

# 150 Famous Masons

by John T. Parsons



# **150 Famous Masons**

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary  
of the  
Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of Nebraska



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Compiled by R.: W.: John T. Parsons, Grand Junior Warden

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About the cover: Famous Masons featured on the cover, pictured counter  
clockwise from bottom left, are Grover Cleveland Alexander, Richie  
Ashburn, President Gerald R. Ford, John J. Pershing, Carl T. Curtis, J.  
James Exon, Curtis E. LeMay, William Jennings Bryan, and William F.  
“Buffalo Bill” Cody.

## INTRODUCTION

2007 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the chartering of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. In honor of this august event, the Grand Master, in concurrence with the Grand Lodge officers, decided that Nebraska's famous Masons should somehow be recognized during this anniversary year. Consequently, it was decided that we should list 150 famous Nebraska Masons, one for each of the 150 years of our existence.

Whenever one sets about to compile a list such as this, there are always certain criteria that need to be established. We did not wish to list merely those individuals who had served the craft as perhaps a Grand Master or other Grand Officer. While their names might be familiar to many Masons, they would not be well known outside the fraternity. The individuals we wished to include would be those whose names were known to the public from such fields as government, sports, entertainment, or business, and who also were Masons. Since we were going to have a statewide commemorative celebration in the Capitol and its Hall of Fame, we decided that any individual who was in the Nebraska Hall of Fame, and was a Mason, was de facto, a famous Nebraska Mason. That took care of a few, but obviously not 150. The next criterion was to determine who was listed in Ray Denslow's epic three-volume work, "10,000 Famous Freemasons." That added most of the rest of the 150, but there were still some gaps. Denslow's work was published in the 1950s, and many famous Masons of the past half-century were therefore not included. Finally, a call for inputs on famous Masons was made to the subordinate lodges within this grand jurisdiction, and that yielded sufficient numbers to make up the full complement.

Most of these individuals held membership in a Nebraska Lodge, but there were some who, while members of appendant Masonic bodies in Nebraska such as the York and Scottish Rites and Shrine, had established their membership in a Blue Lodge in some other jurisdiction. We also included several members of Prince Hall lodges in our famous Masons list. Finally, we included several individuals, such as President Gerald Ford, who, while born in Nebraska and Freemasons, were members of Masonic bodies in other jurisdictions.

When another commemorative effort is made on this subject in another 50, 100, or 150 years, hopefully there will be another 50, 100, or 150 famous Nebraska Masons to supplant or supplement this list. Our best years as a fraternity lie ahead of us!

John T. Parsons  
Grand Junior Warden 2007

# GRAND MASTER'S FOREWORD

Grand Junior Warden John Parsons was charged with putting together this book. He did much more. His first task was to settle our disputes about who should be included in list of the one hundred fifty famous Nebraska masons. Some were, of course, obvious. Robert Carel Jordan and Robert W. Furnas were on everyone's list. Some were more controversial, others were hotly debated. The careful reader will likely have his own list of controversies. Generally, John has prevailed in these discussions. His research was impeccable, and his logic difficult to dispute.

To call John an amateur historian is to do disservice to many who make their living writing about the past. His work here is of the highest order, professional in every sense of the word. I trust you will enjoy it.

Dean Skokan  
Grand Master 2007

Throughout the book, notations are made with regard to association in the following groups:

- # Nebraska Hall of Fame Member
- \* Nebraska Hall of Fame, Other Notable Nebraskans
- + Denslow's "10,000 Famous Freemasons"

**PAUL D. ADAMS (1916-LIVING)** was one of the first African-American fighter pilots. He was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen and flew P-39s and P-40s with the famed 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group in Italy during World War II. He served as a career Air Force officer in numerous overseas and stateside assignments, his last one being that of the Deputy Base Commander, Lincoln Air Force Base. He was inducted into the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame in 2004. He is a member of Lebanon Lodge No. 3, Prince Hall Affiliation, in Lincoln.

**CHARLES H. ALDRICH (1862-1924)** was born in David City. He served as the Governor of Nebraska from 1911-1913, and as a Justice of the Nebraska State Supreme Court from 1918 until his death in 1924. He was a member of Canopy Lodge No. 209 in Elmwood. +

**VICTOR E. ANDERSON (1902-1962)** was born in the town of Havelock (now part of Lincoln). He was a member of the Unicameral from 1949-1950; served as Mayor of Lincoln from 1950-1953, and was the Governor of Nebraska from 1955-1959. He was a member of George Washington Lodge No. 250 in Lincoln, as well as the Lincoln Scottish Rite and Sesostris Shrine. +

**RICHIE ASHBURN (1927-1997)** was born in Tilden and is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was the star center fielder for the Philadelphia Phillies from 1948 through 1959. He also played for the Chicago Cubs in 1960 and 1961, and the New York Mets in 1962. He won the National League batting championship in 1958 with a .350 average, and finished with a career batting average of .308. He was a



member of Mystic Tie Lodge No. 166, Neligh, now consolidated with Diamond Lodge No. 291. \*

**GROVER CLEVELAND ALEXANDER (1887-1950)** was born in Elba and is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. He pitched for the Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago Cubs, and St. Louis Cardinals from 1911 through 1930. He has 373 career victories, ranking third among all pitchers. He won 30 or more games in a season three times, led the league in wins 6 years and in E.R.A. 5 years. He was a member of St. Paul Lodge No. 82. +

**PHILIP MILO BAIL (1898-1984)** was a noted educator. He served as President of Omaha University (now the University of Nebraska at Omaha) from 1948 until his retirement in 1965. Under his guidance and direction, the institution transformed from a municipal college into a full-fledged university, now an integral part of the University of Nebraska system. The student center at UNO is named in his honor. He was a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, the Omaha Scottish Rite (33<sup>rd</sup> Degree), and Tangier Shrine. +

**C. ARLEN BEAM (1930-LIVING)** was born in Stapleton. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and served as a Captain in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953. An attorney, he served as the Judge of the U.S. District Court for Nebraska from 1981-1987, and was a Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit from 1987-2001. He is a member of North Star Lodge No. 227, Lincoln, and a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason.

**FREDERICK M. BEKINS (1924-LIVING)** was born in Omaha. His family started the Bekins Moving and Storage Company, now one of the largest movers in the nation. He is active in numerous civic and charitable endeavors in the Omaha area. He is a 50-year member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha, and a Scottish Rite Mason in Omaha.

**DANA X. BIBLE (1891-1980)** was a nationally famous college football coach and is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. He coached at LSU, Texas A&M, Nebraska, and Texas, and served as the Athletic Director at Texas for many years. While at Texas A&M, he began the tradition of the “Twelfth Man.” He won a total of 14 conference championships, and in the eight years he coached at Nebraska, he lost only three conference games. He served as a pursuit pilot in France during World War I. His original lodge was in Tennessee, but he was a member of the York Rite Bodies of Lincoln. He was a Mason for over 60 years. +

**GUTZON BORGLUM (1871-1941)** was born in Idaho and moved to Fremont as a boy. He was educated in Fremont and Omaha. A prominent Omaha art collector, George W. Lininger, recognized his artistic talent and paid his way to Europe to study painting and sculpture. He settled in New York in 1901 after his return from abroad. He painted and sculpted numerous works of art, but is best known for his sculpture of four presidents on Mt. Rushmore. He was a member and Past Master of Howard Lodge No. 35, New York. \* +

**PAUL E. BOSLAUGH (1881-1964)** was born in Iowa and resided in Hastings. He served as a justice on the Nebraska

Supreme Court from 1949-1961. He was a member of Hastings Lodge No. 50.

