



The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 32

NOVEMBER 1975

NO. 3

JOHN WITHERSPOON

John Witherspoon

Patriot



U.S. Postage 9c

On November 10, 1975 a 9c Postal Card honoring John Witherspoon was issued.

Reverend Witherspoon was a Presbyterian clergyman who served as president of Princeton University, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.

Masonically, Witherspoon is admitted by many writers to be a member of the Fraternity but no proof exists.

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EDITOR Robert A. Smith

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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever-increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Every Month
(Except July and August)

COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING
22 East 35th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10017

42ND YEAR

PROGRAM FOR THE 1975-76 YEAR

1975

Sept.	12 Get Together
Oct.	3 Lecture—Robert A. Smith
Nov.	7 Bicentennial Program
Nov. 21-23	ASDA Show, Madison Square Garden, New York
Dec.	5 Past Presidents Night

1976

Jan.	2 First Day Cover Slide Program
Feb.	6 Bicentennial Program
Mar.	5 Masonic Night
April	2 Annual Competition
May	7 Annual Dinner
June	4 Annual Meeting, Election and Installation of Officers

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451 WEST 46th STREET
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Facts About the President

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GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

38th President

Born—July 14, 1913 (original name: Leslie Lynch King, Jr.)

Birthplace—Omaha, Neb.

College attended—University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Date of graduation—June 17, 1935, four-year course, B.A. degree

Postgraduate education—Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Date of graduation—June 18, 1941, LL.B. degree

Religion—Episcopalian

Ancestry—English

Occupation—Lawyer, Representative, Vice President

Date and place of marriage—Oct. 15, 1948, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Age at marriage—35 years, 93 days

Political party—Republican

State represented—Michigan

Term of office—Aug. 9, 1974-

Administration—47th

Congresses—93rd, 94th

Age at inauguration—61 years, 26 days

PARENTS

Father—Leslie Lynch King

Born—July 25, 1882, Riverton, Wyo.

Married (1)—Dorothy Ayer Gardner, 1912

Married (2)—Margaret Atwood, Jan. 5, 1919, Yuma, Ariz.

Occupation—Wool trader

Died—Feb. 18, 1941, Tucson, Ariz.

Age at death—59 years, 208 days

Mother—Dorothy Ayer Gardner King Ford

Born—Feb. 28, 1892, Harvard, Ill.

Married (1)—Leslie Lynch King, 1912

Married (2)—Gerald Rudolff Ford, Feb. 1, 1916, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Died—Sept. 17, 1967, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Age at death—75 years, 201 days

Second husband of mother—Gerald Rudolff Ford

Born—Dec. 9, 1889, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Occupation—Paint company owner

Died—Jan. 26, 1962, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Age at death—72 years, 48 days

Second wife of father—Margaret Atwood

Born—1891

Married (1)—Leslie Lynch King, Jan. 5, 1919, Yuma, Ariz.

Married (2)—Roy Mather, 1949

Gerald Rudolph Ford (originally named Leslie Lynch King, Jr.) was the only child of Leslie Lynch King and Dorothy Ayer Gardner King, whose marriage ended in divorce in 1915. She moved from Omaha to Grand Rapids and there married Gerald Rudolff Ford, who adopted her son and renamed him Gerald R. Ford, Jr. The younger Ford changed the spelling of his middle name to Rudolph.

(Children of Gerald Rudolff Ford and Dorothy Ayer Gardner King Ford (half-brothers of Gerald Rudolph Ford)

Thomas Gardner Ford, b. July 15, 1918, Grand Rapids, Mich.; m. Janet Pack-er, Sept. 12, 1942

Richard Addison Ford, b. June 3, 1924, Grand Rapids, Mich.; m. Ellen Platte, June 12, 1947

James Francis Ford, b. Aug. 11, 1927, Grand Rapids, Mich.; m. Barbara Brunner, May 28, 1949

(Children of Leslie Lynch King and Margaret Atwood King (half-sisters and half-brother of Gerald Rudolph Ford)

Majorie King, b. 1921; m. Alton Werner Leslie (Bud) Henry King; b. 1923

Patricia King, b. 1925

CHILDREN

Michael Gerald Ford, b. Mar. 14, 1950, Washington, D.C.; m. Gayle Ann Brumbaugh, July 5, 1974, Catonsville, Md.

John (Jack) Gardner Ford, b. Mar. 16, 1952, Washington, D.C.

Steven Meigs Ford, b. May 19, 1956, Washington, D.C.

Susan Elizabeth Ford, b. July 6, 1957, Washington, D.C.

