"Key Persons" File of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy

Records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy Record Group 272



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"KEY PERSONS" FILE OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

On the 34 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the individual dossiers of almost 600 "Key Persons" who were involved in the investigation conducted by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. This series of records is part of Records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, Record Group (RG) 272. A list of the dossiers is given in appendix 2 of this introduction. Most documents in the file were created or accumulated by the Commission between December 1963 and November 1964, but some are dated earlier.

Background

The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, commonly called the Warren Commission from the name of its Chairman, was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in Executive Order 11130, dated November 29, 1963. The order directed the Commission to investigate the November 22, 1963 assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy in Dallas, Tex., and the subsequent killing of the alleged assassin; to evaluate its findings; and to report its conclusions.

The following seven men were appointed to the Commission:

- Earl Warren (Chairman): Chief Justice of the United States, former Governor and attorney general of California
- Richard B. Russell: Democratic Senator from Georgia and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, former Governor of Georgia, and county attorney in that State
- John Sherman Cooper: Republican Senator from Kentucky, former county and circuit judge in Kentucky, and U.S. Ambassador to India

- Hale Boggs: Democratic Representative from Louisiana and majority whip in the House of Representatives
- Gerald R. Ford: Republican Representative from Michigan and chairman of the House Republican Conference
- Allen W. Dulles: lawyer, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
- John J. McCloy: lawyer, former President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and U.S. High Commissioner for Germany

The tragic events that caused the appointment of the Commission may be briefly summarized. The assassination of Kennedy and the simultaneous wounding of Gov. John B. Connally of Texas were quickly followed by the murder of Patrolman J. D. Tippit of the Dallas Police Department. Shortly afterward, Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested by the Dallas Police as a suspect in the murder of Tippit. On the basis of evidence provided by Federal, State, and local agencies, the State of Texas arraigned Oswald within 12 hours of his arrest, charging him with the assassination of President Kennedy as well as the murder of Tippit. On November 24, 1963, in the basement of the Dallas Police Department building, Oswald was fatally shot by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner.

Many persons, both in the United States and abroad, suspected the existence of a foreign or domestic conspiracy to assassinate the President. Because it was not possible to determine the truth by normal judicial procedures after Oswald's death, various methods of conducting an investigation were discussed. A State court of inquiry in Texas, an investigation by the grand jury of Dallas County, and investigations by both Houses of Congress were all considered. It was to avoid any possible parallel investigations that President Johnson appointed, his Commission.

On December 13, 1963, Congress passed Senate Joint Resolution 137 (which became Public Law 88-202) authorizing the Commission to subpoena witnesses and obtain evidence concerning any matter relating to the investigation. The resolution also

gave the Commission power to compel witnesses to testify by granting them immunity from prosecution. The Commission, however, did not exercise this power.

From the start, the Commission regarded the Executive order by which it was appointed as a mandate to conduct a thorough and independent investigation. Its first investigative action after reviewing the five-volume report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was to request the Bureau to furnish the investigative reports on which the general report was based. On December 20, 1963, the Bureau delivered the first investigative reports in response to this request. Summary reports were also received from the Secret Service and the Department of State. The attorney general of Texas furnished investigatory materials of the State. After these reports were studied. further requests for information were made, particularly to the FBI, the Secret Service, and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). To ensure that all possible sources of information would be available, the Commission also sent requests to 24 other departments and agencies of the Government and to four congressional committees, seeking to collect every piece of information relating to the assassination or to the background and activities of Oswald and Ruby. Occasionally the Commission used independent experts from State and city governments to obtain information, and it went to Dallas several times to visit the scene of the assassination and other relevant places. And, of course, most of the Commission sessions were hearings in which persons who had witnessed the assassination and related events or who had been involved in other ways were directly questioned.

A unanimous Commission presented its Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy to the President on September 24, 1964. The Commission's principal conclusions were that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin of President Kennedy and that he acted alone.

