



Dee~Lighted!

Dinner with Theodore Roosevelt

Join the History Center as we welcome President Theodore Roosevelt to the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center on Thursday, October 28. Joe Wiegand will portray America's youngest - and most flamboyant - President.

The President's honors and offices precede him: recipient of the Medal of Honor and the Nobel Peace Prize, President and Vice President of the United States, Governor of New York, Police Commissioner of New York City . . . the list goes on and on.

The evening starts at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour and cash bar. A dinner follows, with entree choices of prime rib, buttermilk chicken or portabella mushroom ravioli entrees; garden salad; and dessert. The Theodore Roosevelt program follows the dinner. The event also includes door prizes and a silent auction.

Ticket prices are \$75 each or a table for eight for \$500. All tickets include a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the History Center. Payment can be made by check or credit card - the History Center accepts Visa and Mastercard. Call us at (269) 471-1202 to reserve your place.

The assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 put Theodore Roosevelt, not quite 43 years old, into the President's office. He brought new excitement and power to the Presidency, as he pushed Congress and the American public toward progressive reforms and a strong foreign policy.

T. R. believed that the President, as a "steward of the people," needed to take actions necessary for the public good unless expressly forbidden by law or the Constitution. "I did not usurp power," he wrote later, "but I did greatly broaden the use of executive power."

Roosevelt's youth differed sharply from the humble origins of many earlier Presidents. He was born in New York City in 1858 into a wealthy family, but had to overcome ill health. He succeeded building up his feeble body and forever after advocated a "strenuous life."



Joe Wiegand as the twenty-sixth President of the United States.

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BCHA Mission Statement

The mission of the BCHA is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Berrien County through exhibits, tours, publications, and educational and community outreach programs for public benefit.

Learn more about the BCHA by visiting www.berrienhistory.org.

The Docket

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Editorial Staff

Frances Porter Snyder, executive director
Robert C. Myers, curator
Kristen Patzer Umphrey, museum store manager

The Docket is a benefit of membership in the BCHA. Annual membership dues to the BCHA are: \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$40 yearly for institutions. Supporting memberships are: \$40 Contributing, \$50 Sustaining, \$100 Patron, and \$500 Benefactor.

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Director's Comments

By Frances Porter Snyder

Dear Friends,

Where did the summer go? As we retrace our steps, we begin to remember all of the events and programs that we planned last spring racing past us during the warm summer months - the annual meeting with the Theodore Roosevelt program, Pioneer Day, *Thursdays at Courthouse Square* program series, Bethany House tours with Mary's City of David, publication of *Locomotives Along the Lakeshore: The Railroads of Berrien County*, book signings and programs and of course, our wonderful Founding of America Tour. That's where the summer went!

Currently, the Board of Directors and staff are preparing for BCHA's annual signature fundraising event. We have invited Theodore Roosevelt, our 26th president, to dine with us at the Mendel Center on October 28, 2010. To date, the sponsors for the event include; Berrien Dental, Lakeland Health, Professional Hearing Services, Andrews University, Foster Express, Laughlin Place-Horseshort, Fifth Third Bank, Boulevard Inn and Bistro and Rendel, Elie and Associates, CPA's. Please plan to attend "Deelighted: "Dinner with Theodore Roosevelt." Better yet, organize a group of eight and purchase a table. Advance reservations are necessary. For sponsorship information and event reservations, please call 269-471-1202. The History Center relies on the income from this project and the annual appeal to pay operating expenses until the end of the year.

This fall, we look forward to a light display in the front yard, the *Kindle the Christmas Spirit* Berrien Springs Open House and a new exhibition at Courthouse Square about the history of agriculture in Berrien County. If you have any photographs, memorabilia or interesting stories about local farms, farmers, orchards or vineyards, please contact Curator Robert Myers at rmyers@berrienhistory.org or (269) 471-1202. Remember, we only need to scan your treasured photographs. We can return them to you while you wait.

Thank you for your support of the History Center at Courthouse Square. Whether you have made a donation to the collections or a financial contribution, your gift is sincerely appreciated. I look forward to seeing you October 28th.

Francie

Frances Porter Snyder
Executive Director

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He began work on a history book while still a student at Harvard University. *The Naval War of 1812*, published in 1882 when Roosevelt was just 24, gained him a reputation as a serious historian. Over 125 years later, it remains the standard work on the subject.