MRS. GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

Name—Elizabeth (Betty) Bloomer Warren Ford

Date of birth—Apr. 8, 1918

Birthplace—Chicago, Ill.

Age at marriage (to Gerald Rudolph Ford, Oct. 15, 1948)—30 years, 190 days

Children—3 sons, 1 daughter

Mother—Hortense Nehr Bloomer

Father—William Stephenson Bloomer

His occupation—Machinery salesman

Years younger than the President—4 years, 278 days

Elizabeth Bloomer's first marriage was to William C. Warren in 1942. They were divorced on September 22, 1947.

ADMINISTRATION — IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 12, 1974, President addressed Congress, calling for measures to fight inflation, "public enemy number one"

Aug. 14, 1974, forty-year ban on private gold transactions lifted

Aug. 20, 1974, House of Representatives accepted Judiciary Committee's impeachment report (action would have initiated impeachment proceedings and trial had President Nixon not resigned)

Aug. 21, 1974, \$25.2 billion education bill enacted, placing limitations on busing

Aug. 24, 1974, Council on Wage and Price Stability established

Sept. 2, 1974, federal standards for private pension plans adopted

Sept. 4, 1974, diplomatic relations established with East Germany

Sept. 8, 1974, President granted unconditional pardon to former President Nixon

Sept. 16, 1974, President offered plan granting conditional amnesty to draft evaders and military deserters

Sept. 27-28, 1974, President held national economic conference, renewing commitment to fight inflation and recession

Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 1974, international conference on oil-price crisis held in Washington

Oct. 1, 1974, Watergate cover-up trial of seven former presidential aides began

Oct. 8, 1974, President, in televised address, outlined anti-inflation tax program, proposing temporary 5 per cent surcharge on corporate and upper-level incomes, small reduction of taxes on lower-level incomes, investment tax credit, and liberalization of capital gains tax

Oct. 15, 1974, campaign reform legislation enacted, providing for public funding of presidential campaigns

Oct. 17, 1974, compromise legislation on military aid to Turkey passed by Congress

Oct. 19, 1974, limited Soviet grain purchases authorized

Oct. 29, 1974, federal savings insurance limit increased from \$20,000 to \$40,000

Nov. 1974, mass cutbacks and layoffs announced by automobile manufacturers

Nov. 4, 1974, Watergate prosecutors released document in which defendant E. Howard Hunt refuted contention that burglars had been given money solely for humanitarian reasons

Nov. 5, 1974, Democratic landslide in congressional elections

Nov. 19, 1974, President conferred in Tokyo with prime minister and emperor of Japan (first incumbent President to visit Japan and first to visit a foreign country without a Vice President in office)

Nov. 20, 1974, Department of Justice filed civil antitrust suit against American Telephone and Telegraph Corporation

Nov. 21, 1974, \$11.8 billion mass transit bill enacted

Nov. 23-24, 1974, President Ford and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev conferred in Vladivostok on nuclear weapons agreement

Dec. 15-16, 1974, President Ford and French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing met on island of Martinique to discuss energy and gold policies

Dec. 19, 1974, Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller confirmed and sworn in as Vice President

Dec. 20, 1974, Congress passed foreign trade bill with Soviet emigration provisions despite Soviet rejection of conditions

Jan. 1, 1975, John N. Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, and Robert C. Mardian convicted in Watergate cover-up trial; Kenneth W. Parkinson acquitted

