

Tidbits of Masonic Trivia

* In 1794 a Masonic token was minted in honor of the Prince of Wales in England. A son of George III, he later became George the IV. From 1790 to 1813 he served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. The originator of the coin was Brother James Sketchley of Birmingham who created the coin to commemorate the election of the Prince as Grand Master. These coins were so superior in their copper content that they readily became legal tender. In 1817 they were withdrawn from circulation by government order.



1794 Masonic token

* James O. Halliwell-Phillips, an English antiquarian and librarian, was not a Mason. While engaged in his work, he came across a manuscript in the British Museum catalogued as *A Poem of Moral Duty*. It was actually a statement of the "Old Masonic Charges" in poetic form. It is believed to have been prepared in 1390, thus making it the oldest known Masonic document. Now called the *Regius Poem*, or the *Halliwell Manuscript*, it was published in 1840 in a brochure entitled *On the Introduction of Freemasonry into England*.

* In 1835 a group of Masons met under a large oak tree in Brazoria, Texas (just south of what is now Houston) and took the first step to form Holland Lodge No. 1. The tree, known as the Masonic Oak, has continued to grow and is still in existence. On May 15, 1966, the Masons of Texas made a pilgrimage to the Oak. There was singing, dinner, preaching and much fun. The Grand Master, H. W. Fullingim, dedicated the location by placing a Texas State Historical Marker near the Oak tree to commemorate the start of the lodge.



The Masonic Oak

* The Masonic Lodge with the highest meeting place on the earth is Roof of the World Lodge No. 1094, of Oroya, Peru. The elevation of the Lodge room in the Andes Mountains is 14,167 above sea level. The closest competitor in the United States is Corinthian Lodge No. 35 in Leadville, Colorado with an elevation about 10,200 feet.



Roof of the World Lodge

* John Stafford Smith (1750-1836), a member of Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4, London, actually wrote the music which later became our national anthem. Its original use is not known, but at an early date it was adopted by an Irish Masonic orphans' Home as its song. When Francis Scott Key utilized this music for the Star Spangled Banner, the tune was popular in taverns of that time.

* Czar Nicholas I banned Masonry in Russia in 1801. He rescinded the order in 1803 and became a Freemason, probably for political reasons; but in 1822 he again banned Freemasonry in Russia. Masonry was reconstituted several times in the ensuing years, but was declared officially 'dead' around the time of the Bolshevik revolution. It rose from the ashes again in 1995 under the Grand Lodge Nationale Francaise.

* In order to have unbroken floor space in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, the cars in two elevator shafts move sideways thirty-five feet. As the elevators rise 255 feet in two slanting hoist-ways from the main floor to the observation platform at the top of the building, it moves sideways 1 foot for approximately every 7 ¼ feet it ascends or descends.

* Ely S. Parker, a full-blooded Indian chief, was the grandson of Red Jacket, a close friend of George Washington. He was a Union Brigadier General in the Civil War, and served as General Grant's secretary. He was raised in Batavia Lodge No. 88, Batavia, New York, and later affiliated with Valley Lodge No. 109. He demitted and became a founder and first Worshipful Master of Akron Lodge No. 527 of New York. Ely Parker Lodge No. 1002 of Buffalo, New York is named after him.

* When William McKinley was asked how he happened to become a Mason he explained: "After a particularly hard fought battle, I went with the surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where there were about 5,000 Confederate prisoners under guard. Almost as soon as we passed the guard, I noticed the doctor shook the hands with a number of Confederate prisoners. He also took from his pocket a roll of bills and distributed all he had among them."

Boy-like, McKinley looked on in wonderment; not knowing what it all meant. On the way back from camp he asked the Surgeon:

"Did you know these men, or ever see them before?"

"No," replied the doctor, "I have never seen them before."

"But," McKinley persisted, "You gave them a lot of money, all you had about you. Do you ever expect to get it back?"

"Well" said the doctor, "If they are able to pay me back, they will. But it makes no difference to me; they are brother Masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty."

McKinley said, "If that is Freemasonry, I will take some of it for myself."

* One hundred fifty years ago in the U.S., there were nearly 3,000 Masonic lodges that can be described as "Moon Lodges"; in 1972 there were fewer than 500, today fewer than 350. These lodges met on or near the day of the full moon for very practical reasons; the brethren had light to travel by at night. With the advent of electricity, street lights, and the automobile, the reason for meeting on such nights became unnecessary.

* "Fort Masonic" was built on what was known as the Heights of Brooklyn, which later became Bond and Nevins Streets in Brooklyn, New York. On September 1, 1814, the officers of the Grand Lodge of New York accompanied by a group of Masons from fourteen lodges went to the place and performed one day's work. On September 17th, another day's work was done to complete the fort. "Fort Hiram" was built on October 3, 1814, at Fort Point, Rhode Island. Thomas Smith Webb, Grand Master at the time, supervised the work of 230 Master Masons that day. The purpose of the fortification was to protect the harbor of Providence, Rhode Island.

* Paul Boynton, during the 1832 political campaign, lived in the Green Mountains of Vermont. Those were dark days for the Craft. Andrew Jackson, a past Grand Master of Tennessee, was the candidate for the Presidency against William Wirt, a Mason running on, of all things, the Anti-Masonic ticket. Brother Boynton was a devoted Freemason and did not recant or hide his association with the Craft while the storm was brewing and many members deserted. He made an election vow that if Vermont went for Wirt he would move "out west". In those days "out west" meant St. Lawrence Country, New York, to New Englanders.

* When Wirt won in Vermont (the only state he won), Brother Boynton kept his word and moved. At the end of an eighty day journey on horseback, Brother Boynton settled down in Canton New York. He swapped his horse for a pocket watch and a gun shop. He became the best gunsmith in the area and his gun stocks are highly prized collector's items today. He invented many things, such as the eight day clock, and a pedometer. In 1835 he built what is now known as The Royal Arch House, located at 12 Pine Street, as a constant reminder to friend and foe alike, that he was a Mason.

* On November 7, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the meeting of Architect Lodge No. 519 in New York and raised two of his sons, James and Franklin D., Jr. An honorary membership certificate was presented to the President by the Lodge.

* John Hancock was a member of St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts. He was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence. He wrote in a bold flourishing style. When asked why his signature was so large, he replied: "So that George III may read it without putting on his spectacles."

* On December 20, 1874, a special meeting of New York Lodge No. 330 was held to exemplify the Master Masons degree for the edification of a visiting Brother. His Royal Highness David Kalakaua, King of the Hawaiian Islands, and a member of Le Progress Lodge No. 124 in Honolulu.



Brother David Kalakaua

After the degree was exemplified, the Bible on which George Washington had taken his oath of office was displayed. The royal visitor asked that the book be opened at the page where Washington's oath was administered. He took the book in both hands and kissed the page saying "I thank God for this privilege." On January 15, 1865, the same royal visitor attended Chicago's Oriental Lodge No. 33 which had called a special meeting. Over four hundred distinguished visitors attended.

* A Union general, Thomas H. Benton, Grand Master in Iowa, 1860 - 1862, saved Albert Pike's Masonic Library at Little Rock, Arkansas, by placing Federal Troops around Pike's home when the city was invaded during the Civil War.

* It was a time not long after Fort Sumter and the War of Northern Aggression was well under way. The Yankees, as they are still wont to do, had promptly flocked to Hilton Head and Tybee Islands, on opposite sides of the mouth of the Savannah River. The Savannah Folks didn't mind much that the Yankees had stolen the good beaches, for the water was still a bit cool for Southern preferences and, besides, they knew the gnats and mosquitoes would teach the Yankees a lesson they'd never forget. So, the Southerners, as Southerners are wont to do sometimes, just waited.

They didn't have to wait very long before the Yankees on Hilton Head sent out a messenger under a white flag. It seemed that the Yankees had among them a young fellow who had passed through the Fellow Craft Degree before shipping out. The Yanks were just sitting around slapping gnats when it occurred to one of them that, just maybe, there was a nearby lodge that could test him in the Fellow Craft Degree and raise him to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

As luck would have it, there was indeed a lodge in Savannah that would soon be having a Master Masons Degree. One morning, not too many days later, a detail of Confederate Cavalry slipped across the Savannah River into South Carolina and traveled through Bluffton to the shore opposite Hilton Head Island.

