

Edith's diary for the 29th contains this entry:

"August 29. Theodore left early and I went back to hospital... and spent the night at Corinne's."⁶

Theodore would catch a train for Vermont where he had engagements scheduled through September 6th, when he was then to rejoin the family in Tahawus, Adirondacks, New York. Events beyond his control changed those plans, and he would not join Edith until September 11th.

"August 30. Went early to hospital... Then took Quentin and Molly (Edith's maid) to Albany night boat."⁷

"August 31. Quentin and I and Molly arrived early at Albany. Took the train for North Creek and then drove 25 miles over a very hot and rough road to the Lower Club. At Aiden Lair, we found Mr. and Mrs. Sage and Kermit waiting on the road, and we took Kermit with us. Poor Quentin was very tired."



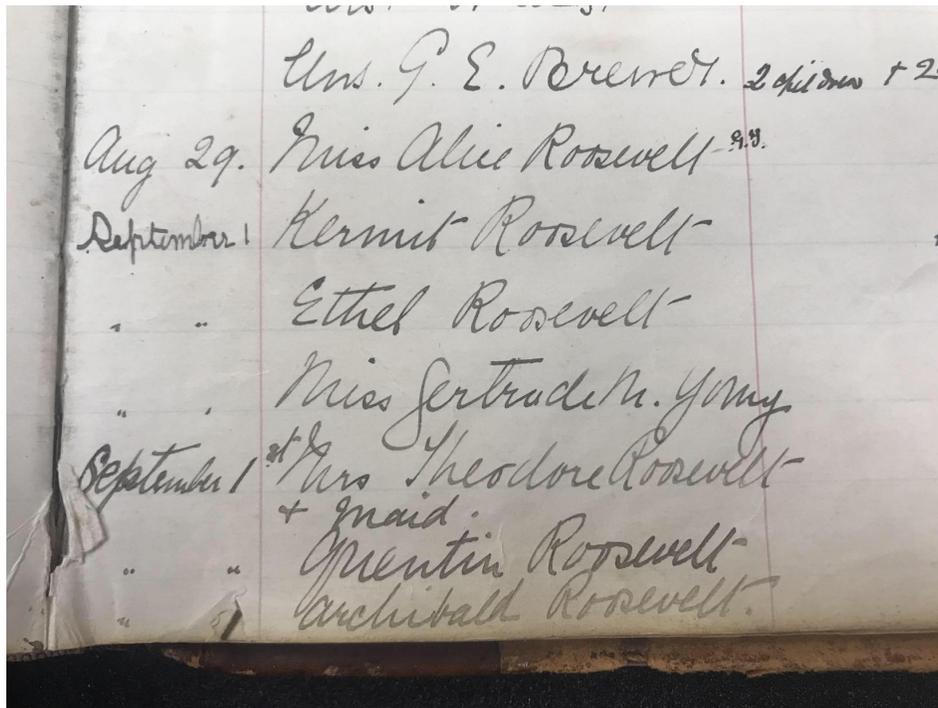
Guide Ira Hedden, Kermit Roosevelt, guide Walter Goodwin Sage Camp 1901⁸

Edith actually exchanged children. Miss Young & Alice had dropped off Kermit with the Sages on their way to Tahawus a couple days earlier, and Teddy her oldest son, returned with the Sages to their camp on the 31st. Dean and Sarah (Manning) Sage had been friends with the Roosevelts since his days in Albany as Assemblyman.⁹ They had a camp on Hewitt Lake, a mile east of Aiden Lair. Dean and Theodore shared a love of hunting in the west, and both were

members of the Boone and Crockett Club.¹⁰ Edith, Kermit and Molly met up with the rest of the family at the Lower Works club house, where they spent the night.