**JAMES E. BOYD (1834-1906)** was born in Ireland and came to Nebraska in 1856. He was a successful businessman, establishing both a freighting business in Buffalo County and later a meatpacking business in Omaha. He served two terms as Mayor of Omaha, 1881-1883 and again from 1885-1887. He served as Governor of Nebraska from 1891-1893. He was a member of Capitol Lodge No. 3, Omaha.

**DONALD BRODKEY (1910-1989)** was born in South Dakota. He practiced law in Omaha from 1933 until 1956 when he was appointed a municipal judge. He served as a Nebraska District Court Judge from 1960-1972. He was a member of St. Johns Lodge No. 25, Omaha (now consolidated with John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290).

**EDWARD W. BROWN (1891-1956)** was born in Milligan. He was a major league baseball player who played as an outfielder for seven years for the Giants, Dodgers, and Braves. In 1926, he led the National League in base hits with 201, and compiled a lifetime batting average of .303. He was a member of Jewel Lodge No. 149 in Tobias, now consolidated with Geneva Lodge No. 79.

**NORRIS BROWN (1863-1960)** was born in Iowa and settled in Kearney. He served as the Nebraska State Attorney General from 1905-1907, and as a U.S. Senator from Nebraska from 1907-1913. He was a member of Rob Morris Lodge No. 46 in Kearney, and also served as the Grand Orator for the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. +

**WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN (1860-1925)** was born in Illinois and moved to Lincoln in 1887. He served as a U.S. Congressman from the 1<sup>st</sup> District from 1891-1895, where he became nationally known for his oratorical talents, acquiring the nicknames of “The Great Commoner” and the “Boy Orator of the Platte.” He was the presidential nominee of the Democrats in 1896, 1900, and 1908. He later served as the Secretary of State in the Wilson administration from 1913-1915, negotiating 30 treaties during that time. He was a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19. Today he is still recognized as one of Nebraska’s most famous individuals. # +

**HOWARD BUFFETT (1903-1964)** was born in Omaha and was a journalist and businessman. He served as a U.S. Congressman from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District from 1943-1949, and from 1951-1953. He was a member of Covert Lodge No. 11, Omaha, as well as a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Mason in the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite. He was also a member of Tangier Shrine. +

**EDWARD R. BURKE (1880-1968)** was born in South Dakota, and ultimately moved to Chadron. He moved to Omaha in 1911 and began the practice of law. He served as a Lieutenant in the Army Flying Corps in World War I, served as a U.S. Congressman for one term beginning in 1933, and was elected as a U.S. Senator from Nebraska in 1934, also serving one term. He was a member of Omaha Lodge No. 288, and was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Mason in the Omaha Scottish Rite. +

**ELMER J. BURKETT (1867-1935)** was born in and attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He served as a U.S. Congressman from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District

from 1899-1905, and as a U.S. Senator from Nebraska from 1906-1911. He was a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19 and the Lincoln Scottish Rite. +

**DWIGHT W. BURNEY (1892-1987)** was born in Cedar County. He served in the Nebraska Unicameral from 1945-1957; as the Lieutenant Governor from 1957-1960, and again from 1961-1965. He also served as the Governor of Nebraska from 1960-1961 after the current Governor died in office. He was a member of Hartington Lodge No. 155 (now consolidated with Relief No. 219 and Wausa Lodge No. 251).

**DAVID C. BUTLER (1829-1891)** was a member of the Territorial Legislature in 1861, and a member of the Nebraska Territorial Council in 1864. He served as the first Governor of Nebraska from 1867-1871. He was a member of Pawnee Lodge No. 23 in Pawnee City. Butler County is named after him. +

**HUGH A. BUTLER (1878-1954)** was born in Iowa and worked at various occupations including a railroad engineer and a grain miller. He was a U.S. Senator from Nebraska from 1941-1954. He was a member of St. Johns Lodge No. 25, Omaha (now consolidated with John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290) and the Omaha Scottish Rite Bodies. +

**CLAIRA. CALLAN (1920-2005)** was born in Gage County and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He served as a U.S. Congressman representing the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District from 1965-1967. He was a member of Wymore Lodge No. 104, Wymore.

**CALVIN F. CARSTEN (1915-1992)** was born in Cass County and served in the Nebraska Unicameral from 1971-1986. He was a member of Euclid Lodge No. 97, Weeping Water.

**EDWARD F. CARTER (1897-1981)** was born in Holt County. He enlisted in the Army in World War I. He served as a Justice on the Nebraska Supreme Court from 1935-1971, and as one of the Justices at the Nuremberg Trials after World War II. He was a member and Master of Scott's Bluff Lodge No. 201, various York Rite Bodies, and a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Alliance Bodies. He served as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1941. +

**ELLWOOD B. CHAPPELL (1889-1968)** was born in Pierce County. He served as a District Judge in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District from 1929-1943, and as a Justice on the Nebraska Supreme Court from 1943-1961. He was a member of Liberty Lodge No. 300, Lincoln. +

**JACKSON B. CHASE (1890-1974)** was born in Seward. During World War I, he served in an artillery unit. He served in a variety of elected and appointed positions in state government from 1920 on. From 1946-1954, he served as judge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in Nebraska. He was elected to Congress and served from 1955-1957, when he again returned to his position on the bench in the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, serving until 1960. He was a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha.

**ROBERT L. COCHRAN (1886-1963)** was born in Cass County. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army during World War I and again during World War II, this time as a

Colonel. He served three terms as Governor of Nebraska from 1935-1941. He was a member of Gothenberg Lodge No. 249. He was a York Rite and Scottish Rite Mason and a member of Tangier Shrine in Omaha. +

**WILLIAM F. CODY (1846-1917)**, world renowned as “Buffalo Bill,” was born in Iowa. He served as a Pony Express Rider, a soldier during the Civil War, an Army scout, and a buffalo hunter. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle of Warbonnet Creek in northwestern Nebraska in 1876. He organized the Wild West Show which toured the U.S. and Europe in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, performing before heads of state including Queen Victoria and Kaiser Wilhelm. He also served as a general in the Nebraska National Guard, and a member of the Nebraska Legislature. He was a member of Platte Valley Lodge No. 32, North Platte, a York Rite Mason, and a member of Tangier Shrine, Omaha. # +

**HARRY B. COFFEE (1890-1972)** was born near Harrison. He served as a 2nd Lt in the U.S. Army Air Service during World War I. He was a cattle rancher and businessman, and later was a U.S. Congressman for the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District from 1935-1943. He was a 50-year member of Samaritan Lodge No. 158, Chadron.

**HAROLD COOPERMAN (1915-2005)** was born in Omaha. He was a businessman and entrepreneur. He founded the No Frills chain of grocery stores that are now located throughout eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. He was a member of Omaha Lodge No. 288 and the Omaha Scottish Rite.

**ROBERT L. COPSEY (1896-1987)** was born in Broken Bow and became an American aviation pioneer. He was

commissioned a 2nd Lt after graduating from the University of Nebraska, and served as an Army flight instructor during World War I. He was one of the first pilots to fly airmail routes in the 1920s. He retired as a Major General from the U.S. Air Force, and was later elected to the Aviation Hall of Fame in New Jersey. He was a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19 and a Shriner. +

**CARL T. CURTIS (1905-2000)** was born in Minden. He practiced law in Minden, beginning in 1930, and served as a U.S. Congressman from 1939-1955. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1955 and served until 1979. He was a member of Minden Lodge No. 127, a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Hastings, and a member of Tehama Shrine in Hastings. +

**HAROLD J. DAUB (1941-LIVING)** was born in Fayetteville, NC. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army during the 1960s, and began the practice of law in Omaha. He served as the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman from 1981-1989, and as the Mayor of Omaha from 1995-2003. He is active in numerous civic, fraternal, and charitable activities. He is a member of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, Omaha, as well as the Omaha York Rite Bodies. He is a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of Tangier Shrine.

