



NUGGET

Famous Freemasons - A Prologue

Summary: A prologue to an ever-expanding group of Famous Masons worldwide

Across time and continents are many famous Freemasons,¹ including in their ranks kings, statesmen, soldiers, sailors and airmen, scientists, composers, authors, musicians, entertainers of stage and screen, not to mention sportsmen and here are just a few.

Monarchs & Statesmen: Three Kings, King Edward VII (1841–1910); King George VI (1895–1952); and King Edward VIII (1894–1972). Many other members of the Royal Family have made a significant contribution to Freemasonry, including our current Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent. Let us also not forget, the man who is perhaps the most famous British Mason, Sir Winston Churchill.



His Majesty King Edward VII
Grand Master 1874–1901, by Sir Luke Fildes, R.A.
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George Washington (1732–1799)
by Robert Gordon Hardie (1854–1904)
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Fourteen Presidents of the USA, including a number of the 'Founding Fathers', most famously George Washington.

Military Men: Some high ranking such as The Duke of Wellington; Kitchener, Haig, French, and Jellicoe; Earl Alexander of Tunis, Gen. Sir Reginald Wingate, Generals Douglas McArthur and George C. Marshall;

together with 'Dinghy' Young, shot down during the Dam buster raid, 'Paddy' Mayne, founder member of the SAS, and Audie Murphy soldier, actor, songwriter - one of the most decorated American soldiers of WWII. Other military characters include Davey Crockett, Jim Bowie, and Sam Houston, forever associated with the Alamo; and from the Wild West; 'Buffalo' Bill Cody, Christopher 'Kit' Carson and Sam Colt.

Scientists, Inventors and Innovators: Edward Jenner, for the smallpox vaccine, Joseph Lister, pioneer of antiseptic surgery; and Alexander Fleming for his discovery of penicillin. James Watt, the inventor of the steam engine. Modern innovators and captains of industry such as Andre Citroen, Henry Ford, Walter P. Chrysler, and Steve Wozniak, who co-founded *Apple*.

Explorers: In Africa, Sir Richard Burton. In America, both Lewis and Clark, who led an expedition which opened-up the West. A trio of Antarctic explorers, Amundsen, Scott and Shackleton. By air and in space, Charles Lindbergh, the first to fly solo across the Atlantic and two famous astronauts Buzz Aldrin and John Glenn.

Music, the Arts and Entertainment: In music, celebrated composers, musicians and singers ranging from the classic - Liszt, Sibelius, and Haydon; to the popular - Irving Berlin, Gilbert and Sullivan; band leaders and singers - 'Count' Basie, 'Duke' Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Bob Hope and Burl Ives. Not forgetting that most famous of all Masonic composers, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Writers strongly identified with Freemasonry like Robert Burns and Rudyard Kipling. Architects such as Sir Christopher Wren (St Paul's Cathedral), and James Hoban (The White House), and sculptors such as Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi (the Statue of Liberty), or John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum, (The Presidents - Mount Rushmore). In the performing arts, there are a multitude of actors of stage and screen, including Peter Sellers, Clark Gable, John Wayne



Scott of the Antarctic
by Henry Maull (1829–1914) and John Fox (1832–1907)
[Public domain]



Brother Robert Burns (1759–1796), unknown artist
©Museum of Freemasonry

and Mel Blanc (the man of a thousand voices) to name but a few. Though perhaps another famous entertainer, the magician, illusionist and escape artist Harry Houdini will always be most associated with Freemasonry.

The Sportsmen:² There hundreds if not thousands of famous sporting Masons. like James Naismith who invented Basketball, Matthew Webb, the first person recorded as swimming the English Channel, Sir Malcolm Campbell and his son Donald who held worlds speed records on land and water; and famous Sporting Freemasons from every sport imaginable like Harold Abrahams (Athletics), Jack Dempsey (Boxing), Clive Lloyd (Cricket), Jackie Milburn (Football), Arnold Palmer (Golf); Peter Ebdon (Snooker); the list is endless.

'There are no doubt, many more that you may discover, and add to the list. Are you not proud to be in such company?'

V.W. Bro. Robert Taylor

References

1. Famous Freemasons, <https://www.ugle.org.uk/about-freemasonry/famous-masons>
2. Rex Hazeldine, *Freemasonry and Sport*. A paper in Solomon, Seek and Learn, Masonic History. <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/mod/resource/view.php?id=836>
3. Harper, Paul, Famous Freemasons - A Prologue, <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/mod/resource/view.php?id=2084>



Recommended use of Nuggets

Nuggets offer a short, simple and readily absorbed means of progressing Masonic knowledge and an easy way to introduce learning to Lodges and Chapters. It is hoped that they will become a regular feature of Lodge and Chapter meetings as well as a source for private-study.

Nuggets can be included as an item in the summons and read at most Lodge/Chapter meetings. They can be:

Read by either a new or an experienced Mason with the minimum of preparation and practice; though ideally, they need to be read a few times beforehand.

Themed with the meeting or activity.

Used to initiate a discussion within a Lodge/Chapter, LOI/COI, or group.

Read at home and shared as a topic for a future discussion.

Used as a focus for an unplanned, informal discussion.

*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version unless otherwise specified.

For further papers and other learning materials visit *Solomon* at <http://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

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