



Jules Verne and the Heroes of Birkenhead.

Part 33.

Playing the Young Boy Herbert in Jules Verne's
Mysterious Island is....

By John Lamb

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Herbert

UBI FIDES IBI LUX ET ROBUR

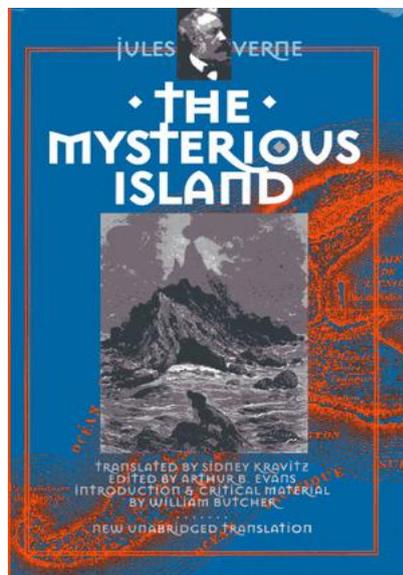


Part 33.

Playing the Young Boy ‘Herbert’ in Jules Verne’s Mysterious Island is....

Jules Verne gives more clues as to the real identity of the boy ‘Herbert’ in *The Mysterious Island* than any other member of his band of Travelling Players. This can only be intentional and thankfully it makes the task of the ‘neutral historian’ far more straightforward.

The Sidney Kravitz (2001) translation of *Mysterious Island* used here to quote Jules Verne is considered the most faithful to Jules Verne’s original manuscript.



Revealing Jules Verne's Real 'Herbert' in *Mysterious Island* – The Young Boy Who in Fiction at Least Lived in a Birkenhead Sewer for Four Years with Five other People and an Orangutan.

The 'Real Herbert' in the words of Jules Verne on his *Mysterious Island*.



Herbert



The real Herbert

Pencroft came to Richmond at the beginning of the year with a 15-year-old boy, Herbert Brown of New Jersey.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)

The real Herbert (from now on referred to simply as Herbert) was born on October 27th, 1858, this would make him fifteen years old when Jules Verne's 1874 novel *The Mysterious Island* was released. He was born in Manhattan, less than a mile from the boundary with New Jersey.

Herbert's birthplace.



The young boy was very strong in natural history and had a veritable passion for the science.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)



Herbert's father was a founder member of the Natural History Museum in New York and encouraged his son's interest in natural history. Herbert even donated animal specimens to the museum which are still on display today.

A Stuffed Snowy Owl presented by Herbert to the New York Natural History Museum.

His father had encouraged him in this line by letting him take courses with the best professors in Boston.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)

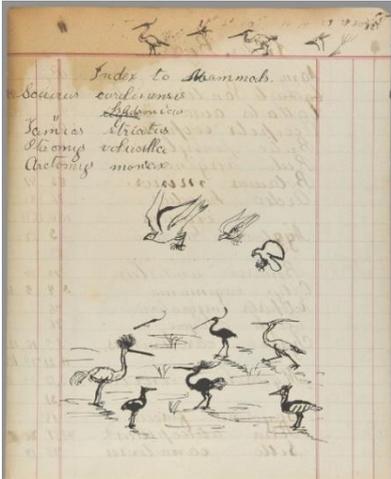
In 1874, Herbert was being privately tutored by Arthur Cutler, one of the best professors at Harvard (Boston).

Harvard University



“It is a ‘cycas revoluta’ of which I have a picture in our dictionary of Natural History!”

Herbert in Jules Verne’s *The Mysterious Island* (1874)



At the age of 14, Herbert did indeed compile his own dictionary of natural history and use Latin classifications.

Here is Herbert’s diary entry for October 25th 1872.

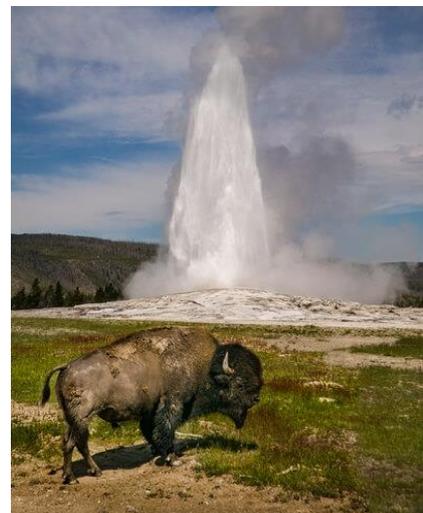
In the Irish Sea, still quite rough. A snow bunting (Hectorphanes miralis) flew on board and was captured....

Herbert’s Index to his dictionary of natural history (left) and a diary entry (above).

His instincts as a naturalist would afterwards be used more than once.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)

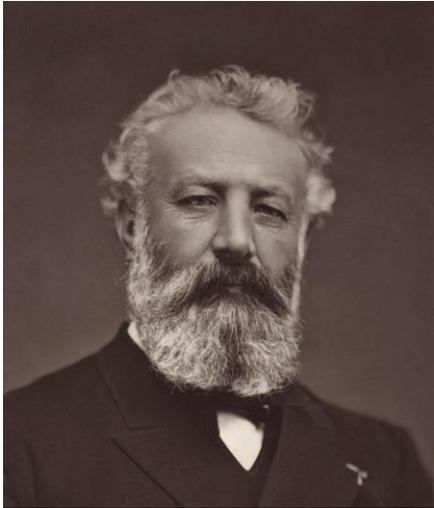
Herbert would go on to be a leading conservationist in the United States and co-found the American Bison Society, bringing the animal back from the brink of extinction from just a thousand left in the wild.



Yellowstone Bison saved from extinction.

There were books which made Herbert delirious with joy.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)



Herbert was a gifted ‘speed reader’ who could read two books a day and remember every detail, he is also thought to have written 150,000 letters in his lifetime.

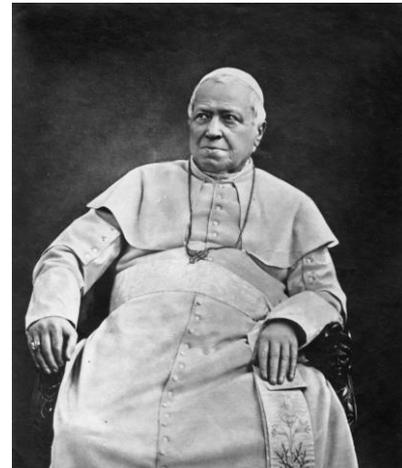
In 1904 Herbert wrote to the author Jules Verne to tell him he had now read all his novels.

Jules Verne 1828-1905

“God be praised!” responded Herbert, whose pious heart was full of gratitude to the author of all things.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)

In 1869, when he was aged eleven, Herbert met Pope Pius IX in Rome and kissed his hand.



Pope Pius IX (1792-1878)

Herbert’s sister Corinne would write

The late scoffer who, in spite of his ardent Americanism that burned in his eleven-year-old soul, had as much reverence as militant patriotism in his nature, fell upon his knees and kissed the delicate hand, which for a brief moment was laid upon his fair curly hair.

By the age of fourteen, encouraged by his father, Herbert had started a robust fitness routine to cope with his childhood asthma.

All went well. In fact, Herbert had already grown two inches in a year. His appearance was becoming more masculine, and he promised to become a man who was accomplished in body and spirit...

...His strength returned visibly, so vigorous was his constitution. He was then eighteen years old. He was tall and would doubtless become a noble man with a commanding presence.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)



Upon Entering Harvard aged 17, Herbert looked very different from the frail asthmatic youth of a few years earlier.

Herbert aged 18.

Herbert's fearlessness was superb, and the reporter's coolness was astonishing. About twenty magnificent skins decorated the large hall of Granite House and, if this continued, the jaguar race would soon be extinct on this island, a goal avidly desired by the hunters.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)

Herbert would go on to become one of the most celebrated hunters of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Herbert in his Early Twenties.

The agile and skillful lad darted up to the first branches whose arrangement made them easy to climb and in several minutes he arrived at its summit which emerged above this immense expanse of verdure created by the forests foliage.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)

On 3rd August 1881 the 23-year-old Herbert, while still on his honeymoon, decided to have a go at mountain climbing and in doing so became only the 49th person to ever reach the summit of the Matterhorn.



... Herbert who had become an excellent horseman under the reporter's supervision. Herbert also showed daring and coolness which might justly be called the "reasoning of the brave."

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)



Herbert later gave up his day job to lead a cavalry charge.

When, in 1912 he was shot while giving a speech, Herbert carried on talking for another 84 minutes before going to hospital. The bullet remained lodged in his body for the rest of his life.

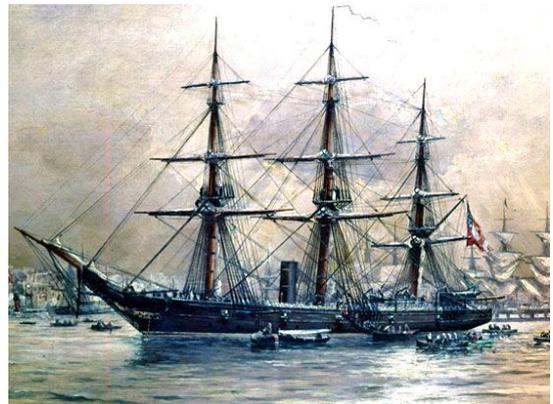
The second cannon was pointed towards the extreme rocks at Flotsam Point and the projectile, striking a sharp rock nearly three miles from Granite House, made it fly into splinters.

It was Herbert who had aimed the cannon and fired it, and he was quite proud of his success. Only Pencroft was even prouder, for the honour of this shot belonged to his dear child.

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)

Flotsam Point (Rock Ferry) is the scene of the final surrender of the American Civil War.

It is here that the CCS *Shenandoah* lowered the Confederate flag for the last time at Tranmere Sloyne, Birkenhead on 6th November 1865.



CSS *Shenandoah* at Birkenhead.

Photo # NH 56276 Acting Master Irvine S. Bulloch, CSN



The CSS *Shenandoah* had been navigated from Alaska to Birkenhead by Herbert's uncle the sailing master Irvine Bulloch.

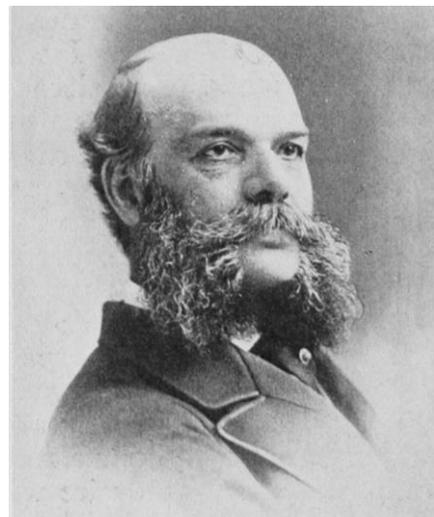
Bulloch had previously served with Raphael Semmes on the CSS *Alabama* - the inspiration for Captain Nemo's *Nautilus*.

Irvine Bulloch (1842-98)

Herbert's other Uncle was James Dunwoody Bulloch, the brainchild behind the construction of the CSS *Alabama* / Captain Nemo's *Nautilus*.

Herbert will also appear in our fifth book.

James Dunwoody Bulloch (1823-1901)



The Evidence That ‘Herbert’ knew about his Depiction in Jules Verne’s Mysterious Island.

After completing his studies at Harvard, the 22-year-old Herbert married Alice Hathaway Lee on October 27th 1880. Herbert and Alice departed New York on a delayed honeymoon on May 12th, and after a tour of Ireland, they arrived at 63 Parliament St, Liverpool – the home of ex-Confederate agent James Dunwoody Bulloch - the brainchild behind the CSS *Alabama* and by literary association Captain Nemo’s *Nautilus*.

Herbert and Alice also visited Irvine Bulloch at their home at 17 Sefton Drive, Liverpool – a house that Irvine had nostalgically christened ‘Roswell’ after the family home back in Georgia.

At the end of the honeymoon Herbert and Alice would once again stay with his beloved Uncle Jimmy Bulloch for about two weeks, and Herbert would write about this in a letter sent to his mother and dated September 14th, 1881.

