to put his father's body out of reach forever. He ordered that the president's remains be buried 10 feet below ground, entombed inside a steel cage and covered with 4,000 pounds of cement. Prior to the final burial of *Abraham Lincoln*, and contrary to *Robert Lincoln's* wishes, it was decided to visually verify that the body was that of the 16<sup>th</sup> president. On September 26, 1901, workmen removed the coffin lid and 23 people examined the well preserved face and body of President Lincoln.

Did President *Theodore Roosevelt*, a passionate Lincoln admirer, attend these solemn ceremonies? He did not. One reasonable explanation was that TR honored the family request that the re-burial remain an extremely private event, one which even *Robert Lincoln* did not attend. It appears that even *John Hay*, TR's Secretary of State and one of Lincoln's presidential secretaries, did not attend the re-burial.

### STRONG WINDS AFFECTED FLAG RAISING

Strong winds on Friday, November 16 prevented the raising of the very large flag. *Howard Ehrlich* and *Josh Reyes* needed all their strength to get the smaller flag to the top of the pole. They expect to hear from *Greg Marshall* for not raising the very large flag.



# The Rough Writer

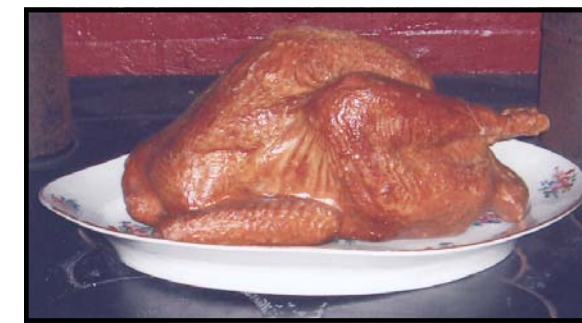
## The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

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Porcelain Towers by P. Marcius Simons on north wall in North Room



TR had a great Thanksgiving



Rarely seen north wall of Library

### SITE NEWS: PEOPLE



*Danni Brown*, former Chief of Interpretation, whose wife passed away a few years ago, has recently remarried. Danni is currently Chief of Interpretation at The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island National Historic Site. His new bride is a detective in the New York City Police Department. *Rose White* recently visited Ellis Island with her daughter and Danni gave her the VIP treatment.

*Monica Chirot*, Chief of Administration is retiring after twenty years in government service. She will pursue free-lance graphic arts work until her husband Alain retires in about two years. They have purchased a home in Spain and plan to retire there. Good luck Monica.



### SITE NEWS: EVENTS



On October 26, the day before TR's birthday, members of the crew of the aircraft carrier *USS Theodore Roosevelt* visited TR's gravesite and laid a wreath at his grave. After the ceremony they were given a tour of the house by *Howard Ehrlich*. They left patches from the carrier for the volunteers who were on duty

that day. *John Hammond*, of the *Friends of Sagamore Hill*, oversaw the hosting of the crew's activities. The Friends also supplied the wreath used at the gravesite

Fiber optic cable has been installed, connecting the TRH and other buildings, to hopefully ensure that the computer network of the site doesn't crash due to severe weather. Foul weather has caused many a day of computer failure.

### BEYOND THE BARRIER TOURS

Chief of Cultural Resources Amy Verone announced that the Beyond the Barrier tours of the first floor of the TRH will be held on the following Mondays: December 10th & 17th and January 14th & 28th. Tours will begin at 10am, and will be of two hour duration. Mark Koziol is handling sign-ups.

### NOTED AUTHOR VISITS SITE

Author *Doris Kearns Goodwin* and two of her researchers visited Sagamore Hill in late October. She insisted on taking a regular ranger guided tour. Ms. Kearns is researching for a book on TR which may focus on his post-presidential years. Volunteer *Leslie Handler*, was on a busman's holiday that particular Sunday and had an opportunity to have a discussion with the author. Later that month, Ms. Kearns was the featured speaker at the TRA annual meeting, held in Boston. An ardent Red Sox fan, she insisted on speaking at the beginning of the dinner so that she could get home to watch the Red Sox play (and win) in the World Series.

**PHIL SELLECK APPOINTED INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT**



*Phil Selleck* has been appointed Interim Superintendent of SAHI until the new superintendent, Tom Ross arrives in mid-January. Phil is currently the Chief Ranger at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and has over twenty years of service with NPS. A graduate of Michigan State University, Phil earned a BS degree in Natural Resources. While a Border Patrol Agent in Texas, he volunteered at a NPS site where his wife was employed. Phil has been an Interim Superintendent at Everglades National Park. He will keep the lights burning until his successor arrives.

**TRH IS SLATED FOR MAJOR REPAIRS**

The site is due to receive \$3.5 million to be used for systems modernization. This means that the heating, cooling and security systems will be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The planning process for this major project has begun with Park Service specialists meeting with SAHI staff. The house has no insulation and the plan calls for installing the most up to date materials. This will require the moving of all furniture, fixtures and artifacts out of the house and into a secure storage facility. This will probably not come about until 2010 or 2011 and will require the complete closing of the house. Separate planning is beginning to arrange the most appropriate method for keeping *Theodore Roosevelt's* legacy alive while the house is not available. The museum will be unaffected by this project. There will still be a need for staff and volunteers. Park staff will keep us informed.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING**



On Friday, November 2, *Bo Stein* held a session on which fire extinguisher to use in case of a fire and how to operate the extinguisher. Bo had a rapt audience of both volunteer and staff who learned that there are three types of extinguishers, each with an icon or icons that indicate if they are:

