



DACULA LODGE #433



PRESIDENTIAL MASONS

# KNOWN PRESIDENTIAL MASONS

- 
- George Washington
  - James Monroe
  - Andrew Jackson
  - James Polk
  - James Buchanan
  - Andrew Johnson
  - James Garfield
  - William McKinley
  - Theodore Roosevelt
  - William Howard Taft
  - Warren Harding
  - Franklin Roosevelt
  - Harry Truman
  - \*Lyndon Johnson (see notes)
  - Gerald Ford

# George Washington





# George Washington

- *Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother*

— Washington replying to the brethren of King David's Lodge in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1790



# George Washington

- First President (1789-1797)
- Washington joined Freemasonry in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia
- He was 20 years old when he received the first degree of Entered Apprentice on November 4, 1752. He paid the lodge two pounds and three shillings to join. Ten days after turning 21, on March 3, 1753, he was passed to the second degree of Fellowcraft. On August 4, 1753, he was raised to the third degree of Master Mason. The lodge's surviving minute book records Washington attending only two more meetings: September 1, 1753, and January 4, 1755.
- Many of Washington's brothers in the Fredericksburg Lodge later served within in the Continental Army or Virginia Militia, including Hugh Mercer, George Weedon, and Thomas Posey. Washington's "Mother Lodge" was renamed and numbered as Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 after the creation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1778. It continues to meet today.
- Note: There were 81 general officers in the Continental Army, out of which 33 (or 41%) of them were Freemasons. Including Benedict Arnold (Hiram Lodge #1, New Haven, CT)
- Beginning in 1778 and through the remainder of his life, Washington was a frequent participant in Masonic ceremonies. On June 24, 1779, for example, Washington attended American Union Lodge's celebration of the Feast of St. John the Baptist. That lodge comprised officers and enlisted men within the Connecticut regiments. He also visited King Solomon's Lodge in Poughkeepsie, New York, on December 27, 1783.



# George Washington

- On August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1782, Having received a letter with an embroidered silk Masonic apron and sash from Elkanah Watson (an American) and Francis Corentin Cossoul (a Frenchman) two commercial agents in Nantes, France, Washington send his reply thank you note. It is generally accepted that Washington wore this apron at the 1793 U.S. Capitol cornerstone ceremony. In 1812, Lawrence Lewis, Washington's nephew, gave it to Alexandria-Washington Lodge № 22, Alexandria, Virginia. The apron remains in the lodge's vault within the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.
- After the war, in 1784, Washington accepted the invitation of his friends and neighbors to attend a June banquet at Alexandria Lodge No. 39, where he was elected an honorary member. Four years later he agreed to be charter master of the lodge when it transferred its allegiance from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to the Grand Lodge of Virginia.
- At his first inauguration in 1791, President Washington took his oath of office on a Bible from St. John's Lodge in New York.
- As president, Washington exchanged letters with many Masonic local lodges and state grand lodges. He also met delegations of Freemasons during his visit to Rhode Island in 1790 and his 1791 tour of the southern states. His most significant Masonic activity, however, occurred on September 18, 1793. Acting as grand master pro tem, he presided at the Masonic ceremonial laying of the United States Capitol cornerstone.
- In retirement, Washington became charter Master of the newly chartered Alexandria Lodge № 22, sat for a portrait in his Masonic regalia, and in death, was buried with Masonic honors. After Washington's death the lodge changed its name to Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. After Martha Washington's death the lodge acquired many valuable items from the estate, including a Masonic apron sent from France in 1793. With these items and many curiosities, the lodge opened a museum in 1812.
- In 1910 the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association was formed. Then in 1932 the Association dedicated its great Masonic Memorial to Washington in Alexandria, Virginia. Today Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 displays many of its valuable Washington artifacts and continues to meet there.

# George Washington

Although there are many stories of Washington attending Masonic lodge meetings, other events, or supporting the Craft in some way, this chronology contains only those that are documented by letters, lodge minutes, objects, or other artifacts.

- September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1752 - First recorded meeting of the Masonic Lodge at Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1752 - Washington is initiated an Entered Apprentice Freemason (First Degree) in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Records also show he pays 2 pounds, 3 shillings and no pence when he joined.
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1753 - Washington Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft Freemason (Second Degree) in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1754 - Letter from Daniel Campbell to Washington; includes mention of Lodge at Fredericksburg; election of officers and meetings
- January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1755 - Washington attends the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg, Virginia, in part to witness his close friend and comrade, James Mercer's Third Degree.



# George Washington

- December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1778 - While in Philadelphia to confer with Congress and raise support for the army, Washington attends the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania's Feast of St. John the Evangelist service at Christ Church (Anglican).
- June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1779 - Meeting at West Point, New York, American Union Lodge's minute books record Washington attending St. John the Baptist celebration.
- December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1779 - American Union Lodge's minute books record Washington attending St. John the Evangelist celebration at Morristown, New Jersey.
- August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1782 - Having received a letter with an embroidered silk Masonic apron and sash from Elkanah Watson (an American) and Francis Corentin Cossoul (a Frenchman) two commercial agents in Nantes, France, Washington send his reply thank you note. It is generally accepted that Washington wore this apron at the 1793 U.S. Capitol cornerstone ceremony. In 1812, Lawrence Lewis, Washington's nephew, gave it to Alexandria-Washington Lodge № 22, Alexandria, Virginia. The apron remains in the lodge's vault within the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.
- December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1782 - The minute book of Solomon's Lodge № 1, Poughkeepsie, New York, record Washington attending the lodge's St. John the Evangelist celebration.