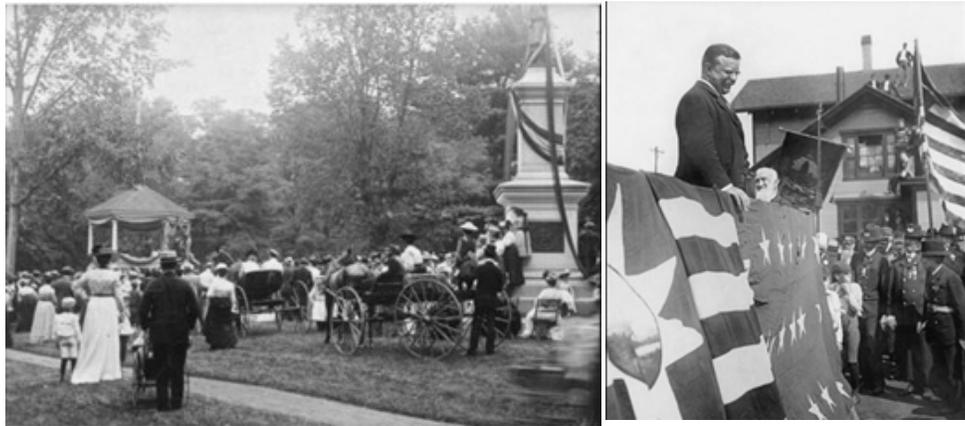
"Sunday, September 1. Drove up to Tahawus Club from the Lower Club in the morning and established ourselves comfortably in Mr. [James] MacNaughton's cottage. It is a beautiful, wild place."

The Tahawus Club registry records the arrival.



Note, Alice registered on the 29th at the Upper Works, while the family had stayed with Miss Young at the Lower Works waiting on the rest of the family to arrive.

Meanwhile, in Vermont, Theodore was in Battleboro on September 1st. The following photos are from the Battleboro Historical Society.



Theodore Roosevelt had a connection later in the century to Brattleboro. Sarah Alden Derby was the daughter of one of his children, Ethel Roosevelt. Sarah later went on to marry Vermont State Senator Robert T. Gannett and they resided in Brattleboro.¹¹

The following diary excerpts continue Mrs. Roosevelt's experience at the Tahawus Club Upper Works.¹²

"Monday, September 2. Showery but clearing. Mrs. Jennings asked Alice and myself to lunch at a camp on lake Sanford with them."

Walter Jennings, an original member of the Tahawus Club, served as Vice President in 1905 and President from 1913 to 1926 according to Masten's *The Tahawus Club*, Club Membership appendix.

"September 3. We all, except Quentin and Molly, walked over to Preston Pond, and the guide made us griddle cakes and bacon for our lunch. Mr. Herman Robinson, Alice's friend, went with us."

Herman Robinson, along brother Beverley, two Harvard graduates, would accompany Theodore on his ascent of Mount Marcy later in the week. Like Theodore, he was also a veteran of the Spanish-American War.

“September 4. Alice, Mr. Robinson, Kermit, Ethel, Archie, and I walked to Hawkner's (Harkness) Pond and beyond toward Lake Andrew carrying our lunch. Ted came back from Mr. Dean Sage's camp in the evening.” He signed into the Tahawus Club registry on September 4, 1901 (see Sept. 11th).

Theodore was in Rutland Vermont on September 4th for several speaking engagements. From there, he took the train to Burlington. The picture from the Burlington Historical Society, shows Theodore speaking from the train on its arrival.



Theodore spent the night of the 5th in Burlington.

Meanwhile in Tahawus, back to Edith's diary.

“September 5. Engaged guide, Johnny Hall, for Ted, and he went hunting but with no success. We spent the morning at Lake Henderson.”

“September 6. To Henderson's in a.m. Mrs. Dean Sage came shortly after lunch. Took her to row at Henderson's in the afternoon.”

Theodore's day did not go as smoothly.

Early in the morning of the 6th, Theodore boarded the yacht of Dr. William Seward Webb, owner of Shelburne Farms in Vermont and Great Camp Nehasane in the Adirondacks.



Theodore Roosevelt on the docks in Burlington September 6th -Burlington Historical Society



Theodore Roosevelt being rowed out to Webb's yacht the *Elfrida* – Burlington Historical Society

The destination was the large, west-facing summer home of Lt. Gov. Nelson Fisk on Isle La Motte. Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt was the guest of honor at the Vermont Fish & Game League annual luncheon. The league was a highly political organization, and 1,000 members had gathered to hear Roosevelt speak.