I enjoy talking to the dear old fellow more than I can tell, he is such a modest high souled old fellow that I just love and respect him and I think he enjoys having someone to talk to who really enjoys listening. Of course, had I been old enough I would have served on the northern side, but I am none the less interested in his history on account of that, as I do not think partisanship should ever obscure the truth.

The bond of affection between Herbert and James Dunwoody Bulloch would last another 20 years, and in many ways, it would fall to Bulloch to become a second father to Herbert, after Herbert’s own father died in 1878.

However, it is the events in Paris during Herbert’s honeymoon that we now turn, and a coded admission that the real Herbert had a meeting with the author Jules Verne.

Three pieces of literary evidence will lead us there.

The first is a passage about Jules Verne's noble Scottish ancestry written by Verne's grandson.

On his mother's side, Verne is known to be descended from one 'N. Allott, Scotsman', who came to France to serve in the Scots Guards of Louis XI and rose to earn a title (in 1462).

He built his castle, complete with dovecote or fuye (a privilege in the royal gift), near Loudun in Anjou and took the noble name of Allotte de la Fuye.

Quite a few generations later, we reach Sophie Allotte de la Fuye, Jules Verne's mother, whose ancestors – as befitted the descendants of a Scottish bowman – were mainly military.

Jules Verne – A Biography by Jean Jules-Verne (1976)

The second piece of evidence is from the 1996 biography of Jules Verne by Herbert Lottman regarding the *Uncle Robinson* working title for the book that eventually became the novel *Mysterious Island*.

There is evidence that Jules Verne set out to write a proper Robinson Crusoe-like-adventure- and that he resolved to use Robinson in the title...

...so he began to write his own, starting late in 1869 and continuing throughout the agitated year 1870. By then he had completed a first part and had submitted it to his publisher; this was the book he wished to call 'Uncle Robinson'...

Hetzel disliked Verne's new book and said so – emphatically. It was the first time since vetoing 'Paris in the Twentieth Century' that Hetzel took the risk of upsetting the author with a flat no, and this after announcing forthcoming publication of the story in Magasin d'Education... Verne got the message. No matter – he'd try again.

... He had been helped through the shock of rejection of his first try, Uncle Robinson, by his infinite capacity to forget everything else when plunging into a new piece of work. At the beginning of February 1873, he was able to report the rue Jacob that he was "entirely absorbed by the Robinson, or rather by The Mysterious Island.

Herbert R. Lottman. Jules Verne – An Exploratory Biography (1996)

And the third and final piece of evidence is from the pen of Herbert himself...

On June 13th 1881, Herbert would write to his sister Corinne from the Hotel Bellevue in Paris.

A photograph of a handwritten letter on aged paper. The text is written in cursive ink. At the top right, it says 'Hotel Bellevue, Paris' and 'June 13th 1881'. Below that, it reads 'You darling, best beloved, dearest' and 'Puthy Pothle thwaite,'. The paper has some faint, illegible markings in the background.

The use of the pet nonsense name 'Puthy Pothle thwaite' is reminiscent of the poetry of Edward Lear.

It is very possible that Herbert met Edward Lear on a documented visit he made in 1869 to Knowsley Hall, the residence of Lord Derby. The visit was organised by James Dunwoody Bulloch via his friend Admiral Hornby, who was a relative of Lord Derby the three times Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Herbert continues.

A photograph of a handwritten line of text in cursive ink on aged paper. The text reads: 'The two innocents are now on foreign soil. Our last days in London were very pleasant.' The paper has some faint, illegible markings in the background.

For an American to say that you are now on foreign soil after a month in Britain and Ireland shows an interesting take on dual citizenship – perhaps Herbert feels half British after his fictional self had been living in secret in Birkenhead for four years?

It was ex-President Ulysses Grant who had declared in Liverpool that Americans and Britons were of one kindred, one blood, one language, and one civilization.

It will take just one sentence for the real Herbert to betray his secret identity and it will be in a coded message to his own sister, Corinne.

He also had a very pleasant lunch at the Finne's, where we met "Uncle Robinson", a nice old scotch baronet, One



Playing the role of Herbert in Jules Verne's Mysterious Island.....

..... a role he knew about from an early age and certainly tried to live up to in real life is.....



**Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)
The Twenty Sixth President of the
United States.**

- NATURAL HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR-
- THE YOUNGEST EVER UNITED STATES PRESIDENT-
- WITNESSED ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FUNERAL AGED SEVEN-
- CHILDHOOD TAXIDERMIST-
- FOLLOWER OF THE STRENUOUS LIFE'
- CLIMBED THE MATTERHORN AT AGE OF 23-
- SPEED READER WHO READ ONE BOOK A DAY THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE-
- COWBOY-
- LED THE ROUGH RIDERS CAVALARY CHARGE UP SAN JUAN HILL-
- AWARDED MEDAL OF HONOR IN 2001 FOR ACTS OF BRAVERY-
- RENAMED THE EXECUTIVE MANSION 'THE WHITE HOUSE'-
- INVITED BOOKER T WASHINGTON TO BE THE FIRST BLACK PERSON EVER TO
DINE AT THE WHITE HOUSE -
- REGULATED BIG CORPORATION MONOPOLIES – 'THE TRUST BUSTER'-
- THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO PRIORITISE CONSERVATION-
- ESTABLISHED FIVE NEW NATIONAL PARKS-
- CREATED 51 BIRD SANCTUARIES-
- CREATED 150 NATION FORESTS-
- PROTECTED 230 MILLION ACRES OF LAND-
- 1906 ANTIQUITIES ACT PROTECTED NATIVE AMERICAN ANCIENT SITES-
- SAVED THE BISON FROM EXTINCTION-
- GAVE HIS NAME TO THE 'TEDDY BEAR'-
- LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL-
- THE FIRST AMERICAN TO BE AWARDED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE-
- STRENGTHENED THE UNITED STATES NAVY-
- ESTABLISHED 'BIG STICK' DIPLOMACY-
- AMERICA'S FIRST BROWN BELT IN JUDO-
- FIRST PRESIDENT TO FLY IN AN AIRCRAFT-
- CARRIED ON GIVING A SPEECH FOR 84 MINUTES AFTER BEING SHOT-
- BLINDED IN ONE EYE DURING A BOXING FIGHT IN THE WHITE HOUSE-
- KEPT A BLACK BEAR AT THE WHITE HOUSE NAMED JONATHAN EDWARDS-
- BIG GAME HUNTER-
- LEADER OF SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS IN AFRICAN AND SOUTH AMERICA-
- IMMORTALISED ON MOUNT RUSHMORE-

In *Mysterious Island*, Jules Verne writes that Herbert is a young New Jersey boy, *about fifteen years old*. Theodore Roosevelt was born in Manhattan less than a mile away from the New Jersey state line and was the same age as 'Herbert' when *Mysterious Island* was written.

As a consequence of his childhood asthma the young Roosevelt was home-schooled, most notably between 1873-1876 by Arthur Hamilton Cutler, a professor from Harvard University, Boston and undoubtedly *one of the best professors in Boston*.

Theodore Roosevelt Senior was an American businessman who had made his wealth through the family plate glass importation business. He was a founder member of the American Museum of Natural History in New York.



Theodore Roosevelt Senior (1831-1878)

Theodore Roosevelt Senior, with the help of Abraham Lincoln and others, drew up the *Allotment System*, a payroll deduction programme designed to support the wives and children of Unionist soldiers in the American Civil War.

As Roosevelt Senior toiled in the mud and rain of the battle lines for the families of Unionist soldiers, his wife, a staunch Confederate, was wrapping food parcels for the families of southern troops.



Theodore Roosevelt Senior had two sons, the first Theodore Roosevelt Junior became the twenty sixth president of the United States, the second son, Elliot Bulloch Roosevelt, was the father of Eleanor Roosevelt, later to become the First Lady of the United States and wife of President Franklin D Roosevelt.

Eleanor Roosevelt at the Whitehouse (c1940) with a portrait of her grandfather, Theodore Roosevelt Senior. (1831-1878)

Theodore Roosevelt Senior's wife Mittie Bulloch had two brothers, James Dunwoody Bulloch and Irvine Bulloch, both of whom were fighting a high-profile campaign for the Confederacy in the American Civil War.

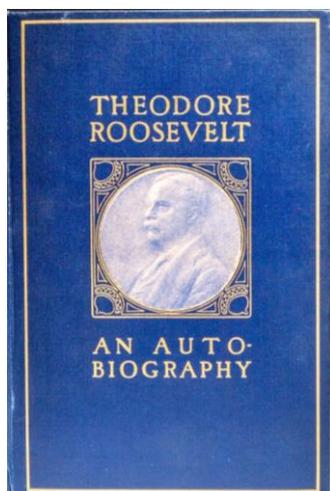
If Theodore Roosevelt Senior had served in the army, it would have torn the family apart.

As such there is no evidence of any friction between Roosevelt Senior and his beautiful young wife before, during or after the American Civil War.



Martha "Mittie" Bullock (1835 – 1884)

When Roosevelt Senior invited Unionist Generals to the house, the young Theodore Roosevelt recalls how his grandma Bulloch hid in a cupboard in the servant quarters, refusing to come out. The Generals were kept away from the Confederate flags hanging in other rooms. The house was divided but it did stand, the young Theodore was a staunch Unionist, once praying for a swift Northern victory purposely within earshot of his mother.



In his autobiography, Theodore Roosevelt writes a moving description of his father which may be of great relevance to our adventure.

My father, Theodore Roosevelt, was the best man I ever knew. He combined strength and courage with gentleness, tenderness, and great unselfishness. He would not tolerate in us children selfishness or cruelty, idleness, cowardice, or untruthfulness.

Theodore Roosevelt – An Autobiography.

As we grew older, he made us understand that the same standard of clean living was demanded the boys as for the girls; that what was wrong in a woman could not be right in a man.

With great love and patience, and the most generous sympathy and consideration, he combined insistence on discipline. He never physically punished me but once, but he was the

only man of whom I was ever really afraid. I do not mean that it was a wrong fear, for he was entirely just, and we children adored him. ...

I never knew anyone who got greater joy out of living than did my father, or anyone who more whole-heartedly performed every duty; and no one whom I have ever met approached his combination of enjoyment of life and performance of duty. He and my mother were given to hospitality that at that time was associated more commonly with southern than northern households. ...

My father worked hard at his business, for he died when he was forty-six, too early to have retired. He was interested in every social reform movement, and he did an immense amount of practical charitable work himself.

He was a big, powerful man, with a leonine face, and his heart filled with gentleness for those who needed help or protection, and with the possibility of much wrath against a bully or an oppressor. ... [He] was greatly interested in the societies to prevent cruelty to children and cruelty to animals. On Sundays, he had a mission class."

In 2012, historian Douglas Brinkley ranked Roosevelt Senior as number one in his list of all fathers of Presidents of the United States, citing his instilling in his son with a love of the outdoors and lessons in foreign languages, taxidermy, and bodybuilding and calling Roosevelt "in a league of his own."

The end of the American Civil War also made an impression on the seven-year-old Theodore Roosevelt as together with his younger brother Elliott he witnessed the funeral of Abraham Lincoln from an upstairs window in Pennsylvania Avenue Washington on April 19th 1865.

The funeral of Abraham Lincoln with Theodore and Elliott Roosevelt circled top left.



Theodore Roosevelt was just six years old when the American Civil War ended, and yet his memories of the conflict, particularly with the story telling from his mother about his Confederate uncles would long be held in his consciousness.

Theodore Roosevelt's year of birth means that he would have been 15 years old and therefore the same age as the fictional character of 'Herbert' (a corruption of 'BE THEE R') when the first English translation of *'Mysterious Island'* by W.H.G. Kingston was published in 1874.