From there they escorted one Fellow Craft Mason and, a significant number of Master Masons of the Northern Persuasion, safely through the Confederate Lines and back through about 35 miles of Confederate defenses to Savannah where the candidate and his witnesses were delivered into the local Masonic Lodge.

The records of the Lodge note that this Brother was indeed proficient in the Fellow Craft Degree and he was raised as a Master Mason. Later that night another detail of Confederate Cavalry slipped back across the Savannah River and safely escorted their Brothers back to Hilton Head. I have loved this story since the first time I heard it many years ago. It clearly demonstrates that, even in a dark period in our Nation's history, when brothers were killing brothers, Masonic Brothers could still be Brothers.

* And this, from our own beloved Masons Hall in downtown Richmond (the oldest Masonic Lodge building in continuous use in the U.S.)...In 1865 when Union troops entered the city a Northern General, also a Mason, ordered a guard placed at the Lodge building to prevent its burning. In the ante-room of Richmond-Randolph Lodge No.19 there hangs to this day a beautiful saber, with its original patina, left behind by a Union soldier following the 'recent unpleasantness' while the city was still under military rule. That saber is being held by the Lodge for the soldier to return and claim that relic of strife.



Mason's Hall, Richmond, Virginia

Tidbits of Masonic Trivia - II

- * At one time, Golden Rule Lodge #5, Stanstead, Canada (one of the oldest Masonic lodges in Quebec) occupied a lodge room, that straddled the international boundary between Canada and the United States. There were entrances to the Lodge room from both sides of the border.
- * Washington Chapter #3 of Portsmouth, NH announced its meetings via the town crier, who received the equivalent of 8 cents each time he announced a Lodge meeting.
- * Frederick A. Bartholdi, a Freemason, designed the statue of Liberty in NY harbor, and the Grand Lodge of NY laid the corner stone on August 5, 1885.
- * Bernard Pierre Mangam, Marshall of France and a Senator, was appointed Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France and served from 1862 to 1865. This was rather unusual because he was not a Mason. He was appointed by Emperor Napoleon, III.
- * The letters of the English word GOD are the first three letters of Hebrew words for beauty, strength, and wisdom. G in Gomez, O in Oz, D in Dabar.
- * In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there was found a stone in a small chapel, dated 1517, with the following inscription: "I will serve to live with love & care, upon the level, and by the square."
- * Francis Stephens, the Duke of Lorraine, received the first two Masonic degrees in 1731 in a special Lodge convened at The Hague, Netherlands, becoming the first known royal Freemason. Later he received the Master Mason degree in England.
- * Dr. Joseph Guillotine was a member of Concorde Fraternal Lodge of Paris and a member of the French Assembly. He invented the device that bears his name and was later executed with one.
- * The Rev. William Dodd, first Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England, was hanged for forgery on June 2nd, 1777.
- * In 1839 the Mormons left Missouri and settled in the area of Nauvoo, Illinois. October 15, 1841, the Illinois Grand Master issued a dispensation to form a Lodge at Nauvoo. On March 15th, 1842, Joseph Smith received his first degree and the others shortly after. Certain 'irregularities' were reported...in five months the Lodge initiated 256 candidates and 243 were raised. After due investigation, the Grand Master revoked the dispensation, but the Lodge continued to work. On April 5, 1844, the Mormon Masons dedicated a Masonic Temple and Illinois Masons got in trouble for taking part in the ceremony. Opposition to the group and internal dissension led to the assassination of Joseph Smith and the eventual removal of the Mormons from Illinois.
- * Operative Lodge #150 in Aberdeen, Scotland is unusual in that its membership is only open to operative stonemasons.
- * Dr. Edward Jenner, in 1789 discovered the vaccination process against smallpox. He was Worshipful Master of Faith and Friendship Lodge #270 in Berkeley, England at the time.

- * In July 1863, Confederate raiders rode into Versailles, Indiana, capturing the local militia and stealing the county treasury. The next day, Confederate General John Morgan learned that his men had also made off with the jewels of the local Masonic Lodge. They were returned the following day, and 8 of his men were disciplined. Morgan was from Davies Lodge #22, Lexington, KY.
- * Wheelock Commandery No. 5 in Texas had all 55 of its members killed while serving in the Confederate Army. The Commandery ceased to exist.
- * Missouri's first Confederate Capitol was the Masonic Building in Neosho. From there the legislature passed the Acts of Secession.
- * July 2, 1751, Ferdinand VI of Spain issued an edict against Freemasonry. Father Jose Torrubia secured a special dispensation from the Pope, joined a lodge, secured the names of its members, and proceeded to have them arrested. Hundreds were arrested, persecuted, and imprisoned.
- * When Mussolini gained control of Italy, Masonic lodges were declared illegal and the Grand Master was arrested, tried, and imprisoned, where he died. Mussolini also ordered all Masonic references removed, including the emblems on the base of Garibaldi's monument in Rome. After the restoration of the republic, fascist emblems were removed and the Masonic emblems were once again restored.
- * In Fascist Spain under Franco, it was a crime to be a Freemason. Masons convicted had to serve prison terms equal in years to the number of Masonic degrees possessed. Master Mason degree equaled 3 years in prison.
- * Winnedumah Lodge #287 of Bishop, CA holds its meetings at 270 feet below sea level, the lowest Lodge in North America.
- * In 1954 Martin's Station Lodge No. 188 of Virginia was opened 952 feet below the surface of Cumberland Mountain in Cudjo's Cave, which lies between Cumberland Gap, Tenn. and Middleburo, KY. 345 Masons were present and a master Mason degree was conferred.
- * Chicago, IL has three American Legion Posts whose memberships are entirely Masonic.
- * All four Presidents of the Republic of Texas, David Burnett, Sam Houston, Mirabeau Lamar, and Anson Jones, were members of the Craft.
- * Between 1737 and 1779 two sailing ships of interest operated off the U.S. eastern seaboard, The Freemason and The Master Mason. The Freemason caught fire and sank in Marblehead Harbor, Massachusetts in 1779.
- * On November 10, 1928, the Grand Lodge of California held a special communication at Culver City to lay the corner stone of the Masonic Temple. The lodge room was so crowded that the grand line officers were unable to enter the room. They retired to a nearby Ladies' powder room to open the Grand Lodge for the ceremony.

- * In May, 1843, a group of representatives from fourteen grand lodges met in Baltimore, with the idea of adopting uniform ritual. The meeting was presided over by John Dove of Virginia, while Charles W. Moore of Massachusetts prepared the proposed ritual. The convention's work was not generally accepted.
- * In 1799, Barton Lodge in Upper Canada accepted "good merchantable wheat" in payment of Lodge dues.
- * St. George Lodge in Bermuda has rented the Old State House since 1816 from the Governor of the island for the sum of "one peppercorn per year."
- * Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Jimenez was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Venezuela in 1947. In 1957 he became the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Japan.
- * In 1892, the tallest building in the world was the Masonic Temple at Randolph and State Streets in Chicago.
- * Brother William Brockmeier (1866-1947) of St. Louis conducted 5,586 Masonic funeral ceremonies during his Masonic career.
- * Thomas Jacob Shryock served as grand master of Maryland for 32 years. He died after being elected to serve his 33rd term.
- * The largest Master's chair is in Ophir Lodge #33 Murphys, California. It is 15 feet long and can seat the Master, living Past Masters, and visiting dignitaries.
- * On June 7, 1921, Mystic Lodge #21 of Red Bank, NJ conferred half of the Master Mason degree on brother Lyman C. Van before the power went out. He didn't receive the rest of the degree until several weeks later, making him for a time, a "two and half degree" Mason.
- * When the great Obelisk of Alexandria (Cleopatra's Needle) was moved to New York in 1880, there were discovered certain emblems on the original foundation and pedestal. One is clearly a square, leading some to conclude that Masonry existed in ancient Egypt. Obviously, this issue is still open to debate.
- * On August 23, 1879, Lodge #239 of France held a meeting in the basket of a giant hot air balloon flying over Paris, at which time a brother was initiated into the Lodge.
- * On his famous solo flight across the Atlantic, Charles Lindbergh wore a square and compasses pin on his jacket as a good luck piece. He was a Mason.
- * Richard E. Byrd and his pilot Brent Balchen, both Masonic brothers, dropped Masonic flags over both the North and South Poles. Brother Balchen also tossed his Shrine fez on the South Pole.
- * Gordon Cooper, in his Mercury capsule, carried a Masonic coin and a blue Masonic flag during his 22 orbit flight, which he later presented to his mother Lodge.
- * Montana's first livestock brand was a square and compasses and is still in use today. It was registered to a Mr. Pointdexter Orr of Beaverhead County, Montana in 1872.