Steamboats and private vessels that carried many guests to the Vermont Fish and Game League's annual dinner tie up to the Fisk dock on Isle La Motte. Photo courtesy of Fisk Farm



Some of the roughly 1,000 people attending the annual dinner. Photo courtesy of Fisk Farm

Roosevelt was in his element: surrounded by gentlemen hunters and naturalists, all admirers of the Wild West adventurer who led the charge of San Juan Hill at the head of the U.S. Cavalry volunteer Rough Riders.

After the meal, Roosevelt was elected an honorary member of the league. Then Roosevelt and other dignitaries made speeches. "I am interested in all furred, finned and feathered inhabitants of the woods and waters," the vice president declared. He was an avid outdoorsman and some of his happiest hours had been while hunting and fishing. Roosevelt said deer were a valuable resource for a place like Vermont. Dead, they were worth little; but alive, they were "bait for city sportsmen. They do not always hit the deer and leave a hundred times the worth of the deer in money."

After the speeches, Roosevelt retired to the house to rest prior to an informal evening reception. Lt. Gov. Fisk owned the only telephone on the island. At 5:30 p.m., it rang. The call was for Roosevelt. The caller was the wife of the president of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., who relayed reports she had heard that the president had been shot. Moments later, a second call confirmed the news. Less than 90 minutes earlier, President William McKinley (just four years earlier also a guest of honor of a Fish & Game dinner at the Fisk home) had been shot while shaking hands with members of the public at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo— the third president to fall victim to an assassin's bullet in 36 years.

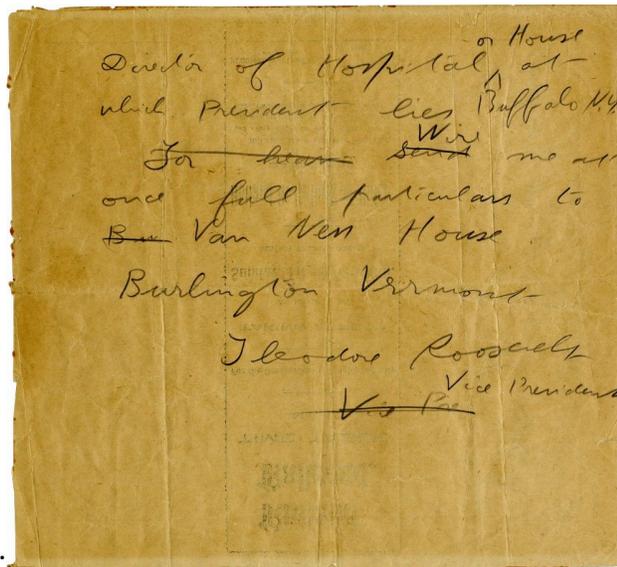
John Barrett, former U.S. minister to Siam (now Thailand), was in the room when Roosevelt got the news.

"He was changing his clothes when called to the telephone," Barrett told The New York Times. "As soon as he realized the meaning of the terrible news, a dazed expression followed by a look of unmistakable anguish came to his face, and tears immediately filled his eyes: He was plainly

laboring under deep emotion, and asked (Vermont) Senator (Redfield) Proctor, likewise keenly affected, to make the sad announcement to the waiting crowd.”

While Senator Proctor apprised the crowd of the details, Roosevelt and his aides left immediately for Buffalo. Dr. William Seward Webb took him back to Burlington aboard the *Elfrida*.¹³