- Jan. 4, 1975, President announced establishment of commission to investigate charges of illegal domestic surveillance by the CIA
- Jan. 15, 1975, President's State of the Union address proposed economic and energy-conservation measures, including income-tax cuts and increased taxes on crude oil
- Jan. 16, 1975, Department of Commerce reported steep drop in gross national product and continuing inflation
- Jan. 20, 1975, President appointed twenty-five members to American Revolutionary Bicentennial Advisory Council
- Jan. 23, 1975, import fee on petroleum increased by one dollar per barrel
- Jan. 28, 1975, President requested \$522 million in aid for South Vietnam as military situation worsened
- Feb. 3, 1975, President submitted \$349.4 billion federal budget, predicting slow recovery from serious recession (11.3 per cent inflation and 8.1 per cent unemployment)
- Feb. 12, 1975, U.S. military aid to Cambodia doubled as Communist rebels intensified attacks
- March 1975, military situation in Cambodia and South Vietnam rapidly deteriorated
- Mar. 7, 1975, Senate adopted new filibuster rule, changing requirements for cloture from two-thirds vote to three-fifths vote
- Mar. 9, 1975, Alaskan oil pipeline construction started
- Mar. 17, 1975, Supreme Court ruled that federal government has exclusive rights to oil and gas resources on continental shelf beyond the three-mile limit
- Mar. 19, 1975, disclosure of multimillion-dollar CIA-backed operation to recover nuclear missiles from Soviet submarine lost in Pacific Ocean
- Mar. 23, 1975, breakdown of Arab-Israeli negotiations led by Secretary of State Kissinger
- Mar. 29, 1975, President signed \$22.8 billion tax-cut and tax-rebate legislation
- Apr. 3, 1975, start of airlift of Vietnamese children to adoptive parents in the United States
- Apr. 10, 1975, President appealed to Congress for military and humanitarian aid to South Vietnam as thousands of refugees fled areas lost by Saigon
- Apr. 16, 1975, Cambodian government surrendered to Communist rebel forces
- Apr. 17, 1975, former Secretary of the Treasury Connally acquitted in milk-price bribery trial
- Apr. 19, 1975, ceremonies honoring bicentennial anniversary of battles of Concord and Lexington
- Apr. 21, 1975, President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam resigned
- Apr. 24, 1975, evacuation of thousands of South Vietnamese to Guam; tentative congressional agreement on evacuation and humanitarian aid, but not military aid
- Apr. 27, 1975, Saigon shelled and imperiled by approaching Communist forces; President Ford ordered helicopter evacuation of remaining Americans
- Apr. 29, 1975, U.S. involvement in South Vietnam ended with evacuation of 1,000 Americans and 5,500 South Vietnamese
- Apr. 30, 1975, South Vietnam government announced unconditional surrender to the Vietcong

IMPORTANT DATES IN HIS LIFE

- June 1931, graduated from South High School, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- 1932-1933, member of University of Michigan's national championship football teams
- 1934, voted most valuable player
- 1935-1940, assistant varsity football coach, Yale University
- July 1936, worked as ranger in Yellowstone National Park
- June 7, 1941, admitted to Michigan bar; practiced in Grand Rapids
- June 18, 1941, graduated from Yale Law School, LL.B. degree
- Apr. 20, 1942, enlisted as ensign in U.S. Naval Reserve
- Jan. 1946, discharged as lieutenant commander; resumed law practice in Grand Rapids
- Sept. 14, 1948, won Republican nomination for U.S. House of Representatives, defeating four-term incumbent in primary
- Nov. 2, 1948, elected to Congress
- Jan. 3, 1949-Dec. 6, 1973, served in U.S. House of Representatives (Fifth District, Michigan)

1965, co-author (with John R. Stiles) of "Portrait of the Assassin" (Lee Harvey Oswald)

Jan. 4, 1965, elected House minority leader

Dec. 6, 1973, confirmed as Vice President (nominated by President Nixon, under provisions of Twenty-fifth Amendment, after resignation of Vice President Agnew)

Aug. 9, 1974, succeeded to presidency following resignation of President Nixon

GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

- was the first President to succeed to the presidency under the Twenty-fifth Amendment.
- was the first President to succeed to the presidency as a result of the resignation of his predecessor.
- was the first President to pardon his predecessor for possible offenses against the United States.
- was the ninth President to succeed to the presidency without being elected to the office.

ADDITIONAL DATA ON FORD

OATH OF OFFICE

Gerald Rudolph Ford was sworn in as the thirty-eighth President on August 9, 1974, at 12:03 p.m. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in the East Room of the White House. In his inaugural comments to a nation saddened and stunned by the tumultuous events of the preceding months, he took note of the unprecedented circumstances under which he had succeeded to the presidency:

The oath I have taken is the same oath that was taken by George Washington and by every President under the Constitution. But I assume the presidency under extraordinary circumstances, never before experienced by Americans. This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts.

Therefore, I feel it is my first duty to make an unprecedented compact with my countrymen. Not an inaugural speech, not a fireside chat, not a campaign speech, just a little straight talk among friends. And I intend it to be the first of many.

I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your President by

your ballots. So I ask you to confirm me as your President with your prayers. And I hope that such prayers will also be the first of many.

If you have not chosen me by secret ballot, neither have I gained office by any secret promises. I have not campaigned either for the presidency or the vice presidency. I have not subscribed to any partisan platform. I am indebted to no man and only to one woman—my dear wife—as I begin the most difficult job in the world.

I have not sought this enormous responsibility, but I will not shirk it. . . .

My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over.

Our Constitution works; our great republic is a government of laws and not of men.

