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Civil War Trust unveils plan to preserve Robert E. Lee Headquarters

By Jeffrey B. Roth, Reuters, July 1, 2014

A non-profit trust dedicated to preserving Civil War sites plans to spend more than \$5 million to save and restore a small stone building which served as the headquarters for Confederate general Robert E. Lee during the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Battle of Gettysburg, which lasted three days in 1863, is often described as the turning point of the Civil War. Some 164,000 troops from both sides participated, and some 51,000 were left dead, wounded, captured or missing.

The Civil War Trust announced on Tuesday it had purchased the four-acre plot of land surrounding the building, and plans to raze several non-historic buildings at the site, said Mary Koik, a spokeswoman for the trust.

The Lee headquarters and another building that is part of the preservation project currently occupy the same four-acre property as the Appalachian Brewery and the Quality Inn. In early 2015, the Civil War Trust will take over the property and raze those two buildings, Koik said.

"We've torn down smaller buildings, but these are the largest we will have ever removed," Koik said.

The project will take nine to 12 months once the restoration phase begins, and the site will eventually be turned over to the National Park Service and the Gettysburg Foundation, she said.

Belmont Partnership, the former owners, will continue to operate their businesses until 2015, Koik said. In addition, Belmont Partnership plans

to donate "a significant collection of Civil War artifacts" to the park service.



Thompson House, Lee's Headquarters at Gettysburg, July 1863 - NPS Photo

About \$2.5 million of the total cost has already been raised through private donations and the trust is applying for a \$1.5 million grant, said Jim Lighthizer, president of the Trust. The remaining \$1.1 million must be raised before the end of this year, he said.

Anniversary speaker casts new light on Monocacy battle

By Ike Wilson, Frederick News-Post, July 10, 2014

The 150th anniversary program Wednesday at the Monocacy National Battlefield was educational for Barbara Whitacre.

"You never heard of the Battle of Monocacy during the Civil War's centennial celebration," said Whitacre, of Winchester, Virginia. "This was an opportunity to learn.

"I don't think there was a battle that was not significant," she said. "It's all history; it's made us what we are as a country."

Whitacre and others applauded Civil War Trust President Jim Lighthizer's

keynote speech at the anniversary program.

Park Superintendent Rick Slade credited Lighthizer with preserving nearly one-third of the Monocacy battlefield's 1,500 acres when he was Maryland transportation secretary and a state legislator.

"Jim is a great advocate for Civil War parks, but he has a specific connection to Monocacy National Battlefield," Slade said.

Lighthizer made the case for preserving battlefields while highlighting the importance of the Battle of Monocacy. He described Monocacy as "the Rodney Dangerfield of battlefields. It gets no respect."

Vigorous debate exists among Civil War enthusiasts, Lighthizer said, about the importance of the so-called "battle that saved Washington."

"I'm not going to argue if it was the greatest battle, but it is significant," he said.

If Gen. Jubal Early had invaded Washington, even for a few hours, "I'd suggest to you it would have been able to sink President (Abraham) Lincoln," Lighthizer said.

Everyone debates the turning point of the war, he said, "but think about this: If Lincoln didn't get re-elected, it would have had odious consequences. There could have been independent states and a return to slavery."

Looking at history in the rearview mirror is ill-advised, Lighthizer said, but preserving battlefields must be a priority on all fronts.

"The world will not remember a damn thing about what I say today, but what's going to last, what remains if we do it right is the land," he said. "We ought to be focusing on saving the land because long after time has



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passed, the land will be here, and we'll be able to remember our past." Local Civil War enthusiast Jim Enright said Lighthizer made a convincing argument that if Early had gotten into Washington, the headlines would have read, "Lincoln and Cabinet had to flee."

"With all the Civil War writings, nobody's ever said that before," Enright said. "What I learned from the speech is that this was really the battle that saved President Lincoln. He really made the Battle of Monocacy more important."

The anniversary program was the culmination of nine months of planning, Slade said, adding that the event has brought a number of new visitors to the battlefield, and the exposure is much needed.

Monocacy is a relatively young park that is not that well-known, partly because of two larger parks close by — Gettysburg and Antietam national battlefields, the superintendent said. But Monocacy's significance has been evolving over time, he said.

"I've learned the jury is still out on the park's significance, which could be perceived as troubling, but I see it as an opportunity," Slade said. "It's been amazing to see the interest and the turnout. A lot of people have said they had no idea of the richness of our story."

