



SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

# BULLETIN

FALL 2015

A full-length portrait of William McKinley, the 25th President of the United States. He is standing, leaning on a wooden railing with his left hand. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark bow tie. He is holding a white envelope in his right hand. The background is a dark, textured wall.

## William McKinley

25th President of  
the United States

MASONIC PRESIDENTS

WILLIAM MCKINLEY'S SOUTH  
MCKINLEY THE SOLDIER,  
THE LAWYER, THE POLITICIAN  
AND THE CONGRESSMAN

MCKINLEY THE PRESIDENT

DOOMSDAY

MOUNT MCKINLEY, ALASKA

MASTER MASONS

*William McKinley*

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## SCOTTISH RITE CALENDAR • FALL 2015 through WINTER 2016

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The meeting time for these events is 7:30 PM, unless stated otherwise, in the 2nd Floor Lodge Room. The meetings are limited to Scottish Rite Masons unless stated otherwise. All meetings are preceded by dinner at 6:00 PM in the Temple Refectory.

### NOVEMBER 2015

- 3 Mithras Lodge of Perfection
- 6 **FALL REUNION**  
4:00-5:15 PM – Registration  
9:15 PM – Recess to Saturday
- 7 **FALL REUNION**  
8:00 AM – Class reports;  
light breakfast  
7:30 PM – Reunion concluded  
with Feast of Consistory
- 10 Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix
- 11 **VETERANS' DAY HOLIDAY –  
OFFICE CLOSED**
- 17 Robert de Bruce Council  
of Kadosh
- 24 **EDUCATION & COMMUNITY  
SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM  
– 7:00 PM**
- 26 **THANKSGIVING DAY  
HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED**

### DECEMBER 2015

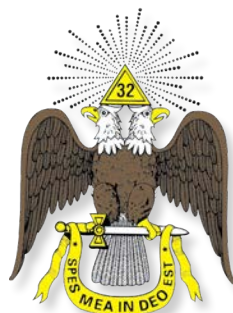
- 1 Mithras Lodge of Perfection
- 8 **EVAN THOMAS PROGRAM –  
7:00 PM**
- 15 Robert de Bruce Council  
of Kadosh
- 16 **BEGIN HOLIDAY RECESS**  
(Winter Recess – No Meetings  
from December 16, 2015 until  
January 18, 2016)
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY –  
OFFICE CLOSED**
- 28-31 **DCSR OFFICE CLOSED**

### JANUARY 2016

- 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY –  
OFFICE CLOSED**
- 18 **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
DAY HOLIDAY – OFFICE  
CLOSED**
- 19 Mithras Lodge of Perfection and  
Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix  
*2016 Elections – Joint Meeting*
- 26 Robert de Bruce Council of  
Kadosh and Albert Pike Consis-  
tory  
*2016 Elections – Joint Meeting*

### FEBRUARY 2016

- 2 Mithras Lodge of Perfection
- 6 **INSTALLATION OF 2016  
SCOTTISH RITE OFFICERS**
- 9 Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix
- 15 **WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY  
HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED**
- 16 Robert de Bruce Council  
of Kadosh
- 23 Albert Pike Consistory

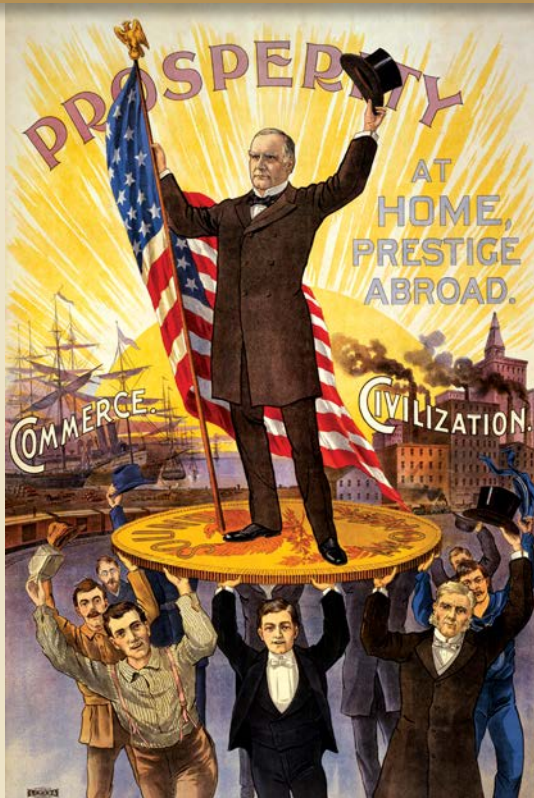


# BULLETIN

FALL | 2015

## WILLIAM MCKINLEY: 25TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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- MCKINLEY THE SOLDIER
- MCKINLEY THE LAWYER
- MCKINLEY THE POLITICIAN
- MCKINLEY THE CONGRESSMAN  
(1877-1895)
- MCKINLEY AS PRESIDENTIAL  
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- MCKINLEY WINS
- MCKINLEY THE PRESIDENT
- MCKINLEY'S RE-ELECTION
- DOOMSDAY
- MOUNT MCKINLEY, ALASKA
- MEN MENTIONED WHO WERE  
MASTER MASONS



### PUBLISHER

Ill. Leonard Proden, 33°

### EDITOR

Ill. Charles S. Iversen, 33°

This Bulletin is published twice a year for members of the Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

2800 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009



SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



2800



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### BY ILLUSTRIOUS LEONARD PRODEN, 33°

SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
SUPREME COUNCIL IN WASHINGTON, DC



*Ill. Leonard Proden, 33°*

It is with great pleasure that the officers and members of the Valley of Washington welcome each of our candidates into the Scottish Rite here in our nation's capital. We are confident that your associations here, which you will enjoy during your progress through the various degrees, will reward you with a most beneficial and better understanding of Masonry. The Reunion process will take you through 29 Degrees. Six (4°, 14°, 18°, 28°, 30° and 32°) will be presented as full dress allegorical plays in our auditorium. The lessons, emblems and regalia of the other 23 will be communicated to you in our upstairs Lodge room. At the conclusion of this Fall Reunion on Saturday evening, you will have become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason and styled as a Master of the Royal Secret.

As you observe the 29 Degrees, it is our hope that you will glean from your experience of the ritual the many profound truths and useful lessons taught in Scottish Rite Freemasonry. You will witness drama brought to the service of philosophy which assists us in recognizing truth—truth that makes us men and sets us free from burdensome fears—fear of life, fear of death, and fear of the unknown. To make the most of your experience, I suggest you focus particular attention on the concluding orations at the end of each Degree as these summaries highlight the important lessons (truths) that we should strive to retain and inculcate.

You may ask who are we and what does it mean to become a Master of the Royal Secret? My response would be: the Scottish Rite is for the man who is not afraid to think, who is willing to confront head-on the challenges of faith and philosophy, who contemplates that life has a meaning and purpose, and who ruminates on these through to conclusion. Many branches of Masonry promote the virtue of toleration as a fundamental truth: the concept that each and every man shares a common right to hold his own opinions concerning faith and observe a relationship with his Creator as he chooses. However, the Rite goes further and emphasizes not only toleration, but also freedom of thought, inspiring men to be courageous of opinion based upon intelligence and intellectual integrity. Other themes in our Degrees which I accentuate: God is to be revered without superstition and also civil authority or government should be completely devoid of political or religious tyranny. So, after experiencing the Scottish Rite Degrees it is our hope that you will be a Master of the Royal Secret who values mental honesty and makes a commitment to elevate your private conduct and your public virtues. So mote it be.

