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The Road to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidency

★ *The 26th President* ★

Theodore Roosevelt : The Early Years



Theodore Roosevelt, 4 year old
"Teddie" in 1862 *



Theodore Roosevelt with son Kermit Roosevelt
on an expedition to East Africa *

"A man's usefulness depends upon his living up to his ideals in so far as he can."-Theodore Roosevelt

The 26th President of the United States of America, Theodore Roosevelt, was born in New York City on October 27, 1858 to Martha Bullock and Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt grew up with a mother from Antebellum Georgia and a father of Dutch decent, who as a glass merchant successfully maintained his wealthy Knickerbocker class. Roosevelt shared his childhood with a brother Elliot and a sister Corinne. Young Roosevelt traveled to Europe and Egypt with his family, and lived 5 months with a German family in Dresden to learn German with his siblings. Growing up, Roosevelt enjoyed natural science, horseback riding, boxing, shooting, reading and writing, all of which carried into his adulthood interests. Roosevelt struggled with poor eyesight and asthma in his early years. As a sickly, underweight child, he lifted dumbbells, practiced gymnastics, and took boxing lessons to gain physical strength. Due to his poor health, tutors educated Roosevelt until he entered Harvard College the fall of 1876, where he participated in rowing and boxing, began to work on his first book, *The Naval War of 1812* and gained membership into Phi Beta Kappa.

After graduating magna cum laude in 1880 with a B.A. degree, Roosevelt entered Columbia

* Theodore Roosevelt Collection, Harvard College Library



President Theodore Roosevelt with
First Lady Edith Roosevelt, 1908 *

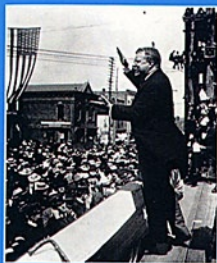


The Theodore Roosevelt Family, 1903. President, wife Edith and their 6
children at the family home of Sagamore Hill in Oyster Bay on Long Island, NY *

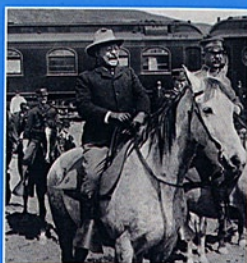
Law School and joined the Republican Party. In 1882, Roosevelt left Columbia Law School without a law degree when he gained election to the New York State Assembly at age 23. Roosevelt served as the youngest man ever elected in the New York State Assembly from 1882-1884. During his service in the New York Assembly, he published his first book, *The Naval War of 1812*, and joined the National Guard.

On October 27, 1880, Roosevelt's twenty-second birthday, he married Alice Hathaway Lee. Four years after their marriage, Alice and Roosevelt shared the birth of their first child, daughter Alice Lee Roosevelt on February 12, 1884. Unfortunately, a double tragedy occurred two days later-Valentine's Day-Roosevelt lost his wife to Bright's disease and his mother from typhoid fever; he lost both on the same day in the same house. Shortly thereafter, he finished his third term in the New York state Assembly, sold his house, and occupied his time ranching two cattle ranches and publishing books in the Dakota Territory. Meanwhile, baby Alice lived in the care of Roosevelt's older sister, "Auntie Bye" in Cove Neck and spent holiday's with her mother's family, the Lee's, of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

Theodore Roosevelt : The Presidential Years



President Theodore Roosevelt speaking in North Carolina, 1902 *



President Theodore Roosevelt inspecting Yellowstone, 1903 *

In the fall of 1886, Roosevelt returned to politics to run for Mayor of New York against Congressman Abram S. Hewitt, and economist Henry George. Hewitt won the race for governor, and Roosevelt finished in third. A few months after his defeat, Roosevelt married childhood friend, Edith Kermit Carow, on December 2, 1886 in London. At the insistence of Edith three year old Alice came to live with them at their home, Sagamore Hill, on Oyster Bay in Long Island - a home that Roosevelt had built during 1884 and 1885. Over the course of 10 years the couple shared the birth of five children- Theodore, Kermit, Ethel, Archibald, and Quentin.

Roosevelt spent his time ranching and publishing books before reentering public service in 1889 as U.S. Civil Service commissioner in Washington. Roosevelt served as U.S. Civil Service Commissioner until he became the Police Commissioner of New York City and President of the Board of Police Commissioners in 1895. Roosevelt served as Police Commissioner until 1897, when President William McKinley appointed him Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Roosevelt resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Navy a little more than a year later to become

Lieutenant Colonel of the first US volunteer Cavalry Regiment, known as the "Rough Riders," during the Spanish-American War. During his service, he gained promotion to colonel and led a successful charge up Kettle Hill in the battle for San Juan. Roosevelt emerged from the Spanish American War a national hero. Military fame enhanced his reputation as a reform politician in his home state of New York where he won the race for governorship in 1898. As governor, he taxed corporate franchises, upgraded teacher's salaries, spurred the passage of a bill to outlaw racial discrimination in public schools, and took steps to preserve the wildlife and forests of New York.