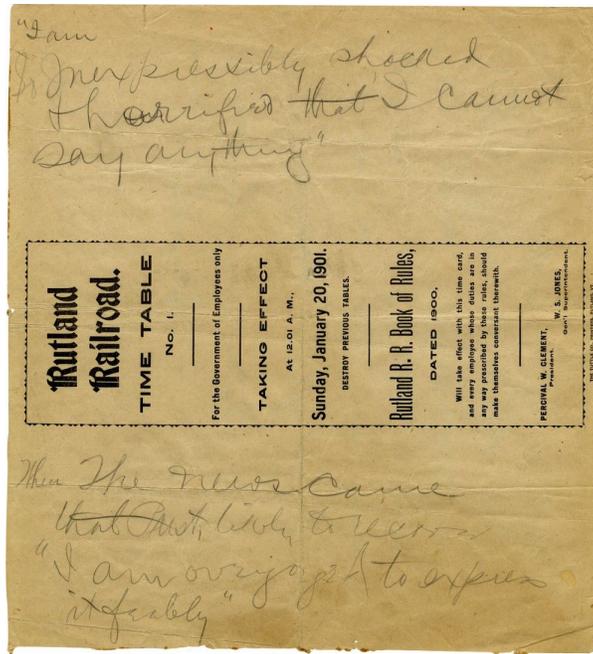
Theodore registered at the Van Ness House Hotel and immediately went to the Rutland Railroad depot to send a telegram to Buffalo he had hastily written on the back of a railroad



time table.

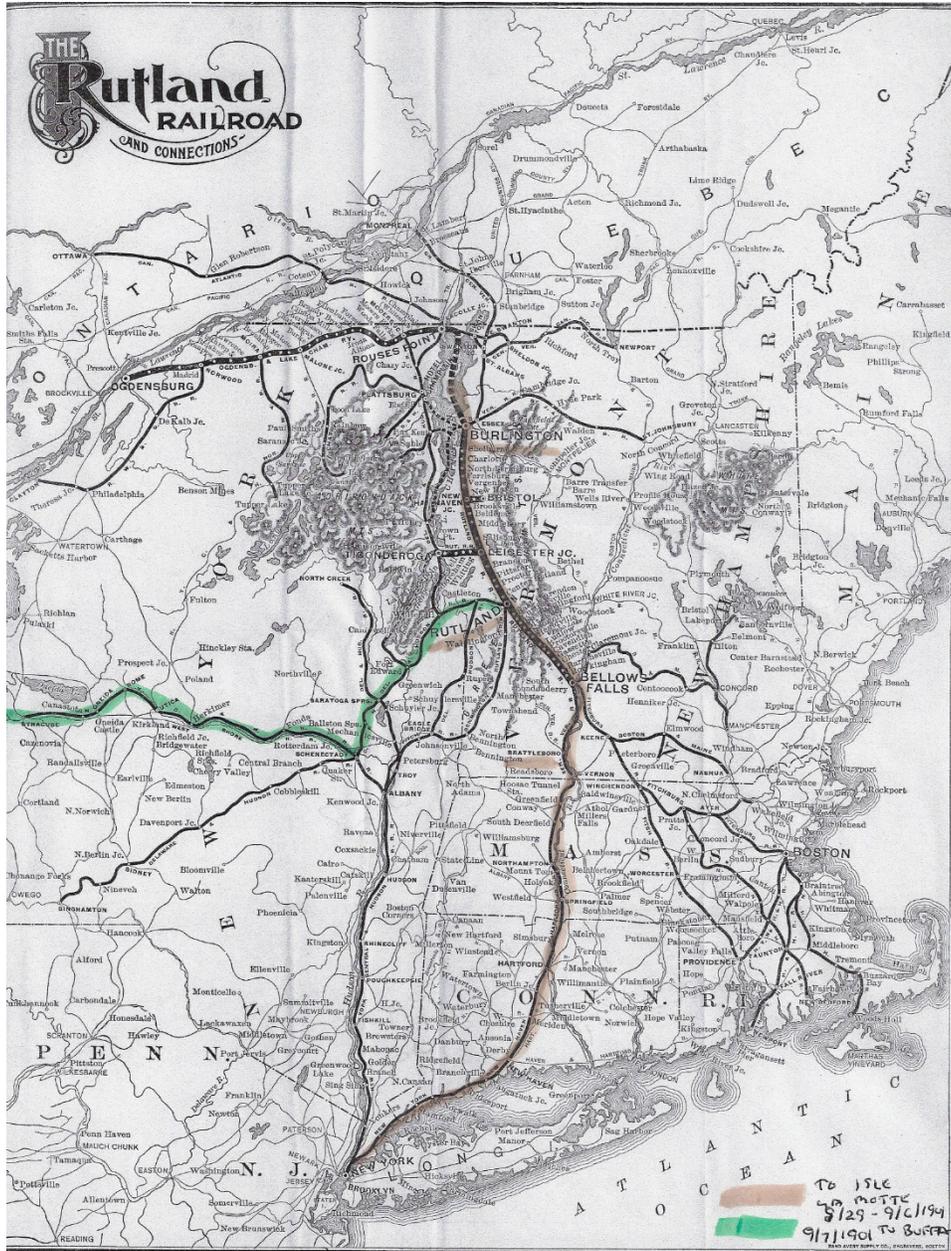
“Director of hospital or house at which President lies, Buffalo N.Y. Wire me at once full particulars to Van Ness House Burlington Vermont. Theodore Roosevelt Vice President.”¹⁴