This *BULLETIN* is our biannual publication which is distributed to the members and candidates of our Orient prior to each Reunion. It provides our organizational structure, calendar of events, directory of key individuals, listings of officers, degree casts, committee assignments and other general information. Our nonagenarian, Ill. Charles S. Iversen, 33° SGIG Emeritus, serves as our editor for this publication and has returned to his favorite topic, Presidents of the United States who held Masonic membership. This issue features William McKinley. Our general secretary, Ill. Carroll J. Collins, 33°, also assisted and contributed to this article.

Thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason.

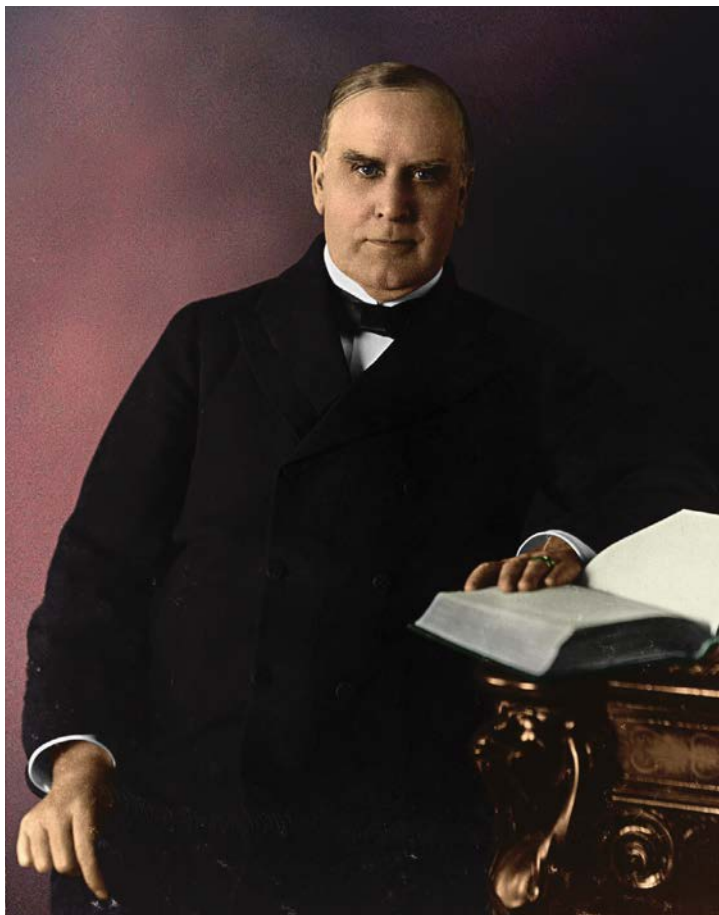


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# **WILLIAM MCKINLEY**

## **25TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

BY ILL. CHARLES S. IVERSEN, 33°,  
SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL EMERITUS



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### **PROLOGUE: MASONIC PRESIDENTS**

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Fourteen of the 44 Presidents of the United States were known to have been Master Masons, namely, Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Truman and Ford. That means that 33% or one-third of our presidents were Master Masons. The percentage of “Masonic Presidents”, therefore, was far, far higher than the percentage of adult males in the United States who are and were Master Masons.



Although not conclusive, and therefore, not among the above named presidents, was Thomas Jefferson who, according to some indications, may have been a Master Mason. However, there is no written proof of his affiliation with the fraternity, so he is omitted. Also Lyndon Johnson received the first degree of Masonry, that is the Entered Apprentice degree, but he did not receive the second and third degrees, presumably because he was too busy to take the time to commit to memory the considerable amount of ritual required of a candidate before he takes the two subsequent degrees, so he is omitted, as well.

This article, covering very briefly the life of William McKinley, is my twelfth article in the Bulletins about Masonic Presidents. Two have not yet been briefed by the author, to wit, James Buchanan and Warren G. Harding.

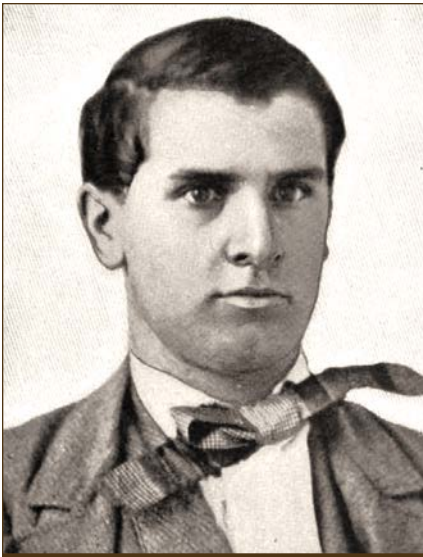
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### WILLIAM MCKINLEY'S YOUTH

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William McKinley, Jr. was born in Niles, Ohio in 1843 to William McKinley, Sr. and Nancy Allison McKinley, who were both of English and Scots-Irish descent, and were born and raised in western Pennsylvania. His Allison ancestors were among the earliest settlers in that state, and were mostly of English background. Both families were engaged in the iron-making business, and McKinley's father owned iron foundries in several

locations in Ohio, the last having been in Canton. The McKinley household was steeped in Whig politics and abolitionist sentiment. Their religion was Methodist, and William, Jr. became a member of that denomination at the age of 16 years. Religion was a major part of McKinley's life.



*William McKinley at the age of fifteen*

In 1852, the family moved from Niles to Poland, OH, where the children were expected to receive a better education. William graduated from secondary schooling in 1859, whereupon he enrolled in Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he remained for one year, but returned home in 1860 after becoming ill and depressed. Later he entered Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio. Although his health had recovered, family finances precluded further schooling, so he took a job as a postal clerk and teacher at a school near Poland, Ohio.

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### MCKINLEY THE SOLDIER

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In 1861, after the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, the Southern states started seceding from the United States and the Civil War commenced. Thousands of men volunteered for service in the Union army. McKinley and his cousin



enlisted as privates in the newly formed Poland Guards in July and left for Columbus where they were consolidated with other small units to form the 23rd Ohio Infantry. Ohio's governor, William Denison, appointed Colonel William Rosencrans as the commander of the regiment. McKinley took to soldiering quickly, and became friends with Major Rutherford B. Hayes of the same regiment, thus creating a friendship that lasted until Hayes' death in 1893. The 23rd was trained well as a fighting force and met its first engagement in Nicholas County, Virginia (later, West Virginia) where it drove back Confederate troops at the Battle of Carnifex Ferry. William was later assigned to the quartermaster's office, and in April 1862, he was promoted to sergeant. At this time, Hayes was placed in command of the regiment and it fought several minor skirmishes.