In 1900, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, a close friend of Roosevelt's, encouraged him to seek the office of Vice President on the ticket with President McKinley. The Vice President's office had remained vacant since the death of Vice President Hobart in 1899. Liking his role as Governor, Roosevelt saw the Vice President position as unchallenging until he recognized the position as a step to run for presidency later. Although, McKinley's principal political adviser, Senator Hanna strongly opposed Roosevelt's nomination (he regarded Roosevelt as nothing but a "cowboy"), Roosevelt gained nomination as Vice President of the United States of America. Only six months into McKinley's second term, Roosevelt fulfilled his goal of becoming president upon President McKinley's assassination. At 42, he took oath on September 14, 1901 as the youngest man ever to take office as the 26th President of the United States of America. Roosevelt served without a Vice President until the 1904 election, when he and his running mate; Senator Charles W. Fairbanks won the presidency with 336 to 140 electoral votes & 7,628,831 to 5,084,533 (the greatest popular victory at the time) against Judge Alton B. Parker. Roosevelt declined to seek reelection in 1909 and secured the nomination for William H. Taft. However, in 1912 Roosevelt returned to politics and tried to win the Republican presidential nomination. Rejected as a republican nominee, the Bull Moose Party, a republican progressive league opposed to the conservatism of the Republican Party, nominated Roosevelt and he ran on a policy of New Nationalism, but failed to win the election. Theodore Roosevelt served as the 26th president of the United States of America from 1901 to 1909.

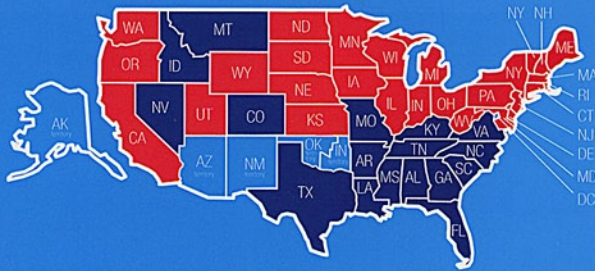
*Alice Roosevelt Longworth: daughter of Theodore Roosevelt. * Theodore Roosevelt.org. Online. Internet. 6 June 2003. Available: theodoreroosevelt.org/files/familytree/ALiceLongworth.htm

Three weeks after leaving the White House, Roosevelt left the country with his son Kermit to Africa to hunt game for 10 months, during which Roosevelt gave the Smithsonian Institution animal species for its collections. Scribner's magazine paid Roosevelt \$50,000 for a series of articles that he wrote while on his African Safari, that he also published as a book, *African Game Trails* in 1910. After his African Safari, Edith joined Roosevelt in his travels to Sudan, Egypt and Europe until his return to New York on June 18, 1910.

In 1911, Roosevelt became an editor for *The Outlook* magazine before reluctantly announcing his candidacy for President of the United States a year later. Although Roosevelt gained the popular vote in almost every primary election; Taft gained the Republican delegates vote for presidency. Shortly thereafter, Roosevelt gained the presidential nomination under a New National Progressive party, known as the "Bull Moose" party. Roosevelt supporters coined the moose as the symbol for the party because Theodore Roosevelt once declared himself to be "as strong as a bull moose." Gaining his nomination for president, Roosevelt began his campaign. In Milwaukee before making his campaign speech, John N. Schrank, who opposed third terms for presidents, shot him in the chest in an assassination attempt. Despite his chest wound, Roosevelt continued to give his 90 minute speech before seeking medical attention. In the end, Roosevelt came in second in the election behind Woodrow Wilson with 88 Electoral votes to Wilson's 435 Electoral votes and 4,119,538 votes to Wilson's 6,293,454 popular votes.

Four years after an unsuccessful bid for presidency, Roosevelt declined the Progressive Party nomination for president and backed Hughes. Roosevelt seemed to have chosen an end to his political life, for he also declined Republican nomination for Governor of New York in 1918, and spent the rest of his life publishing books and making his last jungle expedition in Brazil. In Roosevelt's final years at his Sagamore Hill Estate, he suffered from bouts of malarial fever and hospitalization with rheumatism before he died at the age of 60 in his sleep of coronary embolism (artery blood clog) on January 6, 1919.