On the time table side, he wrote personal feelings he had at the moment.



“I am so inexpressibly shocked and horrified that I cannot say anything” When the news that Prest likely to recover “I am overjoyed to express it feebly”¹⁵

The morning of September 7th, after sending a telegram to Edith, Roosevelt boarded a special train to the Town of Proctor (west of Rutland), where he had left his baggage. He was accompanied aboard the train by Senator Redfield Proctor, his son (and future Vermont governor) Fletcher D. Proctor, former Vermont Gov. John W. Stewart, and Percival Clement, president of the Rutland Railroad, and another future Vermont governor.¹⁶ From Proctor, the vice president traveled to Buffalo.



1899 Rutland Railway map with connections used by Theodore Roosevelt August 29 to September 7, 1901

Edith continues the family Adirondack experience.

“September 7. Ethel and I started directly after breakfast with Mrs. Sage to spend the night at her camp. At the Lower Works we got the news of the attempted assassination of the President. Theodore telegraphed that he had to go to him at Buffalo instead of coming to me. Bathed in the Sages' lake and rowed on it.” Life goes on for the family.

“Sunday, September 8, Sage camp. At breakfast came a telegram from Theodore saying that he was convinced that the President would recover, but must stay in Buffalo. Walked to lovely view with Sara Sage. After lunch, Mrs. Dean Sage and Sara, Ethel, and I left. They were to spend the night at Mrs. Robert C. Pruyn’s and drove much of the way with us. Found children well.”

The Sages were personal friends of Robert and Anna Pruyn, Dean was a lumberman and Robert a banker in Albany. The Sages were frequent guests at Great Camp Santanoni. Their oldest daughter, Susan, married Albany attorney James Fenimore Cooper III, grandson of the author, and close friend of Robert’s.

“September 9. Walked up Sails Mountain in A.M. Archie and I had headache and laid on sofa all p.m. Ted went off to camp with Johnny Hall, the guide.” Johnny Hall was a younger brother of Harrison Hall who would play a significant role for the Roosevelts later in the week. The camp mentioned was Sage’s on Hewitt Lake.