**JAMES E. DAVIDSON (1879-1949)** was born in Michigan and moved to Omaha in the 1920s. He was the director of several corporations including the Nebraska Power Company, the Chicago Great Western Railway, and Union Stockyards in Omaha. He was active in civic affairs, and was a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha, and served as the Potentate of Tangier Shrine. +



**JAMES R. DEAN (1862-1936)** was born in St. Louis and moved to Broken Bow, Nebraska to practice law in 1890. He served as a Justice on the Nebraska Supreme Court from 1909-1935. He was a 40-year member of Custer Lodge No. 148, Broken Bow. +

**ROBERT V. DENNY (1916-1981)** was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, and later practiced law in Nebraska. He served as a U.S. Congressman from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District from 1967-1971. He was a member of Superior Lodge No. 121, a York Rite Mason, and a member of Tehama Shrine, Hastings.

**GEORGE HENRY DERN (1872-1936)** was born in Dodge County. He later moved to Utah where he was active in the gold and copper mining business. He served as Utah's governor from 1915-1923, and as the Secretary of War in Franklin D. Roosevelt's cabinet from 1933-1936, dying in office. He was a member of Wasatch Lodge No. 1, Salt Lake City, and served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Utah. He was a York Rite and Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner. \* +

**CHARLES H. DIETRICH (1853-1924)** was born in Illinois and worked at a variety of occupations, including farming and gold mining in the Black Hills. He moved to Hastings in 1878, and began a business career. He was elected Governor of Nebraska in 1900, but later resigned and was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served from 1901-1905. He was a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54, Lincoln, and was a Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner. +

**PAUL DOUGLAS (1927-LIVING)** was born in South Dakota. An attorney, he served as the Nebraska State Attorney General from 1975-1984. He is a member of East Lincoln Lodge No. 210.

**CHARLES DURHAM (1917-LIVING)** was born in Chicago and graduated from Iowa State University. He founded HDR, Incorporated, a nationally known structural engineering firm. Many of HDR's projects dot Nebraska, including the Omaha Federal Building, Nebraska Methodist Hospital, and many of the facilities at Offutt Air Force Base. He also established several other enterprises, including two banks in Illinois and another in Omaha. He has contributed substantial time and money to the Omaha community, including the establishment of the Durham Western Heritage Museum in Omaha. He is a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha.

**GEORGE A. EBERLY (1871-1958)** was born in Indiana and moved to Nebraska in 1873, where he began his law practice in 1893. He served in the Spanish-American War, and later as a Colonel in the U.S. Army during World War I. He served as the National Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish American War Veterans in 1949. He served as an Associate Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court from 1925-1943. He was a member and Past Master of Northern Light Lodge No. 41, Stanton, as well as the York Rite and Scottish Rite bodies in Omaha, and Tangier Shrine. +

**ALBERT W. ELSASSER (1888-1961)** was born in Omaha. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I, and practiced law in Omaha. He served one term in the Nebraska

Legislature from 1923-1924. He was a 50-year member of Covert Lodge No. 11, Omaha.

**EUGENE C. EPPLEY (1884-1958)** was born in Ohio. He was active in the hotel and airline industry, serving as a director of the Sheraton Corporation and of Mid-Continent (later Continental) Airlines. During World War I, he served as the national food administrator for hotels, and was a food consultant to the Secretary of War during World War II. He was active in civic and charitable organizations. Eppley Airfield in Omaha is named in his honor. He was a member of Landmark Lodge in Ohio, and was a Scottish Rite Mason in Omaha, and a member of Tangier Shrine, Omaha. +

**J. JAMES EXON (1921-2005)** was born in South Dakota and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He later moved to Lincoln where he became active in politics. He served as the Governor of Nebraska from 1971-1979, and as a U.S. Senator from 1979 until his retirement in 1997. He was a 50-year member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19, a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of Sesostris Shrine, Lincoln.

**GEORGE FLIPPIN (1868-1929)** was born in Ohio, the son of a freed slave who had fought in the Union Army during the Civil War. His father became a physician and moved to Nebraska in 1888. George attended the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and was the first African-American to play football for the University, starting at both halfback and tackle. After graduation, he attended medical school and set up his practice in Stromsburg. He was named to the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 1974, the first African-American so

honored. He was a member of True American Lodge No. 40, Grand Island, under the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Iowa.

**GERALD R. FORD (1913-2006)** was born in Omaha, moving to Michigan shortly thereafter. He served as a Naval officer during World War II, and was elected to Congress from Michigan's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He served in Congress from 1949-1973, when he was appointed Vice President of the United States. Following the resignation of Richard Nixon, he assumed the office of President of the United States from 1974-1977. He was defeated in his re-election bid in 1976. He was a Michigan Mason and 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason. He was an honorary member of Tangier Shrine, Omaha. \*

**STANLEY H. FORD (1877-1961)** was born in and educated in Ohio. A career Army officer, he served in Cuba in the Spanish-American War, and in China before World War I. He served in France during World War I, and in a series of assignments following the war. He was promoted to Brigadier General as a result of his service during World War I, and was later promoted to Major General. He was a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha. +

**ROBERT W. FURNAS (1824-1905)** was born in Ohio and moved to Nebraska in 1855. He was a Colonel commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nebraska Cavalry Regiment during the Civil War. He served as the Governor of Nebraska from 1873-1875. He later served as the Chairman of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, and engaged in farming and tree culture. He was a member of Capitol Lodge No. 3, Omaha and Master of Nemaha Valley Lodge No. 4, Brownville. He was the Grand Secretary of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Nebraska from

1858-1862, and was Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1865. # +

**HERBERT E. GOOCH (1878-1963)** was born in Chicago. He moved to Lincoln in 1904 and established a grain brokerage business. He was President of Gooch Milling, Gooch Food Products, Lincoln Mills, and the Star Publishing Company. He was also involved in local politics, as well as civic and educational organizations. He was a member of an Illinois lodge, a Scottish Rite Mason in Lincoln, and a member of Sesostris Shrine, Lincoln.

**ELWOOD F. GOOD (1862-1937)** was born in Iowa and moved to Wahoo, Nebraska, where he began his law practice. He served as a Justice on the Nebraska Supreme Court from 1923 until his death in 1937. He was a member and Master of Wahoo Lodge No. 59. +

**CHARLES A. GOSS (1863-1938)** was born in Ohio and moved to Omaha where he began his law practice. He was a U.S. Attorney and District Judge before being appointed as Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, where he served from 1927-1938. He was a member of Covert Lodge No. 11, and the Omaha Scottish Rite Bodies. +

**J. REID GREEN (1881-1945)** was born in Saline County. He practiced law in Lincoln, and was active in state politics. He served in the Nebraska Legislature from 1919-1925. He was a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54, Lincoln.

**DWIGHT P. GRISWOLD (1893-1954)** was born in Harrison. He served in the U.S. Army in World War I, and was a banker and newspaper editor. He served in the Nebraska

House and Senate from 1921-1929, and as the Governor of Nebraska from 1941-1947. He was elected as a U.S. Senator from Nebraska in 1952, and died in office in 1954. He was a member and Master of Arcana Lodge No. 195, Gordon, and a member of the York Rite Bodies in Chadron. He was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Omaha. # +

**T.O. HAAS (1915-2002)** was born in Lincoln and served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. In 1947, he established his first tire business in Lincoln. His industry, imagination, and ethics contributed to the growth of T.O Haas Tires as a major business enterprise in Nebraska. He was a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19.