How Coffee Fueled the Civil War

By JON GRINSPAN, New York Times, July 9, 2014

It was the greatest coffee run in American history. The Ohio boys had been fighting since morning, trapped in the raging battle of Antietam, in September 1862. Suddenly, a 19-year-old William McKinley appeared, under heavy fire, hauling vats of hot coffee. The men held out tin cups,

gulped the brew and started firing again. "It was like putting a new regiment in the fight," their officer recalled. Three decades later, McKinley ran for president in part on this singular act of caffeinated heroism.

At the time, no one found McKinley's act all that strange. For Union soldiers, and the lucky Confederates who could scrounge some, coffee fueled the war. Soldiers drank it before marches, after marches, on patrol, during combat. In their diaries, "coffee" appears more frequently than the words "rifle," "cannon" or "bullet." Ragged veterans and tired nurses agreed with one diarist: "Nobody can 'soldier' without coffee."

Union troops made their coffee everywhere, and with everything: with water from canteens and puddles, brackish bays and Mississippi mud, liquid their horses would not drink. They cooked it over fires of plundered fence rails, or heated mugs in scalding steam-vents on naval gunboats. When times were good, coffee accompanied beefsteaks and oysters; when they were bad it washed down raw salt-pork and maggoty hardtack. Coffee was often the last comfort troops enjoyed before entering battle, and the first sign of safety for those who survived.

The Union Army encouraged this love, issuing soldiers roughly 36 pounds of coffee each year. Men ground the beans themselves (some carbines even had built-in grinders) and brewed it in little pots called muckets. They spent much of their downtime discussing the quality of that morning's brew. Reading their diaries, one can sense the delight (and addiction) as troops gushed about a "delicious cup of black," or fumed about "wishy-washy coffee." Escaped slaves who joined Union

Army camps could always find work as cooks if they were good at "settling" the coffee — getting the grounds to sink to the bottom of the unfiltered muckets.

For much of the war, the massive Union Army of the Potomac made up the second-largest population center in the Confederacy, and each morning this sprawling city became a coffee factory. First, as another diarist noted, "little campfires, rapidly increasing to hundreds in number, would shoot up along the hills and plains." Then the encampment buzzed with the sound of thousands of grinders simultaneously crushing beans. Soon tens of thousands of muckets gurgled with fresh brew.

Confederates were not so lucky. The Union blockade kept most coffee out of seceded territory. One British observer noted that the loss of coffee "afflicts the Confederates even more than the loss of spirits," while an Alabama nurse joked that the fierce craving for caffeine would, somehow, be the Union's "means of subjugating us." When coffee was available, captured or smuggled or traded with Union troops during casual cease-fires, Confederates wrote rhapsodically about their first sip.

The problem spilled over to the Union invaders. When Gen. William T. Sherman's Union troops decided to live off plunder and forage as they cut their way through Georgia and South Carolina, soldiers complained that while food was plentiful, there were no beans to be found. "Coffee is only got from Uncle Sam," an Ohio officer grumbled, and his men "could scarce get along without it."

Confederate soldiers and civilians would not go without. Many cooked up coffee substitutes, roasting corn or rye or chopped beets, grinding them finely and brewing up something



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warm and brown. It contained no caffeine, but desperate soldiers claimed to love it. Gen. George Pickett, famous for that failed charge at Gettysburg, thanked his wife for the delicious "coffee" she had sent, gushing: "No Mocha or Java ever tasted half so good as this rye-sweet-potato blend!"

Did the fact that Union troops were near jittery from coffee, while rebels survived on impotent brown water, have an impact on the outcome of the conflict? Union soldiers certainly thought so. Though they rarely used the word "caffeine," in their letters and diaries they raved about that "wonderful stimulant in a cup of coffee," considering it a "nerve tonic." One depressed soldier wrote home that he was surprised that he was still living, and reasoned: "what keeps me alive must be the coffee."

Others went further, considering coffee a weapon of war. Gen. Benjamin Butler ordered his men to carry coffee in their canteens, and planned attacks based on when his men would be most caffeinated. He assured another general, before a fight in October 1864, that "if your men get their coffee early in the morning you can hold."