Records Description

The "Key Persons" file of the Commission consists of the dossiers of about 600 persons considered most important to the Commission in

coming to its final conclusion concerning the assassination. There are one or more folders for most of the 552 persons who gave testimony and for some 90 further persons who did not. Those who were not witnesses included President Kennedy; Lee Harvey Oswald; J. D. Tippit; members of the Dallas Police Department; former associates or acquaintances of Oswald; a deceased former stepfather of Oswald; and "Daryl Click," the incorrect name for Oswald's taxi driver given in press reports. The reasons for choosing most of these names for the file have not been found in the Commission's records. Records for some of the persons who were witnesses were originally placed in another name file of the Commission and then transferred to the "Key Persons" file in accordance with the Commission's apparent intention to place the material for all witnesses in this file.

Among the papers in the folders are transcripts of testimony, depositions, affidavits, and written statements taken from the persons themselves, as well as memorandums concerning their backgrounds or suggesting areas of investigation and various administrative papers--schedules for hearings, letters of notification, transmittals, and so forth. The dossier for Mark Lane includes many tape recordings of his speeches. Many of the documents have Commission document numbers, which mean that they are copies of documents that the Commission considered "basic source materials" and included in its numbered document file.

The dossiers are arranged alphabetically by the name of the person involved and chronologically by date of document within each one, except that the dossiers for the following persons, in addition to name folder(s), also have folders for numbered subject subdivisions within which the documents are arranged chronologically: John B. Connally, John F. Kennedy, Mrs. John F. Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, Marina Oswald, Michael Ralph and Ruth Paine, Jack Ruby, and J. D. Tippitt.

Related Records

After the publication of the Commission's Report and the accompanying 26 volumes of Hearings, the Commission transferred all of its records to the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Much of this material is

directly related to the "Key Persons" file, and all of it is described in Inventory of the Records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, NARS Inventory No. 5, compiled by Marion Johnson. This inventory describes the records of the Commission by series.

Additional material related to the assassination is in National Archives Gift Collection, RG 200 (Columbia Broadcasting System 1964 and 1967 news films of programs relating to the report of the Commission, including scripts for the 1967 programs, and X-rays and photographs relating to the autopsy of the body of President Kennedy); in Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, RG 233 (records of the House Select Committee on Assassinations); and in the Gerald R. Ford Library (records of the Rockefeller Commission on CIA activities within the United States).

Restrictions

The Commission records, of which the documents filed in this publication are a part, are administered by NARA under guidelines prepared by the Department of Justice, a copy of which is included as appendix 1 to this introduction. These quidelines provide for periodic reviews of any of the records that are withheld from research to determine whether they may be released. The reviews are conducted by the NARA staff and the agencies that furnished documents or information to the Commission. All records that are withheld from research are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), according to the following sections of the act: (b) (1) -- matters that are "(A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order"; (b) (2) -- records withheld from public disclosure by specific statutes, such as income tax returns; (b) (6)--"personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy"; and (b) (7)--"investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such records would. . . (C) constitute an unwarranted

invasion of personal privacy, (or) (D) disclose the identity of a confidential source . . . The withheld records are to be reviewed periodically until all are made available for research.

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This file was prepared for filming and the introduction was written by Marion M. Johnson. The List of Dossiers (app. 2) was prepared by John F. Simmons. The editor was Kathleen S. Quigley.

APPENDIX 1

Guidelines for Review of Materials Submitted to
The President's Commission on the Assassination of
President Kennedy

(as reviewed and revised in light of 1974 Amendments to Freedom of Information Act)

- Statutory requirements prohibiting disclosure should be observed.
- 2. Security classifications should be respected, but the agency responsible for the classification should carefully re-evaluate the contents of each classified document and determine whether the classification can, consistently with the national security, be eliminated or downgraded. See Attorney General's Memorandum on 1974 Amendments, p. 1-4.
- 3. Unclassified material that has not already been disclosed in another form should be made available to the public on a regular basis or upon request under the Freedom of Information Act unless such material is exempt under the Act and its disclosure --
 - (A) Would be detrimental to the administration and enforcement of the laws and regulations of the United States and its agencies;
 - (B) Might reveal the identity of confidential sources of information and impede or jeopardize future investigations by precluding or limiting the use of the same or similar souces hereafter;
 - (C) Would be a source of embarrassment to innocent persons, who are the subject, source, or apparent source of the material in question, because it contains gossip and rumor or details of a personal nature having no significant connection with the assassination of the President.

