

*Chapter 05*  
**FREE  
MASONS**

The difference between operative masons and speculative masons is that speculative masons, what we call today the Freemasons, were non-working masons who were also admitted to operative lodges as "honorary members". The first record of a non-operative Mason being allowed into a Masonic lodge is in 1645.



Operative Masons used to also meet in Lodges; this continued until the Speculative Masons and their Lodges became more and more common, eventually leading to the first Grand Lodge in London in 1717.

Modern Freemasonry is called speculative Freemasonry because it is a speculative science from an operative artform. Speculative by definition means "engaged in, expressing, or based on conjecture rather than knowledge."

Operative masons were those who actually worked with stone.





Modern-day "Knight Templars" are not to be confused with the medieval Knight Templars.

There is no evidence these two are connected in any way.

The first American-born Freemason is said to be Jonathan Belcher, who was made a Freemason in 1704 while on a visit to England.



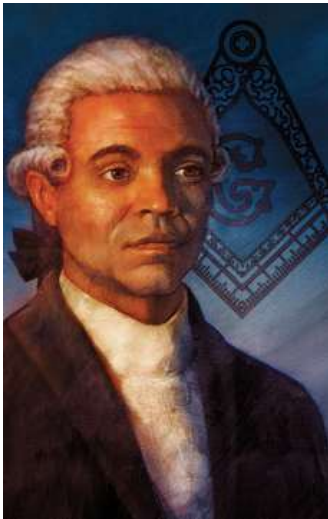
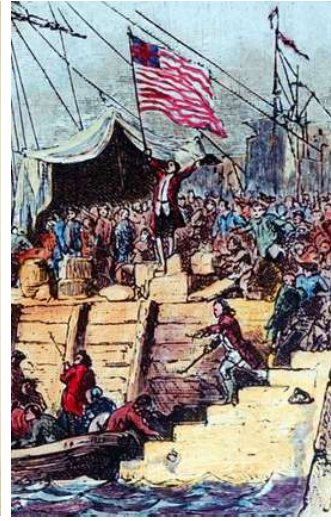
The first President of the United States was George Washington, and he was also a Freemason.

He was initiated on November 4th, 1752, passed to Fellow Craft on March 3rd, 1753, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on August 4th, 1753.



Most of the participants of the Boston Tea Party were actually Freemasons.

It is believed they had been secretly planning the raid for many months inside Masonic Lodges.



The first African American Freemason was none other than Prince Hall. He was also given the honor of being the first Grand Master of the Negro Grand Lodge (which was later renamed to a more appropriate Prince Hall Grand Lodge )

Thirty-one of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons.

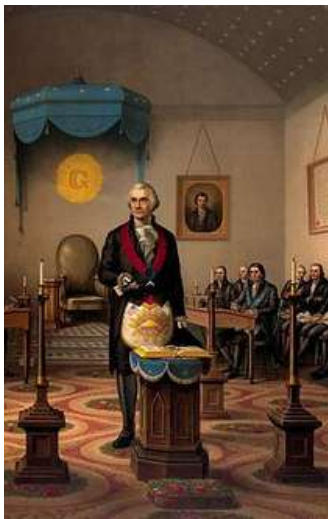
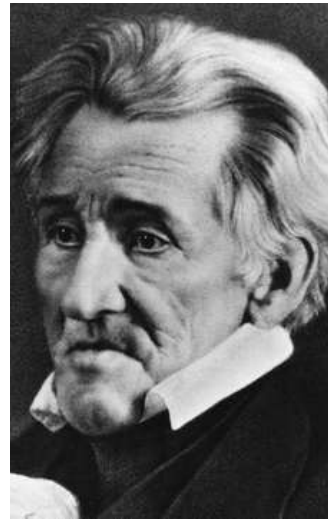




According to rumors/unconfirmed sources, 17 US Vice Presidents were also Freemasons.

If true, this puts the tally higher than the 15 US Presidents who were also Freemasons.

Every US President who came from Tennessee was a Freemason (Presidents Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, and James K. Polk )



For reasons unknown, Thomas Mortimer from Nebraska was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason degree 34 years and 10 months after his Entered Apprentice degree making it the longest wait between degrees currently known.



The cornerstone of the Statue of Liberty in New York was laid by William A. Brodie, a Scots-American businessman and Grand Master of Masons of New York on the 5th of August, 1884.



Mason City in Iowa (originally known as Shibboleth) is a city founded by several Freemasons.

Thomas J. Shryock of Maryland held his office for a record 33 years.

He also died whilst in office.





In 1947, eleven Caldwell Brothers made their 12th Brother a Master Mason in Corinthian Lodge No. 96 in Ontario, Canada.

J.A. Bonner was Master of Eureka Lodge No. 1060, and so were his six sons.



In 1940, a Master Mason degree was delivered at 750 feet below sea level in the Morton Salt Mine at Grand Saline, Texas by Grand Saline Lodge No. 1269.



An actual King (King Kalakaua of Hawaii )once acted as a Tyler when the 29th and 30th degree of the Scottish Rite were conferred in his own palace.



Vance Swift was a Made a Mason by Pythagoras Lodge No. 355 at 26 years of age.

He was 29 inches tall and weighed 34 pounds at the time.

James E. Payne was made a Master Mason in Washington DC at 92 years old.