Coffee did not win the war – Union material resources and manpower played a much, much bigger role than the quality of its Java – but it might say something about the victors. From one perspective, coffee was emblematic of the new Northern order of fast-paced wage labor, a hurried, business-minded, industrializing nation of strivers. For years, Northern bosses had urged their workers to switch from liquor to coffee, dreaming of sober, caffeinated, untiring employees. Southerners drank coffee too – in New Orleans especially – but the way Union soldiers gulped the

stuff at every meal pointed ahead toward the world the war made, a civilization that lives on today in every office break room.

But more than that, coffee was simply delicious, soothing – "the soldier's chiefest bodily consolation" – for men and women pushed beyond their limits. Caffeine was secondary. Soldiers often brewed coffee at the end of long marches, deep in the night while other men assembled tents. These grunts were too tired for caffeine to make a difference; they just wanted to share a warm cup – of Brazilian beans or scorched rye – before passing out.

This explains their fierce love. When one captured Union soldier was finally freed from a prison camp, he meditated on his experiences. Over his first cup of coffee in more than a year, he wondered if he could ever forgive "those Confederate thieves for robbing me of so many precious doses." Getting worked up, he fumed, "Just think of it, in three hundred days there was lost to me, forever, so many hundred pots of good old Government Java."

So when William McKinley braved enemy fire to bring his comrades a warm cup – an act memorialized in a stone monument at Antietam today – he knew what it meant to them.

A Woman at War

By ERIN LINDSAY MCCABE, *New York Times*, June 30, 2014

On June 19, 1864, Pvt. Lyons Wakeman died of dysentery in the Marine U.S.A. General Hospital in New Orleans, after having marched 200 miles and seen combat at the Battle of Pleasant Hill, part of the Union's Red River campaign in Louisiana. But it would be years before Wakeman's real identity was

revealed: Lyons Wakeman was born a woman, Sarah Rosetta Wakeman.

The only people who knew for certain the soldier's true identity were the parents and eight siblings Lyons left behind. But even they decided to keep the soldier's secret, and afterward spoke only of Lyons as their beloved brother.

How Rosetta – she went by her middle name – managed to conceal her identity during her final month in the hospital is still a mystery. Perhaps those caring for her knew, but simply decided to let Rosetta carry the secret she'd kept for the entire two years she'd served in the 153rd New York State Volunteers to her grave in the Chalmette National Cemetery near New Orleans, where she is buried under her alias.

When Rosetta first left home in rural upstate New York, in the summer of 1862, she found employment as a canal man, agreeing "to run 4 trips from Binghamton to Utica for 20\$ in money," according to her letters home. It was on her first trip ferrying coal that Rosetta "saw some soldiers" near Utica who encouraged her to enlist for three years, gaining her "100 and 52\$ in money" plus \$13 a month thereafter – a substantial raise from the wages she had been earning.

Much of the money that Rosetta earned she sent home to her parents, telling them, "All the money I send you I want you should spend it for the family in clothing or something to eat." Since her father was in debt, at least some of Rosetta's motivation for enlisting was probably to help support her family. But she also alludes to more personal reasons, saying, "I want to drop all old affray and I want you to do the same and when i come home we will be good friends as ever," and later remarking, "I had got



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tired of stay[ing] in that neighborhood. I knew that I could help you more to leave home than to stay."

What conflict she had with her family is unclear, but perhaps the answer lies in the independent spirit that shines through Rosetta's letters, particularly when she writes, "I will dress as I have a mind to for all anyone else [cares], and if they don't let me Alone they will be sorry for it." She also reveals her hopes of having her own farm, "in Wisconsin. On the Prairie," and her utter lack of fear of "rebel bullets."

She does not seem the kind of young woman who would be happy in a traditionally feminine role, and indeed, over a year into her military service, she wrote, "I have enjoyed myself the best since I have been gone away from home than I ever did before in my life. I have had plenty of money to spend and a good time a Soldier[ing]. I find just as good friends among Strangers as I do at home." She goes on to suggest that she might re-enlist for five years and \$800. "I can do that if I am a mind to. What do you think about that?"

How Rosetta managed to serve without discovery is one of the great questions surrounding not just her, but all 250 known female Civil War soldiers. There are clues, however. She must have talked a good game when it came to engaging in typical male enterprises; she peppers many of her letters with questions about the family farm – even, in her last letter home, asking her father to "write all the particulars about that farm and let me know how much stock you have got to keep this summer and how many Calves you raise and how many hogs you have got." Perhaps, too, as the eldest child, Rosetta had worked as her father's farmhand and was no stranger to physical labor.