**RALPH E. HARRINGTON (1881-1980)** was born in Iowa and later moved to Lincoln. He was a businessman, and later served in the Nebraska Legislature from 1923-1926. He was a 50-year member of North Star Lodge No. 227 in Lincoln.

**ROBERT A. HARRIS (1917-1989)** was born in Wyoming and spent much of his life in Nebraska. He was a major league pitcher, playing a total of five seasons for the Detroit Tigers, St. Louis Browns, and Philadelphia Athletics. His best years were with the Browns in 1940 and 1941 when, as a starting pitcher, he won 11 and 12 games for a lackluster ball club. He was a member of Robert W. Furnas Lodge No. 265 in Scottsbluff.

**WILLIAM C. HASTINGS (1921-LIVING)** was born in Madison County. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and later began the practice of law. He was a District Judge from 1965-1979, a Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court from 1979-1987, and served as Chief Justice of the

Nebraska Supreme Court from 1987. He is a member of Newman Grove Lodge No. 305.

**JOHN HAVEKOST (1872-1950)** was born in Dodge County. He served in the Nebraska Legislature from 1927-1932, and was the State Treasurer from 1939-1941. He was a member of Hooper Lodge No. 72.

**FREDERICK HAWKINS (1927-LIVING)** was born in Omaha. He entered into the construction business with his father in 1960, founding Hawkins Construction Company. The company completed numerous projects in the Omaha area, and has grown to be a major force in the regional economy. He is active in numerous charitable and civic functions, and is a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha.

**PHINEAS W. HITCHCOCK (1831-1881)** was born in New York and settled in Nebraska in 1857. He was appointed Sheriff of the Nebraska Territory in 1861, and was elected to Congress in 1864. He was a member of the group that transported Lincoln's body from Washington to Illinois for burial in 1865. He was the state surveyor-general from 1867-1869, and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1870, serving one term. He was a member of Capitol Lodge No. 3, Omaha.

+

**NELSON M. HOLDERMAN (1885-1953)** was born in Trumbull and moved to California as a young man. He enlisted in the National Guard prior to World War I, and was later commissioned. He was a company commander in the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in October 1918, beating back German

attempts to destroy the “Lost Battalion.” He was a member of Santa Ana Lodge No. 241, California. \*

**EDWARD E. HOWELL (1906-1988)**, nicknamed “Blue” was a football star for the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers during the 1920s. He was an all-conference halfback in 1926 and 1927. He was the team captain in 1928, and played in the East-West Shrine Bowl that year. He later played professional football for the New York Giants from 1937-1948, and coached college football. He was voted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 1978. He was a member of St. Johns Lodge No. 25, Omaha (now consolidated with John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290).

**ROBERT B. HOWELL (1864-1933)** was born in Michigan and was an engineer. He served as the Nebraska State Engineer from 1895-1896, and as the Omaha City Engineer from 1897-1898. During the Spanish-American War in 1898, he served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He was elected as a U.S. Senator and served from 1923 until his death in office in 1933. He was a member of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, Omaha. +

**RICHARD HOOVER (1943-LIVING)** was born in Pennsylvania and is an educator. He was a professor at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, and served as President of Hastings College. His Masonic Lodge is in Pennsylvania and he is a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Omaha.

**ROMAN HRUSKA (1904-1999)** was born in David City and eventually settled in Omaha, setting up his law practice. He entered the political arena in the late 1940s, and was elected to Congress in 1952 from the Second Congressional



District. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1954, and served until his retirement in 1976. He was known as a skilled legislator, and was an influential member of the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees. He was a member of Covert Lodge No. 11, Omaha, and was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Omaha.

**ORASMUS H. IRISH (1830-1883)** was born in New York. He moved to Nebraska in 1857, and in 1858 he became the editor and owner of a newspaper in Nebraska City. He was later named Indian Agent for the Omaha Reservation, and in 1864 he was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northwest. He practiced law in Nebraska and held several other Federal appointive offices. He served as U.S. Consul in Germany, and later became the Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Engraving in Washington, D.C., serving in that capacity until his death. He was a member of Omadi Lodge No. 5, South Sioux City, and was Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1867-1868.

**MARK W. IZARD (1799-1866)** was born in Kentucky and later moved to Arkansas where he served in that state's legislature. In 1854, he was appointed Marshal for the Territory of Nebraska, and was serving as such when the Territorial Governor suddenly passed away just after assuming office. He was appointed Governor and served from 1855-1857, setting the stage for Nebraska's statehood. He was one of the charter members of Capitol Lodge No. 3, Omaha. +

**ALBERT W. JEFFRIES (1868-1942)** was born in Pennsylvania. He later moved to Omaha and established a law practice. He served as the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman from

1919-1923. He was a member of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, Omaha.

**ROBERT C. JORDAN (1825-1899)** was born in Ohio and came to Nebraska in 1857. He served as the Territorial and State Auditor from 1858-1861. He was a charter member of Capitol Lodge No. 3, Omaha, and was the first Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, serving from 1857 through 1859. He also founded the first Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Nebraska, serving as the first Grand High Priest of that branch of York Rite Masonry. He also served as the first SGIG for Scottish Rite in Nebraska. The Robert C. Jordan Medal, awarded to the most senior Mason in each lodge in the state, is named after him.

**FLOYD M. KALBER (1924-2004)** was born in Omaha. He served two years in the Army during World War II, and after the war he began his broadcasting career as the first newscaster for KMTV television in Omaha. He gained national attention for his coverage of the Charles Starkweather murders, and in 1962 he moved to Chicago and NBC's flagship station. In 1976, he moved on to become the anchor for NBC's Today Show, where he remained until 1981. He returned to Chicago and anchored a popular evening news broadcast until his retirement in 1998. He was a member of Centennial Lodge No. 326, Omaha, and was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Omaha Bodies.

**DAVID K. KARNES (1948-LIVING)** was born in Omaha and graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He is President and CEO of the Fairmont Group, a merchant banking/consulting group. He served as a U.S. Senator from 1987-1989. He has served in senior executive positions in

federal executive, legislative, and regulatory bodies, and is active in numerous civic and charitable activities. He is a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha, and is a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Omaha.

**PETER KIEWIT (1900-1979)** was born in Omaha and took over a business that was founded by his father in 1884, turning Kiewit Corporation into one of the biggest construction companies in the world. This Fortune 500 Company also has significant mining and offshore drilling operations. He was active in numerous charitable and philanthropic activities, particularly in the Omaha area. He was a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha. \*

**MELVIN LAIRD (1922-LIVING)** was born in Omaha and moved to Wisconsin with his parents. He served as an Ensign in the Navy during World War II on a destroyer, receiving the Purple Heart. He became active in Wisconsin politics, serving in the state legislature. He was elected to Congress from Wisconsin, serving from 1953-1969. In 1969, he was appointed Secretary of Defense in the Nixon administration, serving until 1973, during which time he restored much of the prestige of the office, which had been damaged by his predecessor. He is a member of a Wisconsin Lodge, and a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason. \*

**LOREN H. LAUGHLIN (1896-1966)** was born in Iowa. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I. An attorney, he served in the Nebraska State Senate from 1925-1929. He was a member of Beatrice Lodge No. 26.

