Within a few days after Nov 11 1918
President Wilson decided to go to France with
the American Delegation to the Peace Conference.
I was asked to arrange for ship, etc.
There were only transports available. The
U.S.S. Fred Washington was luckily in port, and
was hastily refitted for the President's party.
Furniture & rugs were needed for his suite and
I found out that a replica of Fred Washington's
desk at Mt. Vernon was available at an N.Y.
department store. It was put in Pres. Wilson's study
on board.

On the way over he used it for the preliminary
draft of the League of Nations, and when I
returned to the U.S. with him in Feb. he used
it every day, as he did again on his 3rd, 4th & 5th trips.

In the summer of 1919 King Albert of Belgium
used it coming & going.

Later, the S.S. Washington was put out of
Commission & the furnishings were sold at auction at the N.Y. Navy Yard. I notified the White House of this sale but Pres. & Mrs. W. put in no bid. Therefore I bid 100 for the desk & chair & they were sent to me at Hyde Park. I have used them ever since, first in the little den in the big house & since 1914 in my room in the Library.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Written by F.D.R. at the desk in question, in his room in the F.D.R. Library at Hyde Park, May 28th, 1943
This desk and chair were used by President Wilson on the U.S.S. "George Washington" in the two trips to France, 1918-1919. Drafts of the Treaty of Peace and of the League of Nations Covenant were written by him on this desk.

In the autumn of 1919 the desk and chair were used by King Albert of Belgium when he and the Queen visited the United States as guests of the Nation.
This Bronze Cannon, made for Louis XVI of France in the Royal Arsenal of Rochefort, was mounted by the French in Fort Rivière, Hayti, a strong work on the top of a mountain 4,000 feet high. It passed into the possession of the negro Republic which gained its independence in 1804. The fort was many times besieged in the frequent revolutions, but was never captured till 1916, when General Smedley Butler and twenty other Marines took it in an attack against a defending force of 300 "lacos," or hill bandits.
These helmets, intended for Dress Parade of the Kaiser's Bodyguard, were found by the Marines when they occupied Koblenz on the Rhine. They were packed in boxes marked "Paris" and were meant for the triumphal procession when the German Army entered the French capital.
These Spanish swords were brought to America by the cavaliers of the Army of Diego Columbus, son of Christopher, about 1510, and were found by F.D.R. in Santo Domingo in 1917 when the U.S. Marines were policing the island.

German helmets, picked up by F.D.R. in Belleau Woods, near Chateau Thierry, soon after the battle in June 1918 in which the Marine Brigade helped stop the last German drive on Paris.
So far as is known, this German machine gun is the very last gun captured by the American forces in actual fighting during the World War.

It was taken at 9 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918, two hours before the Armistice went into effect, about a mile North of the River Meuse, East of Sedan, by the Marine Brigade, forming part of the 2nd Division A.E.F. The Marines had crossed the River at daylight. Five dead Germans were found beside the gun.
This Bell, cast in Spain in 1814, hung in a Monastery in the Philippines for over a Century, was then presented to the Spanish warship "Isla de Cuba," which vessel was sunk by the Fleet of Admiral Dewey in the Battle of Manila Bay May, 1898.