Rosetta must have been good at playing the part, too. She boasted how she could "drill as well as any man" and took up certain masculine mannerisms, telling her mother, "I use all the tobacco I want" and also admitting, "There is a good many temptations in the army. I got led away into this world So bad that I sinned a good deal."

What exactly her sins were, she never mentions, though in a letter written on Jan. 20, 1864, a few days after her 21st birthday, she detailed a fistfight with another private in her company: "Mr. Stephen Wiley pitched on me and I give him three or four pretty good cracks and he put downstairs with him Self." What caused the fight, Rosetta doesn't say, but Wiley was court-martialed twice for drunkenness and once for theft during the fall of 1863, whereas Rosetta "never got to fighting but once." Still, standing at only 5 feet tall, Rosetta, according to her own account, easily defended herself from Wiley, even though his records describe him as seven inches taller. She was an able soldier, performed her duties as required, and participated in combat bravely. Perhaps that was all the convincing she needed to do.

Interestingly, aside from her family, there were some soldiers who were aware of what Rosetta was doing. A year into her service, after having seen no one from home, she recounted how she "could hardly Stand it" when she learned that the 109th New York State Volunteers were stationed nearby. She obtained a pass to visit and "found Henry Austin and Perry Wilder. They knew me just as Soon as they see me. You better believe I had a good visit with them." The two young men clearly recognized Rosetta, despite her

disguise, and yet, when it was time for her to leave, they let her go and never told anyone of her true identity. Many of the known female soldiers had help in keeping their secret: husbands, fiancés, family members. Even so, it seems certain that Rosetta and the other women performed their duties well and earned their fellow soldiers' respect, enough so those same soldiers were willing to continue serving alongside them, and sometimes even testified in order to help the women earn veterans' benefits.



Sarah Rosetta Wakeman aka Lyons Wakeman
– Library of Congress photo

Rosetta herself did not seem overly troubled by her deception. As part of her duties, she was a guard at Carroll Prison, where there were three female prisoners: "One of them was a Major in the union army and she went into battle with her men. When the Rebels bullets was acoming like a hail storm she rode her horse and gave orders to the men. Now She is in Prison for not doing aCordingly to the regulation of war." After this brief description, plus noting the two



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Confederate spies were "smart looking women and [have] good education," Rosetta makes no further remarks.

Did she guard these women directly? If so, did she and the female soldier acknowledge each other? What did Rosetta think about the possibility that she, too, might be imprisoned? We'll never know. Surely it must have been comforting to find another woman in the ranks, even if it was also distressing to know that imprisonment could be her own fate. Likewise, Rosetta was not much concerned with the reasons for the war. Though she guarded "contraband," slaves who had been captured or had escaped north and were considered spoils of war, she never mentions slavery directly. Even when she notes that the army had drafted "black men as well as White men," she makes no judgment. She never even once mentions the idea of preserving the Union, though when she learns of the New York draft riots, she writes, "I would like to see some of them Copperheads come down here and get killed." And she then blames officers for the war's dragging on, stating "if they would knock down the officers' pay to 13\$ a month, this war would soon be settle." But it seems Rosetta's biggest concerns were getting her pay, helping her family, participating in battle and deciding what she would do after the war.

Regardless of what Rosetta might have done had she lived, it is safe to say that her parents, Harvey and Emily, both native New Yorkers and at least fifth-generation Americans, never anticipated that their eldest daughter would be living as a man and writing letters home from the front lines of the Union Army's Red River campaign, where she "was

under fire about 4 hours and laid on the field of battle all night." What is obvious is that even if her choices had caused concern, her family loved and respected her enough to preserve her letters and keep her photograph safe and her memory alive for generations. Hopefully, they found a way to be proud of her, too.

Teddy Roosevelt's Confederate Uncles

By EDWARD P. KOHN, New York Times, June 25, 2014

On June 19, 1864, the Confederacy lost one of its most effective weapons of the Civil War: In the Battle of Cherbourg off the coast of France, the Union warship Kearsarge sunk the notorious Confederate commerce raider, the Alabama. In its two-year career, the Alabama had claimed 65 ships, totaling \$6 million, a huge hit to the Union war effort. The Alabama continued to wreak posthumous havoc after the war; since it had been built in England, in the late 1860s the United States pressed a claim for damages, even threatening to invade Canada as compensation.

But for all that, the most enduring effect of the Alabama may have been its influence on a young Theodore Roosevelt.