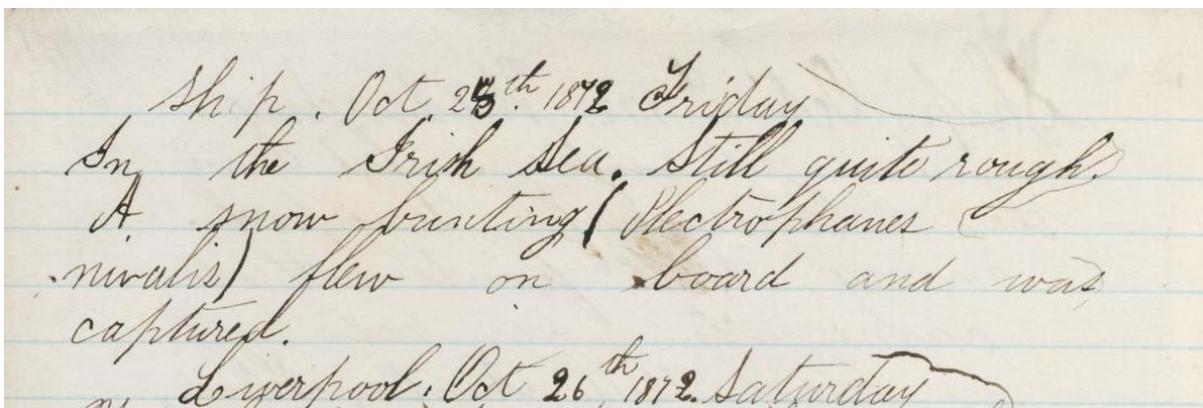
In *Mysterious Island*, Herbert has a 'turn for natural history' and at the age of seven, the young Theodore Roosevelt completed his essay on "The Foregoing Ant," and dedicated it to "the grown people." At the age of nine he completed his 'Natural History of Insects', complete with complex classifications and indexing.

As Herbert Brown in *Mysterious Island* would say "It is a 'cycas revoluta' of which I have a picture in our dictionary of Natural History!"

The words of Herbert also echo Theodore Roosevelt's handwritten entry in his own diary in Liverpool in 1872;

October 25th 1872

In the Irish Sea, still quite rough. A snow bunting (*Hectorphanes miralis*) flew on board and was captured....



Ship, Oct. 25th 1872 Friday
In the Irish Sea. Still quite rough.
A snow bunting (*Hectorphanes miralis*) flew on board and was captured.
Liverpool, Oct. 26th 1872 Saturday

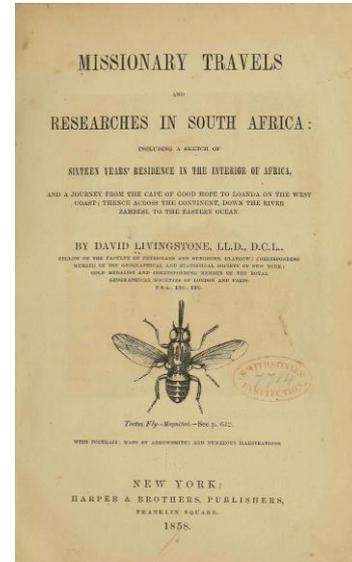
Theodore Roosevelt's Diary entry for October 25th 1872

... After dinner, Jimmie Bulloch, Ellie and I went out to the museum. The specimens are neither as well mounted or as rare as those in our own, the American Museum of Natural History at New York.

(Theodore Roosevelt Center)

In *Mysterious Island* Herbert is also an avid reader of books found in the case and indeed Theodore Roosevelt finished reading his first book *Doctor Livingstone's Travels and Researches* at the age of four – the Scottish missionary's sense of adventure, which in 1858 started with a voyage from Birkenhead, was to have a marked impact on Roosevelt throughout his life.

Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa.



Roosevelt later developed an incredible ability to combine 'speed reading' with an almost photographic memory, he would sometimes devour several books in one day and later recount the minutest detail of each one.



Corinne Roosevelt, (Puthy Pothlethwaite) would write in her biography *My Brother Theodore Roosevelt*;

Our parents realized fully the unusual quality of their son, they recognized the strength and power of his character, the focussed and reasoning superiority of his mentality, but I do not think they fully realized the extraordinary quality of leadership which hereto somewhat hampered by his ill health was later to prove so great a factor...

Corinne Roosevelt Robinson 1861-1933.

...not only in the circle of his immediate family and friends but in the broader field of the whole country... his body answering to the insistence of his character, was growing stronger day by day, and was soon to be an instrument of iron to use in the future years.

Mr. Arthur Cutler was engaged by my parents to be at Oyster Bay during those summers to superintend the studies of the two boys, and with his able assistance my brother was well prepared for Harvard College, which he entered in September, 1876. It seems almost incredible that the puny, delicate child, so suffering even three years before, could have started his college life the peer, from a physical standpoint, of any of his classmates. A lightweight boxer, a swift runner, and in every way fitted to take his place, physically as well as mentally, in the arena of college life, he entered Harvard College.

Corinne Roosevelt *My Brother Theodore Roosevelt* (1921)

Jules Verne also states that Herbert's interest in natural history would be '*of great use in the course of time*'

The adventures of Herbert in *Mysterious Island* strongly mirror Theodore Roosevelt's early teenage years.

At 14, Theodore Roosevelt had just been given his first hunting rifle '*Herbert*' is *the best marksmen in the colony*,

..... and his first pair of spectacles... *Herbert strained his eyes in every direction, and his sight was excellent*'

..... swimming - *Herbert swam like a fish*

Verne even suggests why Roosevelt's childhood asthma may have been cured;

Herbert would inhale the fresh air, charged with ozone, which could not fail to restore his health.

'Herbert, become again the healthy and vigorous lad he was before his illness, derived great benefit from this life in the open air, between the sea-breezes and the vivifying air from the forests. His place was no longer in the cart, but at the head of the troop.'

Jules Verne *The Mysterious Island* (1874)

Jules Verne also gives a clue to Theodore Roosevelt Senior's plate glass business links to St Helens – the centre of the world glass industry.

Herbert, swelling out his cheeks, blew so much and so well into the tube – taking care to twirl it round at the same time – that his breadth dilated the glassy mass. Other quantities of the substance in a state of fusion were added to the first, and in a short time the result was a bubble which measured a foot in diameter..... it was extended on a plate and spread out with a wooden roller.

Jules Verne The Mysterious Island (1874)

The Roosevelt dynasty had two distinct sides of the Family, The Hyde Park Roosevelts and the Oyster Bay Roosevelts, Theodore Roosevelt came from the Oyster Bay side of the Roosevelt family.

Pencroft and Herbert made a good meal of the lithodomes. They ate them as oysters.

Jules Verne The Mysterious Island (1874)



Boathouse / Bridge Central Park, New York

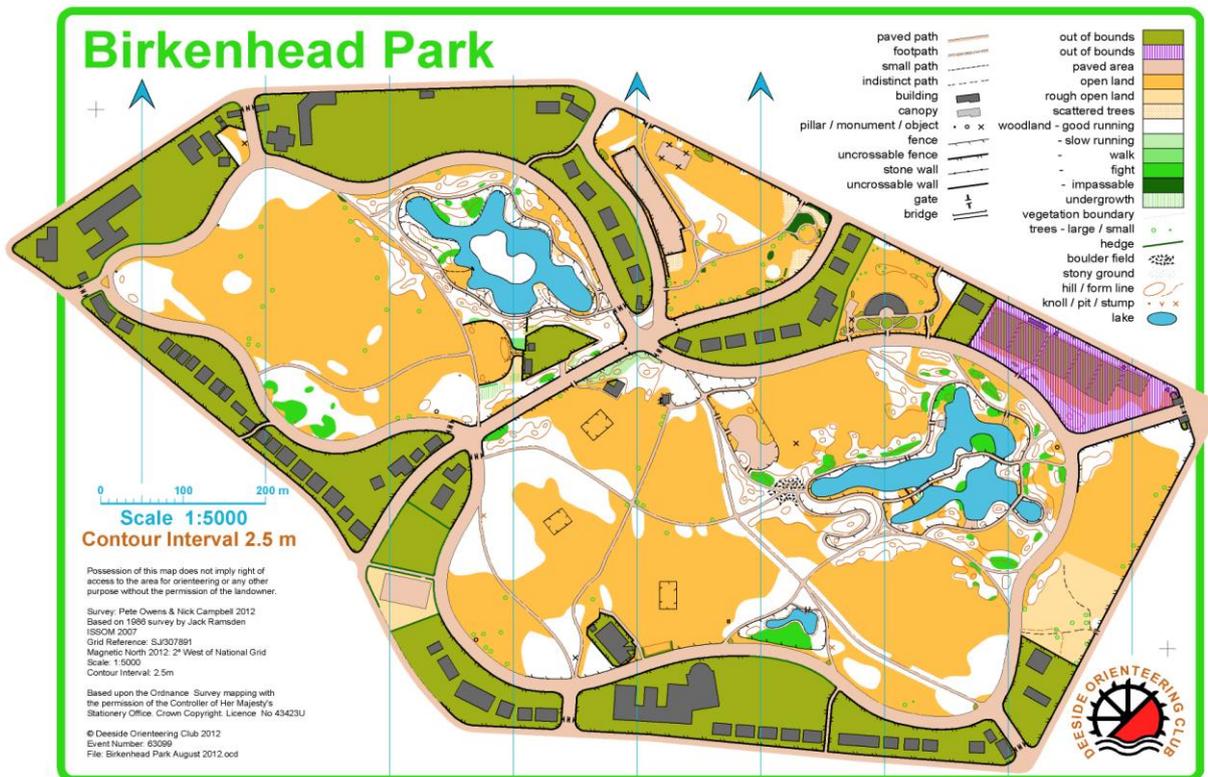


Boathouse / Bridge Birkenhead Park

Theodore Roosevelt grew up within a short distance of his natural playground at Central Park New York – the park that was inspired by Birkenhead Park. Birkenhead Park would be Roosevelt's fantasy playground in the metaphor that is Lincoln Island. It must have instilled a deep affection for Britain and the British in the future President of the United States and further cemented the 'special relationship' between Britain and America that began after the settlement of the Alabama Claims in 1871.

Verne states that Herbert's interest in natural history would be 'of great use in the course of time' and President Theodore Roosevelt did indeed apply the founding principles of 'the peoples' park' at Birkenhead to conserve many of America's great wilderness areas for the

nation. This may seem incongruous to link a small park in a northern industrial town in England to Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls and yet, as we shall see, Birkenhead Park will represent Jules Verne's greatest use of symbolism in the whole of *Mysterious Island*.



Birkenhead Park.

Jules Verne continues throughout the novel;

Herbert has;

'great courage and much of that presence of mind which may justly be called "the reasoning of bravery."

'coolness and judgement' 'Herbert was there face to face with a fierce jaguar.'

Herbert's courage was superb.' He *'no longer feared to meet one of those beasts'* and

'Already twenty magnificent skins ornamented the dining-room of Granite House', and if this

continued, the Jaguar race would soon become extinct in the island.' *'Herbert had,*

with a shot from his revolver, rescued Neb.

Jules Verne The Mysterious Island (1874)

We know that Theodore Roosevelt was a voracious reader of literature, and he did read *Mysterious Island*.

If so, did Roosevelt not recognise the boy in *Mysterious Island* who was the same age as himself, with a ‘passion for natural history’ and able to ‘attend the best lectures of the best professors in Boston’?

Roosevelt reading at home.



I typically read around a book a day.

Theodore Roosevelt

So how does this relate to a young Theodore Roosevelt and his relationship to Liverpool and Birkenhead? To understand this, we must go back to the winter of 1868, when the young Theodore Roosevelt’s mother, Mittie Bulloch Roosevelt suggested that a trip to Europe may benefit the health of the whole Roosevelt family, particularly her chronically asthmatic eldest son.

Theodore Roosevelt Senior enthusiastically took on the task of designing an educational ‘Grand Tour’ for his wife and family that would take in nine European countries. The family plate glass importation business ‘Roosevelt and Son’ was well established, highly profitable and could look after itself, and besides Roosevelt Senior could attend to his business contacts, in the Lancashire town of St Helens, near Liverpool, at the time the centre of the world glass industry.

The young Theodore Roosevelt was totally underwhelmed by the idea of a tour of Europe, his imagination was instead stirred by tales of Africa, South America and the Far East, he felt he was being sent against his will to the tediousness of the ‘civilised’ world.

On the 12th May 1869 the whole family boarded the paddle steamer *Scotia*, bound for Liverpool, most probably under the Captainship of Charles Judkins. This was the same Charles Judkins who, in 1846 as Captain of the *Cambria* had invited the abolitionist Frederick Douglass to give a lecture on slavery and threatened to put in irons any southerner who objected. Judkins was a member of the Royal Mersey Yacht Club of Tranmere, Birkenhead.