He married Alice Hathaway Lee in 1880. She died in 1884, two days after giving birth to their daughter, Alice Lee. Theodore's mother died in the same house that same day. Overcome with grief, Theodore drew a large X in his diary and wrote "the light has gone out of my life." He never again, either publicly or privately, mentioned his first wife.

Roosevelt fled New York for his ranch in the Badlands of Dakota Territory, leaving baby Alice in the care of his sister. Ranchers in the Dakotas at first sneered at the city slicker rhinestone cowboy, but he soon earned their respect. He lived in the saddle, drove cattle, hunted big game and even captured an outlaw. T. R. dressed and talked like an Eastern dude, but he was tough as nails.

In December 1886, Theodore married childhood friend Edith Carow while on a visit to London. The fog was so dense that day that it even filled the church, but the groom stood out clearly - he wore bright orange gloves.

President Benjamin Harrison appointed Roosevelt to the Civil Service Commission. He became president of the Commission, and retained the office until 1895 when he left to head the Police Department of New York City. T. R. ran the Police Department with his typical energy and did much to clean up corruption and inefficiency. A beat cop on his watch in the middle of the night never knew when the boss might suddenly show up to check on him. In 1897, Roosevelt joined President McKinley's administration as assistant secretary of the Navy.

During the Spanish-American War, Roosevelt fought as the lieutenant colonel of the Rough Rider Regiment. He led a charge at the battle of San Juan, for which he was recommended for the Medal of Honor. Politics - due in part to his criticizing Washington for the high rate of deaths from disease in the army - cost him the medal. In 2001, Congress awarded him the Medal of Honor posthumously.

(As a point of trivia, he and his son, Theodore Jr., both received the Medal of Honor. Theodore Jr. earned his medal for his actions at Normandy on D-Day in World War II. Only one other father and son have ever earned the Medal of Honor. The other pair? Gen. Douglas MacArthur in World War II and his father, Arthur MacArthur, Jr., in the Civil War).

In 1898, New York senator and political boss Thomas Platt found himself in need of someone to distract attention from political scandals. He reluctantly accepted Roosevelt, a bona fide war hero, as the Republican candidate for Governor in 1898. Roosevelt won and served with distinction. He proved too independent-minded to suit Platt, however, and campaigned against corruption and political machines. Platt and William McKinley's ally, Mark Hanna, devised a scheme to get the meddling governor out of the way: nominate him for Vice President. The Vice President's office, they thought, would keep Roosevelt safely on the sidelines.

Less than a year later, a disappointed office seeker shot and killed President McKinley. Roosevelt became the youngest chief executive in the nation's history.



A 1905 cartoon depicts Roosevelt battling the trusts.

President Roosevelt believed that the federal government should arbitrate the conflicting economic forces in the nation, especially between capital and labor, guaranteeing justice to each and dispensing favors to none. He became famous as a "trust buster" when he forced the dissolution of the Northern Securities Company, a great railroad monopoly in the Northwest. Other antitrust suits under the Sherman Act followed.

Roosevelt also steered the United States into a playing a more active role in world politics. He liked to quote a favorite African proverb, "Speak softly and carry a big stick, and you will go far." His experience with the Navy helped make him aware of the strategic need for a shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific; with some questionable political/military interventions in Central America, Roosevelt ensured the construction of the Panama Canal. His corollary to the Monroe Doctrine prevented the establishment of foreign bases in the Caribbean and arrogated the sole right of intervention in Latin America to the United States.

T. R. received the Nobel Peace Prize for mediating a settlement of the Russo-Japanese War, reached an agreement on immigration with Japan, and sent the U. S. Navy - the Great White Fleet - on a goodwill tour of the world.

Some of Theodore Roosevelt's most far-reaching achievements came in the field of conservation. Appalled at the devastation of America's natural resources, he expanded the national forests in the West, set aside huge tracts of land for public use, and pushed forward great irrigation projects.

He crusaded endlessly on issues big and small, railing at audiences with a high-pitched voice and pounding fist. His continuing "life of strenuous endeavor" delighted his five younger children; visitors to the White House who had to join in the hikes through Washington's Rock Creek Park enjoyed the lifestyle less.