* Andrew McNair, a Philadelphia Mason, rang the Liberty bell in Independence Hall on July 8th, 1776 to call the people together to hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The bell developed a crack when it was rung to announce the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, Past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.

* Grand Masters generally have the power to make "Masons at sight," which means the Grand Master can do away with formalities such as filing of petitions, waiting periods, learning of certain ritual, etc. Some famous Masons who were made at sight include: William H. Taft, General George Marshall, and General Douglas MacArthur.

* In the 1800's several Grand Lodges established Masonic colleges. The most successful of which was in Hannibal, Missouri in 1847. Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Georgia all tried it, but all were eventually closed due to lack of support.

* In the spring of 1966, brother Dallas Coleman of Denison Lodge #373 of Kansas was digging a pond when he came across an overturned gravestone marked with a square and compasses. Research lead to a determination that it belonged to Brother Henry Craig (1832-62) of Valley Falls Lodge #21. The brethren of the lodge reset and cleaned the monument and erected a fence around it to keep livestock away. The Lodge members continue to maintain the site today.

* Warren G. Harding was initiated on June 28, 1901. It took him 19 years to complete the other two degrees.

* Lodges in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have no numbers. In Pennsylvania there are 11 lodges that have numbers but no names, and in Georgia there are two lodges with the number 1. In Maryland, Tennessee and Pennsylvania there is no lodge with the number 1.

* Some Masonic places in the US:

Anchor, IL
Beehive, MT
Boaz, AL
Charity, MS
Circle, MT
Cowan, TN
Emblem, WY
Eureka, WV
Faith, SD
Fidelity, IL
Five Points, AL
Freeborn, MN
Hiram, MA
Hope, AK
Jachin, AL
Justice, IL
Lodge, SC
Mason, KY
Masonic Home, KY

Masontown, WV
Mason City, IA
Square, MT
Steward, IL
Symbol, KY
Temperance, MI
Tyler, TX

* Hiram Abiff Boaz, born Dec. 18 1866 in Murray, KY, received his degrees in 1922, and went on to serve as Grand Chaplin (TX) in 1953.

* Joseph A. Gilmore (1811-1867), former governor of N.H. was made a Mason at sight on April 28, 1863. He received Scottish Rite degrees and was awarded his 33rd degree IGH on May 7, 1863 - just 9 days later.

* Between 1890 (when it became a state) and 1951, every governor of Wyoming, except one, was a Mason. The lone exception was Mrs. William A. Ross, the wife of a Mason and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

* Every President from Tennessee was a Mason (Jackson, Johnson, Polk)

* In 1951, while President of the United States, Harry Truman served as Master of his lodge.

* Sacramento Chapter #3, Royal Arch Masons has supplied 4 governors of California (Neeley Johnson, Lantham, Pacheo, and Hiram Johnson)

* William Hesketh Lever Lodge #2916 in Great Britain was the only lodge named for a non-Mason, the first Viscount of Leverhulm (the soap manufacturer "Lever").

* Paul Revere was a Mason, as was his cohort, Robert Newman, who hung the lantern in the tower of Old North Church.

* Angelo Soliman, was born in Africa in 1721 and brought to Europe as a slave at the age of ten. He was educated, married, and became a favorite in the royal court in Vienna. Sometime before 1771 he became a mason. When he died in 1776, the Emperor had his body stuffed and mounted, and placed in the natural history museum, becoming not only the first black of African birth to become a mason, but the also the first Mason to be stuffed, mounted, and displayed.

* Charles Stratton, a.k.a. Tom Thumb, was 24 inches high and weighed just 16 pounds when raised in 1862.

* Theodore Parvin was Grand Secretary of Masons in Iowa from 1844 to 1901, except for 1852- 53 when he was Grand Master.

Tidbits of Masonic Trivia - III

* There is only one road leading from Eilat Israel to the Egyptian border at Taba. In the middle of the last traffic circle before arriving at the border you will find this Masonic Memorial. There is only one Lodge in Eilat, Solomon's Pillars No. 59.

They were allocated a traffic circle by the Eilat Mayor (who was also initiated few years ago!) in recognition of their activities for the benefit of the people in need in Eilat. The monument was designed by Bro Avi Baranes and erected by members of the Lodge.



* The earliest record of a speculative Mason being admitted to a lodge is the record of the Lodge of Edinburgh, June 8, 1600, when John Boswell, the Laird of Auchenleck, attested his presence with his mark.

* Col. Paul Revere was initiated in St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, Mass., Sept. 4, 1760, and was Grand Master from December 12, 1794 to December 27, 1797. In a letter to the secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society relating to the events of April, 1775, he wrote: 'We held our meetings at the Green Dragon tavern. We were so careful that our meetings should be kept secret that every time we met, every person swore upon the Bible, that they would not divulge any of our transactions, but to Messr. Hancock, Adams, Doctors Warren, Church, and one or two more.'

* MW Harry S Truman, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri was a Mason for 63 years and received his fifty year Masonic veteran's emblem in 1959. About the ceremony he said, "I don't think I've had anything touch me as that did."

* Jewel Lodge No. 374, San Francisco, is the only lodge in the world that opens at midnight. It holds a special midnight meeting once a year during the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, conferring the Master Masons degree for the benefit of visiting Grand delegates. The membership of Jewel Lodge includes many musicians, theatrical men and newspapermen to whom midnight is a convenient hour, and does not overlap any of the Grand Lodge proceedings.

* Philately (the collecting of postage stamps) is a popular pastime for many thousands of people. It was on 6th May 1840, that the first adhesive backed postage stamp in the world, 'The Penny Black', was issued in Great Britain. It was printed by Jacob Perkins, an American Freemason and an engraver. Soon other countries followed suit. Within a decade the first serious stamp collectors appeared on the scene. The objective of Masonic Philately was the furtherance of Masonic Research via the media of postage stamps, the dissemination of knowledge gained and the quiet enjoyment of this interesting hobby. The area of study now includes special event covers, postcards and postal seals related to the Fraternity.

* In 1892, the tallest building in the world was the Masonic Temple at Randolph and State Streets, in Chicago, Illinois.

* Bro. General Lafayette received his Masonic Degrees in Military Lodge #10 in Valley Forge, PA while George Washington served as Worshipful Master.

* Lieutenant Marcellus Jones, of the 8th Illinois Cavalry, fired the first shot at the Battle of Gettysburg. Jones was a Mason, as was Christian Sharps, the inventor of the breech-loading carbine, bearing his name that Jones was using. Approximately 300 Generals, from both Union and Confederate brigades, were Masons who served during the War.

* In Masonic lodges of the 1700's, the emblems and symbols of the different degrees were drawn on the floor of the lodge with chalk or charcoal, and obliterated at the end of each meeting. Because lodges met in rented rooms, they did not want strangers viewing their secret writings. As this was troublesome and messy, they were next painted on cloth or canvas, carried to each meeting and laid on the floor, hence the name 'carpets'. Around the 1940's, these carpets, or 'charts' as they were called, were hung from walls or in frames. Today, most often the emblems and symbols of the degrees are projected by slides or computer images on a screen.