# George Washington

- December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1783 - Fredericksburg Lodge № 4 sends an invitation to Washington to attend its St. John's Celebration in Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1783 - Letter from Alexandria Lodge № 39, Alexandria, Virginia, congratulating Washington on his happy homecoming and inviting him to attend St. John the Evangelist's Day celebration.
- December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1783 - Washington replies to the Master and Wardens of Alexandria Lodge № 39, regretfully declining the invitation.
- 1783 - Washington receives Masonic Orations from Joseph Webb, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Boston.
- June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1784 - Washington replies and accepts invitation from Alexandria Lodge № 39, to attend St. John the Baptist Day celebration.
- June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1784 - Washington attends Alexandria Lodge № 39 Feast of St. John the Baptist Day and is elected honorary member of the lodge.
- January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1785 - Freemasons in Newport, Rhode Island send a letter and an address to Washington seeking support to regain lodge charter. There is no record or indication that Washington replied.
- February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1785 - Washington records in his diary that he walked in the Masonic funeral procession of Bro. William Ramsay, Alexandria Lodge № 39, Alexandria, Virginia.

# George Washington

- June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1787 - During the Constitutional Convention Washington receives a delegation from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania who give him a copy of their 1783 Grand Constitutions.
- January – March 1788 - A committee from Alexandria Lodge № 39 calls on Washington at Mount Vernon. They ask him to serve as “Charter Master” of the lodge as it seeks to move from under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and be re-chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Washington agrees.
- April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1788 - Edmund Randolph, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, grants a charter to Alexandria Lodge as the twenty-second lodge in Virginia. The charter names George Washington as the lodge’s Worshipful Master. This charter is still in use by Alexandria-Washington Lodge № 22.
- December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1788 - Washington re-elected Master of Alexandria Lodge № 22 for one year: 27 December 1788 to December 27, 1789.
- March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1789 - The officers and members of Holland Lodge 8, New York, send a letter to Washington informing him of his election as honorary member and enclosing a membership certificate.
- April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1789 - In New York City, George Washington is inaugurated President of the United States using a Bible from St. John’s Lodge № 1. The oath is administered by Chancellor and Grand Master of New York, Robert R. Livingston. Inaugural Bible owned by St. John’s Lodge № 1, New York, New York.



# George Washington

- August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1790 - The minutes of King David's Lodge № 1 of Newport, Rhode Island, record a unanimous resolution to present Pres. Washington a Masonic letter and address. Letter and address drafted, approved and delivered to Washington.
- August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1790 - Washington replies to King David's Lodge № 1, Newport Rhode Island, stating in part: ". . . I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother."
- April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1791 - Welcome address to Pres. Washington from officers of St. John's Lodge № 2, New Bern, North Carolina.
- April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1791 - Washington's reply to St. John's Lodge № 2, New Bern, North Carolina.
- April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1791 - Welcome address to Washington from Georgetown Lodge № 16, Georgetown, South Carolina.
- April 31<sup>st</sup>, 1791 - Washington's reply to Prince George Lodge № 19, Georgetown, South Carolina.
- May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1791 - Washington replies to Grand Master Gist and Grand Lodge of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina.

# George Washington

- May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1791 - Washington replies to Grand Master Houston and Grand Lodge of Georgia, Savannah, Georgia.
- December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1791 - Washington receives and invitation to attend Harmony Lodge № 53, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1792 - Letter and Address written by the Rev. Dr. William Smith from the “Ancient York Masons” of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in person to Pres. Washington at his house in Philadelphia. The Rev. Smith had given the sermon at the St. John’s service Washington attended December 28, 1778.
- January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1792 - Washington replies to the “Ancient York Masons” of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
- December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1792 - Grand Master John Cutler and other officers of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts send a letter and enclose copy of its newly published Grand Constitutions to Pres. Washington.
- January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1793 - Washington replies to Grand Lodge of Massachusetts’ letter and its Grand Constitutions.
- August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1793 - Letter from the Master and officers of Alexandria Lodge № 22, Alexandria, Virginia to Pres. Washington requesting he sit for portrait artist William Williams. No reply from Washington is known but he did sit for Williams and the portrait was completed in September 1793. William Williams’ portrait of Washington wearing Masonic jewel, sash and apron is displayed in the Replica Lodge Room of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia.



# George Washington

- September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1793 - The cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol is laid by three Masonic Lodges, Potomac Lodge № 9 and Federal Lodge № 15, under the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and Alexandria Lodge № 22, under the Grand Lodge of Virginia with Pres. Washington presiding as “Acting Master” of the ceremony.