**EARL J. LEE (1888-1963)** was born in Fremont. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and

embarked upon a legal career in 1914. He served in the Nebraska Unicameral from 1943-1957, serving as Speaker in 1949. He was active in numerous charitable and civic organizations and activities, including the Salvation Army and the board of Trustees for the University of Nebraska Foundation. He was a member of Fremont Lodge No. 15, the York Rite Bodies in Fremont, and was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Omaha. In 1940-41, he served as the Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska.

**CHARLES W. LEEMAN (1893-1979)** was born in Texas. He began his career as a grocery salesman, and later moved into the insurance business. In 1937, he became president of the Union Pacific Finance Corporation. He served as Mayor of Omaha from 1947-1948. He was a member of St. Johns Lodge No. 25, Omaha (now consolidated with John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290), the Omaha Scottish Rite Bodies, and Tangier Shrine. +

**CURTIS E. LEMAY (1906-1990)** was born in Ohio, graduated from Ohio State University, and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt in the Army Air Corps in 1930. During World War II, he served in both the European and Pacific theaters. After serving as a Bomb Wing Commander in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in England, he was promoted and transferred to the Pacific as Commander, 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force. In 1947 he was in charge of the Berlin Airlift, and in 1949 he became the Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command for nearly 10 years. He later served as Chief of Staff of the USAF during the Kennedy administration. He was a member of Lakewood Lodge No. 601, Ohio, and a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Omaha Valley. +

**CLARENCE E. LEMMON (1888-1964)** was born in Seward County and graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He became an ordained minister in the Disciples of Christ in 1913, and served churches in Nebraska and Missouri. He served as President of the International Convention, Disciples of Christ from 1944-1946. He was a member of Pomegranate Lodge No. 110, Ashland, and was a Scottish Rite Mason in Hastings. He later served as the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, and the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Missouri. +

**GEORGE W. LININGER (1834–1907)** was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Illinois as a young man. He began a career in the agricultural implement business, and later moved his expanding business to Council Bluffs, and finally to Omaha. He traveled through much of Europe and the Middle East, and became an avid art and historical artifact collector. Upon his death, much of his art collection was used to start the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, while other parts of his collections were given to the Nebraska Historical Society and the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. He affiliated with Capitol Lodge No. 3, Omaha, and served as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1877. In 1908, the lodge was founded that bears his name.

**HAROLD C. LLOYD (1893-1971)** was born in Burchard. He moved to California as a young man and began his career in the movies. He starred in more than 250 comedies, primarily in the era of the silent screen. With the advent of “talkies,” he became a movie producer for R.K.O. Studios. He was a member of Hamilton Lodge No. 535, Hollywood, and was a York Rite and Scottish Rite Mason. He was the

Potentate of the Shrine Center in Los Angeles, and in 1949 he was elected Imperial Potentate of the Shrine of North America. \* +

**CHARLES F. MANDERSON (1837-1911)** was born in Philadelphia and served in the Civil War, rising to the rank of Brigadier General in the Union Army. An attorney, he moved to Omaha in 1869 and served as city attorney and helped draft the Nebraska state constitution. He served as a U.S. Senator from Nebraska from 1883-1895, and as President of the American Bar Association in 1900. He was a member of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, Omaha. +

**IRA EMMETT MCCABE (1894-1957)** was born in Iowa, moving to Lexington, Nebraska at an early age. He became enthralled with aviation while a teenager, and built numerous kites and balloons, culminating in his designing and building a biplane in 1915. After service in the Army during World War I, he embarked on an engineering career, designing and patenting such things as altitude gauges and mercury switches for use in military and commercial aircraft. He was a member of Thistle Lodge No. 61, Lexington.

**JOHN Y. MCCOLLISTER (1921-LIVING)** was born in Iowa City and graduated from the University of Iowa. He served as a Naval officer during World War II. He was the U.S. Congressman from Nebraska's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District from 1971-1977. He is a member of Mizpah Lodge No. 302, Omaha.

**SAMUEL R. MCKELVIE (1881-1956)** was born in Fairfield and attended the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He was the editor and publisher of the Omaha Bee newspaper from

1902-1905, and later served as editor of the Nebraska Farmer. He served in the state legislature from 1911-1913, and was Lt. Governor from 1913-1915. He served as Governor from 1919-1923. He was a 50-year member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19. \* +

**MELVIN O. MCLAUGHLIN (1876-1928)** was born in Iowa and graduated from Omaha University. He taught school for several years, and then became an ordained minister, serving churches in Nebraska and Ohio from 1900-1913. He was president of York College from 1913-1919, and then served as a U.S. Congressman from 1919-1927. He was originally a member of Bennett Lodge No. 94, Lincoln, and later transferred to Nebraska Lodge No. 1, Omaha, and York Lodge No. 56. +

**ADAM MCMULLEN (1874-1959)** was born in New York and moved to Nebraska with his parents in 1884. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and was admitted to the bar in 1902. He served in both houses of the state legislature, and was elected Governor in 1925, serving until 1929. He was a 50-year member of Wymore Lodge No. 104, as well as being a York and Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner. +

**FRED H. MESSMORE (1889-1969)** was born in Iowa. He graduated from Creighton University and began the practice of law in 1913. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I. He was a district judge from 1929-1937, and a Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court from 1937-1965. He was a member of Beatrice Lodge No. 26. +

**ARTHUR L. MILLER (1892-1967)** was born in Plainview, Nebraska and graduated from medical school. He set up a practice in Kimball in 1918, and later served as Mayor of that town. He was the Nebraska State Health Director from 1941-1942, and served as a U.S. Congressman from 1943-1959. He was appointed to a position in the Department of the Interior from 1959-1961. He was a member of Kimball Lodge (now James L. Eatmon Lodge) No. 294. +

**CLARENCE E. MITCHELL (1891-1963)** was born in Franklin, Nebraska. He was a major league baseball pitcher from 1911-1932. During that time, he pitched for the Tigers, Reds, Dodgers, Phillies, Cardinals, and Giants, winning a total of 125 games. In 1921, he won 11 games for the Dodgers and led the National League in shutouts. He pitched in two World Series, 1920 for the Dodgers, and 1928 for the Cardinals. He was a member of Franklin Lodge No. 264.

**JOHN H. MOREHEAD (1861-1942)** was born in Iowa and moved to Nebraska in 1884. He taught school in Richardson County, and also was in the banking and mercantile business. He was Mayor of Falls City and served in the state legislature. He was Governor of Nebraska from 1913-1917, and was elected to Congress and served from 1923-1935. He was a member of Falls City Lodge No. 9 and the Lincoln Scottish Rite Bodies. +

**ALBINUS NANCE (1848-1911)** was born in Illinois and served as a Private in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was admitted to the bar in 1870, and moved to Osceola, Nebraska, where he began the practice of law. He was a member of the state legislature from 1875-1879, serving as Speaker of the House during the last two years. He was the



Governor of Nebraska from 1879-1883. He was a member of Osceola Lodge No. 65. +

**M. KEITH NEVILLE (1884-1959)** was born in North Platte. He engaged in the banking, ranching and real estate business in North Platte. He became involved in politics and was elected as Governor of Nebraska, serving from 1917-1919. He was a member of Platte Valley Lodge No. 32, North Platte, as well as the York Rite Bodies in North Platte. +

**GEORGE W. NORRIS (1861-1944)** was born in Ohio and moved to Nebraska in 1885, where he began the practice of law in Beaver City. He moved to McCook in 1899, and was elected to Congress in 1903, serving until 1913. He served in the U.S. Senate from 1913-1943. He was a renowned legislator, initiating changes to reform the rules of the House of Representatives, and sponsoring legislation for rural electrification, the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the adoption of the 20<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. He was also one of the sponsors of legislation that produced the Nebraska Unicameral. He was a member of Beaver City Lodge No. 93 (now merged with Monument Lodge No. 293, Arapahoe). # +

**LESLIE G. NUNAMAKER (1889-1938)** was born in Malcolm. He was a major league catcher for 12 years, beginning in 1911 with the Red Sox. He also played for the Yankees, Browns, and Indians, including playing in the 1920 World Series for Cleveland. He had a lifetime batting average of .268. His Masonic Lodge was in Massachusetts.