* In Christchurch, New Zealand, there are two natural eroded stone pillars standing at the entrance to Tumbledown Bay. Looking from the land, the one on the right is Jachin and the other on the left is Boaz. It leads one to believe that the city's founders were indeed members of The Craft.

* In the Wisconsin Masonic Journal we find it stated that John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism was made a Mason in Downpatrick Lodge #36, in Ireland, on October 30, 1738. However, according to Brother Alphonse Cerza writing for the Masonic Service Association, a thorough investigation of this statement was made by Brother W. J. Chetwode Crawley who says: "Reviewing the circumstances of the supposed initiation of the Reverend John Wesley ... we are driven to the conclusion that the idea is false, and based on a palpable confusion of identity." Also, the Reverend Wesley's diary proves that he was in England on the night another John Wesley was made a Mason in Downpatrick, Ireland. (3)

* Lux in Tenebris Lodge # 3856 in London is for blind Masons. The Latin words mean "Light in Darkness."

* In all my research of Brother George Washington, I found only two references to his having or wearing a sash. One is the blue sash he wore in the famous painting by Charles Willson Peale. The other is the bloodstained sash given him in 1755 by the defeated and dying British general Edward Braddock at the Battle of Monongahela. Washington was just 23 years of age at the time. He kept Braddock's sash and pistol and carried them throughout the remainder of the war of Independence.

* Well known actor Jack Carson, whose Hollywood career in motion pictures ran from 1937 to 1969, was the first of five candidates to receive the Entered Apprentice degree at Cecile Daylight Lodge #305 in Independence, MO in 1936. He was taught the proficiency while the other four candidates were being initiated. At his request, he then recited his Entered Apprentice proficiency that same evening, even examining himself with letter perfect proficiency!

* The examination of a candidate for proficiency in the previous degree was first introduced in 1850 in Louisiana.

* For more than 138 years, the Lodge St. George of Bermuda has paid Bermuda's Governor "one peppercorn" as annual rent of the entire second floor of the old state house, which is used as their Lodge room.

* A lodge is opened by its Master in "due and ancient form" meaning according to ancient customs and usages, the laws and ritual of its Grand Lodge. A Grand Lodge is opened by the Grand Master in "ample form" meaning he has the power and authority to deviate from common ritual to save time.

* The oldest known Masonic writing, the Regius Manuscript or "Poem of Moral Duties," was discovered to be a Masonic document by a non-Mason, J. O. Halliwell, in 1839. It was written about 1390 and was given the name "Regius" because it was found in the Royal Library of England. It now resides in the British Museum.

* Masonic dates are written "A.L." for "Anno Lucis" or "In the year of Light" which is 4000 years plus the current year. i.e. the year 2008 written Masonically would be 6008. This is because the practice has followed the ancient belief that the world was created when God said "Let there be light", 4000 years before Christ.

* The first American Masonic ritual, "Freemason's Monitor", was published in Albany, NY in 1797 by Brother Thomas Smith Webb. It was largely based on William Preston's writings in England.

Tidbits of Masonic Trivia - IV

Anti-Masonic Postage Stamps

On January 1, 1942 Serbia issued four postage stamps to commemorate the Grand Anti-Masonic Exhibition, which opened in Belgrade on October 22, 1941. These stamps depict a strong, victorious Serbia crushing the evil Masonic-Communist-Jewish plot for world domination.

The surtax on this stamp issue was used for the printing and distribution of Anti-Masonic, Anti-Communist, and Anti-Jewish propaganda. Each stamp bears the opening date 22x1941 and was labeled "Anti-Masonic Exhibition" and "Serbia" in Cyrillic letters.

These stamps, with their juxtaposition of Masonic, Communist, Jewish and Serbian symbols (notice that Nazi symbols do not appear in the designs), provide a remarkable window into the Serbian wartime worldview. Even after the Communist takeover of Yugoslavia in May 1945 Masons were regarded with much suspicion and contempt by the Serbian dominated Yugoslav authorities.

The first stamp in the picture below (top, left) shows Masonry, allegorically clad as a hooded figure wearing an apron and Star of David upon its bosom. This hooded figure is shown cringing from a strong ray of light, which emanates from a circular design apparently representing the forces of Anti-Masonry.

Nowhere in Masonry does a hooded figure appear. Also any Mason can readily see the fallacy of "Cringing from Light" because Masons ask for light at least three times as they progress in the degrees of the Blue Lodge. Then too, the attempt to link Jewry with Freemasonry is very evident by the Star of David on the figure's chest.

The second stamp (top, right) in the series shows a hand emanating from a silvery light and grasping the neck of a huge snake whose head rests upon a square and compasses. This reptile is covered with the Stars of David rather than scales. Biblically, the snake represents the perceived forces of evil (Jews and Masons) and here is symbolically being stopped by the hand of Nazism.

The third stamp (bottom, right) shows a sheaf of wheat superimposed upon a cross, which has a pointed lower leg, together with the hammer and cycle, all resting upon and splitting a star that symbolizes Serbia. This attempts to show that the Jew, Mason, and Communist are alike in ideal, if not one and the same.

The last stamp in the series shows a Star of David upon the curved surface of the earth located between two pillars, which are being torn asunder by a zealous 'Sampson', of Serbian descent. These pillars presumably refer to the two brazen pillars within the outer porch of King Solomon's Temple, known as Jachin and Boaz.

Unused sets of these stamps were offered to stamp collectors in the 1950's and 60's by some US stamp companies as an incentive to order other interesting world wide topical stamps. Used copies are very scarce and highly prized by Masonic stamp collectors today.



Masonry remained outlawed in this part of the world from 1945 until the summer of 1995 when Freemasons legally renewed work in Croatia under a charter from the Grand Lodge of Austria. They are registered with the Ministry of Administration as a 'civil association' under name of the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia (RGLS) noting the existence of six lodges within the country. Serbian Freemasonry today is completely new and there is no connection with Freemasonry from the World War II era. The United Grand Lodge of England later approved the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Serbia (Croatia). By summer of 2001, 30 additional Grand Lodges from five continents did the same.

The Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia held its Annual Conference in June of 2008 in Belgrade, and a great number of delegations from foreign Grand Lodges were present. This was the end of yet another very successful year for the Brethren from Serbia, who in spite of quite unstable political and economical situations in Serbia managed to enlarge their numbers, improve their education, and give back to society through particularly strong humanitarian and charity work. Without a permanent Grand Lodge temple, they held their Annual Conference in the Belgrade Convention Center in a room decorated for the occasion.

Excerpted from various sources, including the Encyclopedia Judaica, Keter Publishing.
 Douglas Messimer, PM, LEO
 Tuckahoe Lodge 347

Tidbits of Masonic Trivia - V

Freemasonry - Men in Good Company

Throughout history some very prominent members of the Masonic fraternity have made no secret of their involvement; as a result, some famous (and, yes infamous) Freemasons are well-known. No claim is made that this list is comprehensive in nature, as it was prepared only to provide a sense of the diversity of Masonic membership. Where available, specific Lodge membership information is provided; where serious questions of verification have been noted by other sources, this is indicated as well.

Masonic membership can sometimes be difficult to verify, especially for historical figures. Membership records are most often kept at the individual Lodge level, and may be lost due to fire, flood, or simple carelessness on the part of a local Lodge. Grand Lodge governance may have shifted or been reorganized, resulting in the loss of records on the member or the name, number, location or even existence of the Lodge in question. In areas of the world where Masonry has been suppressed by governments, records of entire Grand Lodges have been destroyed.