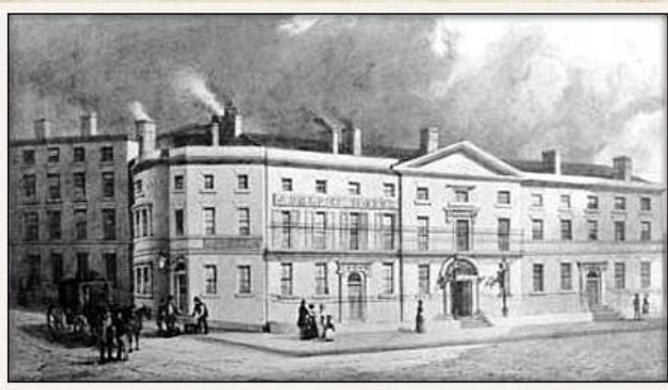
The RMS *Scotia*

The ten-year-old Theodore soon came to the attention of some of the passengers, one of whom described him as ‘*a tall thin lad with bright eyes and legs like pipe stems*’. During the voyage he made friends with a ‘learned gentleman from the West Indies’ and ‘had long conversations with him on the subject of natural history’

The *Scotia* entered the River Mersey on May 21st to a joyous reunion between Theodore Roosevelt Senior, Mittie Roosevelt and her brothers, James Dunwoody Bulloch and Irvine Bulloch. The *Scotia* was delayed by a low tide and so James and Irvine clambered aboard a tugboat late that evening as the ship lay at anchor, most probably and ironically in the Tranmere Sloyne.

The Roosevelt children were ‘wild with delight’ when they finally saw their uncles of whom they had heard so many adventurous seafaring stories, James Bulloch, the blockade runner and mastermind behind the construction of the *Alabama*, and Irvine who was the only sailor to serve on both the *Alabama* and *Shenandoah* and the last to fire the *Alabama*’s guns as she fell victim to the *Kearsage*.

The bond between the two families was so strong that Harriet was ‘so overjoyed to see Mittie that she hugged and kissed her until she cried tears of happiness’. The Bulloch brothers quickly organised a twenty-minute tender ride to Liverpool’s Pier Head and soon the entire Roosevelt entourage were billeted at Liverpool’s prestigious Adelphi Hotel.



In the same month both the *Scotia* and The Adelphi Hotel were featuring in a new serialised novel called *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.

The first Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool in about 1860.

For ten days James Dunwoody Bulloch, his wife Harriet, and Irvine Bulloch, entertained the Roosevelts in various locations around the city. Mittie Roosevelt and Harriet Bulloch went shopping together in Liverpool, the family met Irvine’s fiancé Ella Sears. Bamie, Theodore, Elliott and Corinne Roosevelt played with their cousins on the beach at the Bulloch family home in Waterloo near Liverpool. The Bullochs and Roosevelts also took undertook an educational exploration of the local countryside.

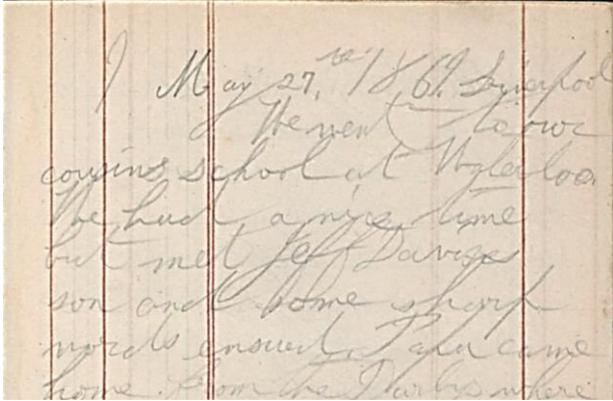
It was decided then that the Roosevelt children should attend their cousins’ school for the day and so on May 27th 1869 the four Roosevelt children turned up on the doorstep of Micheline de Zastro’s Boarding School at number 9 Waterloo Road in Crosby, Liverpool.



The astonishing events of what happened next are recorded in Theodore Roosevelt’s own hand in his diary – Theodore, who as a four-year-old had prayed for a swift Unionist victory decided to resume the American Civil War in a Liverpool playground.

Roosevelt would write in his diary...

We went to our cousins' school at Waterloo, We had a nice time but met Jeff Davises son and some sharp words ensued.



I May 27, 1868
We went to two
cousins school at Waterloo
we had a nice time
but met Jeff Davises
son and some sharp
words ensued. Papa came
home from the Darbys where

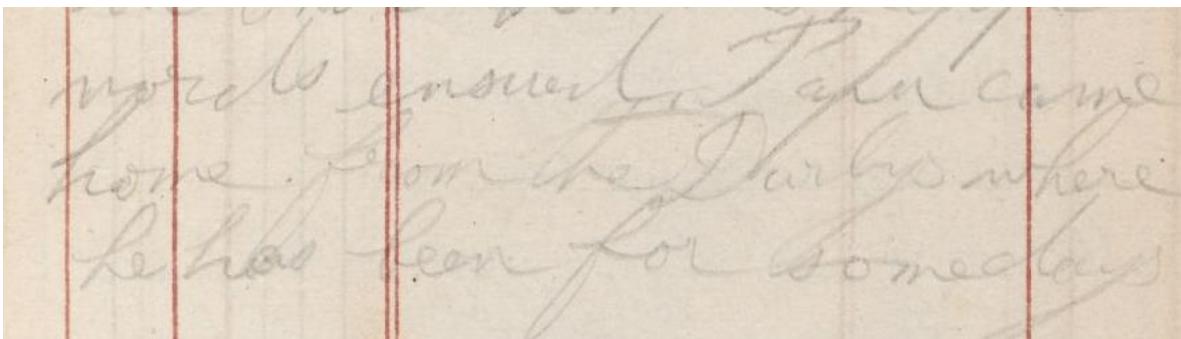
**Some strong words ensued.
(Theodore Roosevelt Center)**

The Davis's two boys Jeff and Billy had been at the school since 1868, including a period when their parents returned to the United States. This prolonged absence showed the level of trust and friendship that both Jefferson and Varina Davis had bestowed on James Dunwoody Bulloch, the procurer of Captain Nemo's *Nautilus*.



The children of Jefferson Davis.

The young Roosevelt then reveals the whereabouts of his own father.



words ensued. Papa came
home from the Darbys where
he has been for some days

(Theodore Roosevelt Centre).

Papa came home from the Darbys where he has been for some days.



Theodore Roosevelt Senior, a close associate of Abraham Lincoln throughout the American Civil War, was spending a few days with Edward Smith Stanley at Knowsley Hall – a man who just a year previously had been Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Lord Derby's son, the 15th Earl became Commodore of the Royal Mersey Yacht Club at Tranmere, Birkenhead.

Edward Smith Stanley 14th Earl of Derby (1799-1869)

The close and long-standing relationship between the Roosevelts and the Derbys may have started a long time before that early summer day in 1869. The later President Theodore Roosevelt would continue to correspond with the 17th Earl of Derby, who would help enlist his son Kermit in the British Army during the First World War.

The Roosevelts left Liverpool on June 1st to continue their Grand Tour of Europe and the Holy Land, with Theodore Roosevelt Senior briefly interrupting the tour to return to Liverpool in November to attend to his plate glass business interests.

By January 1870 The Roosevelts were still on their Grand Tour and enjoying six weeks in Rome. Corinne Roosevelt in her biography of her brother wrote about how Theodore gained his 'pious heart' in Rome;

The Pope His benign face framed in white hair and the close cap which he wore, caught site of the group of eager little children craning their necks to see him pass; and he smiled and put one fragile, delicate hand towards us, and lo! The late scoffer who, in spite of his ardent Americanism that burned in his eleven-year-old soul, had as much reverence as militant patriotism in his nature, fell upon his knees and kissed the delicate hand, which for a brief moment was laid upon his fair curly hair.

Corinne Roosevelt *My Brother Theodore Roosevelt* (1921)

The young Roosevelt's meeting with both the Pope and an ex-British Prime Minister may not go unnoticed by Jules Verne.

After seven weeks 'sight-seeing' in Paris, The Roosevelts returned to the United Kingdom for another two weeks before embarking from Liverpool on the 14th May 1870, this time on the new Cunard screw steamer 'Russia'. The eldest daughter Bamie was left in at Mlle.

Souvestre's boarding school *Les Ruches* in France, it was Europe's most prestigious academy for aristocratic young girls.



However, on July 15, 1870 the French Government declared war on Prussia, Bamie found herself in the middle of a war zone, and much to the relief of the Roosevelt family she returned to Liverpool to live with the Bullochs at their new home 'Clifton' in Cambridge Road, Waterloo.

Clifton, Cambridge Road Waterloo.

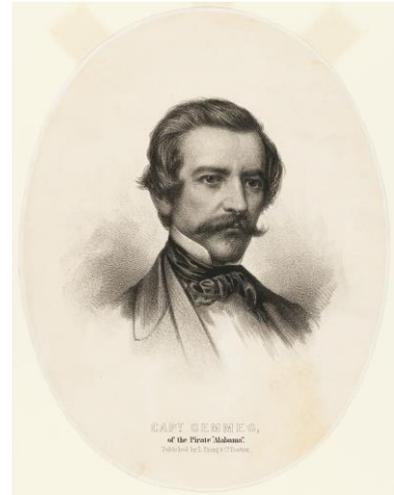
The house was already crowded with the five Bulloch children, aged five to twelve, two housekeepers and a 19-year-old young woman named Nannie Hutchinson who had been made an adopted ward of the Bullochs.

As the Franco Prussian War dragged on, Theodore Roosevelt Senior decided to cross the Atlantic once more to collect his eldest daughter from the Bullochs. When Theodore, Bamie and her maid finally arrived back in New York aboard the *SS Java* in November 1870, they were not alone, with them was James Dunwoody Bulloch, who had just completed a business trip around Ireland with former Confederate States President Jefferson Davis.

Bulloch was now a British Citizen and this was supposedly the first time he had set foot in the United States since the end of the Civil War, and after spending Christmas with the Roosevelts, Bulloch travelled straight to Mobile, Alabama.

On December 29th, 1870 James Dunwoody Bulloch checked into the Battle House hotel in Mobile, the next day a “Mrs V. Davis” checked in to the nearby Campbell House Hotel. Varina Davis’s husband, Jefferson Davis was still in Memphis, amid reports that their marriage was under strain.

James and possibly Varina were in Mobile, Alabama for a reason, they were visiting an old friend, one Raphael Semmes, who the history books will record as ‘him who had borne the name of Captain Nemo’ and whose motto was ‘*Mobilis in Mobile*’.



Raphael Semmes (1809-77)



By January, James Dunwoody Bulloch had left Mobile and headed for Baltimore, undoubtedly, to pay a visit to James I. Waddell, previously Captain of the CSS *Shenandoah*. Bulloch had saved Waddell’s life when he had seen to his health care in the Sailor’s Home in Liverpool after the *Shenandoah*’s circumnavigation of the globe had left him a broken man.

James I. Waddell (1824-86)

James Dunwoody Bulloch then headed back to New York, once again to meet up with the Roosevelts and visit his old house at Madison, New Jersey, he was accompanied by Mittie Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt Junior and Elliot Roosevelt. On 22nd February James received devastating news from home, his youngest son ‘Dunnie’ had died, aged nine of Scarlet Fever – he immediately set sail for home.

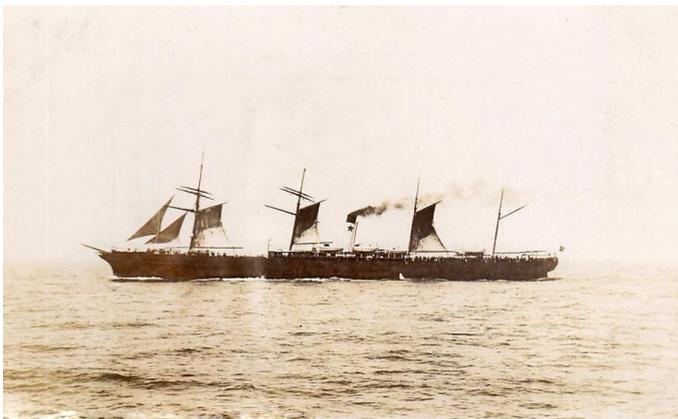
Two years later, in October 1872 Theodore Roosevelt Senior, Mittie and their four children would once again set sail for Europe, this time on the *SS Russia*. President Ulysses S Grant had appointed Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., as the U.S. commissioner to the Vienna International Exposition, commencing in the spring of 1873.