In September, the regiment was sent east to reinforce General John Pope's Army of Virginia at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Having been delayed, the troops arrived following the battle but joined the Army of the Potomac and proceeded north to cut off Robert E. Lee's advance into Maryland. The 23rd was the first regiment to encounter the Confederates there and continued to Sharpsburg, Maryland, where they engaged Lee's army at the Battle of South Mountain, and then within days, at the Battle of Antietam, one of the bloodiest of the war. Lee returned into Virginia, and the 23rd then was detached from the Army of the Potomac, and returned to western Virginia. While in winter quarters near Charleston, Virginia (present-day West Virginia), McKinley was ordered back to Ohio in order to assist in the recruitment of new men there. Upon arrival, he was surprised to be awarded a commission as a second lieutenant in recognition of his actions at Antietam.



*Nineteen year-old Sgt. William McKinley served under Rutherford Hayes during the Civil War*

The regiment was later engaged in battles at Buffington Island in West Virginia and Cloyd's Mountain in southwestern Virginia. In 1864, the 23rd was attached to the Army of the Shenandoah, where they captured Lexington, Virginia on June 11th. Continuing south, the regiment tore up railroad tracks and harassed the enemy, until they were sent north to fight Jubal Early, who had entered the state of Maryland. However, before reaching Maryland, Early defeated the Union troops at Kernstown, near Winchester, Virginia, so they retreated and the army was reorganized and placed under the command of General Philip Sheridan. McKinley was promoted to captain as a reward for his efforts. The newly organized army under Sheridan pursued Early's troops southward into Virginia, where McKinley's horse was shot from under him at Berryville. Other battles were fought at

Opequon Creek, where they broke the enemy's line, and at Cedar Creek, the culminating battle of the Valley Campaigns of 1864. At this time, Lincoln faced reelection to the presidency, and McKinley had his first opportunity to cast a ballot, for Lincoln of course.

On April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered to General Grant, and the war ended. Just prior to the surrender, McKinley had received his final promotion, a brevet commission as major. A week later, April 14, 1865, (Good Friday), President Lincoln, elated about the war's favorable end, and sitting in his theater box with his wife and others, was assassinated by a bullet that had been fired into his head by the actor, John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln was carried to a house across the street from the theater, where he died the following morning.

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### MCKINLEY THE LAWYER

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Following the end of the war, McKinley decided that he wanted to be a lawyer so he began to study law in the law office of a prominent attorney and former judge in Canton. The next year William attended Albany Law School in Albany, New York, where he remained for a year and was then admitted to the bar in Ohio, in March of 1867. That same year he entered into a partnership with attorney George W. Belden. Due to his financial success he bought a group of row houses on the main street of Canton and from them received in the future a stream of income for many years to come.



*McKinley around the time he entered law school*

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His friend, Rutherford B. Hayes, was elected governor of Ohio in 1867. McKinley aided him in his election by speaking several times whenever needed. Then in 1869, McKinley was elected prosecuting attorney for the county, but he suffered a drop in income since he made twice as much money as an attorney. Two years later, in 1871, he lost the office to his Democratic opponent.

As his professional life succeeded so did his personal life, resulting in his marriage on January 25, 1871, to Ida Saxton, the daughter of a prominent Canton family, who left her Presbyterian church to join her husband as a Methodist. Unfortunately, a spate of tragedies then ensued for the McKinley's. Their first

child, Katherine, was born on Christmas Day 1871. Then in 1873, their second daughter, Ida, died during childbirth. The child's mother was not strong under normal conditions, so this tragedy upset her immensely. Then in 1875, their first daughter, Katherine, died at the age of four. Ida, their mother, incurred several physical problems, among them epilepsy. For



*William McKinley's and his wife, Ida Saxton McKinley*

the rest of her life she was depressed and a partial invalid. Her husband took over nursing her and reading to her daily, usually from the Bible. Yet, she encouraged him to go on with his professional and political undertakings.

McKinley advanced in his law practice and took on important cases of his day. In one of his criminal cases he represented laborers who had been indicted for failing to halt their strike against their employer, even though the court had ordered them to stop. As the defense attorney, he succeeded in obtaining an acquittal of all but one of the defendants. This event gave him credibility among the laborers, so that when he entered politics, labor and the unions usually favored him.

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### **MCKINLEY THE POLITICIAN**

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McKinley announced his candidacy for election to Ohio's 17th Congressional District seat in the United States House of Representatives for the 1876 ballot. At the same time, his friend and military companion, Rutherford B. Hayes, former governor of Ohio, was nominated as the Republican candidate for the presidency. Both won election: McKinley by a large majority (over 3,300 excess votes); and Hayes by a small majority.

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### **MCKINLEY THE CONGRESSMAN (1877-1895)**

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When McKinley entered upon his first term as a Congressman in 1877 the House was controlled by Democrats, so he was allotted relatively insignificant committee assignments, yet he was most conscientious in handling them.

The first important legislation to face him was a bill to amend the Coinage Act of 1873 that had placed the economy on the gold standard. The amendment would require the

United States Treasury to purchase more silver, it being inexpensive then, and to strike a larger number of silver coins for circulation. This was opposed by the president who vetoed it. When the vote came up to override the veto, the motion to override passed with the help of McKinley's affirmative vote. Not only the president but also the Speaker of the House, James A. Garfield, opposed it, yet they remained close friends of McKinley. When McKinley became president himself, he also opposed the use of silver as a standard.



*Congressman McKinley*

Right from the beginning of his election to Congress, he favored high tariffs. He wanted businesses to become stronger and more prosperous. He believed that in keeping tariffs high on the imported goods that were vying with domestic products, a buyer would purchase the domestic product thus promoting local businesses. The businesses would then employ more workers and also be able to increase wages and other benefits. A win-win situation. Government's tax receipts should also increase.

When the Republicans took over control of the House, McKinley took on more influential positions in that body. He vied with Thomas B. Reed for Speaker of the House. When Reed won, he appointed McKinley as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, considered to be the most powerful

committee in the House. McKinley's closest political friends at that time were President Hayes, Speaker Reed, Governor Joseph B. Foraker of Ohio, John Sherman (a co-founder of the Republican Party), and Mark Hanna, an effective Republican strategist and politician.

McKinley was very efficient as a Congressman, so that the Democratic Party in Ohio gerrymandered the 17th District a couple of times unsuccessfully, so he continued to win. Finally, in the election of 1894, they succeeded in unseating him after 18 years in office. The Democrats put on a particularly strong campaign that year and ousted him with a small surplus of 300 votes.

McKinley was urged to run for election as governor of Ohio, so in 1891 he was nominated by his party to be the next governor and he was elected with a surplus of 20,000 votes.

Due to the unpopularity of President Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, who had preceded Harrison as president, was elected for a second term in 1892. At that time the Republicans started searching for a candidate for the presidential election of 1896, and



their choice fell upon McKinley, who had handily won the Ohio governorship in 1893, and maintained his national profile in that swing state.