## Items Used at the Cornerstone Ceremony:

- Silver Trowel with Ivory handle made by John Duffy owned by Alexandria-Washington Lodge № 22, Alexandria, Virginia.
- Wood T-Square and Level own by Alexandria-Washington Lodge № 22, Alexandria, Virginia.
- Marble Gavel with wood handle, made by John Duffy owned by Potomac Lodge № 5, Washington D.C.
- It is generally accepted that Washington wore the Watson-Cassoul apron sent to him in 1783 to the ceremony. In 1812, Lawrence Lewis, nephew of Washington, gave it to Alexandria-Washington Lodge № 22, Alexandria, Virginia where it remains today.
- December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1793 - President and Mrs. Washington contribute to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania’s Relief Charity Fund, Philadelphia.
- December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1796 - The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania delivers a letter and congratulatory address, written by the Rev. Dr. William Smith, to Pres. Washington at his house in Philadelphia.

# George Washington

- December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1796 - Washington replies to Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
- January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1797 - Letter from Thomas Farrington, Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, to Pres. Washington containing the following salutatory "Sentiment, Masonic" composed July 25, 1792: "When we recognize that Starr, which in ancient Times, appeared in the East, to point out a Saviour to Mankind; Let us gratefully remember a Washington, who, in later Times, appeared in the West, & led the Armies of America, to Victory & Glory."
- March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1797 - Grand Master Paul Revere and officers of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts send a congratulatory letter to Washington.
- March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1797 - At Mount Vernon, Washington receives a Masonic delegation of Dennis Ramsay and Phillip G. Marsteller of Alexandria Lodge № 22, with an address and invitation to dine with the lodge.
- April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1797 - Washington dines with Alexandria Lodge № 22 and presents a reply to the lodge's address.
- April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1797 - Washington replies to Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, with cover letter apologizing for the delay.
- November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1798 - When in Baltimore, Washington receives William Belton, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, the Deputy Grand Master and other brethren, who hand-deliver a letter and a gift of the Grand Lodge of Maryland's 1797 edition of George Keatinge's The Maryland Ahiman Rezon of Free and Accepted Masons, (Grand Constitutions).



# George Washington

- November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1798 - Washington replies to William Belton, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.
- December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1799 - Washington is buried at Mount Vernon with Anglican Christian Burial Rite accompanied by a Masonic funeral ceremony conducted by members of Alexandria Lodge № 22. The Bible used at Washington's funeral is owned by Federal Lodge № 1, Washington, D.C.
- 1800 - Grand Lodge of Virginia Proceeding's necrology lists Washington as a deceased member of Fredericksburg Lodge № 4.
- January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1800 - John Warren, Grand Master, and other officers of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts send a letter conveying the sorrow and sympathy to Martha Washington on the death of her husband, and requesting a lock of his hair as "an invaluable relique of the Hero and Patriot . . ."
- January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1800 - Washington's private secretary, Tobias Lear, replies for Martha Washington to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts thanking them for their sympathy and support and enclosing a lock of Pres. Washington's hair. (The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts keeps lock of hair in a gold urn made by Paul Revere in 1800).
- March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1800 - On January 1, 1800, French Lodge L'Amenite № 71, Philadelphia, conducts a Lodge of Sorrow for Pres. Washington. After the ceremonies, the lodge Orator, Simon Chaudron gives an oration on Washington. This is followed by an address by the lodge Master, Joseph De La Grange. On March 15, 1800, three English translations of the oration with a cover letter are sent to Martha Washington.

# George Washington

- May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1800 - Washington's private secretary, Tobias Lear, "in compliance with Mrs. Washington's request. . . acknowledge the receipt" of the oration and gratefully recognizes the Lodge's "sympathy in her affliction and irreparable loss."
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1802 - Martha Washington dies at Mount Vernon.