President Ulysses S Grant (1822-85)

The Roosevelt's would mix business with pleasure and incorporate a grand tour of Europe, Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. Once again, the Bullochs were there to greet the Roosevelts at the quayside in Liverpool, Theodore Roosevelt Senior's sister-in-law, Mary Roosevelt together with her children Cornelius and Hilborne Roosevelt were already staying at the Bulloch's house in Waterloo.

Theodore Roosevelt Junior was to celebrate his fourteenth birthday during his stay in Liverpool and the now more mature hand of his diary gives several additional clues to our story.



As the *SS Russia* entered the Irish Sea, the first entries in the then thirteen-year-old Theodore Roosevelt's diary are very much in the style of 'Herbert' in Liverpool.

SS Russia

October 26th 1872

After a while, I went out to the markets. On the streets I was much annoyed by the street boys who immediately knew me for a yankee and pestered me fearfully.

Requiring to buy a pound of arsenic (for skinning purposes) I was informed that I must bring a witness to prove that I was not going to commit murder, suicide or any such other dreadful thing, before I could have it!

October 29th 1872, Tuesday.

In the morning I went out to visit various bookstores in the company of Corinne and was unsuccessful in my search for scientific books, however in the morning I skinned a starling and a snipe.

Liverpool, November 2nd 1872, Saturday.

Today we spent the day at Waterloo, I have been reading a copy of Audubon's works which Aunt Hattie has, and with this I have been occupied most of the day.

James Audubon is acknowledged as the finest bird illustrator of all time; Young Theodore Roosevelt was trained in taxidermy by a student of James Audubon. There is a copy of the author's *Birds of America* in Liverpool Central Library. A single copy of this book recently sold at Sotheby's for £7,321,250 while two of the artist's prints hang in the Oval office of the White House.

Theodore Roosevelt's character of Herbert would successfully shoot snipe on four separate occasions on his '*Mysterious Island*'.

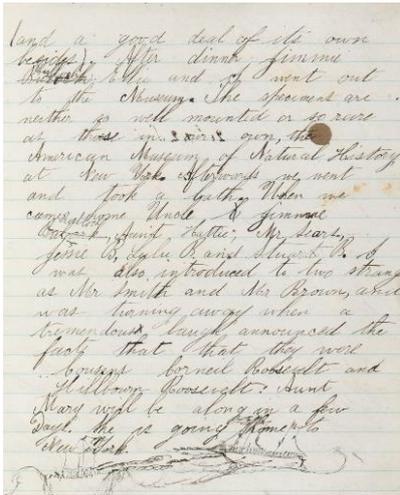


Right - Herbert clapped his hands. It was the first time he had seen birds taken with a line.

Left - Birds of North America by James Audubon, Liverpool Central Library.



One final entry, from Theodore Roosevelt's 1872 visit to Liverpool, deserves attention;



I was also introduced to two strangers as Mr Smith and Mr Brown and was turning away when a tremendous laugh announced the fact that they were cousins Conseil Roosevelt and Hillborne Roosevelt.

Theodore Roosevelt Diary entry October 26th 1872. (Theodore Roosevelt Centre).

Had Roosevelt never met his own cousins before? This is a family who, Roosevelt's sister Corinne recalled entertained in the 'southern tradition' of her mother Martha Bulloch. It seems odd that when Roosevelt did meet his cousins for the first time, he was fourteen years old, three thousand miles away from home and in a small house in Waterloo, Liverpool.

Raphael Semmes used an alias on his forged passport and that alias was 'Smith', whereas Theodore Roosevelt also had an alias in *Mysterious Island* and that alias was 'Brown'.

In the Spring of 1873 Theodore Roosevelt Senior returned home from his second Grand Tour, he had placed his three youngest children (Theodore, Elliott and Corinne) in a boarding school in Dresden under the guidance of their Aunt Lucy Elliot. The three Roosevelt children and their two young Elliot cousins soon formed the *Dresden Literary American Club* to share short stories and poetry that they had composed during the week. Mittie and her eldest daughter Bamie stayed in a health spa at Carlsbad, Bohemia.



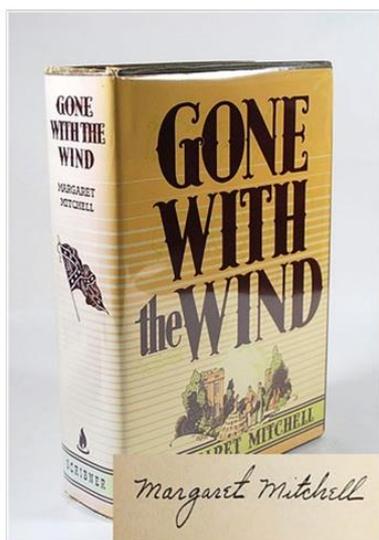
Mittie Roosevelt and her four children returned to Liverpool on October 8th 1873, this time they stayed with Irvine Bulloch and his wife Ella at 77 Canning Street, Liverpool, however, the eldest daughter Bammie stayed with Hattie Bulloch in Waterloo.

77 Canning Street, Liverpool.

James Bulloch was not present at this time, he had set up a business relationship with Baron de Maua in Brazil, a sponsor of the first submarine cable link from South America to Europe. Despite this work, the Roosevelts were now annually sending money to support James and Harriet Bulloch.

As the 'real' Captain Nemo, Raphael Semmes observed in his memoirs *'Bulloch had the honor to come out of the war poor'*.

This tribute would be repeated in a world-famous novel in 1935 when the author wrote *'honest men like Admiral Bulloch and others when confronted with the same situation had turned back thousands to the federal treasury'*. The author was comparing Bulloch to the novel's reckless hero, who, in complete contrast to Bulloch had held on to Confederate gold.



The name of this 'antihero' was Rhett Butler, the author was Margret Mitchell, and the novel was *'Gone with The Wind'*.

Only Margaret Mitchell and Theodore Roosevelt would refer to Captain Bulloch as 'Admiral' Bulloch. There were only two Confederate Admirals in the American Civil War, and one of them went by the secret name of Captain Nemo.

Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell.

In the Autumn of 1874 Theodore Roosevelt Senior once again visited Liverpool to attend to his plate glass business. Accompanying him was Irvine Bulloch and his wife Ella Sears Bulloch who had been holidaying with the Roosevelts in New York. Roosevelt's fourteen-year-old son Elliott was also in the party, and they again stayed at Irvine Bulloch's house at 77 Canning Street, Liverpool.

While away on business Theodore Roosevelt Senior received a telegram that severely alarmed him, Elliott Roosevelt had fallen ill, and he must return to Liverpool at once. Roosevelt rushed back from Paris, and on entering 77 Canning Street the young Elliott Roosevelt was lying prostrate on the bed after an asthma attack. Elliott, it transpired had been playing with Harriet Bulloch's children and been on the wrong end of a pillow fight.

On December 5th 1874, after spending a month nursing his son back to health at 77 Canning Street, Theodore Roosevelt Senior took Elliott Roosevelt back to the United States on the luxury liner *SS Russia*, it was to be the great man's last visit to Liverpool.

By the early months of 1875 Theodore Roosevelt Junior was cramming in more and more tuition lessons to enable him to pass the entrance examination for Harvard, he was also continuing with the strict fitness regime recommended by his father.

Roosevelt had fallen in love with a young childhood friend called Edith Carrow. In the Autumn of 1876 Roosevelt Junior finally entered Harvard University and settled into his new accommodation, within a few weeks, a letter from England arrived on the doorstep, his uncle Jimmie Bulloch, was coming to visit.

Theodore Roosevelt (left) and Edith Carrow (second right).



On June 28th 1877 James Dunwoody Bulloch left Liverpool on the steamship *SS Adriatic* bound for New York, his third documented return to the United States since the end of the American Civil War. The Roosevelts extended clan were by now at their summer home called *Tranquility* in Oyster Bay, Long Island. Bulloch joined them on July 8th. Theodore Roosevelt Junior joined the group in Mid-July, there were subsequently many opportunities for conversation between the still impressionable eighteen-year-old and his Uncle Jimmie and there followed a high summer of sailing, carriage rides, parties and nature walks.

At this time, Theodore Roosevelt Junior changed his signature on his letters written to his father– he was now referring to himself as ‘Thee’ as in ‘Thee R’ and ultimately as in a corruption of the name ‘Herbert’.



Bulloch remained at Oyster Bay until August 10th and by August 31st 1877, he was back in Liverpool, having returned on the *SS Adriatic*.

‘Tranquillity’ Oyster Bay.

In February 1878, Theodore Roosevelt Senior tragically died of colon cancer at the age of just 46 – the whole city of New York mourned the great man’s passing. Mittie Roosevelt, was now a 43-year-old widow and in delicate health and so Bamie Roosevelt, by far the eldest of the children would now be the head of the household and advisor to Theodore Roosevelt Junior. Theodore Roosevelt Senior was one of James Dunwoody Bulloch’s closest friends and the strength of that friendship had endured throughout the American Civil War; as Walter Wilson and Gary McKay in their biography of Bulloch (2012), would write;

For the next two years Teddy Roosevelt would finish his degree at Harvard, while Bulloch carried on as an independent businessman. Their mutual loss would bind them together in a way that would benefit each other, American foreign policy and naval strategy, and international trade. Bulloch would become Teddy’s oracle, and Teddy would become Bulloch’s pride and joy, almost another son.

James D Bulloch Secret Agent and Mastermind of the Confederate Navy.

Walter E. Wilson and Gary L. McKay

By 1878 financial hardship meant that James Dunwoody Bulloch had to sell the family home ‘Clifton’ in the Liverpool suburb of Waterloo however by 1880 he was living in a large house in 63 Upper Parliament Street just a mile from Liverpool City Centre.

James's nephew Theodore Roosevelt was struggling with his studies at Harvard, as he had turned his attention away from Edith Carrow to the beautiful Alice Hathaway Lee, consequently his grades began to suffer.



Theodore Roosevelt (bottom left) and Alice Hathaway Lee (centre).

Roosevelt obsession with Lee led to bouts of insomnia, and when prodigious amounts of reading failed he decided to write a book inspired by his uncles' tales of the sea.

Roosevelt began to write *The Naval War of 1812* based on the relative strengths and tactics of the British and United States navies during the conflict.

On June 30th Theodore Roosevelt graduated with a Law degree from Harvard.

On October 27th 1880 Theodore Roosevelt and Alice Hathaway Lee were married and moved in to a town house on 6 West 57th Street, just two blocks south of Central Park.

Meanwhile his book would lie languishing after just two chapters, however help was on its way.

On 15th March 1881 James Dunwoody Bulloch left Liverpool on the *RMS Republic*, bound for New York City, he arrived on March 25th and this real-life naval hero set down almost immediately to help Roosevelt with his book.

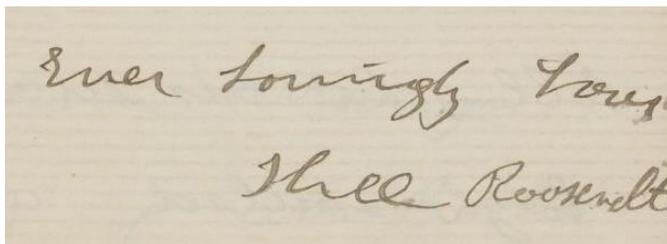
Roosevelt bombarded his uncle with hundreds of questions and stuck to strict regime of working daily at New York's Astor Library until 3.00 p.m.

Bulloch's stay was a lengthy one and it illustrates the level of devotion to his nephew, for he did not sail back to Liverpool until 21st May 1880.

Nine days earlier, Theodore Roosevelt and his new wife had boarded the White Star liner *RMS Celtic* and set off for Ireland on a belated honeymoon, he timed his itinerary carefully so that he could greet his Uncle Jimmie on his return to Liverpool.