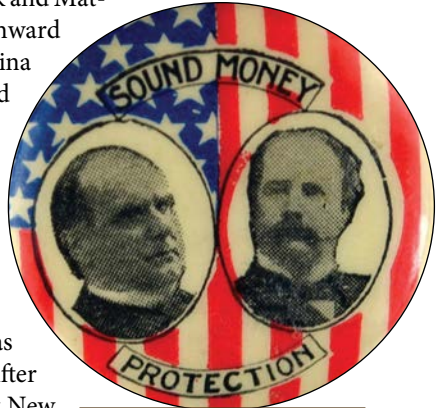
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### MCKINLEY AS PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

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It appears that McKinley first thought about the presidency in 1888 during talks with Mark Hanna, a prominent political power broker with considerable wealth and a good friend. More serious consideration of the subject started in 1895 when Hanna undertook several steps to foster McKinley's availability for the office. Speaker Reed of the House of Representatives and Senator William B. Allison were testing the waters. Hanna, however, carried on a superior unannounced campaign for his friend, interesting eastern Republican bosses such as Senator Thomas Platt of New York and Matthew Quay of Pennsylvania. He also looked southward where he bought a vacation home in North Carolina and invited McKinley to visit there so that he could meet with the southern states' Republican leaders.

The convention to select candidates was held in St. Louis starting June 16, 1896 and McKinley, thanks to Hanna, had a majority of the delegates in his pocket as the chairman rapped his gavel to call the meeting to order. McKinley was nominated on the first ballot. The primary question was the selection of the vice presidential candidate. After due consideration, Garrett Hobart, a prominent New Jersey lawyer and businessman, was chosen. The ticket for 1896 was McKinley and Hobart.



*A button from the  
McKinley-Hobart campaign*

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### MCKINLEY'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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One of the principal issues of the campaign, silver, was advocated by the Democratic presidential nominee, William Jennings Bryan, an exceptional orator. Being from Colorado, he determined that the way to promote a livelier economy was to go to the silver standard rather than remain on the gold standard. Since silver was less expensive than gold and more readily available it would overcome the sluggish economy. He undertook an exhausting campaign by covering the country with his oratory. It is during his campaign that he introduced the famous "Cross of Gold" speech to cheering crowds in the West.

Contrary to Bryan's option to take his campaign to the people around the country by train, McKinley chose not to move about but to stay home. So he spent his time in his house back in Canton. Occasionally, a group of individuals would travel to Canton and meet with McKinley on his front porch. His "front porch" campaign is now famous in the political history of the United States. He was available every day but Sundays and would address any visiting group by delivering a prepared talk. He chose his words carefully in order to avoid saying something spontaneously that might injure his mission. He was accustomed to saying, when speaking about his opponent's wordiness, "I have to think

when I talk”. Bryan was faced with another problem, namely, the reaction of easterners in general and most of the bankers, industrialists, brokers and others concerned with finances. They were tied to the gold standard as was the nation. Also, during the year of 1896, the economy had pulled out of the doldrums, leaving most people quite content with their lives.

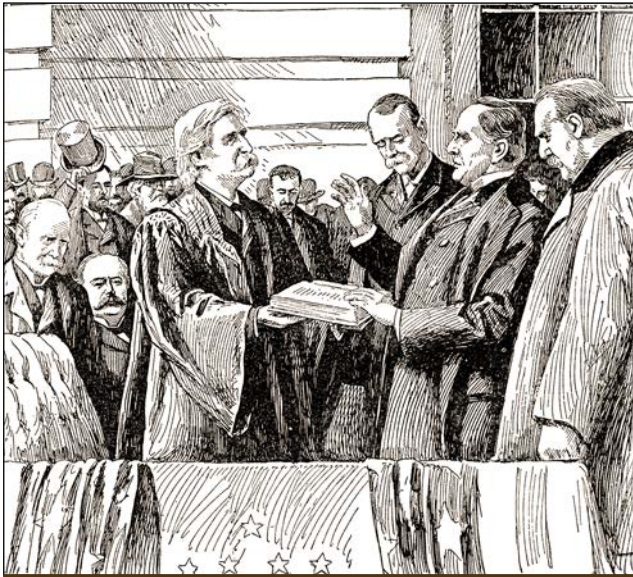
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### MCKINLEY WINS

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As we know, McKinley won the election for the presidency in November 1896. In fact, he did so handily. Bryan carried only one large city outside the south, namely, Denver, in Bryan’s home state. A majority of the voters in all other cities with a population of 100,000 or more preferred McKinley. The electorate gave McKinley two mandates: (1) stay on the gold standard, and (2) keep the tariffs high. McKinley’s greatest strength was among the urbanized Americans. He started an era of Republican domination in politics.

Between 1877 and 1933 all presidents but two were Republicans; the two Democrats were Grover Cleveland who served two divided terms (1885-1889) and (1893-1897) and Woodrow Wilson who served 1913-1921. Wilson was elected in 1912 when past president Theodore Roosevelt, who could not wrestle the Republican nomination from President William Howard Taft, ran on a Progressive Party (Bull Moose Party) ticket and split the Republican vote just about in half. Wilson then had a plurality of the votes, but the two Republicans had jointly more than one million votes more than Wilson. If left alone, Taft would undoubtedly have won reelection. The next Democrat to win was Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, during the Great Depression. McKinley was one of seven residents of Ohio who were elected president.



*Inauguration of President McKinley*

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## MCKINLEY THE PRESIDENT

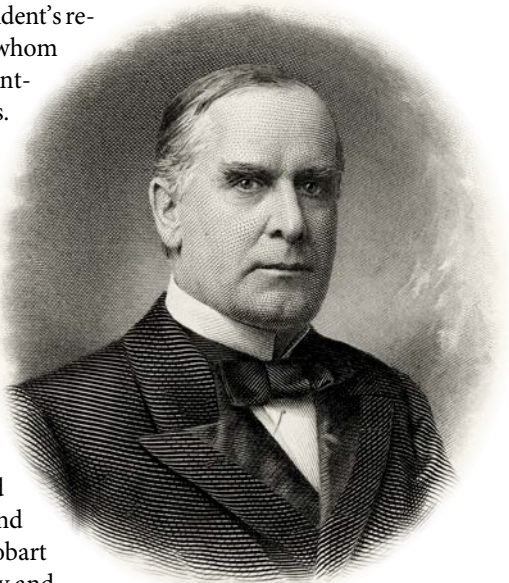
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McKinley was inaugurated on March 4, 1897 by being sworn in by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Melville Fuller, in the presence of a large congregation of citizens, including his semiinvalid wife and elderly mother. There then followed a long inaugural address covering the water front, principally comments on the need for high tariffs, currency issues and restraint against foreign entanglements.

### THE CABINET

His first Cabinet members consisted of the following men: John Sherman at State; Lyman J. Gage at Treasury; Russell A. Alger at War; Joseph McKenna as Attorney General; James A. Gary as Postmaster General; John D. Long at Navy; Cornelius N. Bliss at Interior; and James Wilson for Agriculture. Over the ensuing four years several changes were made, some at the president's request. In at least two instances, the persons whom McKinley wanted in office refused appointment, so the president had to choose others.