Political and Civil Rights Leaders

- John Jacob Astor, Holland Lodge No. 8, NY
- David Rice Atchison, Platte Lodge No. 56, MO
- Gunning Bedford, Jr., Lodge No. 14, Christina Ferry, DE; Past Grand Master of Delaware
- John C. Breckinridge, US Senator, Vice President of the United States, General CSA, Secretary of War CSA.
- William Jennings Bryan, Lincoln Lodge No. 19, Lincoln, Nebraska
- John Brown, Hudson Lodge No. 68, Hudson, Ohio
- Asa S. Bushnell, (Governor of Ohio 1896-1900), made a Mason at Sight by Grand Master Levi C. Goodale in 1894, Affiliated with Anthony Lodge No. 455 in Springfield on 3 April 1894
- Jonathan Byrne, 33°, Charlotte Lodge No. 39, (former American Gladiator)
- Henry A. Wallace, Pioneer Lodge No. 22 in Des Moines, Iowa
- Henry Clay, Past Grand Master of Kentucky
- Samuel L. Clemens - AKA "Mark Twain", Polar Star Lodge No. 79, St. Louis, Missouri
- DeWitt Clinton, Past Grand Master of New York, Holland Lodge No. 8, NY
- George Clinton, Warren Lodge #17, NYC
- Mac Collins, former Congressman, St. John's Lodge #45, Jackson, GA
- George M. Dallas, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania (1835): Franklin Lodge #134, Pennsylvania
- William Crosby Dawson, Past Grand Master of Georgia 1843-1856, San Marino Lodge No. 34, Greensboro, Georgia
- Cecil B. DeMille, Film Director. Prince Orange Lodge No. 16 NYC
- W.E.B. Du Bois, Widow's Son Lodge No. 1, New Haven, CT
- Bob Dole 33°, Grand Cross. Russell Lodge No. 177, KS
- Jimmy Doolittle, 33°, Grand Cross
- Sam Ervin 33°, Grand Cross

- Benjamin Franklin, February 1731, St. John's Lodge of Philadelphia; Lodge at Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, PA; WM, Lodge of the Nine Sisters, Paris; Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania
- Elbridge Gerry, Philanthropic Lodge, Marblehead, MA
- John H. Glenn, Jr. 33°. Concord Lodge No. 688, Concord, Ohio
- Barry Goldwater, Arizona Lodge No. 2, Phoenix, AZ
- Gus Grissom, Mitchell Lodge No. 228, Indiana
- Jesse Helms, Past Grand Orator of North Carolina
- Burl Ives, 33°, Grand Cross
- Henry A. Wallace, Pioneer Lodge No. 22 in Des Moines, Iowa
- Jack Kemp, Fraternal Lodge No. 625, Hamburg, NY
- William King, Past Grand Master of Maine
- Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Garibaldi Lodge No. 542, NY
- General Douglas MacArthur, 33°, Manila Lodge No. 1, 1936, Philippines
- George C. Marshall, Made mason on site at GL of Washington, DC
- Abner V. McCall, 33°, Grand Cross
- Kweisi Mfume, Mt. Olive Lodge No. 25, Baltimore, MD
- Audie Murphy 33°
- Sam Nunn, 33°, Grand Cross. Honored as Supreme Temple Architect 1995
- Arnold Palmer, 33°
- Norman Vincent Peale, 33°, Grand Cross
- Matthew Perry, (Commodore) Holland Lodge No. 8, NY
- John J. Pershing, Lincoln Lodge No. 19, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Albert Pike, Western Star Lodge No. 2, Little Rock, Arkansas. Sovereign Grand Commander AASR, Southern Jurisdiction
- Joel Roberts Poinsett, Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Charleston
- Roscoe Pound, Lancaster Lodge No. 54, Lincoln, Nebraska
- John A. Quitman, Past Grand Master of Mississippi
- Will Rogers, 32°
- John Sparkman, Helion Lodge #1, Huntsville, Alabama
- Richard Tea, Aztlan Lodge #4, Prescott, Arizona
- Daniel D. Tompkins, Grand Master of New York, 1819-22
- George Wallace, Past Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Alabama
- Marvin Zindler, 33°

American Revolution

- Benedict Arnold, Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, CT
- John Blair, Williamsburg Lodge No. 6; Past Grand Master of Virginia
- Chief Joseph Brant, Hiram's Cliftonian Lodge No. 47, Hamilton, ON
- Benjamin Franklin, February 1731, St. John's Lodge of Philadelphia; Lodge at Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, PA; WM, Loge Les Neuf Sœurs, Paris; Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania
- John Hancock, Massachusetts Lodge No. 277, QC; St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, MA
- Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer, St. Patrick's Lodge, Johnstown, NY
- William Hooper, Hanover Lodge, Masonborough, NC
- John Paul Jones, St. Bernards Lodge No. 122, Kirkudbright, Scotland
- Rufus King, St John's Lodge, Newburyport, MA
- General Rufus Putnam, Past Grand Master of Ohio
- Paul Revere, St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, MA; Grand Master of Massachusetts 1794-97

- Baron von Steuben, Trinity Lodge No. 10, New York, NY
- Richard Stockton, charter Master, St. John's Lodge, Princeton, NJ
- George Walton, Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Savannah, GA
- Joseph Warren, St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, MA; Past Provincial Grand Master
- William Whipple, St. John's Lodge, Portsmouth, NH

U.S. Presidents

- George Washington, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4; Alexandria Lodge No. 22, VA
- James Monroe, Williamsburg Lodge No. 6, VA
- Andrew Jackson, Harmony Lodge No. 1; Past Grand Master of Tennessee
- James K. Polk, Columbia Lodge No. 31, TN
- James Buchanan, Past Master of Lancaster Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, PA; Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
- Andrew Johnson, Greenville Lodge No. 119, TN
- James A. Garfield, Magnolia Lodge No. 20, OH
- William McKinley, Hiram Lodge No. 21, Winchester, VA
- Theodore Roosevelt, Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, NY
- William Howard Taft, "Mason at sight"; affiliated Kilwinning Lodge No. 356, OH
- Warren G. Harding, Marion Lodge No. 70, OH
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Holland Lodge No. 8, NY
- Harry S. Truman, 33° Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, MO; Past Grand Master
- Gerald Ford, Columbia Lodge No. 3, Washington, DC, courtesy to Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, MI

U.S. Supreme Court Justices

- Henry Baldwin, Associate Justice (1830-1844)
- Hugo L. Black, Associate Justice (1937-1971), Birmingham Temple Lodge No. 836, Birmingham, AL
- John Blair, Associate Justice (1789-96), Grand Master of Virginia from 1778 to 1784
- Samuel Blatchford, Associate Justice (1882-1893)
- Harold H. Burton, Associate Justice (1945-1958)
- James F. Byrnes, Associate Justice (1941-1942)
- John H. Clarke, Associate Justice (1916-1922)
- Thomas C. Clark, Associate Justice (1949-1967)
- William Cushing, Associate Justice (1789-1810), St. Andrews Lodge, Boston
- Willis Van Devanter, Associate Justice (1911-1937)
- William O. Douglas, Associate Justice (1939-1975)
- Oliver Ellsworth, Chief Justice (1796-1800)
- Stephen J. Field, Associate Justice (1863-1897)
- John M. Harlan, Associate Justice
- Robert H. Jackson, Associate Justice (1941-1954)
- John Jay, Chief Justice (1789-1795)
- Joseph E. Lamar, Associate Justice (1888-1893), Webb Lodge No. 166 F.& A.M., Augusta, Georgia
- John Marshall, Chief Justice (1801-1835) - Grand Master of Virginia (1793 & 1794)
- Thurgood Marshall, Associate Justice (1967-1991), Coal Creek Lodge No. 88, Tulsa, Oklahoma PHA
- Stanley Mathews, Associate Justice (1881-1889)

- John McLean, Associate Justice (1829-1861)
- Sherman Minton, Associate Justice (1949-1956)
- William H. Moody, Associate Justice (1906-1910)
- Samuel Nelson, Associate Justice (1845-1872)
- William Paterson, Associate Justice (1793-1806)
- Mahlon Pitney, Associate Justice (1912-1922)
- Stanley F. Reed, Associate Justice (1938-1957)
- John Rutledge, Chief Justice (1795), Associate Justice (1789-1791)
- Potter Stewart, Associate Justice (1958-1981)
- Joseph Story, Associate Justice (1811-1845)
- Noah H. Swayne, Associate Justice (1862-1881)
- William H. Taft, Chief Justice (1921-1930), Made Mason at sight by C. S. Hoskinson in Kilwinning Lodge No. 356, Cincinnati, Ohio on 18 February 1909
- Thomas Todd, Associate Justice (1807-1826)
- Robert Trimble, Associate Justice (1826-1828), Past Master, Union Lodge No. 16 F.& A.M., Paris, Kentucky
- Frederick M. Vinson, Chief Justice (1946-1953)
- Earl Warren, Chief Justice (1953-1969) - Grand Master of California 1935 to 1936
- Levi Woodbury, Associate Justice (1845-1851)
- William B. Woods, Associate Justice (1881-1887)

