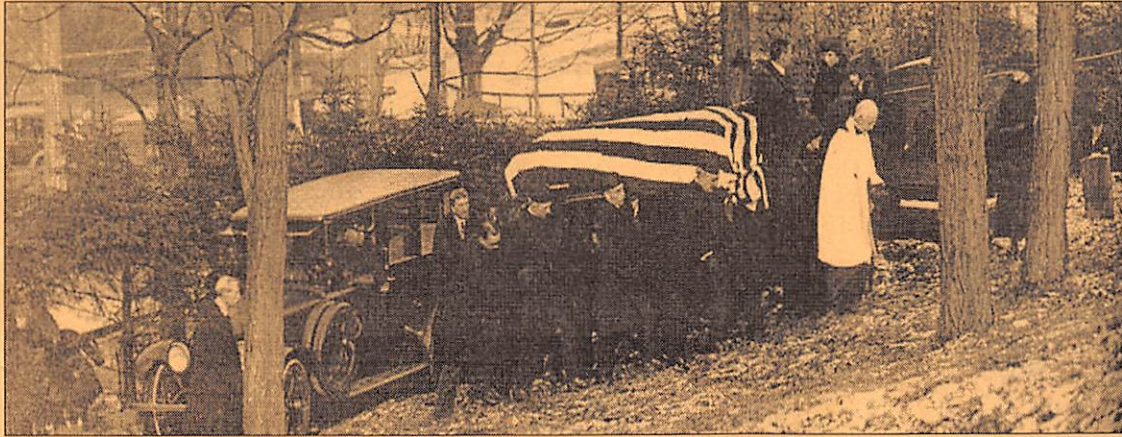




Youngs Cemetery and the Roosevelt Family



The thought of selecting a final resting place for Theodore Roosevelt and his wife Edith came about when she was seriously injured in a horse riding accident in the summer of 1912. Roosevelt's family, along with his first wife, Alice Lee, was buried Brooklyn's Greenwood Cemetery. With Greenwood so distant and Alice a one time rival for Theodore's affection, Edith likely made the decision that they would be buried at the Youngs family graveyard. Just off the road to Oyster Bay village, the hillside burial ground afforded a view of bay that both had known since they were teenagers in the 1870's when their families rented summer homes just down the road.

The Youngs Family and Roosevelt's Funeral

The Youngs family, whose homestead is across the road from the cemetery, were early settlers of the area and owned most of Cove Neck in the 1700 and 1800's. Attorney Thomas Youngs was a neighbor and private secretary to Governor Theodore Roosevelt in 1899. In 1901, Youngs chartered his family graveyard, now becoming a local cemetery, as a not-for-profit corporation to provide for its perpetual care.

Theodore Roosevelt died on January 6 1919 and buried on a cold, snowy day a few days later. At the

burial, a teary-eyed friend and political adversary, former president, William Howard Taft was one of the last to leave the grave side.

In later years, dignitaries, like Chief Scoutmaster Dan Beard, the King of Belgium and Duke of Windsor visited the grave to pay their respects. On his visit, the Duke recalled as a young boy, Roosevelt's 1910 visit to Buckingham Palace and the stories he told about hunting lions in Africa.

When Edith Roosevelt died in 1948, she was buried along side her husband in a private ceremony.

A Roosevelt Cousin's Gift and Theodore's Children

In 1923, Emlen Roosevelt, a close cousin who lived next door to Sagamore Hill, purchased a small tract of land adjoining the cemetery to protect it from inappropriate development. Part of that tract was added to the back of the cemetery to for the use of the Roosevelt family.

Emlen presented the remainder of the property to the National Audubon Society as a wildlife sanctuary. It fitting and appropriate tribute since Theodore told his cousin that this deep, forested cove had the greatest variety of birds around Oyster Bay.

In time, other members of the family were buried at the cemetery. Roosevelt's younger daughter Ethel died in 1977 and rests next to her husband, Dr. Richard Derby.

Younger son Archie served in combat during World

Wars I & II, becoming the only soldier to be discharged with 100% disability in each war. Yet tried to enlist for service in the Korean Conflict. The only Roosevelt son that lived to old age, Archie died in 1979 after a post-war career in the financial world. He rests next to his wife, Grace who preceded him in 1971.

TR's youngest son, Lt. Quentin Roosevelt, a World War I Army Air Corps pilot, died when his plane was shot down over eastern France in 1918. He was buried by German troops at the spot where he crashed.

General Ted Roosevelt, Jr. died of heart attack weeks after leading the World War II D-Day landing on Utah Beach in 1944. In 1955, brothers Ted and Quentin were reinterred side by side in the American Cemetery in Normandy France.

Major Kermit Roosevelt died in 1943 while stationed with the Army at Fort Richardson, Alaska in World War II. He was buried at the national cemetery there.

At age 96, oldest daughter Alice Roosevelt Longworth outlived all her brothers and sisters. When she died in 1980, she was buried next to her daughter Paulina, at Rock Creek Cemetery in



Above: Quentin and Ted, Jr.'s markers in Normandy France. Alice's marker in Washington DC's Rock Creek Cemetery. Right: At Youngs Cemetery, Archie and his wife Grace, Ethel Roosevelt Derby and her husband, Dr. Richard Derby. Memorial marker for Kermit Roosevelt and his wife, Belle, Ted Roosevelt, Jr and his wife



Left to Right: Quentin Roosevelt in 1918, Kermit Roosevelt as an officer in the British Army in 1941, Ted Roosevelt in 1942.

Left to Right: Ethel Roosevelt Derby as a Red Cross volunteer during World War II, Archie Roosevelt in 1945, Alice Roosevelt in the late 1970's.

Visiting Youngs Cemetery

Youngs Cemetery is about 2.5 miles east of Oyster Bay. Visitors traveling to Sagamore Hill from Oyster Bay or Route 25A on Cove Road will pass Youngs Cemetery as they turn onto Cove Neck Road.

Youngs Cemetery is owned and operated by a not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of New York in 1901, while Theodore Roosevelt was governor of New York. The cemetery board accepts gifts to maintain the site. The organization may be contacted at Youngs Memorial Cemetery, PO Box 720, Oyster Bay NY, 11771.

