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| **James Edward Amos****by Milton Elis** |

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When James Amos was 22, his father Joseph Amos, a police officer, met Theodore Roosevelt while the President was out horseback riding. Roosevelt asked him, “Have you got a boy who would like to go to work?” Amos's son, James, was originally hired to take care of the five Roosevelt children and later became the President’s attendant and bodyguard. (1)During his presidency TR would spend his summers at Sagamore Hill, and in 1902 Grey Cottage was built to house his staff, including Amos. In 1909, James Amos and his wife Annie left Sagamore Hill. Amos went to work for the Department of the Interior and the Customs agency. He and his wife returned to SAHI when Theodore Roosevelt became ill. James Amos was the last person TR spoke to when, on January 6, 1919, the old rough rider said, “James, will you please turn out the light.” (2) James Amos was Theodore Roosevelt’s body guard, valet, and long-time family friend. In 1927 Amos wrote the book *Theodore Roosevelt: Hero to His Valet*. In 1921, James Amos was hired as a special agent for the FBI. He was the Bureau’s second black agent, but the first to work publicly. He was the firearms instructor at the New York FBI office. He worked on many major cases in his career with the FBI. When Amos reached mandatory retirement age, J. Edgar Hoover asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt to allow James to continue with the FBI, and FDR signed an Executive order in 1940 allowing Amos to remain on the job. He eventually retired in 1953.Sources:(1) *Ebony Magazine.* (2) Bleyer, Bill. *Sagamore Hill: Theodore Roosevelt's Summer White House*, 2016.  James Amos. Wikipedia. |

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