After leaving the Presidency in 1909, Roosevelt became disillusioned with his successor, President William Howard Taft. T. R. campaigned against him for the Republican nomination in 1912. Taft got the nomination anyway, so Roosevelt bolted the Republicans and ran as the Progressive Party candidate. He received more votes than Taft, but the party split assured the victory of Democratic candidate Woodrow Wilson.

Roosevelt died in 1919 at age 60. He might have written his own epitaph when he declared a few years earlier, "No man has had a happier life than I have led; a happier life in every way."

Founding of America Tour

We had a fabulous time on our tour of Washington, DC, Virginia and Gettysburg. Our 38 participants enjoyed picture-perfect weather the whole week as we rediscovered the people and events of America's founding.

Planning for next fall's tour is already underway. We'll keep you posted on our progress!



Janet McIntosh and Bernice Tretheway at the World War II memorial in Washington, DC.



Visiting the Vietnam "Wall" is always an emotional experience. We found the name of a fallen soldier from Three Oaks.



We met archaeologists at Jamestown, who think they've found the site of the settlement's first church building.



We chanced to tour Montpelier, the James and Dolley Madison home, on Constitution Day. There we met Madison and Thomas Jefferson and listened to their thoughts on the Constitution.



DaWayne Biastock, Bob and Jan Thoner, and Francie Snyder at Christiana Campbell's Tavern, Colonial Williamsburg.



Richard and Sandra Orange at the World War II memorial in Washington.



Part of our group at the Monticello entrance. We discovered that the house is truly "Jefferson's autobiography."



Jim Priebe poses beside a cannon at Gettysburg Battlefield. Confederate troops formed at this point to assault the Federal lines in Pickett's Charge.

Curator's Corner

Recent Artifact Acquisitions

- Donald L. Burrous Book, *The Soldier in Our Civil War*, 1890
- Jean Conklin Photographs
- Fort Morgan Museum Buchanan souvenir novelty
- Liz & Garry Lange Milk bottles
- Robert Myers Photograph
- Daryl T. Schlender Photograph, construction company catalog and trade card
- LuAnne Schwank Photographs and papers
- Jean Shuler Photograph of Cooper-Wells Co.
- Ken Sink Schrader's Grocery papers

Liz and Garry Lange recently donated several milk bottles to the museum, including this example from Producer's Creamery in Benton Harbor.

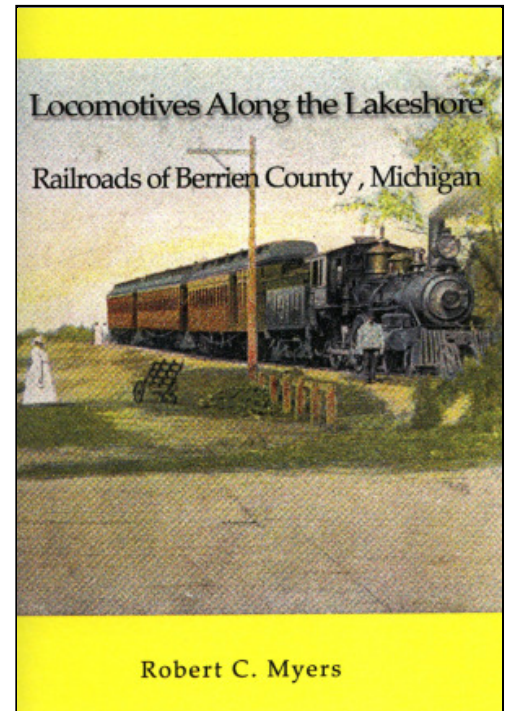


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Continuing and Upcoming Events

Ongoing: *War Stories: The Individual in World War II* exhibit at the History Center. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mondays - Fridays.

October 28: *“Dee-lighted! Dinner with Theodore Roosevelt.”* Our third annual event features author/soldier/cowboy/naturalist/President Theodore Roosevelt at a Thursday evening dinner at Lake Michigan College. \$75 per person, or a table for eight for \$500.

October 30: Grave Matters - A History of Graveyards, Cemeteries, Markers, Monuments & Mausoleums. Bob Myers presents the History Center’s PowerPoint program at the Buchanan District Library, 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Free admission. Discover the history of the park cemetery movement that transformed the church graveyard to a park setting where Victorian Americans strolled in quiet contemplation and even enjoyed picnic dinners. Photographs of local cemeteries provides a study of gravestone and the many motifs used to convey meaning to viewers.