John Sherman had served as Secretary of the Treasury under President Hayes but in his senior years had developed limitations in his mental faculties. His two assistants at the State Department covered for him until he was replaced by William B. Day and, later, by John M. Hay. One other appointment was a disappointment, namely, Alger as Secretary of War. He was fine until the war with Spain broke out, when Alger was replaced by Elihu Root, a most competent lawyer and politician in New York. Vice President Hobart became a close personal friend of McKinley and moved into a rental home near the White House where he could communicate and associate with the McKinleys more readily. George B. Cortelyou was named personal secretary to the president and was a most helpful adviser. By 1901, the president had an excellent cabinet. When Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded to the office in September 1901 upon McKinley's death, he retained the cabinet as his own. That alone bespeaks of its unusual quality.




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*Presidential portrait of McKinley*

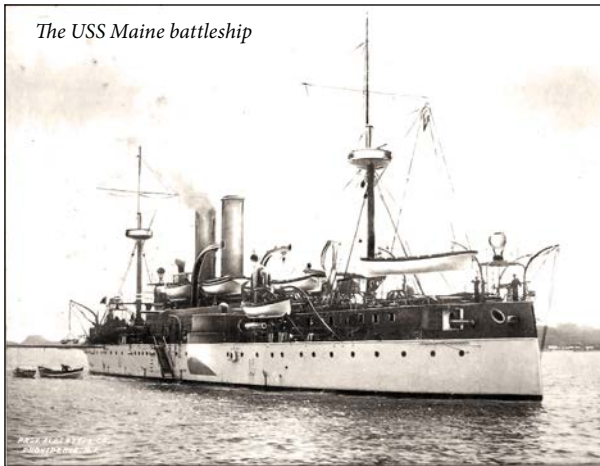
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### THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

For years, Cubans had waged a campaign for freedom from Spanish colonial rule. Then in 1895, the rebellion developed into a war for Cuban independence. Reprisals by the Spaniards became severe and cruel. News spread by American newspapers, and the public generally

sided with the Cubans. Some Americans called for American intervention in the rebellion, but McKinley was reluctant and set up a conference with the Spanish Government, but the Spaniards would not yield any concessions to relieve their system of governance.

As matters heated up, McKinley sent a battleship, the USS Maine, to Havana harbor in order to protect Americans and their properties there. The ship while docked in the harbor exploded suddenly, killing all 266 sailors aboard. A court of inquiry was formed to determine the cause and on March 20, 1898, it reported that the USS Maine was struck by an underwater mine. How this came about while the ship was tied up at the dock was not explained. William Randolph Hearst, the greatest publisher of newspapers in the world, having owned 28 of them, had taken up the plight of the Cubans for some time, but after this incident called for outright war against the Spanish government. He and his slogan, “Remember the Maine”, caught on with the public. McKinley, however, was still trying to avoid war and turned the matter over to Congress for resolution. Congress voted overwhelmingly for war, with the proviso that Cuba not be annexed by the United States.



Two weeks later, Admiral George Dewey, commander of the fleet in the Pacific Ocean, fought the Spanish navy in the Philippine Islands, and destroyed their navy located there without loss to any of his ships. The president then sent a large unit of army troops under the command of Major General Wesley Merritt to occupy those islands and defend them against attack.

In the Atlantic sector a group of army troops gathered in Tampa, Florida, for an invasion of Cuba under Major General Rufus Shafter. Among them was a voluntary cavalry regiment under command of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. On June 10, 1898, they invaded Cuba near Santiago de Cuba and engaged the Spanish army at the battle of San Juan Heights. It was at this battle that Roosevelt with his troops ascended San Juan Hill and, during an all-day fight, and with many casualties, succeeded in a complete defeat of the enemy.





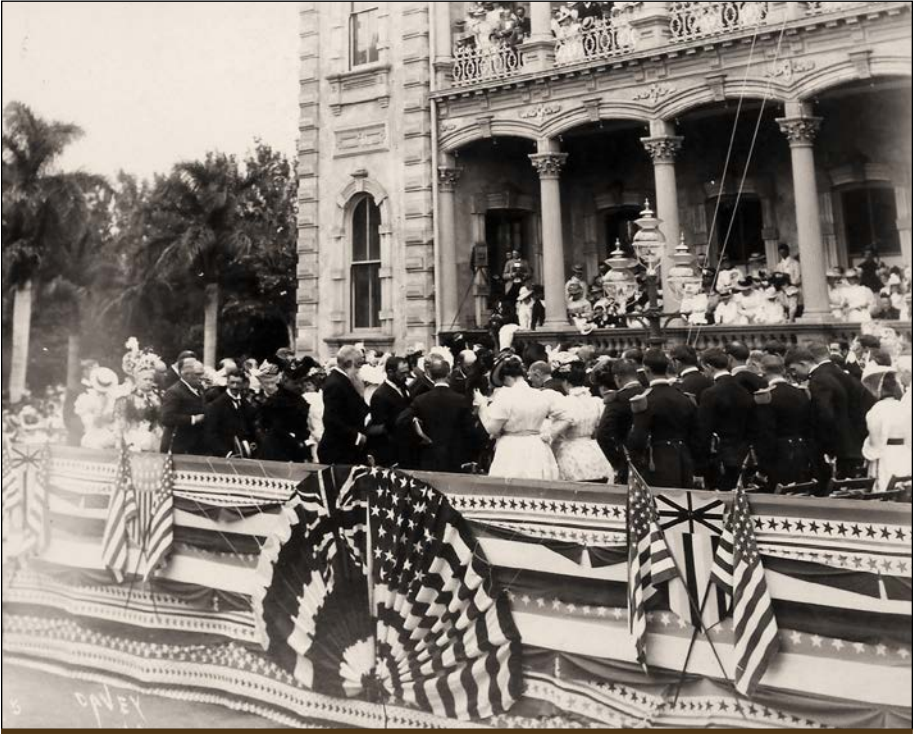
*The destruction of the USS Maine*

The following day, the American naval forces under Rear Admiral William T. Simpson caught the Spanish fleet sailing away from Santiago harbor and destroyed all of their ships. Spain was utterly defeated.

On July 22, 1898, the Spanish government authorized the French ambassador in the United States to negotiate an armistice with the United States. The ultimate result was the Treaty of Paris of December 8, 1898, that ceded Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippine Islands to the United States, and Spain relinquished all claim to Cuba thus leaving that country independent. On February 6, 1899, the Senate approved the treaty by a vote of 57 to 27. The Spanish-American War lasted four months.

## **OTHER PACIFIC OCEAN PROBLEMS**

Having resolved favorably the Guam and Philippine issues in the Pacific, attention was called to Midway and the Hawaiian Islands. In 1893, citizens of the new republic of Hawaii seized the reins of government from the royal family. In the Harrison administration a treaty to annex the islands was submitted to the Senate for ratification. Harrison's term as president expired without action having been taken by the Senate. Grover Cleveland was then elected president and withdrew the treaty, claiming that the residents of Hawaii had not had the opportunity to vote on the issue. Finally, when McKinley became president, he favored annexation of Hawaii. A bill was drawn up and passed by both houses of Congress and on July 8, 1898, was signed by McKinley, thereby annexing the islands. There was deep concern that Japan might take steps to control Hawaii, since it had shown considerable interest by sending naval vessels into the waters surrounding the islands. Finally, when all



*The Annexation ceremony on August 12, 1898, when Hawaii formally became a territory of the United States.*

was done, Wake Island, an uninhabited atoll between Hawaii and Guam, was also taken over by the United States on July 12, 1898.