FIRST PRESIDENTIAL TEAM IN OFFICE WITHOUT NATIONAL ELECTION

The first President and Vice President to serve together without being elected to their respective offices were President Gerald Rudolph Ford and Vice President Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller. Both reached office under the provisions of the Twenty-fifth Amendment.

Ford was nominated Vice President by President Nixon on October 12, 1973, two days after the resignation of Spiro Theodore Agnew; on December 6, 1973, Ford was confirmed and sworn in. With the resignation of Nixon on August 9, 1974, Ford succeeded to the presidency.

Rockefeller was nominated Vice President by President Ford on August 20, 1974; on December 19, 1974, after protracted hearings, he was confirmed and sworn in.

Nixon served 56 days without a Vice President; Ford served 132 days without a Vice President.

PRESIDENT AND STEPFATHER BOTH THIRTY-THIRD-DEGREE MASONS

The thirty-third and highest degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry was conferred on Gerald Rudolph Ford, Sr., on September 30, 1949. The same honorary membership was conferred on Gerald Rudolph Ford, his stepson, on September 26, 1962 (in the Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America).

THE FIRST LADY

Elizabeth (Betty) Bloomer Warren Ford was suddenly and dramatically thrust into her position as First Lady in August 1974, just eight months after her husband had assumed office as Vice President.

Before her marriage to Gerald Ford, she had pursued a number of activities. A teenage model at a store in Grand Rapids, she was later a dance instructor and a student of Martha Graham. After attending the Bennington School of the Dance in Vermont, she moved to New York City to work with the Graham dance group; then, back in Grand Rapids, she became a fashion coordinator and a volunteer teacher of dance to underprivileged children.

As the wife of a member of Congress, Mrs. Ford took no direct part in politics, concentrating her efforts on providing a strong and devoted family background for her husband and children. As the President's wife, she became more active; one public stand was her endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment.

SIR JOHN ALEXANDER MACDONALD—

FIRST PREMIER OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA. 1815-1891.

Sir John Alexander Macdonald was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1815, and went to Canada with his parents five years later.

Elected a member of the Provincial Parliament in 1844, he was largely instrumental in accomplishing Federation of the Canadian Colonies, and became first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada. He was knighted in 1867.

I have no record of Sir John's Lodge or date of initiation; but at the 13th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada, Worshipful Brother Sir John A. Macdonald was on that occasion, July, 1868, given rank of Past Senior Grand Warden.

Stamps on which depicted: **Canada 118, 119** (he is one of the figures in Robert Harris's painting, reproduced on the stamp, of "The Fathers of Confederation"), **125** (with Sir Wilfred Laurier, who was not a Mason), and **188**, where he is one of the Confederation Conference at Charlottetown in September, 1864.

CARLOS MARIA de ALVEAR

Alvear was initiated in Spain and was a member and Master of Lodge Caballeros Racionales No. 7 in Cadiz.

On his return to Buenos Aires he was one of the founders of Lodge Lautaro in 1812, along with San Martin, liberator of the country.

He is also said to have been a member of Federal Lodge No. 15 in Washington, D.C., and to have attended the cornerstone laying of the Washington Monument.

Carlos Alvear was an Argentine general and politician who, during the Argentine wars of emancipation, served his country with honor.

In 1814 he was the victorious beseiger of Montevideo, Uruguay and a year later he was named Supreme Administrator.

In 1839 he was appointed Minister to the United States and died while he was serving in that position.

—Elwing D. Carlsen

AUGUSTUS II

(Stanislaus Poniatowski)

Augustus II was the protector of Freemasonry, and was a member of Warsaw Lodge "Under three Helmets" in 1777.

This lodge worked under the German system of "higher grades" and the king was knighted, assuming the name Eques Salsinatus.

Nearly all his courtiers, prominent statesmen and many aristocrats were Masons, such as Prince Kasimer Sapieha, Prince Adam Charlorysky, Ignatius Potocky and the priest, Piatoly.

Masonic ideas of tolerance and benevolence influenced the policy of the Polish government and a number of charitable institutions were organized by Polish Masons.

He was the last king of independent Poland, serving from 1764 to 1795. As a representative in the Russian court in 1775, he gained the favor of Catherine II, and through her influence was made King in 1764.

He was well educated and well meaning but without strength of character. The condition of the country became anarchic and he resigned in 1795.

He was called to St. Petersburg where he died.

—Elwing D. Carlsen

In a country where through the ages, freedom was practically unknown, Freemasonry had a short period of prosperity and an influence of the religious life of Russia during the early 1800's.

Both Emperors, Paul I and Alexander I, (Both Masons) tolerated the Fraternity.

No further information.

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