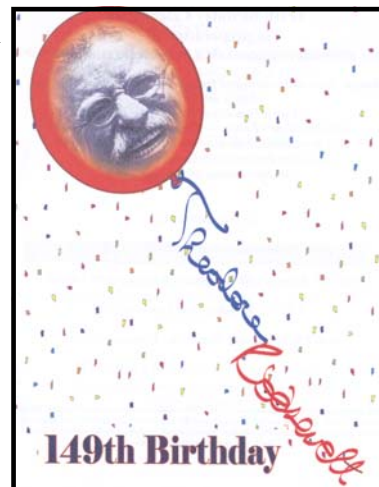
- Type A for wood and paper fires
- Type B for liquid fires (chemicals and gasoline)
- Type C for electrical fires

Most of the extinguishers on site are Type A-B-C for use on all fires. Type C extinguishers are found near fuse boxes and electrical panels. After demonstrating how to use the extinguisher, **go in low and use a sweeping motion**, he emphasized that **after two attempts** to extinguish a blaze, **get out of the building**. The extinguisher use is for small, self contained fires but everyone's prime responsibility is to get everyone out of the building following the proscribed exit routes. If you are not alone, have an associate get everyone out and have that person call the fire department. You can then give your attention to the small, self-contained fire. **If you are alone, forget the fire and lead everyone out of the building.**

**RAIN DAMPENS TR'S BIRTHDAY PARTY**

TR's 149<sup>th</sup> birthday was wet and windy. There were a number of festivities planned for Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> but it "rained on our parade," figuratively speaking. Although there were tours of the house, the family dress-up contest was curtailed for a lack of participants. The winner and runner-up were photographed in the Visitor Center. *Tom Strong* of the Rough Rider re-enactors and his horse *Finnean* were here to help with the festivities. There was a birthday cake, but it is suspected that because of the low turn out, a good deal of it was consumed by volunteers and staff. Our thanks go to the *Friends of Sagamore Hill* for supplying the refreshments for the day. Present from the Friends were current Chairperson *Marie Sasso* and former Chairperson *Joni Foote*.

Congratulations to Chief of Administration *Monica Chirot* for designing the promotion items used for this year's TR's Birthday Party. Plans are now underway for the Sesquicentennial Celebration of TR's Birth during the coming year.



**TRIVIA**



QUESTION: In which room of the TRH is this colorful bowl prominently displayed?

**NEW BOOK ABOUT ALICE**



Author *Stacy A. Cordery's* book on *Alice Roosevelt Longworth* has just been published. A review in the *New York Times* gives the subject higher marks than the author. The book is titled, **Alice Roosevelt Longworth: From White House Princess to Washington Power Broker**. The major portion of the book is based on Alice's autobiography, **Crowded Hours** and unpublished material supplied by Alice's granddaughter *Joanna Strum*. The book goes into detail about Alice's daughter Paulina, the father of whom was *Senator William Borah*. Both Nick, Alice's husband and *Senator Borah's* wife accepted the situation and apparently remained friendly. *Nick Longworth* claimed the child to be his own. The exact quote of the embroidered message on the pillow on the couch in Alice's home is, **"If you can't say something good about someone, sit right here by me."**

**NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS**

Congratulations to *Toby Selda* upon the birth of her new granddaughter, *River Selda*. Toby's son and his wife live in the wilds of British Columbia. The baby's name reflects the couple's life style.

Welcome back to *Rita Onorato* who spent six weeks in Italy traveling with her husband Frank. The last two weeks of their trip was spent teaching English at an Italian high school.

*Kathy McLeavy* is off to Spain with a tour group that includes ten close friends. She is sorry that she will be away for the Holiday Party.

*Rich Handler* is a lawyer in his own private practice. Somehow he is fitting in weekend school work at Columbia University study Historic Preservation. We hope he will represent the good guys.



**NEWS FROM THE TRA**

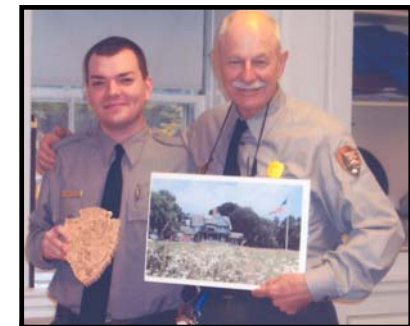


At the recent *Friends of Sagamore Hill* Board meeting, *James Bruns*, the President of the TRA, discussed the status of the planned TR Museum and Study Center. Mr. Bruns also announced that *The Theodore Roosevelt Association* is planning to move their headquarters to 20 Audrey Avenue in

downtown Oyster Bay. Their plans call for them to occupy the building TR used when he was Governor of New York. In honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TR's birth, the Annual Meeting of the TRA in 2008, will be held in Oyster Bay. The proliferation of the likeness and name of Theodore Roosevelt on everything from bar-b-que sauce to buttons may soon become a thing of the past. The TRA, which owns copyrights to TR's name and likeness, has hired a copyright lawyer to assess if and when they should press infringement claims.

On Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> TR received a posthumous award. *Scott Gurney* was Master of Ceremonies when TR received a **Judo 8<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt**, the highest award given by the United States Judo Society. The presentation was made to *Jim Bruns* for the TRA.

**SHAUN ROCHE BIDS FAREWELL**



*Shaun Roche* has resigned as a Park Guide. His last day was November 21. Shaun has taken a position in Canterbury, CT working for the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. Primarily he will be doing interpretive work at the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury. Shaun has been living on site while his wife lives

in Glastonbury, CT. In his new location he will be able to commute. Shaun's position at Sagamore Hill was temporary. Should a permanent position open at this site, Shaun might be able to return. On Thursday, November 15, Shaun was treated to a Farewell Party and was given a warm send-off. We wish him well in his new position.