Republic of Texas

- Stephen F. Austin, Louisiana Lodge No. 109, St Genevieve, MO
- Jim Bowie, Humble Cottage Lodge No. 19, Opelousas, LA
- Sam Houston, Cumberland Lodge No. 8, Nashville, TN
- William B. Travis, Alabama Lodge No. 3, Claiborne, AL

Military Leaders

- General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, 32° Cassia Mt. Horeb Lodge No. 273, PA. Raised in Union Lodge No. 7, Junction City, Kansas, and received the higher degrees in the Army Scottish Rite bodies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He was also a Shriner
- General Omar N. Bradley, West Point Lodge No. 877, NY
- Admiral Arleigh Burke, 33°
- Major General Claire Chennault 32° K.C.C.H. League City Lodge No. 1053, League City, Texas. He was also a Shriner
- General Mark W. Clark, Mystic Tie Lodge No. 398, Indianapolis, IN
- Brigadier General James Doolittle, 32° Mason and Shriner
- Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, Elgin Lodge No. 91, Leven, Scotland
- Admiral John Jellicoe, Past Provincial Grand Master, United Grand Lodge of England
- Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King, Made Master Mason in 1935, George C. Whiting Lodge, No. 22, D.C.
- Lord Horatio Kitchener, Past District Grand Master of Egypt and Sudan; Past Grand Warden and District Grand Master, Punjab, India; founder of several Lodges
- General Douglas MacArthur, 33° Manila Lodge No. 1, Philippines. Elected a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 1937, and was also a Shriner
- General George C. Marshall, Made a Mason in an Occasional Lodge with all three degrees being conferred upon him by the Grand Master of Masons in the District of Columbia, Ara L. Daniels

- Admiral Horatio Nelson, York Lodge No. 256
- General John J. Pershing, 33° Lincoln Lodge No. 19, Lincoln, NE. Fifty year Mason and a member of the Shrine
- Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, Kilwinning Lodge No. 297, MI
- Field Marshal Aleksandr Suvorov, Lodge Zu den Drei Kronen, Königsberg
- Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz, Lodge Zur Aufrichtigen Herzen, Frankfurt
- General Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, Lodge at Trim No. 494, Meath, Ireland

Composers, Fine Artists and Popular Musicians

- Roy Acuff, East Nashville Lodge No. 560, TN
- Johann Christian Bach, Lodge of Nine Muses No. 235, London
- Josephine Baker, France
- Frédéric Bartholdi, Lodge Alsace-Lorraine, Paris
- William "Count" Basie, Wisdom Lodge No. 102, Chicago, IL
- Irving Berlin, Munn Lodge No. 190, New York, NY
- Gutzon Borglum, Howard Lodge No. 35, NY
- Roy Clark, Jenks Lodge No. 497, OK
- George M. Cohan, Pacific Lodge No. 223, CA
- Nat King Cole, Thomas Waller Lodge No. 49, Los Angeles, CA, PHA
- Phil Collins, Soho Lodge No. 3
- Nate Dogg Sacramento Lodge No. 24 SA, CA
- Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, Social Lodge No. 1, Washington, DC, PHA
- Sir Banister Flight Fletcher, Authors Lodge No. 3456, London
- Sir William S. Gilbert, Lodge St. Machar No. 54, Aberdeen, Scotland
- Lionel Hampton, Boyer Lodge No. 1, New York, NY, PHA
- William C. Handy, Hiram Lodge No. 4, New York, NY, PHA
- Joseph Haydn, Lodge Zur Wahren Eintracht, Vienna
- Franz Liszt, Lodge Zur Einigkeit, Frankfurt
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Lodge Zur Woltatigkeit, Vienna;
- Alfons Mucha, Paris; founder of Czech Freemasonry
- Tex Ritter, Metropolitan Lodge No. 646, CA
- Adolphe Sax, Loge Les Vrais Amis de L'Union
- Jean Sibelius, Suomi Lodge No. 1, Helsinki, Finland
- John Philip Sousa, Hiram Lodge No. 10, Washington, DC
- Sir Arthur Sullivan, Past Grand Organist of the United Grand Lodge of England
- Mel Tillis, 33° Branson Lodge No. 587

Actors and Entertainers

- Bud Abbott, Daylight Lodge No. 525, MI
- Cliff Arquette, Ravenwood Lodge No. 777, Chicago, IL
- Gene Autry, 33°, Grand Cross. Catoosa Lodge No. 185, OK
- Wallace Beery, Blaney Lodge No. 271, IL
- Mel Blanc, Mid Day Lodge No. 188, OR
- Ernest Borgnine, Abingdon Lodge No. 48, VA
- Eddie Cantor, Munn Lodge No. 190, New York, NY
- William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Platte Valley Lodge No. 15, NE
- Harry H. Corbett, Chevin Lodge No. 6848, UK
- Charles Correll, Trio Lodge No. 57, Chicago, IL

- Donald Crisp, Harry S. Orme Lodge No. 458, CA
- Jim Davidson. British comedian [1]
- Cecil B. DeMille, Prince of Orange Lodge No. 16, NY
- Richard Dix, Harry S. Orme Lodge No. 458, CA
- Douglas Fairbanks, Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528, CA
- Glenn Ford, Palisades Lodge No. 637, CA; Riviera Lodge No. 780, CA
- W.C. Fields, E. Coppee Mitchell Lodge No. 605, Philadelphia, PA
- J.D. Fortune, Oakville Lodge No. 400, Oakville, ON
- Clark Gable, Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528, CA
- Arthur Godfrey, Acacia Lodge No. 18, Washington, DC
- Freeman Gosden, Petersburg Lodge No. 15, VA
- D.W. Griffith, St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, NY
- Oliver Hardy, Solomon Lodge No. 20, Jacksonville, Florida
- Anthony Harper, Baraboo Lodge No. 34, Baraboo, Wisconsin; Past Master
- Harry Houdini, Initiated Aug 21, 1923, St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, NYC
- Sir Henry Irving, Jerusalem Lodge No. 44, London
- Burl Ives, Magnolia (now Magnolia-La Cumbre) Lodge No. 242, CA
- Al Jolson, St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, NY
- Harold Lloyd, Hamilton Lodge No. 535, Hollywood, CA; Shriner
- Harpo Marx , Hamilton Lodge No. 535, Hollywood, CA
- Cedric The Entertainer, Sacramento Lodge No. 313, Sacramento, CA
- Louis B. Mayer, St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York, NY
- Tom Mix, Utopia Lodge No. 537, CA
- Eddy Murphy, Hollywood Lodge No. 542, North Hollywood, CA
- Bronson Pinchot, Harford Lodge No. 445, Hop Bottom, PA
- Richard Pryor, Henry Brown Lodge No. 22, Peoria, IL
- Michael Richards, Riviera Lodge No. 780, CA
- Alfred, John, Albert, Charles, William, August and Henry Ringling, and their father, August Ringling, Baraboo Lodge No. 34, Baraboo, WI
- Jimmie Rodgers, John L. Spinks Lodge No. 507, MS
- Roy Rogers, Hollywood Lodge No. 355, CA
- Will Rogers, Claremore Lodge No. 55, OK
- Peter Sellers, Chelsea Lodge No. 3098, London, England
- Richard Bernard "Red" Skelton, Vincennes Lodge No. 1, Vincennes, IN
- Robert Pershing Wadlow, Franklin Lodge No. 25, Alton, IL
- Hal B. Wallis, Prudence Lodge No. 958, Chicago, IL
- Jack Warner, Mount Olive Lodge No. 506, Los Angeles, CA
- John Wayne, Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56, Tucson, AZ
- Ed Wynn, Philadelphia Lodge No. 9, PA
- Darryl F. Zanuck, Mount Olive Lodge No. 506, Los Angeles, CA
- Florenz Ziegfeld, Accordia Lodge No. 277
- Adolph Zukor, Centennial Lodge No. 763, New York, NY