The New York Roosevelts were sober Yankee bankers and businessmen. Roosevelt's father, Theodore Sr., was a partner in the family business Roosevelt and Son, a member of the Union League Club and a leading philanthropist.

But Young Roosevelt's mother, Martha "Mittie" Bulloch, was a classic Southern belle who raised her children on stories of the Old South and the era of slavery, grand plantations, and chivalrous duels. Quite in contrast to the dour Roosevelts, the Bullochs included

soldiers and adventurers. "From hearing of the feats performed by my Southern forefathers and kinfolk," Roosevelt wrote in his memoirs many years later, "I felt a great admiration for men who were fearless and who could hold their own in the world, and I had great desire to be like them."

Such feats of heroism included duty for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Unlike the Roosevelt men, none of whom served in the war, virtually every male relative or acquaintance on the Bulloch side joined the Confederacy. The two leading heroes of Mittie's stories were her brother Irvine Bulloch and her half brother James Dunwoody Bulloch.

Both men served on the water. When war broke out, 19-year-old Irvine left the University of Pennsylvania to join the Confederate Navy. James initially became a Confederate captain and blockade-runner, but was later tasked with the secret mission of having ships built for the Navy in England.

Their exploits made a great impact on Roosevelt. Even during the war, letters and news of Roosevelt's two uncles reached the Roosevelt home on East 20th Street and were shared with the children. In early 1862 the elder Theodore Roosevelt learned that Irvine had run the Union blockade to deliver 14,000 Enfield rifles to Savannah, Ga. In February 1863 young Irvine wrote movingly, "The life [at sea] is as hard as it is exciting, as painful to be away from home and family as it is pleasant to think I am doing my all for my oppressed country."

The lifetime effect of such words during wartime on a 4-year-old boy, already outfitted in his own Zouave uniform – "Is me a soldier?", he asked – is incalculable. In 1905 President Roosevelt visited Roswell, Ga., the site of Mittie Bulloch's childhood



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home, Bulloch Hall. In a speech, Roosevelt underscored his Southern ancestry. "Men and women," the president asked the crowd, "don't you think I have the ancestral right to claim a proud kinship with those who showed their devotion to duty as they saw the duty, whether they wore the gray or whether they wore the blue?"



Theodore Roosevelt, 4 years old, Credit Theodore Roosevelt Collection, Houghton Library, Harvard University

Central to the uncles' nautical heroism was the Alabama. James had commissioned the construction of the cruiser by the British shipbuilders Laird Brothers near Liverpool, testing the limits of British neutrality during the war. Everyone involved in its construction assumed the ship was being built for the Confederacy. Its sides were even pierced for cannon ports. America's minister to London, Charles Francis Adams Sr., collected documents and affidavits testifying to

the ship's true nature and presented them to the Queen's advocate. The documents lay untouched on the official's desk for five crucial days as the man suffered a complete mental breakdown. Meanwhile, Irvine planned the Alabama's escape. On July 29, 1862, the Alabama took to the seas ostensibly for a trial run, complete with a party of well-wishers on board. Once at sea, the sightseers were sent back to shore by tug while the Alabama continued on to the Azores to be outfitted for war. For the next two years the Confederate cruiser wrought havoc on Union shipping.

In the Azores the Alabama took on cannons, equipment and a crew that included Midshipman Irvine Bulloch. Irvine was the cruiser's youngest officer, and was said to have fired its last shot before being sunk during the Battle of Cherbourg. After the sinking, an Aug. 8, 1864, notice in *The New York Times* reported the survival of Midshipman Bulloch, presumably for the benefit of his New York relatives. Theodore Roosevelt's contact with his uncles was not limited to letters and stories. In his memoirs he recounted that shortly after the war both uncles had traveled incognito from Britain to New York City to visit their sister and her family – although only Irvine may have actually made the trip. As Irvine and James had been denied amnesty offered to Confederate soldiers, they settled in Liverpool to work in the cotton trade. During the Roosevelt family's European grand tour of 1869, the family was reunited in Liverpool, and Roosevelt saw the uncles again during his honeymoon in 1881.

Roosevelt recounted these visits in two separate diaries kept as a boy and as a young man, and also in his 1913 Autobiography. "Have enjoyed

the time so much," Roosevelt wrote in his diary on Sept. 14, 1881. "Spent most of the day with the dear old sea captain, Uncle Jimmie Bulloch." By this time Roosevelt was working on a book about the naval history of the War of 1812, and he sought the advice of Captain Bulloch, who familiarized his nephew with naval warfare in the time of sailing ships. Roosevelt published his book the following year, acknowledging his uncle, "without whose advice and sympathy this work would probably never have been written."

