

FAMOUS MASONS THROUGH OUT HISTORY (and some not so famous)

LISTED ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME

Abbott, Sir John J.C. - Canadian politician who served as Prime Minister (1891-1892).

Abbott, William "Bud" - Famous half of the Abbott & Costello comedy team.

Acuff, Roy - "King of Country Music"

Aldrin, Edwin E. - Known as "**Buzz**" - American astronaut who as a crew member of Apollo 11 became the second human being to walk on the moon (July 20, 1969).

Anderson, Brad - Cartoonist and creator of the popular 'Marmaduke' comic strip

Anderson, Robert - Major General U.S. Army who was in command of Fort Sumter at time of Confederate attack. Known as "Hero Of Fort Sumter."

Armstrong, Louis - Known as "**Satchmo.**" American jazz trumpeter. A virtuoso musician and popular, gravelly voiced singer, he greatly influenced the development of jazz.

Arnold, Eddie - Country Music legend and member of the Grand Ole Opry

Arnold, General Henry "Hap" - Medal of Honor recipient and American general whose efforts helped establish what is now the U.S. Air Force. **Arthur William Patrick Albert / Prince Arthur** - Third son of Queen Victoria and the longest serving Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Audubon, John James - American ornithologist and artist known for his imposing works in full color of Birds of America. He referred to himself as a "Mason" and "Brother" in his diary but no proof has been found of his membership.

Austin, Stephen F. - American colonizer and political leader who worked to make Texas a state of Mexico but later helped Texas settlers gain their independence (1836). Known as the 'Father of Texas'.

Autry, Gene - American actor who made some 90 movies from the 1930s through the 1950s, cowboy singer ("Back in the Saddle Again" and more), and professional sports team owner (original owner of the California Angels baseball team). Many young people today have grown up listening to his rendition of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer". Brother Gene was a "true gentleman".

Basie, William "Count" - Orchestra leader/composer

Beard, Daniel Carter - American writer and illustrator. In 1905, he founded the Sons of Daniel Boone which in 1910 became the first Boy Scout organization in the US.

Bellans, Francis J. - The minister who created America's Pledge of Allegiance

Berlin, Irving - Entertainer and songwriter who wrote more than 1,500 songs including "Alexander's Ragtime Band" (1911) and several musical comedies like *Annie Get Your Gun* (1946)

Blanc, Mel - If you've heard cartoon characters Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, Barney Rubble of the Flintstones, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Sylvester the cat or others, you've heard the voice this 50+ year Mason who brought so much pleasure to so many children for so many years.

Boone, Daniel - Mythologized early U. S. pioneer responsible for the exploration of Kentucky. Although his Masonic membership is unprovable, here is what Nathan Boone had to say about his father's funeral: "Father's body was conveyed to Flanders Callaway's home at Charette, and there the funeral took place. There were no military or Masonic honors, the latter of which he was a member, as there were then but very few in that region of the country." (*Hammon, Neal O. (ed.) "My Father, Daniel Boone- The Draper Interviews with Nathan Boone."* Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1999. p. 139.)

Borglum, Gutzon & Lincoln - Father and Son who carved the presidential busts on Mt. Rushmore

Borgnine, Ernest - Film and television actor. In 1955 received the Oscar as Best Actor for the film Marty. Known to a generation of television fans for his role as the Captain in McHale's Navy. He actively serves Freemasonry and is presently the Honorary Chairman of a program to support the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center in Richmond.

Bowie, James - American-born Mexican colonist who joined the Texan forces during the struggle for independence from Mexico. He died during the defense of the Alamo.

Bradley, Omar N. - American general. Played a major part in the Allied victory in World War II.

Buchanan, James - 15th President of the U.S. (1857-1861).

Butterfield, Daniel - Major General in the Civil War Union Army; holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor but known especially for his writing of America's best known bugle call, "Taps"

Byrd, Admiral Richard E. - American naval officer and explorer. He was the first to fly over the North Pole (with Floyd Bennet in 1926).