# JAMES MONROE

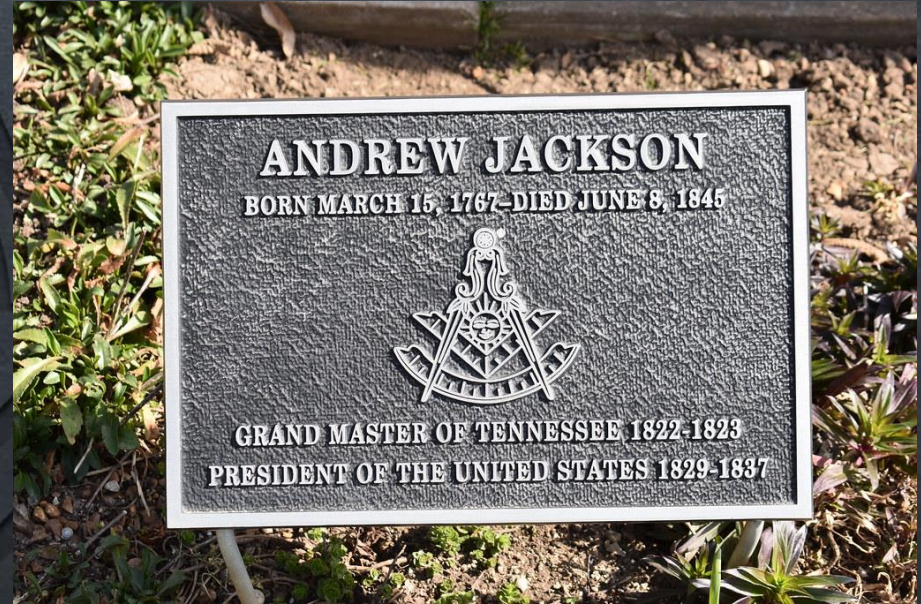
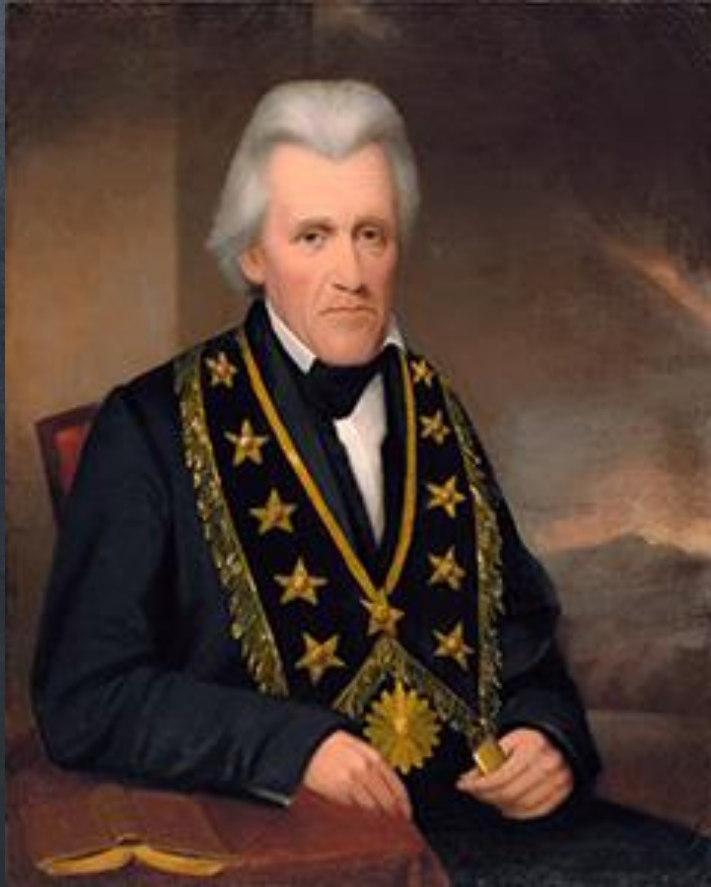


# JAMES MONROE

- Fifth President (1817-1825)
- According to the John A. Hertel Masonic Bible and Encyclopedia, 1951 Edition, the records of Williamsburg Lodge No. 6 provide the information that James Monroe's petition for membership in the Fraternity was favorably received November 6, 1775. On November 9 of the same year, he was accepted an Entered Apprentice. This would indicate that the first Degree in Masonry was conferred before he was 18 years of age, but at that time the stipulation of the minimum age of 21 years had not become a rigid regulation. Since no record has survived indicating that the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason was ever conferred upon him in Lodge No. 6, it is generally accepted that the additional degrees were received in a military Lodge during the Revolution. Records of the Williamsburg Lodge indicate that payments of dues were made through October 1780. At one time Monroe held membership in the Kilwinning Cross Lodge No. 2 of Port Royal, Virginia.
- While Monroe was President, he visited Cumberland Lodge No. 8, of Nashville, Tennessee, and was extended the honor of a private reception by the Lodge. He was greeted by Worshipful Master Wilkins Tannehill, who headed the procession to receive him. Tannehill later became Grand Master of Tennessee.
- Memorial services were held by Randolph Lodge No. 19. Surrounded by an influence of Masonic Brotherhood in the military Lodges of the Revolutionary War and working with such personalities as Washington, John Marshall, General Lafayette, Robert Livingston, all Grand Masters except Washington, must have been an experience unparalleled in sober and wise guidance. One may also fancy the potency of the philosophy of Benjamin Franklin; inventor, scientist, statesman and Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania under the English Constitution.



# ANDREW JACKSON



# ANDREW JACKSON

- Seventh President (1829-1837)
- The record for Brother Jackson has not been located. He seems to have been a Member of St. Tammany Lodge No. 1, Nashville, Tennessee, as early as 1800. It was the first Lodge in Tennessee, organized in 1789, under a Dispensation from the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. The name was later changed to Harmony Lodge No. 1 on November 1, 1800.
- Brother Jackson is officially listed as a Member in the Lodge Return to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and Tennessee for 1805.
- On December 27, 1813, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee was granted its own Constitution. Brother Jackson was the sixth Grand Master of Masons of Tennessee, serving from October 7, 1822, until October 4, 1824.
- Jackson's status as a Mason actually became a major political issue during his presidency. That's because the first ever third party in US politics formed as part of a backlash against the Freemasons. The seeds for the Anti-Masonic Party were first sown in 1826, when Masons were implicated in the (still unsolved) kidnapping of a William Morgan, who threatened to reveal their secret rites. The political party opposed what it perceived as a sinister, elitist, and anti-democratic secret society.