**ALGERNON S. PADDOCK (1830-1897)** was born in New York and moved to Omaha in 1857, where he began to practice

law. He was a delegate to the first territorial convention in 1859, and was Secretary of the Nebraska Territory from 1861-1867, often serving as the acting Territorial Governor. He served two terms as a U.S. Senator, the first from 1875-1881, and the second from 1887-1893. He was a member of Capitol Lodge No. 3, Omaha. +

**JAMES M. PAXSON (1912-1995)** was born in Omaha. He was a prominent business leader and was President of Standard Chemical Company. A noted philanthropist, he purchased the site of the Omaha home in which President Gerald Ford was born, and turned it into a Rose Garden and the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center. He was a member of Mizpah Lodge No. 302, Omaha.

**JOHN J. PERSHING (1860-1948)** was born in Missouri and graduated from West Point in 1886. He served in the Apache and Sioux Campaigns, the Spanish-American War, and in the Philippines. He also earned a degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and taught ROTC there. He led the American expedition into Mexico in 1916, and in 1917 was given command of all American armies in World War I, with the rank of General of the Armies, the only individual ever accorded that rank. He served as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army from 1921-1924. He was a 60-year member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19, the Lincoln York Rite Bodies, was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of Sesostris Shrine in Lincoln. # +

**FREDERICK VALDEMAR PETERSON (1903-1983)**, known as Val, was born in Burt County. He graduated from Wayne State and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and taught school for a number of years. He served in the U.S.

Army Air Force during World War II. He was Governor of Nebraska from 1947-1953. He served in several posts in the Eisenhower administration and was appointed Ambassador to Denmark in 1957, serving in that capacity until 1961. From 1969-1973, he served as the U.S. Ambassador to Finland. He was a member of Wayne Lodge No. 120, a York and Scottish Rite Mason, and a Shriner. +

**NATHAN ROSCOE POUND (1870-1964)** was born and raised in Lincoln. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and also received his law degree and PHD from that institution. He was a renowned botanist before devoting his efforts to the law. He taught at the University of Nebraska Law School, serving as its Dean from 1903-1907. He taught law at several other universities, and served as the Dean of the Harvard Law School from 1916-1936. He was a nationally known authority on jurisprudence, and authored numerous works on the subject. He was a member and Master of Lancaster Lodge No. 54, Lincoln, and was the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska in 1907. He is an honorary Past Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, and received numerous other Masonic honors during his career. # +

**WALTER RAECKE (1895-1960)** was from Central City. He was an attorney and served in the Nebraska Unicameral from 1941-1949, during which time he also served a term as the Speaker. He was defeated in his two Nebraska gubernatorial races. He was a member of Lone Tree Lodge No. 36, Central City, and was Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1938. He was a York Rite and Scottish Rite Mason, and also served as the Worthy Grand Patron, Order of the Eastern Star in Nebraska.

**CHARLES F. REAVIS (1870-1932)** was born in Falls City, attended Northwestern University, and returned to Falls City in 1892 to practice law. He resided there until 1924, when he moved to Lincoln. He served in the U.S. Congress from 1915-22. He was a member of Falls City Lodge No. 9. +

**CHARLES S. REECE (1871-1953)** was born in Missouri. He moved to Cherry County and became a rancher and County Clerk. He was elected to the Nebraska Legislature, serving from 1923-1925, and again in 1931. He was a member of Minnekadusa Lodge No. 192, Valentine.

**R. C. REYNOLDS (1931-1985)**, better known as Bobby Reynolds, was born in Grand Island and attended the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He began his career as a college football star in 1950. As halfback, he led the Huskers to the best years they had experienced in over a decade. He set a school rushing record of 1,342 yards, and a school touchdown record of 22, which earned him the nickname "Mr. Touchdown." Both records stood until the mid-1980s. A leg injury prevented his playing professional football. He was in the insurance business in Lincoln until his death. He was voted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1984. He was a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19.

**SAMUEL W. REYNOLDS (1890-1988)** was born in Omaha. A noted figure in the Omaha business community, he was President of the Reynolds-Updike Coal Company, and served on the board of several local corporations. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War I. A well-known golfer, he was the Nebraska amateur golf champion seven times. He received the Freedom Foundation Award for

directing operations during the 1952 Missouri River Flood. He served as a U.S. Senator from 1954-1956. He was a member and Past Master of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha, a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a Past Potentate of Tangier Shrine, Omaha. +

**MATTHEW O. RICKETTS (1858-UNKNOWN)** was born in Kentucky, and graduated from medical school. He later moved to Omaha to practice medicine. He served in the Nebraska Legislature from 1893-1897, the first African-American elected to office in Nebraska. He was a member of Excelsior Lodge No. 110, Prince Hall Affiliation, in Missouri.

**RICHARD E. ROBINSON (1903-1991)** was born in Omaha. He graduated from Creighton University School of Law, and began practice in Omaha for a period extending from 1927-1956. In 1956, he was nominated by President Eisenhower to serve as a federal judge for the U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska. He served in that position until his death. He was a member of Covert Lodge No. 11, Omaha.

**JOHN R. ROSENBLATT (1907-1979)** was born and raised in Omaha. He served as Mayor of Omaha from 1954-1961. Having been instrumental in getting a professional baseball franchise and the College World Series to come to Omaha, Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium was named in his honor. He was a member of Omaha Lodge No. 288.

**CHARLES C. ROSEWATER (1874-1946)** was born in Omaha and graduated from Cornell and Columbia. He entered the publishing business becoming vice-president of the Omaha Bee Publishing Corporation from 1905-1917. He

moved to California and became general manager of the Los Angeles Times. He later served as President of the Kansas City Journal Company, and edited the national magazine of the Scottish Rite (SJ). He was a member of St. Johns Lodge No. 25, Omaha (now consolidated with John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290), and was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason. +

**RONALD W. ROSKENS (1932–LIVING)** was born on an Iowa farm and attended college in that state, ultimately receiving his PHD from the University of Iowa. He began his professional career as an educator in 1959 in Ohio, later moving to Omaha where he became Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, Omaha. In 1977, he became President of the University of Nebraska. In 1990, he was appointed by President Bush to be head of the Agency for International Development, serving in that capacity until 1993. He has also served in executive positions on several corporate boards, and is active in church and religious matters. He is a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha, a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of Tangier Shrine.

**PETER A. SARPY (1804-1865)** was born in New Orleans and moved to Nebraska in 1823, where he established a fur trading post on the Missouri River, in what is now Bellevue. He established trading posts at several locations throughout the region, and set up a ferry operation to transport pioneer settlers across the Missouri. He helped design and establish the town of Bellevue. He was made a Mason in a Missouri Lodge, and the first Masonic meetings in what is now Nebraska took place on the second floor of his Bellevue trading post in 1855.