Clark, Roy - Country-Western star and singer; member of the Grand Ole Opry

Clark, William - American explorer and frontier politician who joined another Freemason, Meriwether Lewis on the Lewis and Clark expedition (1804-6), the first overland exploration of the American West and Pacific Northwest. Clark was responsible for the careful mapmaking. He later served as Native American agent and governor of the Missouri Territory (1813-1821).

Clemens, Samuel L. - Mark Twain - Writer and humorist. His famous works include the characters of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn.

Cobb, Ty - U. S. baseball player and manager who was the first player elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame

Cody, "Buffalo Bill" William - American guide, scout and showman, he founded the "Wild West Show" which toured Europe and America. Cody, Wyoming is named after him.

Cohan, George M. - American composer and lyricist, famous for such songs as "Yankee Doodle Dandy"

Cole, Nat 'King' - Great pianist and ballad singer

Collodi, Carlo - Writer of 'Pinocchio'

Colt, Samuel - Firearms inventor and manufacturer. He invented the first revolver.

Crockett, David ('Davy') - Frontiersman and politician. US Representative from Tennessee who joined the Texas revolutionaries fighting against Mexico. He died at the siege of the Alamo.

DeMille, Cecil B. - Film director. DeMille directed the first Hollywood film, *The Squaw Man*, in 1914. DeMille became the creative genius behind Paramount Pictures and was integral to Hollywood's development as the film capitol of the world. Two of his greatest film successes were *The Ten Commandments* (1923, remade 1956) and *The Greatest Show on Earth* (1952).

Dempsey, (William Harrison) Jack - Became a professional boxer in 1912 and fought in more than 100 semi-pro and professional bouts before winning the heavyweight championship in 1919. He successfully defended his title five times before losing to Gene Tunney in an upset in 1926. In the rematch in 1927, Dempsey knocked Tunney down in the seventh round but delayed going to a neutral corner, so the referee gave the controversial "long count" (estimated from 14 to 21 seconds) and Tunney went on to win on points. Later became a restaurant owner in New York.

Ellington, Duke - American jazz composer, orchestrator, bandleader, and pianist, considered the greatest composer in the history of jazz music and one of the greatest musicians of the 20th Century.

Evans, Bob - Famous restaurateur, his eateries are found throughout the United States.

Fairbanks, Douglas - American silent film actor known for his performance in swashbuckling adventures such as 'Robin Hood'

Farragut, David G. - Admiral, US Navy. Leading Union naval officer of the US Civil War.

Fields, W. C. - American entertainer known for his raspy voice, bulbous nose, and sardonic disposition. His films include *My Little Chickadee* (1940) and *Never Give a Sucker an Even Break* (1941).

Ford, Gerald R. - 25 year Congressman and Minority Leader of the US House of Representatives, he was appointed Vice President of the U.S. in the wake of the Spiro Agnew scandal. When President Richard Nixon resigned, he became the 38th President of the United States.

Ford, Glenn - Famous US movie actor

Ford, Henry - Invented the first gasoline powered automobile in 1893, founded Ford Motor Company in 1903 and mass-produced the first widely available and affordable car

Franklin, Benjamin - American printer (he published the first book to come off the press in the colonies - Anderson's Constitutions of 1723), author, diplomat, philosopher, and scientist, whose contributions to the American Revolution (1775-1783), and the newly formed federal government that followed, rank him among the country's greatest statesmen. He held the Masonic title of Grand Master of Pennsylvania and was one of the 13 Masonic signers of the Constitution of the United States.

Gable, Clark - American actor who played opposite nearly every major female star during the 1930's. Perhaps best remembered for his role as Rhett Butler in 'Gone with the Wind', he had received an Academy Award as Best Actor (in the Best Movie) of 1934 ('It Happened One Night').

Garfield, James A. - The 20th President of the United States, he was assassinated in 1881 and his death was the cause of considerable mourning in the US.

Gatling, Richard J. - Inventor of the famous "Gatling Gun".

Gillette, King C. - American inventor and manufacturer who developed the safety razor and founded the Gillette Safety Razor Co.

Glenn, John H., Jr. - U. S. astronaut and first American to orbit the earth in a space craft in 1962, he became a U. S. Senator from Ohio from 1974 through 1998 and in November, 1998, returned to space 36 years after his original journey as the oldest American astronaut. "God speed, Brother Glenn!"