This is the oldest recorded age of becoming a Freemason (thus far )







Arthur Smalley received his first section of his Master Mason degree when the Lodge went on refreshment, and in the meantime, authorities had shut down the building for unknown reasons. This resulted in the first known case of a “two and a half degrees”. The other half of the degree was given two weeks later.

The Fourth Duke of Atholl was initiated, passed, raised, and installed as Master, then Grand Master all in one day on March 1, 1775.

The reason for this is unknown.



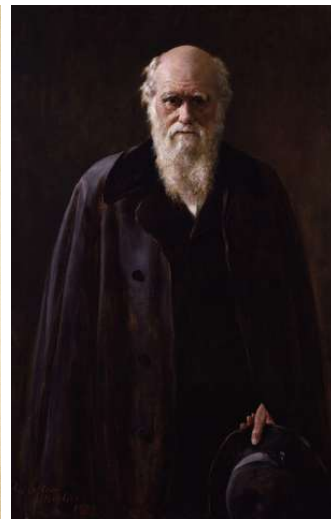
Mozart, Haydn, Liszt, and Sibelius (amongst others) all composed music specifically for “Masonic use”.

Before the OES was created, there were many organizations composed of Freemasons' relatives, such as Heroines of Jericho, The Holy Virgin, Good Samaritan, and others.



On his trip to the moon in 1969, Freemason "Buzz" Aldrin carried with him the Masonic Supreme Council flag and even took it out on his moonwalk.

There are many who claim Charles Darwin was a Freemason; however, there are no official records to prove he was actually a Mason.

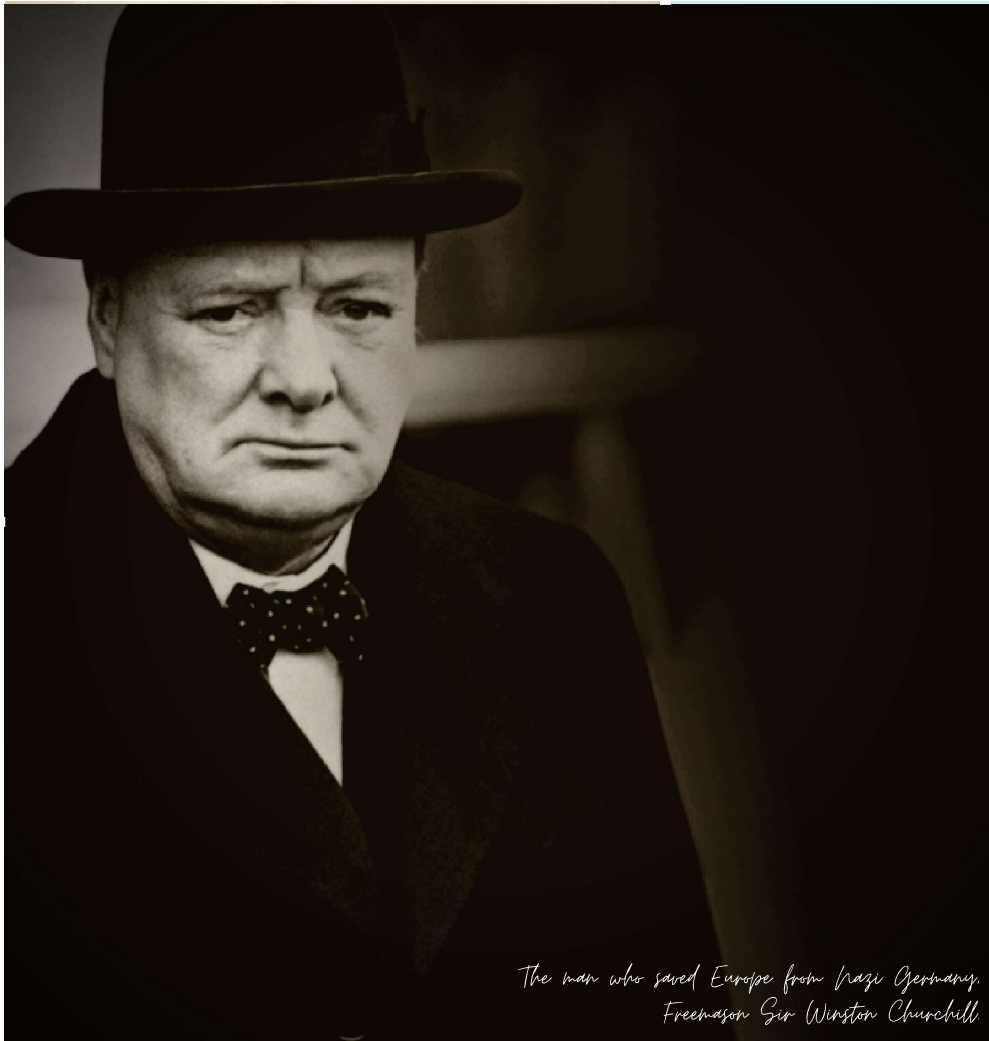






Hitler believed Freemasons were a tool of the Jews.

Under the Nazi regime, it's estimated that between 80,000 and 200,000 Freemasons were murdered in concentration camps.



*The man who saved Europe from Nazi Germany.  
Freemason Sir Winston Churchill*