It was hoped that settling the issues of Hawaii would place the United States in a better position in its trade with China. At the same time the Boxer Rebellion arose when foreigners and their property in China were menaced. McKinley sent 5,000 army troops to Peking (now Beijing) in 1900, called the China Relief Expedition. After all was resolved, the United States returned to its “open door” policy with China.

### **THE PANAMA CANAL**

Then came the idea of building a canal across Central America to provide ready access between the two oceans. It was and is impractical to travel around Cape Horn on the southern tip of South America, so the United States and Great Britain renegotiated the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty that permitted the United States to build and operate the canal provided its use was to be open to all nations for a fee. The Senate rejected the treaty because it did not permit the United States to fortify the canal. When this was resolved, the Senate approved and President Roosevelt accepted it after the death of McKinley. The French had attempted to build a canal but failed because they could not control the

spread of yellow fever and malaria. Additionally, they refused to use locks in the canal to overcome the differences in elevation and the clash of the tides in the two oceans as they met drove out the canal's fresh water. When it was decided to build the canal across the Isthmus of Panama rather than Nicaragua, Colombia's government refused to allow it to be built in Panama (then a possession of Colombia), so President Roosevelt aided the Panamanian rebels to gain independence from Colombia - sending naval war vessels to the Panamanian coasts in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans - thus preventing Colombia from reaching Panama and thereby assisting Panama to realize its independence and its right to deal with the United States directly.

## DOMESTIC ISSUES

As indicated above, the primary domestic issues facing McKinley as president were the tariffs and the use of silver as a monetary standard.

**Silver:** McKinley generally favored the gold standard. But prior to his first term as president, the economy was not doing well, so the use of plentiful silver instead of scarce gold appealed to the average voter. It was initiated by William Jennings Bryan, the Democratic nominee for president. In fact, it was probably the primary reason given for Bryan's potential election to the office during his campaigning. Western Americans of both parties were interested in the use of silver because it was plentiful in the West and would likely boost their economy. But as the months passed in 1895 and 1896, the economy improved



*President McKinley signs  
the Dingley Bill*

everywhere in the country. Also, a large amount of gold was discovered in the Yukon and in Australia so that gold could become more plentiful and less expensive. These reasons convinced McKinley to sign the Gold Standard Act of March 14, 1901.

**Tariffs:** McKinley always believed that high tariffs reduced competition from foreign imports by making foreign goods less attractive to consumers when compared with the lower prices of American goods. The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee introduced the Dingley Bill, named after him, that raised tariffs on imported foreign wool, sugar and luxury goods. When the French, suppliers of much of the luxury market, objected, the bill was amended slightly and then passed Congress and was signed by McKinley.

**Civil Rights:** While it had been some 30 years since the Civil War resulted in the abolition of slavery in the United States, African-American citizens were not realizing much progress in their new-found freedom. Their leaders called for more equality in hiring, particularly by the federal government. Some were appointed postmasters around the country and as minor government employees. There were assaults against some of them in the south, and southern legislatures enacted segregation laws, and in the north there were some more subtle instances of inequality. Did the abolition of slavery bring true equality? Not entirely, but life has become more favorable for African-Americans over the last 150 years since the end of the Civil War.

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### MCKINLEY'S RE-ELECTION

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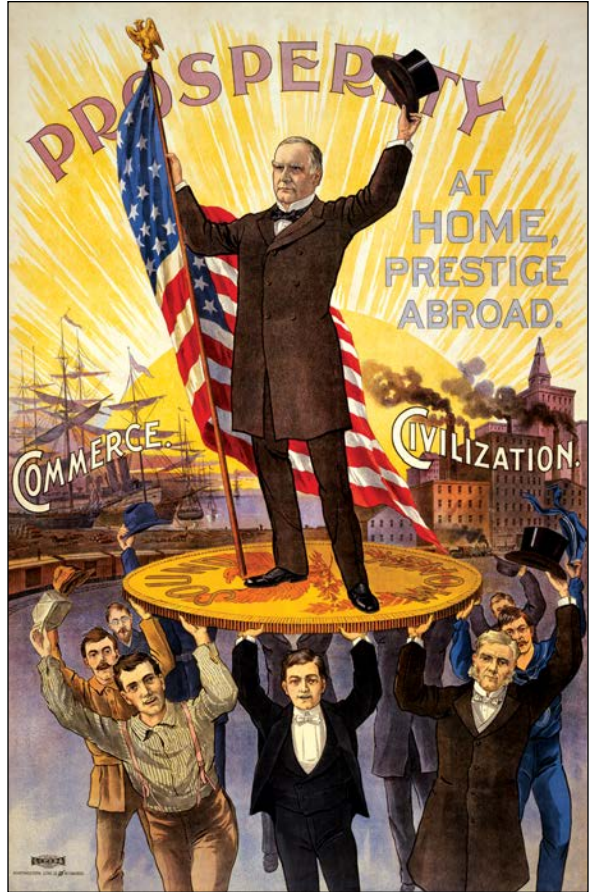
Having enjoyed a successful first term and having remained popular with the electorate, McKinley was assured of re-nomination and re-election in 1900 for a second term as president. The principal issue was the choice of the vice presidential candidate. Vice President Hobart died late in 1898. McKinley liked Elihu Root as Hobart's replacement, but Root was the Secretary of War and had done a splendid job in that office, so the president wanted him to remain in the cabinet. A rising star in the Republican Party was Theodore Roosevelt, Governor of New York, a former Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and holder of several other prominent federal appointive offices. Also, he was very popular with the





public nationally following his heroic leadership of his cavalry regiment during the battle in Cuba. In addition to that, Senator Thomas Platt, the party's boss in New York State, was pushing hard for his selection as part of the ticket. Roosevelt had given Platt problems in New York, interfering with the latter's authority there within the party, so he wanted Roosevelt in Washington. On June 21, 1900, at the Republican convention in Philadelphia, McKinley and Roosevelt became the ticket.

The Democrats chose William Jennings Bryan for a re-run. In 1896, Bryan had toured the country advocating the silver standard, but this time the country was in good financial condition. McKinley campaigned from his front porch again, but this time Roosevelt, who loved to campaign, gave Bryan a run for his money.



They both covered the country by train. How much Roosevelt contributed to McKinley's win is unknown. The Republicans won the election with the largest majority vote since 1872. Bryan carried only four states, having lost his own state.

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## DOOMSDAY

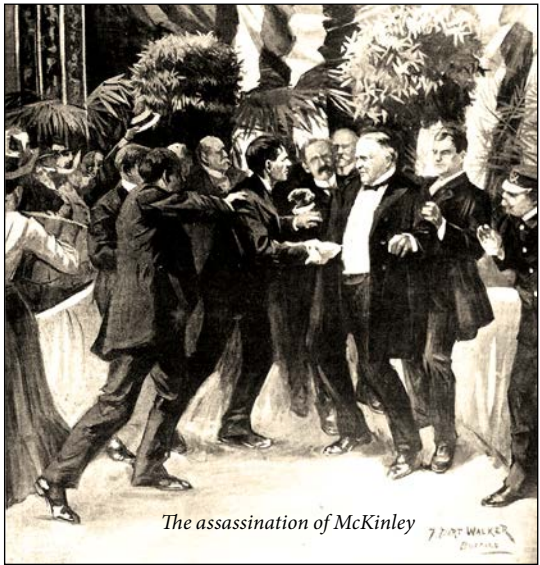
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Following the election, William and Ida McKinley toured the country to meet the public. Unfortunately, Ida took ill while in California, so William cut down on his itinerary. Near the last leg of their journey, they visited the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. McKinley's major speech there was delivered before an audience of 50,000 during which he talked about his plan to promote international trade during his second term. His private secretary, George Cortelyou, had been concerned about the president's security while exposed to the crowds, so he had the number of guards doubled while accompanying the president.