Godfrey, Arthur - American television personality and one of the medium's dominant stars throughout the 1950s as host of variety show programs. This redhead's songs and skits with his ukulele entertained millions.

Goldwater, Barry - American politician, a conservative Republican he served as Senator from Arizona and unsuccessfully ran for president in 1964.

Hancock, John - One of nine Masons - and the *first* signer of the Declaration of Independence, he was President of the Continental Congress and served nine terms as Governor of Massachusetts.

Harding, Warren G. - The 29th President of the United States. His political appointments engaged in serious corruption leading to the "Teapot Dome" scandal. He died in office.

Henry, Patrick - American colonial patriot, member of the Continental Congress, he spurred the creation of the Virginia militia with the famous words "Give me liberty or give me death". Later served as the Governor of Virginia

Ives, Burl - Legendary entertainer and ballad singer.

Jackson, Andrew - 7th President of the United States (1829-1837) and first Westerner to be elected President. A national military hero for his actions in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, His term addressed many of the significant issues in the formation of the country but was marked by political partisanship so common in that time. He left a legacy of a strong presidency. He was Grand Master of Masons in Tennessee two terms (1822-1824).

Jackson, Reverend Jesse - Baptist Minister, American civil rights leader and politician. His concerns for the oppressed and his dramatic oratory have attracted a large grassroots constituency called the Rainbow Coalition.

Jones, John Paul - Scottish born seaman, he became a naval hero and 'Father of the U. S. Navy'. He later commanded Russian naval ships in their war against the Ottoman empire.

Kalakaua, King David - Last monarch of the Hawaiian Kingdom

Kamehameha (s), King (III, IV, and V) - all of whom were Monarchs of the Hawaiian Kingdom

Kemp, Jack - US Republican Congressman from New York, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Vice Presidential candidate with Mason Bob Dole

Key, Francis Scott - American lawyer and poet who wrote the lyrics which in 1931 became the United States' National Anthem

Kipling, Rudyard - British writer who won the Nobel Prize for literature. Many of his works have strong Masonic themes and some are specifically about Freemasonry, despite the fact that he was only active in his lodge for a brief period of time.

Lindbergh, Charles - American aviator who made the first solo transatlantic flight.

Marshall, James W. - Discovered Gold at Sutter's Mill California 1848

Marshall, Thurgood - The first Black to be appointed to the Supreme Court

Maytag, Fredrick - Headed the company which produced farm equipment, the now little-known Maytag car and the first washing machine capable of being operated by an outside power source.

Monroe, James - The fifth President of the United States (1817-1825), whose administration was marked by the acquisition of Florida (1819), the Missouri Compromise (1820), in which Missouri was declared a slave state, and the profession of the Monroe Doctrine (1823), which declared U.S. opposition to European interference in the Americas.

Murphy, Audie - Most decorated American Soldier of WWII, he also achieved fame as an actor in movies (Westerns). An autobiographical movie was made of his heroic combat exploits. He was active and interested in Freemasonry as this page on this excellent website about his life explains.

Palmer, Arnold - Golf Professional who for years set the example to make golf a 'gentlemen's' sport

Peary, Admiral Robert E. - First man to reach the North Pole (1909)

Pike, Albert - Pioneer, explorer, Confederate General, he re-wrote the rituals of the US Southern Masonic jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite Bodies.

Revere, Paul - American silversmith, engraver and Revolutionary hero who on April 18, 1775 made his famous ride to warn "The British are coming!" as celebrated in a poem by Longfellow. Revere was a Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Ringling Brothers - All 7 of these famous Circus brothers and their father were Masons.

Robinson, "Sugar Ray" - American prizefighter and six time world champion (once as a welterweight and five times as a middleweight)

Rogers, Roy (Leonard Franklin Slye) - "King of the Cowboys". American singer and actor who played a singing cowboy in motion picture Westerns. Always wearing the white hat, Rogers played the hero who never killed his opponent but rather would shoot him in the hand to wound him. On his grave is proudly displayed the Cross of his faith and his 33rd Degree Masonic emblem.