Industrialists and Labor Leaders

- John Jacob Astor, W.M. Holland Lodge No. 8, NY
- Samuel Bronfman, Covenant Lodge No. 108, QC
- André Citroën, Lodge La Philosophie Positive, Paris
- Samuel Colt, St. John's Lodge, Hartford, CT
- Edwin Drake, Oil Creek Lodge No. 3, Titusville, PA

- Eberhard Faber, Chancellor Walworth Lodge No. 271, New York, NY
- Henry Ford, Palestine Lodge No. 357, Detroit, MI
- Samuel Gompers, Dawson Lodge No. 16, Washington, DC
- Charles Hilton, William B. Warren Lodge No. 309, IL
- Frank G. Hoover, William McKinley Lodge No. 431, OH
- Melvin Jones, Garden City Lodge No. 141, Illinois
- Sebastian S. Kresge, Palestine Lodge No. 357, Detroit, MI
- Sir Thomas Lipton, Scotia Lodge No. 178, Glasgow
- Frederick L. Maytag, Newton Lodge No. 59, IA
- John J. McLaughlin, Cedar Lodge No. 270, Oshawa, ON
- R. Samuel McLaughlin, Cedar Lodge No. 270, Oshawa, ON; Past Grand Steward; 75-year member
- John Molson, St. Paul's Lodge, No. 374, Montreal, QC; Past Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada
- Ransom E. Olds, Capitol Lodge No. 66, Lansing, MI
- J.C. Penney, Wasatch Lodge No. 1, Salt Lake City, UT
- George Pullman, Renovation Lodge No. 97, Albion, NY
- A. Philip Randolph, Joppa Lodge No. 55, NYC USA
- James Mayer Rothschild Initiated Oct. 24, 1802: Emulation Lodge No. 12, London
- Nathan Mayer Rothschild, Emulation Lodge No. 12, London
- David Sarnoff, Strict Observance Lodge No. 94, NY
- Dave Thomas, Sol. D. Bayless Lodge No. 359, Fort Wayne, IN
- Steve Wozniak, Charity Jarman Lodge No. 362, Campbell, CA

Adventurers

- Sir Richard Francis Burton, Hope Lodge, Kurrachee, Scinde, India
- Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, DC; established Antarctica Lodge No. 777 under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand
- Kit Carson, Montezuma Lodge No. 109, Taos, NM
- William Clark, Saint Lewis Lodge No. 111, PA
- Matthew Henson, Celestial Lodge No. 3, PHA, New York, NY
- Meriwether Lewis, Door to Virtue Lodge No. 44, VA; founder, St. Louis Lodge No. 111, St. Louis, MO under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
- Charles Lindbergh, Keystone Lodge No. 243, MO
- Commodore Robert Peary, Kane Lodge No. 454, New York, NY
- Sir Robert Falcon Scott, Drury Lane Lodge No. 2127, London; Navy Lodge No. 2612
- Sir Ernest Shackleton, Navy Lodge No. 2612
- Matthew Webb, Neptune Lodge No. 22

Philosophers

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Lodge Amalia, Weimar
- Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Lodge Zu den Drei Goldenen Rosen
- Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet), Raised 1778 Loge des Neuf Sœurs, Paris

Athletes and Other Sports Figures

- Fabien Barthez, Lodge de Bordeaux No. 12
- Harold Ballard, Corinthian Lodge No. 481, GRC
- Avery Brundage, North Shore Lodge No. 937, Chicago, IL
- Ty Cobb, Royston Lodge No. 426, Detroit, MI
- Jack Dempsey, Kenwood Lodge No. 800, Chicago, IL
- Peter Ebdon, former snooker world champion
- Rogers Hornsby, Beacon Lodge No. 3, St. Louis, MO
- Tim Horton, Kroy Lodge No. 676, Toronto, ON
- Laurent Blanc, Lodge de Printemps No. 2
- Jack Johnson, Lodge Forfar and Kincardine No. 225, Dundee, Scotland
- Duke Kahanamoku, Surfer. Hawaiian Lodge No. 21, F.& A.M.
- Arnold Palmer, Loyalhanna Lodge No. 275, Latrobe, PA
- Branch Rickey, Tuscan Lodge No. 360, St. Louis, MO
- Sugar Ray Robinson, Joppa Lodge No. 55, NY, PHA
- Lex Luger, Memphis Lodge No. 281, Memphis, TN

Astronauts

- Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417, Seabrook, TX
- Leroy Gordon Cooper, Carbondale Lodge No. 82, Carbondale, CO
- Donn F. Eisele, Luthor B. Turner Lodge No. 732, Columbus, OH
- John Glenn, Concord Lodge No. 688, Concord, OH
- Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Mitchell Lodge No. 228, Mitchell, IN
- James Irwin, Tejon Lodge No. 104, Colorado Springs, CO
- Edgar Mitchell, Artesia Lodge No. 28, Artesia, NM
- Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Canaveral Lodge No. 339, Cocoa Beach, FL
- Thomas Stafford, Western Star Lodge No. 138, Weatherford, OK
- James E. Webb, University Lodge No. 408, Chapel Hill, NC
- Paul J. Weitz, Lawrence Lodge No. 708, Erie, PA

Writers, Journalists and Publishers

- Andrew Bell, Lodge St. David No. 36, Edinburgh
- James Boswell, Master of Canongate Kilwinning Lodge for two terms, Depute GM Scotland 1776-78
- Robert Burns, Saint David's Lodge No. 2174, Tarbolton; many others
- Lord William Byron, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns)
- Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Polar Star Lodge No. 79, St. Louis, MO
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Phoenix Lodge No. 257, Southsea, Hampshire
- Jean-Pierre Claris de Florian Loge des Neuf Sœurs, Paris
- Edward Gibbon, Lodge of Friendship No. 3, London
- Edgar Guest, Ashler Lodge No. 91, Detroit, MI
- William Hagan, Euclid Lodge, Stoughton, MA
- Rudyard Kipling, Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782. E.C., Lahore, India; founding member, The Builders of the Silent Cities Lodge No. 12, St. Omer, France, F.R.
- Mark Lemon, Globe Lodge No. 23, London

- John B. MacLean, Ionic Lodge No. 25, Toronto, ON
- Dr. Robert Moray, Edinburgh [Lodge] 1641
- Norman Vincent Peale, Midwood Lodge No. 1062, Brooklyn, NY
- Alexander Pope, Lodge Goat-at-the-Foot-of-the-Haymarket No. 16, London
- Aleksandr Pushkin, Lodge Ovid, Kischinev
- Theodor Reuss, occultist and head of O.T.O., Pilger Loge #238 (UGLE) 1878, and excluded 1880, also Grandmaster of Rite of Memphis-Misraim, 1913
- Rafael Sabatini, Jerusalem Lodge No. 197, London
- Friedrich Schiller, Rudolstadt Lodge, Berlin
- Sir Walter Scott, Saint David Lodge No. 36, Edinburgh
- Robert W. Service, Yukon Lodge No. 45, Dawson City, YT
- Gordon Sinclair, John Ross Robertson Lodge No. 545, Toronto, ON
- Jonathan Swift, Lodge Goat-at-the-Foot-of-the-Haymarket No. 16, London, England; Lodge No. 16, Dublin, Ireland
- Roy Thomson, North Bay Lodge No. 617
- Anthony Trollope, Banagher Lodge No. 306, Ireland
- Lew Wallace, Fountain Lodge No. 60, Covington, IN
- Oscar Wilde, Apollo University Lodge No. 357, Oxford
- Sir P.G. Wodehouse, Jerusalem Lodge No. 197, London