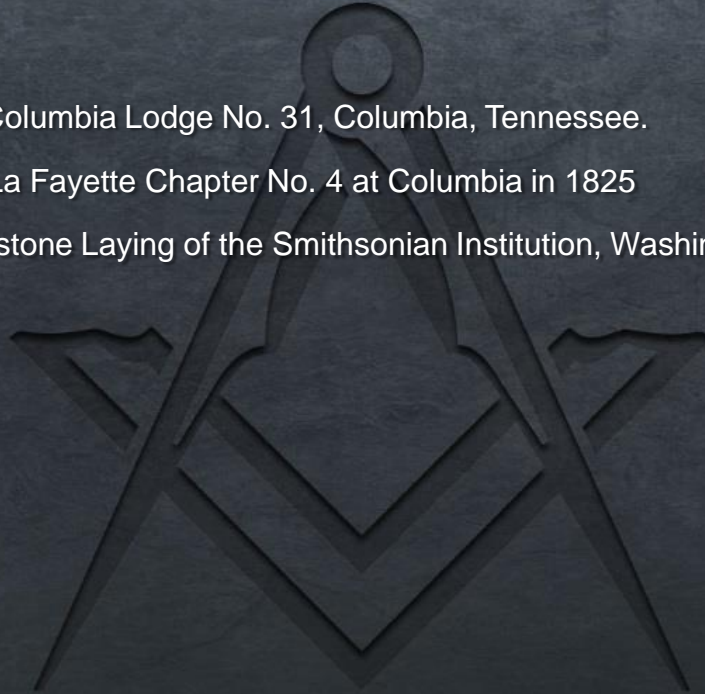


# JAMES POLK



# JAMES POLK

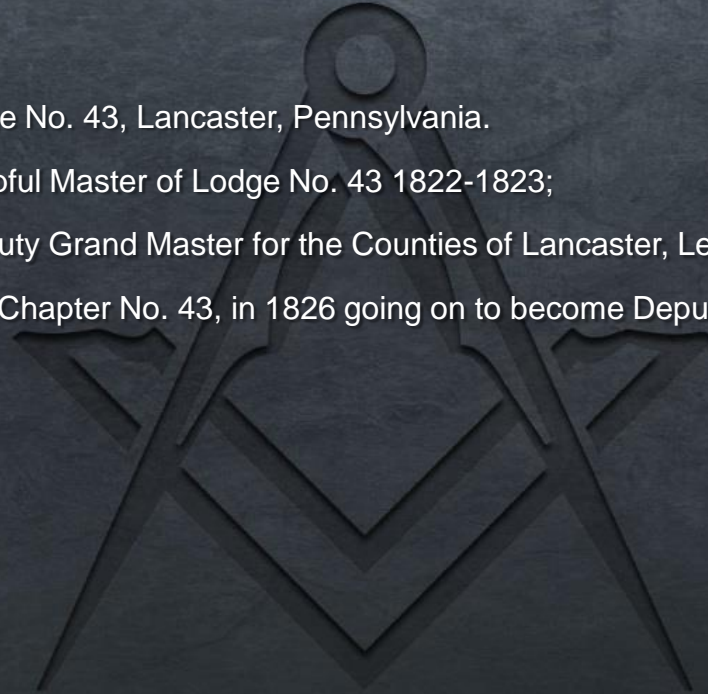
- Eleventh President (1845-1849)
- Entered Apprentice June 5, 1820, Columbia Lodge No. 31, Columbia, Tennessee.
- Exalted as a Royal Arch Mason in La Fayette Chapter No. 4 at Columbia in 1825
- Brother Polk assisted in the Cornerstone Laying of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., May 1, 1847.
- Buried with Masonic Honors





# JAMES BUCHANAN

- Fifteenth President (1857-1861)
- Initiated: December 11, 1816, Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- Brother Buchanan became Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 43 1822-1823;
- In 1824 was appointed District Deputy Grand Master for the Counties of Lancaster, Lebanon and York.
- He was later exalted in Royal Arch Chapter No. 43, in 1826 going on to become Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.