His Confederate uncles reinforced an important aspect of Roosevelt's personality that has been mostly forgotten: the 26th president loved the water. Thanks to his uncles, Roosevelt's mother during his boyhood had spun tales of, as he later recounted, "ships, ships, ships and the fighting of ships, until they sank into the depths of my soul." Indeed, from a young age, Roosevelt conducted a love affair with all things nautical. Summers were spent rowing and sailing on Long Island Sound. His most common practice was to row around Center Island, which jutted into Oyster Bay Harbor, and was attached to the mainland by a narrow, low-lying isthmus. Low tide would force Roosevelt to portage his boat from the Sound back into the harbor. Diary entries note which sails he used, and he peppered his language with nautical terms ("running sea"; "shipped water"). Throughout his life, Roosevelt wrote and spoke extensively about the need for a strong American Navy – "Our Peacemaker," as he once put it.

While Roosevelt's actions with the Rough Riders cavalry regiment during the War with Spain have received most attention, arguably Roosevelt's most important role in the conflict



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came before Congress' declaration of war in April 1898. Until then he had served as assistant secretary of the Navy. With the secretary, John D. Long of Massachusetts, usually away, Roosevelt had significant latitude in the conduct of the office on the eve of war. He helped build up the Navy into a modern fighting force that could challenge the Spanish Empire at sea. Indeed, the whole point of Roosevelt's famous charge during the Battle of San Juan was that the Navy had the Spanish fleet bottled up in Santiago harbor: Taking the heights above the city made the Spanish ships' position untenable, and this loss of naval power brought an end to Spanish rule in the Western Hemisphere.

More well-known is the fact that while assistant secretary, Roosevelt sent orders to Commodore George Dewey and the Pacific Squadron to, in the case of war with Spain, resupply at Hong Kong and move on Spain's major holding in the East, the Philippines. Dewey's complete victory at Manila was one shared by Roosevelt; no wonder that his family and close friends advocated that Roosevelt stay in that office rather than resign for a cavalry commission. As the Navy would play such a vital role in victory, Roosevelt's tenure as assistant secretary of the Navy was sure to be rewarded.

Roosevelt received that reward anyway, first becoming governor of New York, and then vice president and president. While president, Roosevelt continued to advocate for a larger and more modern Navy. In 1907 he dispatched a battle fleet to circumnavigate the globe to demonstrate America's growing military power, especially after acquiring overseas possessions in the war that he helped win. One of

Roosevelt's final official acts as president was to welcome home the "Great White Fleet" – so-called because the hulls of the ships were painted peacetime white, rather than wartime gray – when it arrived at Hampton Roads, Va., in February 1909.

Early on the morning of June 18, 1910, America welcomed home former president Roosevelt as he returned from a yearlong African safari and trip through Europe. His reception was a decidedly naval affair. As his own ship, the Kaiserin Auguste Victoria, steamed toward Manhattan, she was escorted by the new battleship South Carolina and five torpedo destroyers, the construction of all the ships having been authorized during Roosevelt's presidency. Roosevelt stood mesmerized as the massive battleship passed to starboard. Along the decks of the battleship her crew "dressed" her sides, while the marine band in their scarlet uniforms could easily be spied on the quarterdeck. Just as eight bells struck on all the ships, the band began playing "The Star-Spangled Banner," the large national ensigns were hoisted at the stern and along the entire lengths of all the ships red, white and blue bunting unrolled. For Roosevelt, it was an impressive introduction to the South Carolina, the first American dreadnought he had ever seen and an early example of the massive ships that would play such a key role in projecting American power during the 20th century.

Roosevelt made his final home at Sagamore Hill on Oyster Bay, spending entire days rowing with his wife, Edith, on the Long Island Sound. When he died at home on Jan. 6, 1919, he was buried at a nearby Oyster Bay cemetery,

remaining near the water he loved so much.

Despite his later reputation as a western figure – cowboy, rancher, hunter – Roosevelt's lifelong love of all things nautical confirmed his eastern, urban origins as the only American president born in New York City. And Roosevelt had his Bulloch uncles to thank for this. One of the many ironies of Theodore Roosevelt is that this quintessential American president who spoke of "True Americanism" was so heavily influenced by two infamous members of the Confederacy.