After touring France, Italy, Austria and Bavaria, from September 10th 1880 the Roosevelts spent a further two weeks with the Bullochs.

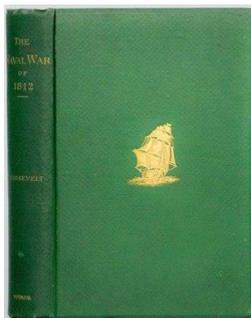
Theodore Roosevelt was spending all his time talking naval history with his Uncle Jimmie and reciprocated by suggesting he write a book on his blockade running adventures on the *Fingal* and the story of his involvement in the building of the CSS *Alabama* during the American Civil War – a ship that we would now know as Captain Nemo's *Nautilus*.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive ink on a piece of aged paper. The signature reads "Thee Roosevelt".

The name 'Herbert' is indeed a corruption of 'Thee R' - and Roosevelt would start signing his letters 'Thee R'.

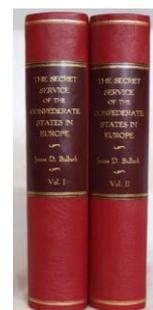
'Thee R'

In the autumn of 1881 Bulloch began his memoirs of the Civil War entitled *'The Secret Service of the Confederate States in Europe'* while Roosevelt continued working on *The Naval War of 1812*. They would both be later considered first rate naval historians. In 1883 Bulloch's memoirs received excellent reviews in the New York press, ironically, he was being feted in a city he had once plotted to destroy with his 'Laird Rams'.



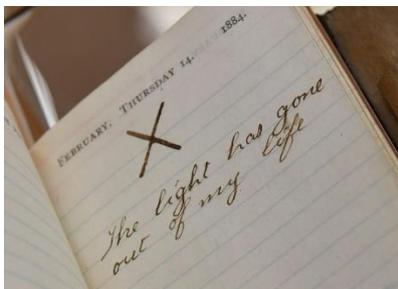
Left - Theodore Roosevelt's first book *The Naval War of 1812* (1882).

Right - *The Secret Service of the Confederate States in Europe*, James Dunwoody Bulloch (1883).



Roosevelt's conversations with his Uncle Jimmie and the importance of naval power and forward operating bases were to lay the basis for the rise of a new American Empire where the United States and not Great Britain taking the leading role on the world stage.

However, on February 14th 1884 unimaginable tragedy struck Theodore Roosevelt when his mother Mittie Bulloch Roosevelt died of typhoid fever at three o'clock in the morning. Just eleven hours later, his dearest wife Alice died after suffering kidney failure following complications giving birth.



He wrote in his diary 'the light has gone out of my life'. Theodore Roosevelt returned in isolation to his Dakota ranch.

By November 1886 Roosevelt, having sought solitude and recovery in the Badlands of Dakota for three years, was off to Liverpool again, this time to meet his new secret lover Edith Carrow, he would travel with his sister Bamie, under assumed names – Mr and Mrs Merrifield.

On 2nd December 1886. Theodore Roosevelt and Edith Carrow were married at St Georges Church in Hanover Square, London. Roosevelt's best man was Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice a young British diplomat who he had met just a few weeks before on the Atlantic crossing, they would be friends for life and 'Springy', under Roosevelt's guidance would later play an important role in encouraging America's entry into the First World War.

At this time only Bamie, Theodore's elder sister is recorded as staying at the Bullochs.

By 1886 the Bullochs had moved to a suburban house at 30 Sydenham Avenue near Sefton Park in Liverpool.

30 Sydenham Avenue, Toxteth, Liverpool.



Meanwhile Theodore Roosevelt's political career began to flourish, he took a lead role on the Federal Civil Service Commission and after reading Alfred Thayer Mahan's *The Influence of Sea Power upon History* Roosevelt became convinced that America must become the world's leading naval power. Bulloch and Mahan had been his inspiration, but Jules Verne by association implies there may also have been a 'third man' whose influence on Roosevelt has never have been recognised. The third man was ostracised –an outcast who went by the name of Captain Nemo.

In 1891 the relationship between James Dunwoody Bulloch and the Roosevelts would grow even closer when a new crisis enveloped the Roosevelt household. Theodore's younger brother Elliott Bulloch Roosevelt had developed a chronic alcoholic condition and got his housemaid pregnant.

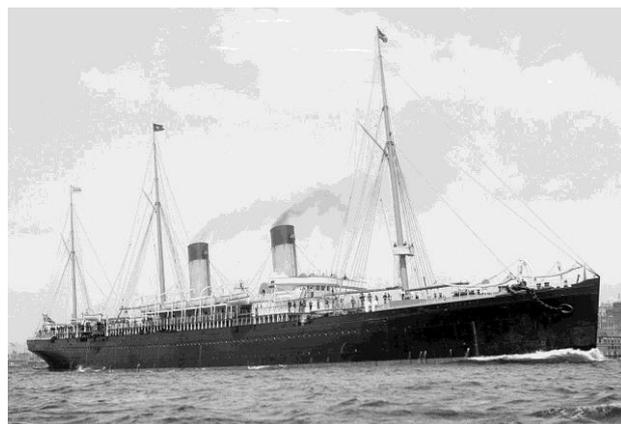


Elliott Bulloch Roosevelt (1860-94) with his daughter Anna Eleanor.

Elliott's wife, Anna Hall had requested help for her young family who were at the time living in Paris. In January 1892, Theodore Roosevelt arrived in the French capital and convinced Elliot to commit himself to an alcoholic's institution in the United States.

The two brothers subsequently travelled to 30 Sydenham Road, Toxteth, Liverpool where Theodore Roosevelt entrusted the care of Elliott Roosevelt to his Uncle Jimmie and then promptly made his way back to New York.

One week later, on February 3rd 1892 Elliott Bulloch Roosevelt and James Dunwoody Bulloch also set sail for New York aboard the White Star Line's *RMS Teutonic*.



White Star Liner RMS *Teutonic*.

It was to be Uncle Jimmie and not Theodore Roosevelt who safely enrolled Elliott Roosevelt into a New York asylum. Bulloch returned to Liverpool about one month later aboard the *SS Britannic*.

Elliott Bulloch Roosevelt's young daughter Anna Eleanor Roosevelt would always be grateful to her Great Uncle Jimmy, the man who commissioned the *CSS Alabama* for showing her father so much love and care.



By the early 1890's Irvine Bulloch and his wife Ella Sears Bulloch had moved into a house at the opposite end of the road at 1 Sydenham Avenue.

1 Sydenham Avenue.

Ella Sears Bulloch was Elliot Roosevelt's favourite aunt and she must have been deeply distraught when Elliot died at the age of just 34 in 1894.

On 14th July 1898, Irvine Bulloch, the man who fired the last shots from the *CSS Alabama* and navigated the *CSS Shenandoah* halfway around the world, passed away at the age of 56, his widow Ella continued to live at 1 Sydenham Avenue until her death in 1911.

By the mid 1890's Theodore Roosevelt's political career was in the ascendancy and by May 1895 Theodore Roosevelt had resigned his position with the Federal Civil Service Commission to become New York Police Commissioner.

New York Police Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt at his desk.



Roosevelt's prominence in the Republican Party was also in the ascendancy and he campaigned vigorously for William McKinley in the 1896 Presidential election. Roosevelt's speeches, undoubtedly influenced by his Uncle Jimmie, often had a more international and interventionist outlook based on a strong navy presence, subsequently in April 1897 McKinley appointed him Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

President William McKinley (1843-1901)



Theodore Roosevelt was now in a position influenced by his mother's stories about his favourite uncle's exploits in the Confederate Navy – his blockade running on the *Fingal* and his building of the *Alabama* – a position that now made him able to work on his greatest ambition – to make the United States navy the most powerful in the world. Roosevelt was a great believer in the symbolism of his office, so he brought out the old Civil War desk of his predecessor Gustavus Fox, the man who had once plotted to blow up the Laird Rams at their mooring in Birkenhead.



Roosevelt was conscious that the desk had ironclad monitors carved in their side panels.

These futuristic warships with their armed rams were also the inspiration for the fighting power of Captain Nemo's *Nautilus*.

Roosevelt and the desk of Gustavus Fox

Roosevelt in his short tenure as Assistant Secretary to the Treasury was to change the face of American Naval Strategy, and in many he simply adapted the lessons learned from his dear Uncle Jimmie in the American Civil War.

To quote Walter E. Wilson and Gary L McKay;

The beginning of the modern United States Navy was instigated at least in part, by an unreconstructed Confederate secret agent named James Dunwoody Bulloch and his sister's motherly urgings to an impressionable, energetic, and determined young man.

Walter Wilson and Gary McKay. James D Bulloch. Secret Agent and Mastermind of the Confederate Navy (2012).

Greater priority was to be given to acquiring overseas naval bases and repair facilities to support the United States Navy on a World Stage, just as the CSS *Alabama* had made use of secret supply islands and a support vessel '*The Agrippina*'.

Most audaciously, just prior to the Spanish American War, Roosevelt began buying merchant ships to be converted into battle cruisers – a whole navy of *Sumters*, *Shenandoahs* and *Alabamas* would be unleashed on Spain. The plan was never fully implemented.

On the 1st May 1898 the Spanish Navy was wiped out at Manila Bay in the Philippines – Roosevelt had in just a year help elevate the United States to a world naval power.



The Battle of Manila Bay.



By 19th April 1898 Roosevelt had already resigned as Navy Secretary and accepted a post as second in command of the First United States Volunteer Cavalry, otherwise known as the Rough Riders.

Rough Rider.

Sadly just two months after his appointment as Assistant Secretary to the Navy, Roosevelt's aunt Harriet, the devoted wife of James Dunwoody Bulloch died at her home at 30 Sydenham Avenue, Toxteth, Liverpool. Theodore Roosevelt subsequently wrote to his sister Bamie that they must do all they could to support 'dear old Uncle Jimmie'.

Roosevelt's exploits leading his Rough Riders in Cuba are now legendary, his men routed the Spanish at the Battle of San Juan Hill and laid siege to the town of Santiago, eventually the regiment only withdrawing on 18th July due to bouts of yellow fever.

Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Rider Portrait in the Roosevelt Room of the White House (c2014).



Roosevelt's finest hour however was tinged with great sadness, just four days later on July 22nd 1898, his uncle, Irvine Bulloch, had died at 76 Canning Street in Liverpool.

76 Canning Street Liverpool

In November 1898 Theodore Roosevelt was elected to the Governorship of New York. Again, he was not in the post for very long, and on June 19th 1899, he was nominated as the Republican candidate for Vice – President of the United States alongside the incumbent President William McKinley.



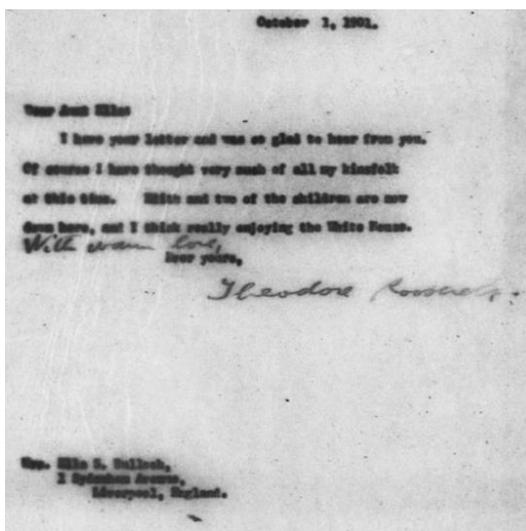
On November 16th, 1900, McKinley and Roosevelt won a landslide victory. Three thousand miles away in Liverpool, James Dunwoody Bulloch must have been so proud of his nephew, however just three weeks later he succumbed to a heart attack and died at 76 Canning Street. On his tombstone at Toxteth Park Cemetery was inscribed the phrase *'American by birth, Englishman by choice'*.

The gravestone of James Dunwoody Bulloch, Toxteth cemetery.

Within the year, William McKinlay had fallen victim to an assassin's bullet and on September 14th 1901, Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as the 26th President of the United States, he was just 42 years old and the youngest person ever to hold the Presidency.



President of the United States of America.



Letter to Ella Bulloch addressed to 1 Sydenham Avenue, Liverpool, England.

