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*Front and back cover illustrations:
 Sagamore Hill's Master Bedroom, also
 known as Mother's Room; the front cover
 photograph was a part of the Harvard
 exhibit described in the lead article, while
 the back cover photograph was taken
 about one hour prior to the reopening of the
 house on July 12, 2015 (photos by Xiomáro)*

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How We All Love Sagamore Hill: The Reopening Celebration at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, July 12, 2015

by Xiomáro

It had been close to three and a half years since I set foot in Theodore Roosevelt's stately home. Photographing the interiors for the National Park Service at the start of the renovation process back in 2012 was an unforgettable experience. I worked in solitude for the vast majority of the time, and the silent mansion was nearly empty and in relative disarray. As it was February, the sun hung low. The bare windows projected this moody light through which even barer trees and a monochromatic vista enveloped the "Summer White House."

On a July Sunday in 2015, I again entered Sagamore Hill. But this time, the experience was different. Enrobed in green foliage, the grounds excitedly sizzled as hot as the sunshine to the accompaniment of rousing Sousa marches, singing, old-fashioned games that perhaps TR's kids played, and a reenactment of the exploits of the Rough Riders. Several of TR's descendants were present along with many other VIPs: national and local political leaders, National Park Service officials, military officers, and even a reenactor who resurrected TR to nearly everyone's delight. Still more important were

the throngs of people, ranging from Americans with centuries of family history in the territory of the United States to recent immigrants, who came to celebrate the official reopening of the magnificent house that had been closed since December 2011.

I had the privilege of walking by myself through the house again. But now it seemed like I was the one being observed by TR through his impressive crowd of trophy heads, paintings, books, rugs, and other furnishings and mementos that I encountered along my ascent to the second floor. This time, it was not late in the day as in the front cover photograph of "Mother's Room" at sunset. Instead, I returned to that same master bedroom very early in the morning before the house was opened for the first public tours in over three years. On the recommendation of TRA President Tweed Roosevelt, I recreated that image for the back cover of this issue of the *Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal*. As I stood there with my camera, fully aware of the events that would unfold throughout the day, I could not help but imagine saying to TR: "I wonder if you will ever know how we all love Sagamore Hill."



Thousands of visitors celebrated the reopening of Theodore Roosevelt's Sagamore Hill home on July 12, 2015.



photo by Xiomádro

The Color Guard standing ready for the reopening ceremony.



photo by Xiomádro

Dignitaries look on as Tweed Roosevelt, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, addresses the crowd.

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