*McKinley's last address*

Among the members of the audience listening to the president was Leon Czolgosz who had managed to approach near to the speaker's platform while armed. He was determined to kill the president but refrained at that time from doing so, believing that he might miss. It



*The assassination of McKinley*

was announced that the president would like to meet the public the next day, September 6, 1901. That day Czolgosz got in the line to meet the president personally. As he approached the president he held his pistol concealed by a handkerchief and as McKinley reached out to shake Czolgosz's hand, the assassin fired two bullets into the president's abdomen. Czolgosz was caught and arrested on the spot. He later explained that he had shot the president because he had heard an inspiring speech given recently by one Emma Goldman, an anarchist in Cleveland, and so he decided to act for the cause espoused by her.



*President McKinley's funeral*

A prominent physician was present, Dr. Charles McBurney, who examined the wounds and expressed optimism that the wound was not fatal. The next day it was determined that the president had gangrene poisoning, and he died from that cause September 14, 1901. Czolgosz, the assassin, was put on trial September 22, was found guilty of first degree murder on September 26, and was executed on October 29, 1901.

The president was accorded the highest honors by having his body rest in the east room of the White House, then in the rotunda of the Capitol, and finally transported to Canton, Ohio, for interment there. Later a marble monument was constructed and his body was interred within it. Ida, his wife, despite her physical weakness, survived until shortly before the monument was completed. Since his death, McKinley's ratings as president have increased considerably and now place him in the higher echelon of presidents.

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### **MOUNT MCKINLEY, ALASKA**

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Mt. McKinley was named after President McKinley who presided over the restoration of the United States economy following a recession, and who had created a small empire with the acquisition of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and Wake Island, and gave Cuba its independence from Spain. It seems that many Alaskans prefer to call this, the highest mountain in the United States, Mt. Denali so that it will conform to the native name of Denali National Park within which it is situated. The Athabascan Tribe inhabited Alaska in ancient days, long before Caucasians appeared there, so in September 2015, President Obama renamed Mt. McKinley as Mt. Denali. (Some of the above was taken from The Washington Times newspaper dated September 1, 2015.)



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**MEN MENTIONED ABOVE WHO WERE MASTER MASONS**

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**RUSSELL A. ALGER**  
**(1836-1907)**

Alger was a member of Corinthian Lodge No. 241 of Detroit, having been raised December 9, 1895.

**CORNELIUS N. BLISS**  
**(1833-1911)**

A member of St. Johns Lodge in Boston, joining in 1858.

**WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN**  
**(1860-1925)**

Raised in Lincoln Lodge No. 19, Lincoln, Nebr. on April 15, 1902 and later affiliated with Temple Lodge in Miami, Florida.

**JOSEPH B. FORAKER**  
**(1846-1917)**

A member of Walnut Hill Lodge No. 483 of Cincinnati on May 19, 1885, and was also a member of Walnut Hill Chapter No. 151, RAM, Cincinnati Commandery No. 3, K.T., and El Koran Temple of Cincinnati.

**JAMES A. GARFIELD**  
**(1831-1881)**

Initiated an entered apprentice Mason on July 4, 1861, but owing to war duties he was not passed until Nov. 22, 1861 and raised Nov. 22, 1864, in Columbus Lodge No. 30 of Columbus at the request of Magnolia Lodge No. 20. On Oct. 10, 1866 he affiliated with Garrettsville Lodge No. 246 and served as its chaplain from 1869 to 1873. He was active in Masonry in D.C., from 1865 until his death in 1881. He was a charter member of Pentalpha Lodge No. 23 in D.C., also a member of Columbia Chapter No. 1, RAM, and Columbia Commandery No. 2, K.T., both in D.C. He received degrees 4 to 14 in Mithras Lodge of Perfection, AASR, SJ, in D.C. on Jan. 2, 1872 from Albert Pike. He attended a banquet honoring the Grand Master of England given by the Grand Lodge of D.C. in 1871. When he was inaugurated president, an honor guard of Columbia Commandery No. 2, K.T., D.C. was present. It and other honor guards from commanderies around the country were reviewed by him during the parade.

Columbia Commandery served as honor guard at the Capitol after his assassination. Commanderies from OH and several other states served at his burial ceremonies in OH.



## **GARRETT A. HOBART (1844-1899)**

He received his degrees in Falls City Lodge No. 82, Paterson, on July 8, Oct 31, and Dec. 8, 1868 and was exalted in Dataract Chapter No. 10, RAM, and St. Omer Commandery No. 13, K.T., both in Paterson, on Nov. 6, 1876. At one time he served as generalissimo of his commandery. On Dec. 23, 1896 he became a life member of Washington Commandery No. 1, K. T., in D.C. He received his Scottish Rite degrees to the 32nd, AASR, NJ on Jan. 31, 1876. He died Nov. 21, 1899.

## **WILLIAM MCKINLEY (1843-1901)**

While a Union officer in Virginia during the war, he was so overwhelmed by the love displayed by Union surgeons treating Confederate soldiers who had been wounded, that when he discovered that they all were Master Masons, he indicated a desire to become a Mason. He, therefore, petitioned a Confederate blue lodge in Winchester, VA, Hiram Lodge No. 21, on May 3, 1865 and was raised as such.

On Aug. 21, 1867, he affiliated with Canton Lodge No 90, Canton, OH, and on June 2, 1868, he became a charter member of Eagle Lodge No. 431 of Canton. (It was later changed to William McKinley Lodge in his honor). He joined canton Chapter No. 84 RAM Dec. 28, 1883.

He received the Commandery orders on Dec. 28, 1886, in Canton in Canton Commandery No. 38, K.T. On Dec. 23, 1896 he was elected a life member of Washington Commandery No. 1, K.T., in D.C. During the early part of his Congressional service in D.C. he was a frequent visitor at the various Masonic bodies in the District of Columbia. During the centennial ceremony of the death of George Washington Feb. 22, 1899, and at the dedication of the Masonic Temple in Canton, OH, on June 25, 1890, McKinley participated. On Feb. 7, 1901, a delegation from London, England, visited the White House and presented him with a certificate of membership in Columbia Lodge No 2837 of London. On May 22, 1901, he attended a reception given in his honor by California Commandery No. 1 of San Francisco. The gold invitation card presented to him was given by John Wanamaker to the Grand Lodge of PA.