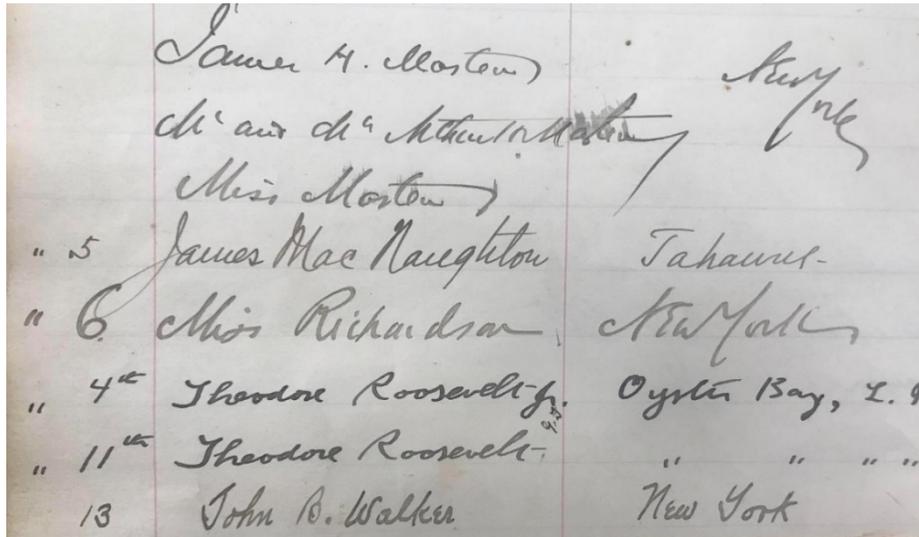
Guide Johnny Hall and Teddy Roosevelt at Hewitt Lake 1901 from Cronin Murphy book

“September 10. Quiet all day. Ted arrived soon after breakfast with a two-year-old buck which he had killed with one shot at half past four in the morning.”

In Buffalo, the President’s condition having stabilized, and doctors assuring a full recovery, Theodore left after noon for the Adirondacks.

“September 11. Left for the Lower Works, where I took dinner and waited for Theodore. He arrived just in time to drive into the Club before dark. He had been told by Dr. [Charles] McBurney that if he were a hospital case, he would consider the President cured.”

On this ride, Edith told Theodore about Teddy's successful deer hunt the day before. Theodore signed the Tahawus Club registry.



The evening of September 11, 1901, the entire Roosevelt family was comfortably resting in the MacNaughton cottage, ready to begin their vacation in earnest.



The Roosevelt Family of Sagamore Hill in 1903: (from left to right) Ethel Carow Roosevelt (1891-1977), married Dr. Richard Derby; Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919); standing behind his father, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (1887-1944); on his father's knee, Archibald Bulloch Roosevelt (1894-1979); Alice Lee Roosevelt (1884-1980), married Congressman Nicholas Longworth; Kermit Roosevelt (1889-1943); Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt (1861-1948); and Quentin Roosevelt (1897-1918).

1903 Family Photo from article on Edith Kermit Roosevelt's Diary¹⁷

1. *The Letters of Theodore Roosevelt*. 8 Volumes. Harvard Press, 1951-4; Page 1343.
2. *Morris, Rise*, Page 737.
3. Labor Day had been established as a national holiday in 1894
4. *The Tahawus Club*, Arthur Masten, 1935, Page 29
5. *The Edith Kermit Roosevelt Diaries*, edited and with notes by A. Richard Boera, Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal, Page 4
6. IBID, Page 4
7. The next several quotes are all from Edith's diary excerpts, Page 4
8. *Reminiscences*, Gustav Sage, 1955, ADKX vertical files
9. Letter from Theodore to Dean Sage, June 2, 1902, Theodore Roosevelt Center, Digital library
10. *American Big Game Hunting, the Book of the Boone & Crocket Club*, Pages 340 and 343
11. Wikipedia, Robert T. Gannett (1917-2012) American politician and lawyer.
12. *The Edith Kermit Roosevelt Diaries*, edited and with notes by A. Richard Boera, Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal, Page 4
13. The Isle La Motte description is a compilation of three articles in the Bibliography:
Bushnell, Mark, *As Roosevelt toured Vt., he learned of McKinley's death*, Rutland Herald, August 3, 2008, Bushnell, Mark; *Then Again: Theodore Roosevelt's Vermont visit took a dark turn*, August 29, 2021, 9:30 am, Vermont Digger; and Page, Guy, *Phone call that shocked Teddy Roosevelt came 122 years ago today in Isle LaMotte*, Vermont Daily Chronicle, September 6, 2023
14. Telegram Shapell Foundation collection
15. Railroad time table Shapell
16. Letter to Proctor from Roosevelt in Buffalo September 9th Shapell Foundation
17. *The Edith Kermit Roosevelt Diaries*, edited and with notes by A. Richard Boera, Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal, Page 5

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