# ANDREW JOHNSON





# ANDREW JOHNSON

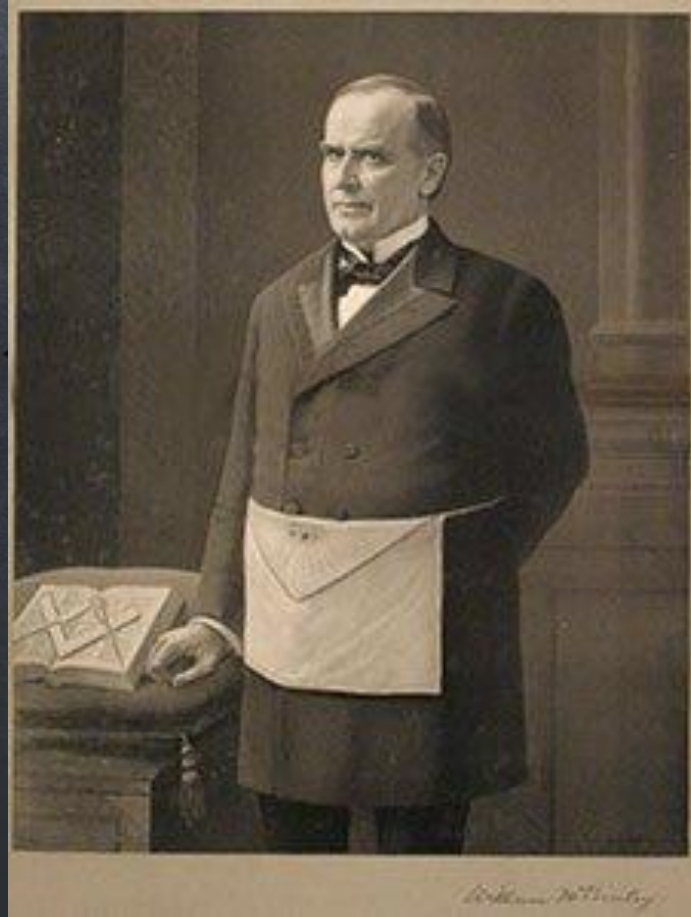
- Seventeenth President (1865-1869)
- Johnson joined the fraternity at the conclusion of his Senatorial term in the House of Representatives in 1843.
- Initiated: May 5, 1851, Greenville Lodge#119, Greenville, Tennessee (Now Lodge #3, Lodge records lost during the Civil War)
- Military Governor of Tennessee, 1862-1865
- In 1851, was probably a member of Greeneville Chapter No. 82, Royal Arch Masons, as he joined the Nashville York Rite Commandery of Knights Templar No. 1 in 1859.
- President Johnson received the Scottish Rite degrees in the White House in 1867.

# JAMES GARFIELD

- Twentieth President (July 2 – September 19, 1881)
- Initiated: November 19, 1861, Magnolia Lodge, No. 20, Columbus, Ohio.
- Owing to Civil War duties, Brother Garfield did not receive the Third Degree until November 22, 1864, in Columbus Lodge No. 30, Columbus, Ohio.
- On October 10, 1866, he Affiliated with Garrettsville Lodge No. 246, Garrettsville, Ohio, serving as its Chaplain in 1868-1869.
- Brother Garfield then became a Charter Member of Pentalfa Lodge No. 23 of Washington, D.C. on May 4, 1869; in fact, he was one of the Petitioners for the Lodge Charter.
- Exalted in Columbus Royal Arch Chapter 1866, and Knight Templar 1866, 14th Degree Scottish Rite 1872.
- Garfield supported articles of impeachment against President (and Masonic Brother) Andrew Johnson over charges that he violated the Tenure of Office Act by removing Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton.



# WILLIAM MCKINLEY



# WILLIAM MCKINLEY

- Twenty-fifth President (1897-1901)
- Initiated: May 1, 1865, Hiram Lodge No. 21, Winchester, Virginia.
- Brother McKinley Affiliated with Canton Lodge No. 60, Canton, Ohio on August 21, 1867; and Demitted from same to become a Charter Member of Eagle Lodge No. 431, also in Canton.
- He received the Capitular degrees in Canton in 1883 and was made a Knight Templar in 1884.
- Following Brother McKinley's death on September 14, 1901, the name was changed to William McKinley Lodge effective October 24, 1901.
- President William McKinley said in 1901 that the brotherhood of fraternal societies was similar to the brotherhood of "equal citizenship" in the U.S.
- It is suggested that McKinley became a Mason upon observing fraternal kindnesses exchanged between Masons in the Union and Confederate Armies during the Civil War.



# THEODORE ROOSEVELT



# THEODORE ROOSEVELT

- Twenty-sixth President (1901-1909)
- Initiated: January 2, 1901, Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, New York.
- Brother and President Roosevelt visited the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (in its present home, the Masonic Temple at One North Broad Street) on November 5, 1902, for the Celebration of the Sesqui-Centennial of Brother George Washington's Initiation into Freemasonry.
- Theodore Roosevelt, said in 1902, "One of the things that attracted me so greatly to Masonry, that I hailed the chance of becoming a mason, was that it really did act up to what we, as a government and as a people, are pledged to — of treating each man on his merits as a man. When Brother George Washington went into a lodge of the fraternity, he went into the one place in the United States where he stood below or above his fellows according to their official position in the lodge. He went into the place where the idea of our government was realized as far as it is humanly possible for mankind to realize a lofty idea."
- From Roosevelt's obituary in the New York Times, January 1919: "Colonel Roosevelt was a member of the local lodge of Masons, and never failed to keep up his interest in it. He had made a habit for many years of visiting Masonic lodges wherever he went, as a member of the Oyster Bay lodge, and, returning, to tell his brother Masons here of his visits"
- After his presidency, Roosevelt wrote about traveling the world and visiting Masonic lodges in Nairobi and the Azores.



# WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

- Twenty-seventh President (1909-1913)
- Initiated: February 18, 1909. Brother Taft was made a "Mason at Sight" within the Body of Kilwinning Lodge No. 356, Cincinnati, Ohio, by Grand Master Charles S. Hoskinson. His father and two brothers were also Members of this Lodge. Brother and President Taft addressed the Brethren, saying, "I am glad to be here, and to be a Mason. It does me good to feel the thrill that comes from recognizing on all hands the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man."
- That made him a member at large, until the Grand Lodge issued a demit to Taft when he became a regular member of that lodge. Somewhat active, Taft was very supportive of Freemasonry.
- Brother and President Taft visited the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on the occasion of a Special Communication held in the Masonic Temple (One North Broad Street), on March 12, 1912.
- The 1912 record book "Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York" mentions that Taft "in his high and influential of President of the greatest and mightiest Republic of the world" was applying Masonic principals in his attempts to handle world affairs.

# WARREN HARDING





# WARREN HARDING

- Twenty-ninth President (1921-1923)
- Initiated: June 28, 1901, Marion Lodge No. 70, Marion, Ohio.
- He received no other degree until after becoming U.S. President, FC & MM in Marion Lodge No. 70 in 1920.
- Because of some personal antagonism, Brother Harding was blackballed on the first petition for membership in 1901 on objection and rumor over his heritage (rumors that he was partially black), until 1920, by which time he had been nominated for President. Friends persuaded the opposition to withdraw the objection, and on August 27, 1920, nineteen years after his Initiation, Brother Harding achieved the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, in Marion Lodge.
- Royal Arch Chapter degrees in Marion Chapter No. 62 in 1921
- Knight Templar in Marion Commandery No. 36, in 1921
- Scottish Rite and Shrine in 1921.
- At his request, Brother Harding took the Oath of Office of President of the United States upon the same Bible as was used by Brother George Washington for the same purpose on April 30, 1789 (the Altar Bible of St. John's Lodge No. 1, New York City).

# FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT





# FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

- Thirty-second President (1933-1945)
- Entered Apprentice October 11, 1911, Fellowcraft and Master, also at Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City, in 1911
- Scottish Rite in Albany Consistory 1929
- Shrine in 1930
- Brother Roosevelt participated in the Raising of his son Elliott (1910-1990) on February 17, 1933, in Architect's Lodge No. 519, also in New York City.
- He was present but did not participate in the Degrees when two other sons, James (1907-1991) and Franklin D., Jr. (1914-1988) became Members of their brother Elliott's Lodge, on November 7, 1935.
- Brother and President Roosevelt was made the first Honorary Grand Master of the Order of DeMolay on April 13, 1934, at the White House
- Brother Roosevelt was a cousin of former president and Master Mason, Theodore Roosevelt.

# FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT





# FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

- The day after the press conference, Roosevelt conducted a ceremony raising his two sons at the Architect Lodge. Afterwards, the president gave a speech praising the society:
- "Architect Lodge has made me very happy. Let me say from my heart that tonight has meant very much to me. All my life I shall cherish the thought of coming here to Architect Lodge tonight to take part in the work of the Third Degree for my own sons. And, of course, this last act of you good people in making me an Honorary Member, giving opportunity to be a member of the same Lodge to which my boys belong – that is something I shall never forget. To me the ceremonies of Freemasonry in this State of ours, especially these later ones that I have taken part in, always make me wish that more Americans, in every part of our land, could become connected with our Fraternity. Since I have seen you last, I have traveled in many foreign lands. I have come in contact with Brother Masons throughout this country, and I have seen the splendid work that Masonry is doing for our fellowman. I have seen that same work in our distant possessions, in our territories; I have seen it even in those lands in the Pacific to which I have travelled during these past two years. The more I come into contact with the work of the Masonic Fraternity the more impressed I am by the great charitable work and the great practical good which we are carrying out, especially in that line which is so close to my heart – the care of little children. Not only in that work, but also in acting as a leaven for a better society and better citizenship wherever it may be. I violate no confidence in saying that I wish the same could be said of Masonry in other lands. Today, as you doubtless know, we in our own nation are still proceeding under orderly government, under the same form of government under which our fathers lived, and so far as the broad affairs of government are concerned, we are making definite progress from day to day. I wish that this could be said of all other nations. It is unfortunate for us that in certain other nations Freemasonry, sometimes through fault of its own, sometimes because of the rise of new forms of government, has lost much of the strength and force for the good civilization which it possessed several generations ago. And so I am not heartened by what is occurring in other nations. Because of the leaven of Masonry throughout our own country, because of the opportunity given to pursue an even course in a democratic society, the way of Masonry in this country constantly grows smoother. And that is why I feel we can give thanks for living in America. And in giving thanks we should not do as the Pharisees did – giving thanks that we are not as other men are, but rather giving thanks the Good Samaritan way, for the Good Samaritan went out of his course to help his less fortunate fellow-citizens. That is the rule we must follow as Freemasons. We are approaching Thanksgiving, and I believe that we should give thanks, and at the same time pray that our nation may grow more and more a force for peace in the rest of the world. I have missed here tonight some of the faces I have known in former years. I am especially sorry that a very old friend and associate of mine, Charles Johnson, is not with us tonight. I learned tonight that he has been so seriously ill. I do not believe there is a man in this State who is loved by a greater circle of friends than Charlie Johnson. And so I can say to you good Brethren of Architect Lodge, and to your Worshipful Master, that I am very grateful to you, and I have had a wonderful party tonight.."