From her home at 1 Sydenham Avenue, Ella Sears Bulloch sent a letter of congratulations to her nephew. Roosevelt's reply on 10th October was short but affectionate.

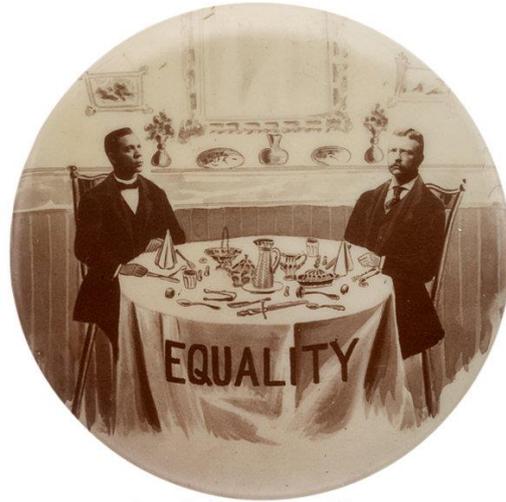
Dear Aunt Ella,

I have your letter and was so glad to hear from you. Of course I have thought very much of all my kinfolk at this time. Edith and two of the children are now over here and I think really enjoying the White House.

With warm love, ever yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

One of Theodore Roosevelt's first acts as President was to invite the civil rights activist Booker T Washington to become the first black person ever to dine at the White House. Washington and Roosevelt had a close working relationship throughout his presidency.



Pin Badge from 1901.

During his seven-year tenancy in the White House Theodore Roosevelt worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of the average American in his 'fair deal' mainly by tackling company monopolies that had kept wages artificially low.



At his new home Theodore Roosevelt filled the Whitehouse with laughter and animals, including eight dogs, a one-legged rooster, five snakes and a bear!

Herbert Brown, the boy naturalist, entrapped for four years of an imaginary childhood on *Mysterious Island*, did seem to live on in Theodore Roosevelt.

Theodore Roosevelt's one legged rooster.

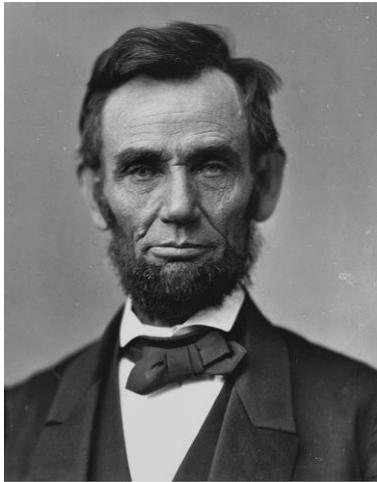
Roosevelt's personality was infectious, he was famous for repeatedly using the phrase 'dee-lighted', and he could hold an audience like no other.

One visitor reportedly spent an hour in his office and was asked what he had said to the President during this time, he simply replied 'My name'.

'Delighted'



Roosevelt's great friend, Cecil Spring Rice affectionately said of Roosevelt "You must always remember that the president is about six".



Throughout his Presidency, Theodore Roosevelt, just like Captain Nemo, stared up daily at a portrait of Abraham Lincoln on his office wall at the White House.

I look up to that picture, and I do as I believe Lincoln would have done.

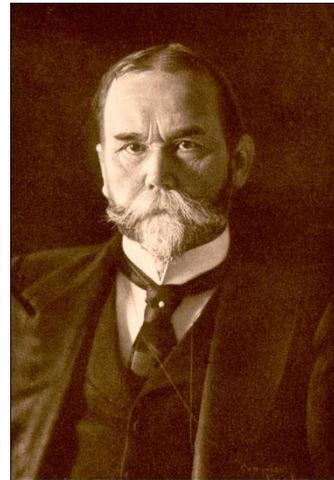
Roosevelt also kept the signed photograph that Abraham Lincoln had personally given his father.



Roosevelt's Hero.

Roosevelt appointed John Hay (1838-1905), as United States Secretary of State. Hay had been a friend of Theodore Roosevelt Senior and Abraham Lincoln's Private Secretary during the American Civil War.

Hay gave Roosevelt a ring containing a lock of Lincoln's hair and Roosevelt wore this ring when he placed his hand on the family bible as he swore allegiance to God and country on March 4th 1905, and was sworn in for a second term as the 26th President of the United States.



John Hay (1838-1905)

In 1905 Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize for brokering a peace treaty between Russia and Japan. He also establishes 'Big Stick diplomacy' backed by a stronger navy that could now act powerfully on the world stage. It is possible that Roosevelt's phrase 'Speak softly and carry a big stick' comes directly as a quote from our fifth novel.

On October 20th, 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt and his wife Edith arrived at the Bulloch family home at Bulloch Hall, Roswell, Georgia.

It is here that Roosevelt gave a speech which included references to his two uncles, one who had commissioned the CSS *Alabama* and one who had sailed on her - the ship that had inspired Captain Nemo's Nautilus and the novel *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

It has been my very great good fortune to have the right to claim my blood is half Southern and half Northern, and I would deny the right of any man here to feel a greater pride in the deeds of every Southerner than I feel. Of all the children, the brothers and sisters of my mother who were born and brought up in that house on the hill there, my two uncles afterward entered the Confederate service and served with the Confederate Navy.

One, the younger man, served on the Alabama as the youngest officer aboard her. He was captain of one of her broadside 32-pounders in her final fight, and when at the very end the Alabama was sinking and the Kearsarge passed under her stern and came up along the side that had not been engaged hitherto, my uncle, Irvine Bulloch, shifted his gun from one side to the other and fired the two last shots fired from the Alabama. James Dunwoody Bulloch was an admiral in the Confederate service. ...

Men and women, 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 grey or whether they wore the blue? All Americans who are worthy the name feel an equal pride in the valor of those who fought on one side or the other, provided only that each did with all his strength and soul and mind his duty as it was given to him to see his duty."

Theodore Roosevelt

Roosevelt did not mention that his mother Mittie Bulloch's family had been a slave owning family, however Roosevelt certainly did not hide that fact when he posed for a group photograph in front of Bulloch Hall.



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OLD HOME OF COLONEL ROOSEVELT'S MOTHER AT ROSWELL, GA.
The group includes Col. and Mrs. Roosevelt, "Mammy" Grace, the old negro woman who was nurse to the Colonel's Mother, and "Daddy" Williams, also an old servant of the Bulloch family.

In the same year of 1905 Theodore Roosevelt was paid a visit at the White House by Sir William Forward an ex-commodore of the Royal Mersey Yacht Club of Tranmere, Birkenhead. It was certainly a memorable experience for William Forward.

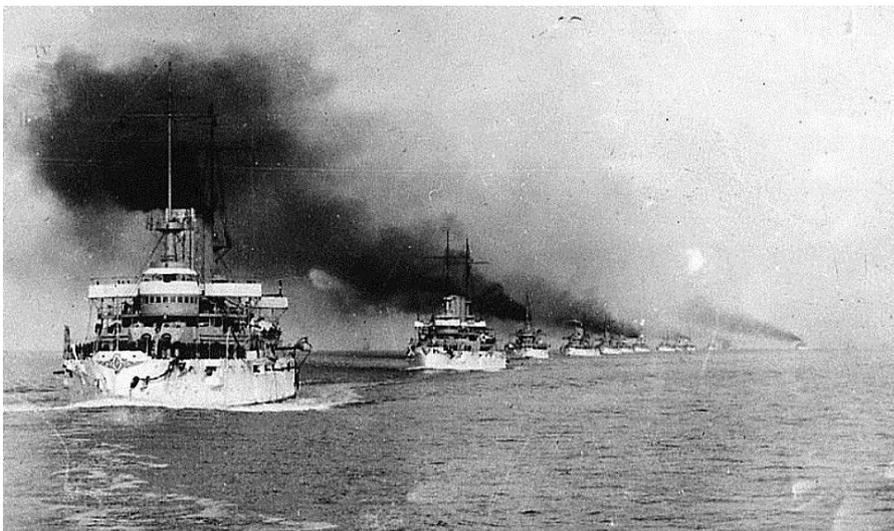
At lunch the President told me that he had that morning been reading Macaulay for the third or fourth time, and was anxious to know when Tories in England ceased to be called Tories. I replied, "It was after Macaulay's time; about the 'sixties."

He then told me that he had been to see the Jiu-jitsu clan of Japanese perform with their grips; they had 300 grips, and being fond of athletics he had learned thirty of them. After lunch, while I was standing near the fire, the President rushed at me and said, "Let me try a few of the grips on you," and before I could answer he had my right arm over his shoulder, and I had to follow bodily.

He did not hurt me, and relinquished his grip when he found he was my master. He then took hold of my legs below the knees and threw me over his shoulder, and finally, taking hold of my hands, placed me on my back. The easy way in which he caught me and prevented my falling was a proof of his great muscular strength. He attacked Lord Claud Hamilton in a similar fashion, but Lord Claud shrank from the contest.

I think this was a proof of the extreme human character of the President. He will live as one of America's greatest Presidents, and I suppose there are not many men who can say they have wrestled with this great uncrowned king of America.

Sir William Forward. Recollections of a Busy Life Being the Reminiscences of a Liverpool Merchant. (1910).



The Great White Fleet.

In 1907 Roosevelt sent the Great White Fleet Around the World in as a sign to the world that it would be the United States and not Great Britain that would be the dominant world power in the twentieth century.

Also true to the spirit of Herbert, the naturalist, Theodore Roosevelt is remembered as the ‘Conservationist President’ set aside vast areas of land in the west of the United States for national forests and parks, free for public use. Roosevelt followed the principles of Frederick Law Olmsted who had designed Roosevelt’s boyhood playground, Central Park and campaigned for the first National Park at Yosemite, Roosevelt extended Yosemite in 1905.

Roosevelt and John Muir at Yosemite.



Of all Roosevelt’s achievements, Roosevelt was proudest of his work on the conservation of natural resources and federal protection of land and wildlife.



Roosevelt founded the United States Forest Service, created in law five National Parks and signed the 1906 Antiquities Act which many Native American archaeological sites. He also established 51 bird reserves, four game preserves and 150 National Forests. He placed nearly one million square miles of land under federal protection often using executive orders to override Congress.

President Theodore Roosevelt at Big Tree Grove 1903.

Roosevelt wrote at length about his love for hunting, but his writings lament the loss of species and habitat, including the wanton slaughter of the bison, the eradication of elk and bighorn sheep, he felt species loss was indicative of society's perception of our natural resources. In this he was also influenced greatly by the conservationist work of John Muir. He studied the effects of overgrazing and the effects on his own ranch animals and at a time when many considered natural resources inexhaustible.

Bison Skulls



Roosevelt would write.

We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils have still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields and obstructing navigation.

Theodore Roosevelt

In *Mysterious Island* the overreliance on coal as a finite resource is vividly discussed, and in the novel concern is raised by the colonists for its availability to their great grandchildren, who just happen to be us. Herbert finishes the conversation by saying we *shall find something else*.

Roosevelt himself stated;

It is also vandalism wantonly to destroy or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird. Here in the United States we turn our rivers and streams into sewers and dumping-grounds, we pollute the air, we destroy forests, and exterminate fishes, birds and mammals - not to speak of vulgarizing charming landscapes with hideous advertisements. But at last it looks as if our people are awakening.

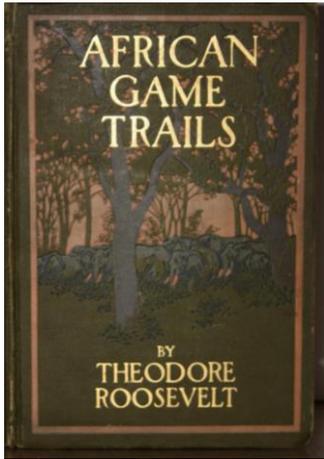
Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt left office in 1908 after deciding it would be undemocratic to run for a third term. In March 1909, Roosevelt went on Safari to Africa, hunting for specimens for the Smithsonian Institution and the American Museum of Natural History

The expedition gathered thousands of specimens including over 500 big game animals whose carcasses were then shipped to the United States.



Theodore Roosevelt and Hunted Elephant c1909.