Lawyers, Jurists and Law Enforcement

- Izzy Einstein, Emanuel Lodge No. 654, NY
- Henry Frye, Khalif Temple No. 144 of the Shrine
- J. Edgar Hoover, 33°, Grand Cross. Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, DC
- John Marshall, Past Grand Master of Virginia
- Moe Smith, Emanuel Lodge No. 654, NY
- Earl Warren, Past Grand Master of California
- Roscoe Pound

Doctors, Scientists and Inventors

- Sir Edward Victor Appleton, Isaac Newton Lodge No. 859, Cambridge
- Elias Ashmole, Warrington Lodge, Lancashire
- Vannevar Bush, Richard C. Maclaurin Lodge, Cambridge, MA
- Erasmus Darwin, St. David's Lodge No. 36, Edinburgh
- John Theophilus Desaguliers, Past Grand Master of England
- John Fitch, Bristol Lodge No. 25, Bristol, PA
- Sir Alexander Fleming, London Scottish Rifles Lodge No. 2310; Past Master (later, Secretary) of Sancta Maria Lodge No. 2682; Past Master (later, Treasurer) of Misericordia Lodge No. 3286, 1935; Past Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Deacon 1942; Grand Warden, 1948 UGLE; Received the Distinguished Service Citation of the Grand Lodge of New York, USA
- Sir Sandford Fleming, St. Andrew's Lodge No. 16, Toronto, ON
- Richard Jordan Gatling, Centre Lodge No. 23, Indianapolis, IN
- Joseph-Ignace Guillotin, founding member of the Grand Orient of France
- James Hoban, founder, Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, DC
- Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, Aesculapius Lodge No. 2410
- Edward Jenner, Royal Berkeley Lodge of Faith and Friendship No. 449, Berkeley, Gloucestershire

- Charles G. King, Whitman Lodge No. 49, Pullman, WA
- Charles Horace Mayo, Rochester Lodge No. 21, MN
- William James Mayo, Rochester Lodge No. 21, MN
- Franz Mesmer, Lodge Les Philadelphes, France
- Albert Abraham Michelson, Washington Lodge No. 21, New York, NY
- Jacques-Étienne and Joseph-Michel Montgolfier, Loge des Neuf Sœurs, Paris
- Wilhelm Ostwald, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge Zur Aufgehenden Sonne, Bayreuth
- Charles Robert Richet, Lodge Cosmos, France
- George Shillibeer, Etonian Lodge of St. John No. 209, Windsor
- William Stukeley, Salutation Tavern Lodge, London
- Sir Christopher Wren, Lodge of Antiquity No. 2

Educators, Religious Leaders and Others

- Robert E.B. Baylor, founder of Baylor University, Past Grand Chaplain of Texas
- Daniel Carter Beard, Made a Mason in Mariner's Lodge No. 67, New York City, NY, and later affiliated with Cornucopia Lodge 563, Flushing, NY.
- Francis Bellamy, Little Falls Lodge No. 181, Little Falls, NY
- Charles P. "Pa" Ingalls, De Smet Lodge No. 55, De Smet, SD; He, wife Caroline and daughters Laura and Carrie were all members of Bethlehem Chapter No. 13 of the Order of the Eastern Star in De Smet
- Melvin Jones, Garden City Lodge No. 141, IL
- Heber C. Kimball 1823, Victor Flats Lodge, Ontario County, New York.
- Most Rev. Derwyn Trevor Owen, Ionic Lodge No. 25, Toronto, ON
- Joseph Smith, Nauvoo Lodge, IL
- Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, President of The George Washington University, Benjamin B. French Lodge No. 15, Washington, DC
- Swami Vivekananda, Hope and Anchor Lodge No. 1, Calcutta, India
- Booker T. Washington, Past Grand Master of Massachusetts, PHA
- Brigham Young, Nauvoo Lodge, IL

Famous Entered Apprentices

"Mason" generally refers to a Master Mason, or one who has received all three of the initiatory degrees of Freemasonry. Those who have received only the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft degrees are initiated members, but without all the rights and privileges accorded to Master Masons.

- General Nathan Bedford Forrest was initiated into the first degree of Freemasonry, but he never completed his second and third degrees and never returned to Lodge.
- Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House took his first degree on August 7, 1922. He died in 1961, without ever receiving his Fellowcraft degree.
- President Lyndon B. Johnson was initiated into the first degree of Freemasonry, but his congressional duties made it impossible for him to pursue the second and third deg

Tidbits of Masonic Trivia - VI

- * The British Field Marshal, Earl Douglas Haig, was a Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.
- * King George VI was not only the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, but also of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.
- * When receiving our Master Mason's degree, part of the penalty given included the phrase 'where the tide ebbs and flows twice in every twenty-four hours.' However, did you know that in part of the Gulf of Mexico; St-Michael, Alaska; Do-Son, Indochina; Batavia, Java, and Manila in the Philippines the tide ebbs and flows only once in twenty-four hours.
- * Benjamin Franklin was 'Raised' in St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia on 24th June 1731; became Master in 1732; Grand Master in 1734 and Provincial Grand Master of the Moderns in 1749. His printing press on which he printed and published in 1734 the first Masonic books in American is now in the Smithsonian Institute.
- * In 1777, when visiting in Paris, Benjamin Franklin was made a member of Loge des Neuf Sovers (Lodge of the Nine Sisters). He died April 17th, 1790 at the age of 85 years and had lived as a Freemason for sixty years.
- * In the Museum of Naples are many articles from Pompeii such as gavels, compasses, chisels, squares, also include a tiled mosaic square-shaped altar top consisting of a human skull, level of colored wood and brass; a plumb line, 6-spoked wheel, upright spear and colored cords; symbols similar to the present day Masonic symbols.
- * Rev. Josiah Henson, the hero of Stowes 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' was a member of Mount Moriah Lodge No.4, Dresden, Ontario, and a Prince Hall Masonic Lodge.
- * Joseph François Perrault B: June 1753, considered to be the father of education in Quebec, was at one time Deputy Grand Master of Lower Canada Grand Lodge.
- * Bro. James Hoban, a devout Catholic and an ardent Mason, is the designer of the US capital and the White House. Under his leadership, Federal Lodge No.1, Washington, DC was formed by Irish Catholics and Scottish Presbyterians with Bro. Hoban as the first Master.
- * The 'World's Largest Mason' was Miles Darden, who died in Lexington, Tennessee in 1857 at the age of 58 years. He weighed over 1,000 lbs and was 7'6" in height with a 76-inch waist. It took seven men to place him in his casket.
- * George Washington was Master of his lodge in Alexandria when he was inaugurated as President of the United States in 1789. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was also a Mason from New York.

* Although it is often alleged Robert Burns was Poet Laureate of Canongate Kilwinning Lodge, there is nothing to show such a title had ever been conferred upon the poet until after his death.

* Bro. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was raised to the sublime degree in the Lodge 'Zur Gekronten Hoffnung' [Crowned Hope] in 1785

* During the US Civil War, the Charter of Hatfield Lodge No.218 in Arkansas was hidden under a fence post in the local graveyard. Its location was forgotten until 1947 when the rotting fence posts were being replaced.

* A short note in the Masonic Light, published in Quebec in May, 1948 tell us the application of Adolph Hitler for membership in a Masonic Lodge in Austria was rejected.

* Jacques de Molay [1244-1314] was Grand Master of the Knights Templar and martyred during the evening of the 18th of March 1314.

* In 1797, following instructions of Grand Lodge that only one bottle of liquor could be consumed at a meeting, Bro. Richard Boyle, WM of a Dublin Lodge, complied. However, he used a bottle holding 18 quarts!

Masonic Trivia I-VI: tidbits gathered from numerous sources including the Masonic Service Association, the publications of Brother Alfonse Cerza (IL), as well as the writings of Brother Ray McKinley (CA), and Wor. Charles Wilkinson (NZ), Excerpted from various sources, including the Encyclopedia Judaica,,Keter Publishing.

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