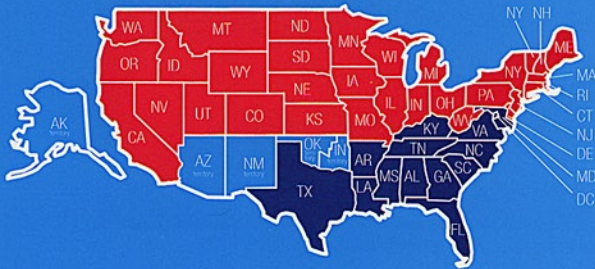
The Presidential Election 1900



(R)McKinley state victories: 292 - 65% 7,207,923 popular votes (52%) Electoral votes total 447
(D)Bryan state victories: 155 - 35% 6,358,133 popular votes (46%) Popular vote total 13,964,044

* Theodore Roosevelt assumed the presidency on September 14, 1901, at the time of McKinley's assassination.

The Presidential Election 1904



(R)Roosevelt state victories: 336 - 71% 7,623,486 popular votes (56%) Electoral votes total 476
(D)Parker state victories: 140 - 29% 5,077,911 popular votes (38%) Popular vote total 13,511,648

Theodore Roosevelt: While in Office

1902 First antitrust suit ordered under Sherman Act to dissolve Northern Securities Company • Newlands Reclamation Act Signed • Isthmian Canal Act • Anthracite Coal Strike Settled • Venezuelan Affair Settled • **1903** Department of Commerce and Labor established • Bureau of Corporations established • Elkins Anti-rebate Act for railroads signed • Proclamined Pelican Island, Florida as first federal bird reservation • Alaskan Boundary dispute settled • Treaty signed with Panama for the Panama Canal construction • Reciprocity Treaty with Cuba **1904** Reelected President of the United States • Issued "Roosevelt Corollary" to Monroe Doctrine **1905** National Forest Service Established • Portsmouth Treaty signed ending Russo-Japanese War • Forced Chinese government to stop boycott of American goods that was inspired by exclusion of Chinese immigrant by the United States **1906** Moroccan independence preserved at Algeiras Conference • National Monuments Act • Signed Forest Homestead Act • Hepburn Act • Pure Food and Drug Act • Federal Meat inspection law • Awarded Nobel Peace Prize for ending Russo-Japanese War **1907** 1st circumnavigation of globe by national naval force (Voyage of Great White Fleet) • Drago Doctrine • Gentleman's Agreement with San Francisco school board to rescind an order from segregating Japanese schoolchildren **1908** 1st conference of Governors met at White House • National Conservation Commission • North American Conservation Conference • Federal Employers' Liability Act for Labor **1909** Theodore Roosevelt administration ends **1912** Unsuccessful bid for presidential re-election.

Theodore Roosevelt: Key Establishments

- Nature Conservation: Designated 150 National Forests, the first 51 Federal Bird Reservations, 5 National Parks, the first 18 National Monuments, the first 4 National Game Preserves and the first 21 Reclamation projects.
- Reduced National Debt by over \$90,000,000 • Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating an end to the Russo-Japanese War • Established America as a major world power with the build up of the Navy as the "Big Stick"

Theodore Roosevelt: Personal Trivia

Presidential Number: 26th **Years President:** 1901-1909 **Terms:** 2
State Represented: New York **Party Affiliation:** Republican **First Lady:** Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt **Vice President:** None at inauguration, later Charles Warren Fairbanks (1905-1909) **Date of Birth:** October 27, 1858 **Birth name:** Theodore Roosevelt **Nickname:** Teddy, TR, "Trust-Buster" **Birthplace:** New York City **Parents:** Martha Bulloch & Theodore Roosevelt **Education:** Private tutoring, B.A. from Harvard College, Columbia University Law School **Early Interests:** Reading, writing, natural science, military affairs **Occupations:** Officer in the state national guard, Served with First United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, the "Rough Riders," Assistant Secretary of the Navy, New York police commissioner, New York State Assemblyman, Author of several books, Governor of New York, Vice President of the U.S., 26th President of the United States of America **Religion:** Reformed Dutch **Hobbies:** Reading, writing, boxing, hunting, jujitsu, horseback riding, shooting, tennis, wrestling **Children:** Alice Lee, Theodore, Kermit, Ethel Carow, Archibald, Quentin **Pets:** Macaw, Ponies **Died:** January 6, 1919, Oyster Bay, New York

Theodore Roosevelt: Notable Facts

First president to travel to a foreign country while in office. **First president** to ride in an airplane. **Youngest president** not elected to be inaugurated into office. **Youngest man** ever elected to the New York State Assembly. **First president** and American to win Nobel Peace Prize. **Only president** whose wife and mother both died on Valentine's Day (Feb 14, 1884). **First president** to submit a dispute to the Court of Arbitration at The Hague. The **Teddy Bear** is named after Theodore Roosevelt. **First president** to be referred to by his initials **TR**. **Only president** who lost eyesight in left eye due to a boxing accident.

Theodore Roosevelt: The Time Line

1880

Graduated Harvard, magna cum laude, member Phi Beta Kappa.
Entered Columbia Law School.
Married Alice Hathaway Lee on October 27.
Joined Republican Party.