While visiting in Adams, Mass. on September 7, 1897, while President, received the brethren of Berkshire Lodge and autographed the record book of that lodge. (For many years there has been a large bronze statue of McKinley in the center of the Town of Adams.) He was made an honorary member of the Illinois Masonic Veterans' Association. On Oct. 23, 1899 he tendered a reception to the members of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, during its 1899 biennial meeting in D.C. On May 23, 1900 he received in the White House the leaders of the Shrine of North America (now Shrine International), during an Imperial Council session in Washington, D.C.

At the ceremony of the one-hundredth anniversary of George Washington's death, mentioned above, McKinley had this to say during his address: "We have just participated

in a service commemorative of the one hundredth anniversary of the death of George Washington. Here at his home, which he loved so well and which the patriotic women of the united country have guarded with loving hands, exercises are conducted under the auspices of the great fraternity of Freemasons, which a century ago, planned and executed the solemn ceremonial, which attended the Father of his Country to his tomb... Masons throughout the United States testify anew their reverence for the name of Washington and the inspiring example of his life... the Fraternity justly claims the immortal patriot as one of its members; the whole human family acknowledges him as one of the greatest benefactors.”

Five commanderies of Knights Templar escorted McKinley’s remains from the White House to the Capitol on Sept. 17, 1901, and at the immense funeral on the 19th, 2,000 Knights Templar formed the fourth division of the funeral escort.

### **THOMAS C. PLATT (1833-1910)**

He was a member of Ah-Wa-Ga Lodge No. 587, Oswego, N.Y. He died on March 6, 1910.

### **THEODORE ROOSEVELT (1858-1919)**

A member of Matinecock Lodge No. 806 of Oyster Bay, N.Y. on Jan. 2, 1897, shortly after his election as the Vice President in January 1901; he was made honorary member of Pentalpha Lodge No. 23 in D.C. on April 4, 1904; he became an honorary member of Illinois Masonic Veterans’ Association and of the Masonic Veterans’ Association of the Pacific Coast in 1901. He reviewed the annual inspection and review of Knights Templar on the ellipse behind the White House on May 26, 1902; gave an address at the Masonic cornerstone laying of the Army Navy College Feb. 21, 1903 in D.C.; laid cornerstone at north gate of Yellowstone National Park Apr. 24, 1903; broke ground for the Masonic Temple in Spokane, WA; assisted in laying cornerstone of Masonic Temple in Tacoma, WA on May 22, 1903; was present at the memorial service for Benjamin Franklin at Christ Church, Philadelphia, Apr. 19, 1906, delivering the address; laid cornerstone of new Masonic Temple in D.C. (14th and N.Y. Ave. N.W.) on June 8, 1907; was present at the Pilgrim Memorial Monument, Provincetown, Mass. Aug. 20, 1907, and gave the address. He visited lodges in many parts of the world, including Africa, Europe and South America. His correspondence contains many letters to Masonic groups. He was a proud and active Freemason.

### **WILLIAM R. SHAFTER (1835-1906)**

Was made a Mason in Prairie Lodge No. 92 in Galesburg, Mich, while home on leave of absence in 1864. He was a member of the Masonic Veterans’ Association of Illinois and a few months before his death he wrote General John C. Smith, the Venerable Chief that he could not be present at the annual session, but “hope to have the pleasure of seeing you and your good wife some time next year.”

**JAMES WILSON**  
**(1835-1920)**

Member of Hesperia Lodge No. 340 in Iowa. Died Aug. 26, 1920.

**LEONARD WOOD**  
**(1860-1927)**

He was raised in Anglo-Saxon Lodge No. 137 of Brooklyn, N.Y. on Apr. 2, 1916; exalted in Normal Park Chapter No. 210, RAM, in Chicago, Ill; knighted in Englewood Commandery in Chicago on Aug. 23, 1919, and a member of Medinah Shrine Temple in Chicago. He received the 32nd Scottish Rite degree of the Scottish Rite, Northern Jurisdiction in New Jersey and was elected to receive the 33° but died before it could be conferred.

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**RESOURCES:**

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*William McKinley*, by Kevin Phillips, Time Books, 2003.

*The Presidents: A Reference History*, by Paul W. Glad, edited by Henry F. Graff, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984.

*Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia.

*10,000 Famous Freemasons*, by William R. Denslow, McCoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Co., Inc., Richmond, VA, 1957.

Pictures were taken from sources, mostly on line.



President McKinley with his Vice President, Theodore Roosevelt

## LEON FRANK CZOLGOSZ: ASSASSIN



*Czolgosz circa 1900*

Leon Frank Czolgosz (1873-1901) was an American-born, self-styled anarchist of Polish descent who shot President William McKinley at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, NY on September 6, 1901. When the President later died, Czolgosz was arraigned, put on trial for murder and found guilty. On September 26th he was sentenced to death for his crime, and executed in the electric chair on October 29th.

Czolgosz was a Cleveland steel worker, whose job ended with the economic crisis during the “panic of 1893,” and whose political views may have been shaped by the witnessing the strikes and labor violence that occurred during that decade. He is known to have been a member of the Order of Knights of the Golden Eagle Society, “a moderate workingman’s socialist club,” and “eventually, a more radical group known as Sila, where he became interested in anarchism.” His unemployment, (and possible respiratory illness) caused him to move to his father’s farm outside Cleveland, where he is reported to have become “a recluse...and spent much of his time reading socialist and anarchist newspapers.”

His anarchist tendencies were further strengthened after hearing about the assassination of the Italian king, Umberto I, by the anarchist, Gaetano Bresci; and hearing a speech by the political radical, Emma Goldman. Ironically, Czolgosz’s last words almost exactly echoed the sentiments expressed by Bresci! Leon Czolgosz was not exactly welcomed with open arms by the anarchist community, his “social awkwardness, his evasiveness, and



his blunt inquiries about secret societies” caused a notice to be published in the anarchist newspaper, *Free Society*, warning its readers to be cautious in any association with him.

Immediately after shooting McKinley, Czolgosz was attacked by the crowd, and delivered into the custody of the police. During his trial, Czolgosz’s attorneys were severely hampered by his lack of cooperation with them, and no witnesses were presented for the defense. His lawyers argued that “Czolgosz could not be found guilty for the murder of the president because he was insane at the time,” but this contention was apparently not sustained by medical testimony, and the judge “closed the trial with instructions to the jury which supported the prosecution’s argument that Czolgosz was not insane, and clearly knew what he was doing.” With these instructions in hand, the jury had no choice but to convict Leon Czolgosz of the murder of the President.



*Police mug shot of Leon Czolgosz*

After Czolgosz’s execution, a review of his case was made by Lloyd Vernon Briggs, Director of the Massachusetts Department for Mental Hygiene, for Dr. Walter Channing, who published an extensive analysis of Leon Czolgosz in *The American Journal of Insanity* issue of October, 1902. “Contrary to views almost universally expressed at the time of the assassination,” Briggs concluded that “Czolgosz was a diseased man, a man who had been suffering from some form of mental disease for years. He was not medically responsible and in the light of present-day psychiatry and of modern surgical procedure, there is a great question whether he was even legally responsible for the death of our President.”

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during his lifetime — to set an  
example — and when he is dead,  
to be an inspiration for history.”

*William McKinley Jr.  
December 29, 1899*