**JOHN S. SAVAGE (1905-1989)** was born in Omaha and was a nationally renowned photographer. He was a photographer at the Omaha World Herald, and his photo collections today comprise a large portion of the exhibits at several area museums. He won several national awards for his photographs. He was also active in politics and civic affairs, and served in the Nebraska Unicameral from 1971-1979. He was a member of Covert Lodge No. 11, Omaha.

**JOSEPH W. SEACREST (1895-1978)** was born in Lincoln. He was a newspaper publisher and broadcaster, serving as vice president of the Lincoln Journal Star Company, and the president of KFAB radio, Omaha. He was also in the insurance business, serving as Director of Bankers Life Insurance Company in Lincoln. He was a 50-year member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19. +

**WILLIS G. SEARS (1860-1949)** was born in Ohio and moved to Nebraska in 1879. He studied law at the University of Kansas, and set up a practice in Tekamah. He served in the Nebraska Legislature from 1901-1904, and was elected to Congress as the Representative from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District. He served in that capacity from 1923-1931. He was elected judge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, serving from 1932-1948. He was a member of Tekamah Lodge No. 31.

**FREDERICK A. SEATON (1909-1974)** was born in Washington, D.C., and attended Kansas State University. He entered the newspaper business in 1937 when his family purchased a paper in Hastings. He ultimately became President of Seaton Publishing Company, which published newspapers in Kansas, Wyoming and Nebraska. In 1951, he was appointed a U.S. Senator from Nebraska, and in 1953 he

became an Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Eisenhower administration. He was a member of Hastings Lodge No. 50.

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**PAUL J. SCHISLER (1893-1968)**, a native of Hastings, attended Lombard College in Illinois. He played college football, and later became the head coach at Oregon State from 1924-1932. He coached in the National Football League for the Chicago Cardinals (1933-1934) and Brooklyn Dodgers (1935-1936). He later owned the Hollywood Bears franchise in the Pacific Coast Professional Football League (1940-1946). After his retirement from football, he worked for the Los Angeles Times. He was a member of Hastings Lodge No. 50.

**ASHTON C. SHALLENBERGER (1862-1938)** was born in Illinois and moved to Nebraska in 1881. He engaged in farming and cattle raising near Alma. He was the Governor of Nebraska from 1909-1911, and was elected to Congress, serving from 1915-1919 and again from 1923-1933. He was a member and Past Master of Harlan Lodge No. 116, Alma (now consolidated with Jachin Lodge No. 146, Holdrege). +

**THEODORE A. SICK (1897-1978)** was born in Fontenelle. As a young man, he began work in the insurance business, beginning as a clerk with Security Mutual Life Insurance Company in Lincoln. He worked his way up the corporate ladder, and by 1943 had become President of the company. He was a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54, Lincoln, the Lincoln Scottish Rite, and Sesostris Shrine. +

**ROBERT G. SIMMONS (1891-1969)** was born in Scottsbluff. He graduated from the University of Nebraska,



Lincoln in 1915 and began a law practice in Gering. During World War I, he served in the U.S. Army Balloon Corps as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt pilot and observer. He was a U.S. Congressman from 1923-1933, and in 1938 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, serving in that capacity until 1963. He was a member of Robert Furnas Lodge No. 265, Scottsbluff, was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of Sesostris Shrine, Lincoln. +

**CHARLES H. SLOAN (1863-1946)** was born in Iowa and went to college there. He moved to Nebraska in 1884 and was admitted to the bar in 1887, practicing in Fairmont and Geneva. He served in the U.S. Congress from 1911-1919 and again from 1929-1931. He was a member of Geneva Lodge No. 79, and was a York Rite and Scottish Rite Mason. +

**FAY SMITH (1909-1968)** was born in Bellwood, and graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He graduated from medical school in Omaha, and set up a family practice in Imperial. He also served as Mayor of Imperial, and was active in local and state politics. He later became the Dean of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He was a member of Purity Lodge No. 198, Imperial, and was a member of the York and Scottish Rite Bodies in Hastings, as well as a member of Tehama Shrine, Hastings. He served as the Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1953.

**ALEXANDER V. SORENSEN (1905-1982)** was born in Grand Island. A high school dropout, he founded, with only \$900, an electrical equipment firm in 1935, ultimately turning it into a multi-million dollar corporation. He served on the Omaha City Council, and in 1965 was elected Mayor, serving

until 1969. He was lauded in a 1966 issue of Time Magazine as a “take-charge” type of mayor who had done a fantastic job in cleaning up the city and getting it moving forward. He was originally a member of Grand Island Lodge No. 318, later transferring his membership to St. Johns Lodge No. 25, Omaha (now consolidated with John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290).

**HARRY A SPENCER (1903-LIVING)** was born in England, and immigrated to the U.S. with his parents as a child. He lived in Omaha and graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He began the practice of law in 1930, and served as a county judge, district judge, and justice on the Nebraska Supreme Court. He was active in numerous civic activities, and is a dual member of Bee Hive Lodge No. 184, Omaha, and North Star Lodge No. 227, Lincoln. In 1964, he served as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska. He is a York Rite Mason (Past Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Nebraska), a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and Past Potentate of Sesostri Shrine, Lincoln.

**ROBERT M. SPIRE (1925-1994)** was born in Omaha. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was the Nebraska State Attorney General from 1985-1991. He was a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha.

**ARTHUR A. STARK (1900-1970)** was born in Hastings. He attended Kansas State University and played football there. He later coached football at Chadron State College, Creighton University and Midland College. He was a member of Fremont Lodge No. 15.

**KARL STEFAN (1884-1951)** was born in Bohemia and came to the U.S. the following year. He attended school in Omaha and worked variously as a telegraph operator, news writer, reporter, editor, and radio news commentator. He served as the U.S. Congressional Representative from Nebraska's 3<sup>rd</sup> District from 1935-1951. He also was a member of the committee that established the Philippine Commonwealth in 1935. He was a member of Mosaic Lodge No. 55, Norfolk.

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**CLARENCE SWANSON (1898-1970)** was born in Wakefield, and graduated from Wakefield High School. He played football for the University of Nebraska, Lincoln from 1918-1921. An end, he was captain of the Cornhuskers in 1921, and caught 3 touchdown passes in a 70-7 rout of Colorado State, a record that would stand until 1971. He was an All-American selection that season, and was voted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1973. He was a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54, Lincoln.

**LELAND R. TERRY, SR (1932-LIVING)** was born in Iowa and graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in journalism in 1953. He attended Creighton University Law School for a year before going on active duty with the U.S. Army. He served a tour as a lieutenant in Germany before returning stateside. He worked for a Denver television station for a year before returning to Omaha. He worked for WOWT and KETV as the prime newscaster and editorialist for the station. After an unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1976, he continued to work in local politics, veterans' affairs, and for the National Federation of Independent Business. He is a

member of Miloma Lodge No. 328, Omaha, and is a Scottish Rite Mason in Omaha.

**JOHN M. THAYER (1820-1906)** was born in Massachusetts and educated at Brown University. He moved to Nebraska in 1854 where he farmed and studied law, being admitted to the bar in 1855. He was a general in the territorial forces and commanded them in campaigns against the Pawnee. In 1861, he raised the 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska Infantry Regiment, and served as its colonel. He was later promoted to Brigadier and Major General, leading troops all through the Civil War. He was a U.S. Senator from Nebraska (1867-1871), Governor of the Wyoming Territory (1875-1879), and Governor of Nebraska (1887-1891). He was a charter member of Capitol Lodge No. 3. +

**AUGUSTUS O. THOMAS (1863-1935)** was born in Illinois and became an educator. He served as superintendent of schools in St. Paul, Minden, and Kearney. He was the organizer and first president of what is now the University of Nebraska, Kearney. He was resident of the World Conference on Education that met in 1923 in San Francisco, and wrote or revised numerous textbooks. He was a member of St. Paul Lodge No. 82. +

**ARTHUR W. THOMPSON (1886-1970)** was born in Bradshaw and lived in Lincoln. He was a nationally recognized expert and auctioneer in the cattle industry, calling more than 7,500 livestock sales from New York to California, as well as in Canada and Mexico. He was a member of York Lodge No. 56. #

**CHARLES THONE (1924-LIVING)** was born in Hartington. He served in the U.S. Army infantry during World War II, and after the war he graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln and set up a law practice. He served as a U.S. Congressman from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District from 1971-1979. He was elected Governor of Nebraska and served from 1979-1983. He is a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19.