Rogers, Will - Actor and beloved Humorist; noted for his wry, homespun commentary on society and politics.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. - Governor of New York and 32nd President of the United States, he was the only US president to be reelected three times. He brought his country out of the Great Depression, guided them through World War II and died in office. He was succeeded by another Mason, Harry S. Truman.

Roosevelt, Theodore - Hero of the Spanish-American War, Governor of New York, Vice President and when President (and Mason) William McKinley was assassinated, he became the 26th President of the United States. Winner of the Nobel peace prize.

Sanders, Colonel Harland - Fried chicken magnate, his Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets are found world-wide

Savalas, Telly - Actor who became famous as the bald police detective who was strong on the outside but gentle inside - and always had a lollypop in his mouth. His brother **George** was an actor also.

Sellers, Peter - English actor and comedian, his popularity was unrivalled as the incompetent Inspector Clouseau in a series of films that began with The Pink Panther (1963) and extended beyond his death to The Trail of the Pink Panther (1982). He received an Oscar nomination for 'Being There' (1980).

Skelton, Red - Entertainer and Comedian Brother Red will be remembered for countless decades for his hilarious family comedy. When others used obscenities to get a 'cheap laugh', he kept high standards and refused to follow. His clown paintings are exceptional pieces of art. "Good Night and God Bless"

Sousa, John Philip - U.S. Marine Band leader from 1880 - 1892, he wrote numerous marches including the US's 'national march', "The Stars and Stripes Forever"

Stratton, Charles - 'General Tom Thumb' - American entertainer and circus performer, he reached 3 feet 4 inches in height at maturity.

Switzer, Carl "Alfalfa" - Child actor star of the "Little Rascals" series

Taft, William Howard - Civil governor of the Philippines, Secretary of War, Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court and twenty-seventh President of the U.S.

Thomas, Danny - Entertainer / Founder of St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Mr. Thomas often told the story of how physicians at his hospital explained to him the need for a very unique therapy for a patient at St. Jude's which was only available at a Shrine Hospital. Mr. Thomas told the doctors to proceed with the treatment, regardless of the cost. When he was advised that there would be **no** cost, Mr. Thomas was shocked and vowed to find out more about this organization. Shortly thereafter, he petitioned and became a Mason. Prior to his death, he was featured in videos and wrote articles praising the good works of Freemasonry.

Thomas, Dave - Founder of Wendy's Restaurants, he has done extensive work promoting the cause of orphans.

Tillis, Mel (Lonnie Melvin) - Country and Western performer of renown. Coins tossed into the fountain of the Mel Tillis Theatre in Branson, Missouri are divided equally between the Scottish Rite's Childhood Language Disorders Program and the Shrine's Hospitals.

Truman, Harry S. - A U. S. Senator from Missouri (1935-45), his personal integrity helped him get reelected in 1940 despite the exposure of the Missouri machine's corruption. He came to national attention heading what was called the Truman Committee, which investigated government wartime production and saved taxpayers millions of dollars. He became vice-president in 1944. Truman became the thirty-third President of the United States with the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, another Mason; he would go on to win a close election in 1948. The most active Mason to hold the highest office in the United States.

Warner, Jack - One of the brothers who created the American motion-picture production company known as Warner Brothers. They were the first to use sequences of sound in a silent feature film.

Washington, George - As General of the Armies of the colonies, he led the revolution which created American independence. As the first President of the United States, his leadership was crucial to establishing the 'tone' for the United States. His love of Freemasonry is documented by his close reliance upon other Masons in the execution of his duties. Following his death, his widow sent locks of his hair (a common practice of the time) to Masons throughout the country and such revered treasures were the object of great appreciation. To this day, a lock of his hair sent to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is carried in a golden urn preceding the entry of the Grand Master at the Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge.

Wayne, John - "The Duke" - One of the most popular actors of recent years. His 'manly' roles helped define a generation.

Young, Cy - American baseball player, he pitched for 22 seasons and was, perhaps, the greatest pitcher in the history of the sport. He pitched the first 'perfect game' in modern baseball.

Zigfeld, Florenz - His Ziegfeld's Follies began in 1907.