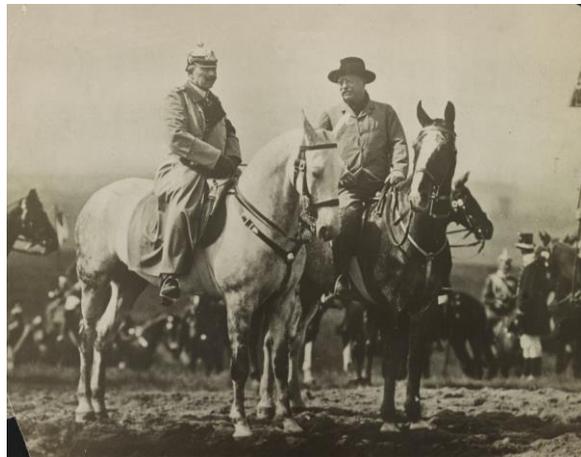


Roosevelt wrote a book called Africa Game Trails which recounted the excitement of the chase, the people he met and the flora and fauna gathered in the name of science.

African Game Trails by Theodore Roosevelt.

After the safari, Theodore Roosevelt toured Europe, meeting various Heads of State, including the Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria Hungary.

He went riding with Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and attended the funeral of King Edward VII while meeting the soon to be crowned King George V.



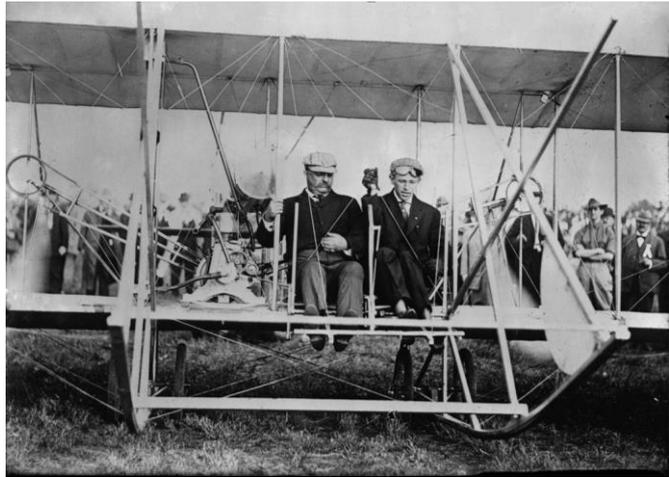
Riding With Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Roosevelt's return from Africa and Europe was greeted by a Welcome Home Parade in New York in his honour.

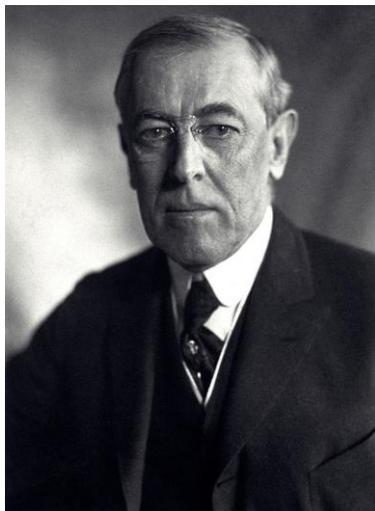


Theodore Roosevelt Welcome Home Parade. New York 10th July 1910.

On 11th October 1910, Theodore Roosevelt became the first President of the United States to fly in an aeroplane in a Wright Brothers designed craft at St Louis.



Roosevelt’s First Flight.



In 1912 Roosevelt decided to run again for the Office of President of the United States.

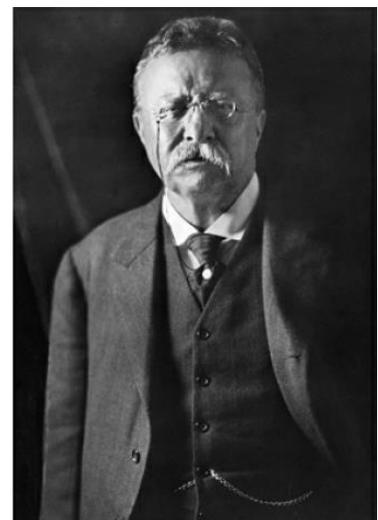
He formed his own ‘Bull Moose’ Party and gained 27% of the popular vote. Woodrow Wilson however was elected to serve as the 28th President of the United States.

President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924)

In 1913 Theodore Roosevelt set out for South America on the Roosevelt-Rondon Scientific Expedition sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History. The party set a more ambitious goal once they landed in the Brazilian jungle – to find the headwaters of the Rio da Davida (River of Doubt”) and trace it north to the Amazon River.

During the trip down river, Roosevelt suffered a minor leg wound while jumping in a river to prevent two canoes smashing into some rocks. His condition worsened and he caught a fever, possibly exacerbated by the bullet still lodged in his chest from the 1912 assassination attempt.

Upon his return, friends and family were shocked at his appearance having lost 50 pounds in weight. Roosevelt was plagued with flare-ups of malaria and inflammation of his legs for the remainder of his life.



Theodore Roosevelt in 1914.

When the First World War began in 1914, Roosevelt strongly supported the Allies and demanded a harsher policy against Germany, especially after the sinking of the Lusitania by a German submarine in May 1915.

Roosevelt strongly favoured American intervention in the war, but this was resisted by Woodrow Wilson.

Roosevelt still held massive sway with the American people and he promoted the Preparedness Movement, whose aim was to persuade the nation it must get ready for war.



Theodore Roosevelt addresses troops at Long Island New York in 1917.

In March 1917 Congress gave Roosevelt the authority to raise four divisions similar to the Rough Riders. America officially entered the war on April 6th 1917.

It can be argued that more than any other person, it was Theodore Roosevelt who brought forward the date of American intervention in the First World War and the deployment of over two million extra United States soldiers on the Western front – so bringing a quicker end to the war itself.

Roosevelt's divisions never made it to France as an American Expeditionary force went instead. Theodore Roosevelt never forgave Woodrow Wilson.



Theodore Roosevelt's health continued to decline, and it is said he never got over the death of his son Quentin, a pilot with the American forces in France who was shot down behind enemy lines on July 18th 1918 at the age of just 20.

Theodore Roosevelt died in his sleep on 5th January 1919.

The Grave of Theodore Roosevelt.

Roosevelt's Presidency saw the strengthening of ties with Great Britain and the continuation of the 'Great Rapprochement' which had really begun with the settling of the Alabama Claims in 1872.

Britain had supported the United States during the Spanish American War of 1898 and in 1901 Britain and the United States signed the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty paving the way for Roosevelt to champion the construction of the Panama Canal.

The long-standing Alaska boundary dispute was settled on terms favourable to the United States, as Great Britain was unwilling to alienate the United States over what it considered to be a relatively minor issue.

Theodore Roosevelt stated that the resolution of the Alaskan boundary dispute "settled the last serious trouble between the British Empire and ourselves."



Theodore Roosevelt is seen as one of the greatest ever American Presidents. If Great Britain was seen the dominant force in the world at the start of Roosevelt's presidency, then the United States was the dominant force at the end. A role it still holds today.

The evidence is clear that Theodore Roosevelt, who was already an exceptional boy, became an even more exceptional man.

Some of the credit for this may have been due to the personally motivating writings of the author Jules Verne, and that is how it could be said that Jules Verne changed the course of American and world history.

Anything one man can imagine, other men can make real.

Jules Verne, *Around the World in Eighty Days* (1875)

That should be the end of our story, but it will not be.

We still have the fifth novel to come, and Theodore Roosevelt will fittingly take the lead role in that novel, but for the moment our historical account will continue, and it takes us back to 30 Sydenham Avenue, Toxteth, South Liverpool, – the home of Ella Sears Bulloch.



By 1905 Ella Sears Bulloch was the only member of the Bulloch family still living in Sydenham Avenue, her husband Irvine Bulloch had passed away in 1898 and James Dunwoody Bulloch of 30 Sydenham Avenue had passed away in 1901.

1 Sydenham Avenue.

In the summer of 1905, Ella would travel to Liverpool's Pier Head and welcome a newlywed honeymoon couple who had just arrived in Liverpool.

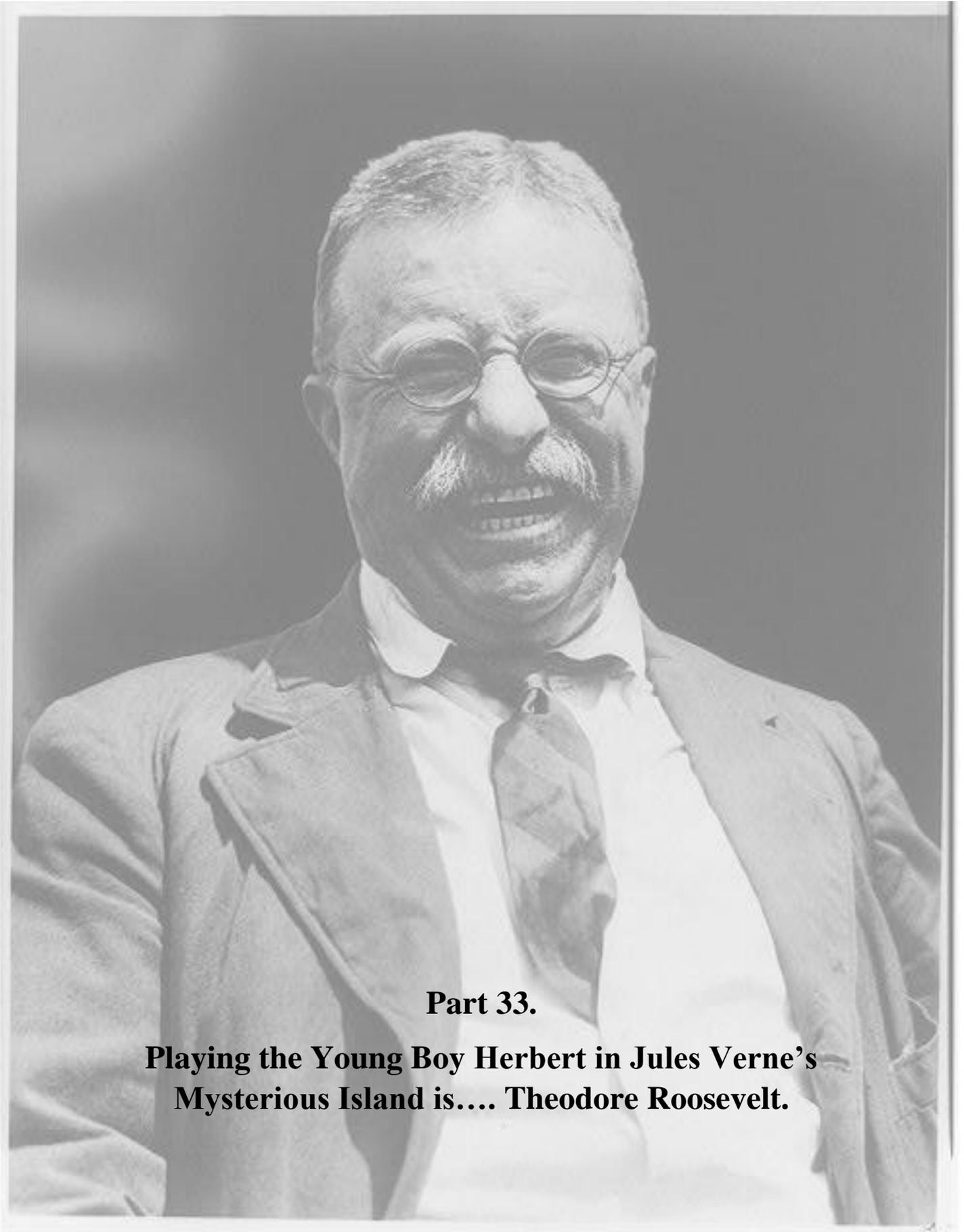
And that is how the widow of a sailor on Captain Nemo's *Nautilus* welcomed to Britain...



...Franklin D Roosevelt, the future 32nd President of the United States, and his new bride Eleanor Roosevelt.

Next on Jules Verne and the Heroes of Birkenhead.

34. Did the Heroes of Birkenhead Help Win the Second World War?



Part 33.

**Playing the Young Boy Herbert in Jules Verne's
Mysterious Island is.... Theodore Roosevelt.**

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