1885

1858

Born October 27th in New York City to Martha (Mittie) Bulloch and Theodore Roosevelt.

1876-80

Attended Harvard College.
Participated in rowing and boxing.

1883

Promoted to Captain in National Guard.
Reelected to New York State Assembly, became Minority Leader.

1884

Wife and mother die on February 12th.
Delegate to the Republican National Convention.
Ranchman in Dakota Territory (1884-1886).



Theodore Roosevelt in sculling outfit at Harvard, 1876-1880 *

1865

Watched Abraham Lincoln's funeral from the balcony of this grandfather's house in Union Square, New York City.

1882

Discontinued study of law without a degree.
Published first book, *The Naval War*.
Joined National Guard.
Served in New York State Assembly at age 23 (1882-1884)



Theodore Roosevelt working the Ranch in the western "Badlands" of Medora, North Dakota, 1884 *

1878

Father died of stomach cancer.
Meet future wife Alice Hathaway Lee.

1885

Pub

1886

Married Edith Kermit Carow in London December 2nd.
Lost bid for New York Mayor.

1888

Published *Life of Gouverneur Morris*,
Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail,
Essays in Practical Politics.

1893

Published *The Wilderness Hunter*.

1895

Published *Hero Tales from American History*.
Resigned as US Civil Service Commission to become Police Commissioner of NYC.
President of the Board of Police Commissioners (1895-1897).

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1897

Published *American Ideals*.
Appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy.
Son Quentin Roosevelt born on November 19th.

1891

Published *History of New York*.
Ethel Carow Roosevelt born August 13th.

1889

Kermit Roosevelt born on October 10th.
Published first 2 volumes of *The Winning of the West*.
U. S. Civil Service Commissioner, Washington (1889-1895).

1887

Published *Life of Thomas Hart Benton*.
Son Theodore Roosevelt Jr. born on September 13th.



Theodore Roosevelt, President of the NYC
Board of Police Commissioners, 1895 *



Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary
of the United States Navy, 1897 *

1894

Son Archibald Bullock Roosevelt born on April 10th.
Brother Elliott dies.

18

ished *Hunting Trips of a Ranchman*.

8

Resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st US Volunteer Cavalry Regiment "The Rough Riders".
Nominated for, but denied by U.S. War department, the Congressional Medal of Honor.
Governor of New York State (1898-1900)

1900

Elected Vice President of the United States.

1901

President William McKinley assassinated.
Theodore Roosevelt sworn in as the 26th President of the United States of America.

1901-09

Served as the 26th President of the United States of America.

1909-10

Administration ended with inauguration of successor William Howard Taft.
Led hunting expedition with son Kermit to Africa to gather specimens for Smithsonian.
Toured Europe.
Served as Special Ambassador to England at the funeral of King Edward VII.

1910

Returned to New York.
Published *African Game Wards*.



Colonel Theodore Roosevelt with the Rough Riders, 1898 *



President Theodore Roosevelt in the White House, 1901 *



President Theodore Roosevelt visiting the Panama Canal under construction, 1906 *



President Theodore Roosevelt with President-elect William Howard Taft, 1909 *

99

Published *The Rough Riders*.

1904

Reelected President over Democrat Alton B. Parker.

1911

Became

1913

Published *Theodore Roosevelt-An Autobiography and History as Literature and Other Essays*.
Sailed for South America for lecture tour and jungle expedition.
Roosevelt vs. Newell,
successful libel suit against Michigan editor who characterized him as a liar & drunk.

1915

Barnes vs. Roosevelt,
Roosevelt won libel suit launched by Republican leader William Barnes, Jr.

1917

Requested permission to raise, equip and lead volunteer division for service in France in WW I and President Wilson denied request.
Published *Foes of our Own Household*.

1919

Died in his sleep of coronary embolism (artery blood clot) on January 6, at Sagamore Hill in Long Island, New York.

1914

Roosevelt-Rondon Expedition (son Kermit attended) sponsored by American Museum of Natural History and Brazilian government where he explored Brazil's "River of Doubt", now named "Rio Roosevelt".
Survived severe case of malarial fever during expedition.
Published *Through the Brazilian Wilderness* and *Life Histories of African Game Animals*.
Unsuccessful campaign for Progressive party congressional candidates.

1918

Youngest son, Quentin died serving as a fighter pilot in WWI.
Refused Republican nomination for Governor of New York.
Published *The Great Adventure*.

1912

Announced candidacy for Republican nomination against President Taft.
published *Realizable Ideals*.
Nominated by "Bull Moose" party for president.
Shot in chest in failed assassination attempt.
Democrat Woodrow Wilson elected President.

1916

Published *A Booklover's Holidays in the Open* and *Fear God and Take Your Own Part*.
Nominated for President by Progressives and declined nomination.

editor of Outlook Magazine.

Theodore Roosevelt: The Time Line