# HARRY S. TRUMAN



"Freemasonry is a system of morals which makes it easier to live with your fellow man, whether he understands it or not"



# HARRY S. TRUMAN

- Thirty-third President (1945-1952)
- Entered Apprentice, February 9, 1909, Fellowcraft and Master also in 1909, Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, Missouri.
- In 1911, several Members of Belton Lodge separated to establish Grandview Lodge No. 618, Grandview, Missouri, and Brother Truman served as its first Worshipful Master.
- At the Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, September 24-25, 1940, Brother Truman was elected (by a landslide) the ninety-seventh Grand Master of Masons of Missouri and served until October 1, 1941.
- Brother and President Truman was made a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, and Honorary Member, Supreme Council on October 19, 1945 at the Supreme Council A.A.S.R. Southern Jurisdiction Headquarters in Washington D.C., upon which occasion he served as Exemplar (Representative) for his Class.
- He was also elected an Honorary Grand Master of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.
- Master of Missouri Lodge of Research while U.S. President
- On May 18, 1959, Brother and Former President Truman was presented with a fifty-year award, the only U.S. President to reach that golden anniversary in Freemasonry.
- He attended Masonic lodge meetings while campaigning, and while he was President of the U.S., and he wrote, "The greatest honor that has ever come to me, and that can ever come to me in my life, is to be Grand Master of Masons in Missouri"
- Buried with Masonic rites in Independence, MO, in televised ceremony.

# TRUMAN & MACARTHUR

- Douglas MacArthur - Most Worshipful Samuel Hawthorne of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, exercised his prerogative to make a "Mason at sight" on January 17, 1936, in the presence of over six hundred Master Masons.
- After being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, Douglas MacArthur affiliated with Manila Lodge No.1 and on March 13th joined the Scottish Rite. On October 19, 1937, he was elected Knight Commander Court of Honor, and on December 8, 1947, he was coroneted Honorary 33rd Degree at the American Embassy in Tokyo. He became a life member of the Nile Shrine Temple in Seattle, Washington, and was extremely active in promoting Freemasonry everywhere he went, including post-war Japan.
- At the time of MacArthur's removal President Truman was also a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. Before dismissing General MacArthur, President Truman consulted with his advisors, which included Generals George C. Marshall who was Secretary of Defense at the time, and Omar N. Bradley who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In December of 1941, George Marshall had been made a Mason "at sight" by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. Omar Bradley had been raised in West Point Lodge No.877, Highland Falls, New York in 1923.
- The vote to remove MacArthur was unanimous



# \*LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

- LBJ received the first Masonic degree, Entered Apprentice, in 1937 at Johnson City Lodge No. 561, Johnson City, Texas.
- \*However, he did not receive the second and third degrees, so is not included on the list of U.S. Presidents who were Freemasons.



# GERALD R. FORD





# GERALD R. FORD

- Thirty-eighth President (1974-1977)
- Entered Apprenitice, September 30, 1949, Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan, along with his half-brothers Thomas Gardner Ford (1918-1995), Richard Addison Ford (1924-) and James Francis Ford (1927- ).
- The Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees were Conferred by Columbia Lodge No. 3, Washington, D.C., on April 20 and May 18, 1951, as a courtesy to Malta Lodge.
- Brother Ford was made a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, and Honorary Member, Supreme Council A.A.S.R. Northern Jurisdiction at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, on September 26, 1962, for which he served as Exemplar (Representative) for his Class.
- Brother and President Ford was unanimously elected an Active Member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay and its Honorary Grand Master, at its Annual Session held at Orlando, Florida, April 6-9, 1975; Brother Ford held this post until January 1977, at which time he became a Past Honorary Grand Master, receiving his Collar and Jewel on October 24, 1978, in Topeka, Kansas, from the Hon. Thomas C. Raum, Jr., Grand Master, Order of DeMolay.

# ON ANOTHER NOTE

## Vice Presidents Known to be Masons

- John C. Breckinridge (President James Buchanan)
- William King (President Franklin Pierce)
- Schuyler Colfax (President Ulysses S. Grant)
- Adlai Stevenson (President Grover Cleveland)
- Garret Hobart (President William McKinley)
- Thomas R. Marshall (President Woodrow Wilson)
- Harry S. Truman (who became president upon FDR's death)
- Gerald Ford (President Nixon); whom of course, became President upon Richard Nixon's resignation.