**GEORGE H. THUMMEL (1848-1932)** was born in Illinois and later moved to Nebraska, where he worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. He was a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1871. He served as a member of the Nebraska Legislature from 1877-1879 and later as the U.S. Marshal for Nebraska (1897-1899). He was a member of Ashlar Lodge No. 33, Grand Island, and was Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 1877.

**JOHN M. THURSTON (1847-1916)** was born in Vermont, and ultimately moved to Omaha to practice law. He served on the Omaha City Council and as city attorney, and was elected as a U.S. Senator from Nebraska, serving from 1895-1901. He was a member of St. Johns Lodge No. 25, Omaha (now consolidated with John J. Mercer Lodge No. 290). +

**ROY N. TOWL (1881-1974)** was born in Chicago and later moved to Nebraska. He was an engineer, and established his business in Omaha. He served as Mayor of Omaha from 1933-1936. He was a member of Bee Hive Lodge No. 184, Omaha, and at his death was a 70-year member of the lodge.

**WARREN K. URBOM (1926-LIVING)** was born in Arapahoe and graduated from high school at age 16. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944-1946, and then attended

Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln. He began his practice of law in Lincoln, and was appointed as a Federal Judge for the District of Nebraska in 1970. He is a member of Craftsmen Lodge No. 314, Lincoln, and a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Lincoln.

**CLARENCE A. “DAZZY” VANCE (1891-1961)** was born in Iowa and moved to the Hastings area when still a toddler. He worked on his parents’ farm and began playing baseball. In 1912, he pitched for Red Cloud in the Nebraska State League. His first appearance in the major leagues was in 1915, and he had his best years as the star pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He led the National League in strikeouts for 7 consecutive years (1922-1928), and finished with a career total of 197 wins. He was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1955. He was a member of Clearwater Lodge No. 127, Florida. \* +

**JOHN D. VERMAAS (1937-LIVING)** was born in Lincoln. He began working as a carpenter’s assistant, ultimately establishing VerMaas Construction Company in 1960. This company builds, owns, and leases post offices and other buildings used by the Federal Government. He is a Past National President of the Homebuilders Board of Directors and Trustees. He is a member of Hickman Lodge No. 256, Lincoln, a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Lincoln, a Past Potentate of Sesostris Shrine, Lincoln, and a Past Imperial Potentate of the Shrine of North America.

**FLOYD P. VRTISKA (1926-LIVING)** was born in Table Rock and graduated from Table Rock High School. He engaged in farming and cattle operations. He served in numerous public offices, including 24 years on the Pawnee

County Board of Commissioners, and as Mayor of Table Rock. He served in the Nebraska Unicameral from 1993-2005. He is a 57-year Mason, having joined Table Rock Lodge No. 108 in 1950, and a Scottish Rite Mason.

**P. JEROME WARNER (1927-1997)** was born on a farm near Waverly. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln with a degree in agriculture. He also played football for the Cornhuskers. He continued to work the family farm and raise cattle throughout his life. His father had served in the Unicameral, and in 1962 he was also elected, serving until his death in 1997. He was the longest-serving state legislator. He was known for his efforts to improve the state highway and education systems. He was a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 54, and a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason.

**DEL WEBER (1932-LIVING)** was a native of Columbus. He has degrees from Midland Lutheran College, Doane, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. A career educator, he served in faculty and administrative positions at Cleveland State University (1965-1969), and as a professor and dean of education at Arizona State University (1969-1977). He was the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, Omaha from 1977-1997, and he is now Chancellor Emeritus. He is a member of George W. Lininger Lodge No. 268, Omaha, and a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason in Omaha.

**ARTHUR J. WEAVER (1873-1945)** was born in Falls City and graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He practiced law and later raised grain, fruit, and livestock. He was active in local politics, and was elected as Governor of Nebraska, serving from 1929-1931. He was a member of Falls City Lodge No. 9 and the Omaha Scottish Rite. +

**HARVEYL. WEBSTER (1867-1943)** was born in New York and later moved to Nebraska. He took up farming in Burt County and became active in local and state politics. He served in the Nebraska Legislature from 1920-1923. He was a member of Tekamah Lodge No. 31, and was a York Rite Mason and Shriner.

**ROGER WEHRBEIN (1938-LIVING)** was born in Lincoln and graduated from Plattsmouth High School and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He was in the U.S. Army for 2 years, and continued in the Army Reserves, serving as a company commander. He began a career in farming which he currently continues. He served in the Nebraska Unicameral from 1986-2002. He is a member of Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, and is a York Rite Mason.

**EDWIN S. WEIR (1903-1991)** was born in Superior, and graduated from Superior High School. He attended the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and was a star tackle for the Cornhuskers. He was Captain of the team from 1924-1925, and was also an All-American in those years. His team beat Notre Dame and its vaunted "Four Horsemen" in 1923, and defeated Red Grange's Illinois team in 1925. He played and coached in the NFL from 1926-1928, and later served as the Assistant Athletic Director at Nebraska. He was a charter member of the College Football Hall of Fame. He was a member of Superior Lodge No. 121.

**ADOLPH E. WENKE (1898-1961)** was born in Thurston County. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I, and began the practice of law shortly after the war. He was a district judge in Nebraska from 1938-1943, and a justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court from 1943-1961. He was a member of Northern Light Lodge No. 41, Stanton.



**KENNETH S. WHERRY (1892-1951)** was born in Gage County. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in 1914. During World War I, he served in the U.S. Navy as an aviator. He pursued a variety of careers, including furniture merchant, funeral director, and car dealer. He served in the Nebraska Legislature from 1929-1931, and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1943, serving until his death in office. He was a member of Pawnee Lodge No. 23, Pawnee City, a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner. +

**HOWARD WILSON (1894-1958)** was born in Lincoln. He was active in the insurance industry, serving as President of Bankers Life Insurance Company of Nebraska from 1919. He served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, and was a trustee of the National Society for Crippled Children. He was a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19, a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Mason in the Lincoln Scottish Rite, a member of the Lincoln York Rite Bodies, and a member of Sesostris Shrine, Lincoln. +

**JOHN W. YEAGER (1891-1967)** was born in Indiana. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I, and then began the practice of law in Omaha. He was a justice in Nebraska's 4<sup>th</sup> District from 1933-1940, and served as a Justice on the Nebraska Supreme Court from 1941-1965. He was a member of Mizpah Lodge No. 302, Omaha.

**DARRYL F. ZANUCK (1902-1979)** was born in Wahoo. Even though underage, he enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard and served with his unit in France during World War I. He moved to California and worked in writing and advertising for Warner Brothers. In 1933, he founded 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, becoming Vice President of Production, and finally President, serving in that capacity until 1971. He was a member of Mount Olive Lodge No. 506, Los Angeles, and was a Shriner. \* +