Whenever one of the above reasons for nondisclosure may apply, your department should, in determining whether or not to authorize disclosure, weigh that reason against the overriding policy of

the Executive Branch favoring the fullest possible disclosure.

Unless sooner released to the public, classified and unclassified material that is not now made available to the public shall, as a minimum, be reviewed by the agency concerned 5 years and 10 years after the initial examination has been completed, and in addition must be reviewed whenever necessary to the prompt and proper processing of a Freedom of Information request. The criteria applied in the initial examination, outlined above, should be applied to determine whether changed circumstances will permit further disclosure. Similar reviews should be undertaken at 10-year intervals until all materials are opened for legitimate research purposes. The Archivist of the United States will arrange for such review at the appropriate time. Whenever possible provision should be made for the automatic declassification of classified material that cannot be declassified at this time.

APPENDIX 2

List of Dossiers

Abt, John Adamcik, J. P. Adams. Robert L. Adams, Vickie Akin, Gene Alba, Adrian Thomas Alexander, William F. Allen, J. U., Mrs. Altgens, James W. Anderson, Earl Spencer Andrews, Dean A. Applin, George Jefferson, Jr. Arce, Daniel Garcia Archer, Don Ray Armstrong, Andrew, Jr. Arnett, Charles Oliver Aycox, James

Baker, Donald, Mrs. (see also Virgie Rackley) Baker, Marrion L. Baker, T. L. Ballen, Samuel B. Barbe, Emmett Charles, Jr. Bargas, Tommy Barnhorst, Colin Barnes, Pete Barnes, W. E. Barnett, Welcome Eugene Barton, R. (empty) Bashour, Fouad A. Batchelor, Charles Bates, Pauline Virginia Baxter, Charles R. Baum, Pat Davenport Beaty, Buford Lee Beck, E. R. Beers, Ira Jefferson, Jr. Bellocchio, Frank Belmont, A. H. Benavides, Domingo Benton, Nelson Bieberdorf, Fred A. Biggio, William S. Blalock, Vance Bledsoe, Mary E.

Bogard, Albert G. Bookhout, James W. Boone, Eugene Boswell, J. Thornton Botelho, James Anthony Bouck, Robert I. Boudreaux, Anne Bouhe, George A. Bowers, Lee E., Jr. Bowron, Diana Boyd, E. L. Branch, John Henry Brennan, Howard Leslie Brewer, E. D. (empty) Brewer, Johnny Calvin Bringuier, Carlos Brock, Alvin R. Brock, Mary Brock, Robert Brooks, Donald E. (empty) Brown, C. W. Brown, E. V. Burcham, John W. Burleson, . Phil Burns, Doris Burton, T. R.

Cabell, Earle, Mr. & Mrs. Cadigan, James C. Call, Richard Dennis Callaway, Ted Camarata, Donald Peter Campbell, Vernon C. Carlin, Bruce Ray Carlin, Karen Bennett Carrico, Charles J. Carro, John Carroll, Bob K. Carter, Clifton C. Cason, Frances M. Cason, Jack Charles Caster, Warren Chabot, George Thomas Chayes, Abram Cheek, Bertha Cardelia Church, George B., Mr. & Mrs. Clardy, Barnard S. Clark, Max E., Mr. & Mrs. Clark, Richard L. Clark, William Kemp Clements, Manning C. Click, Daryl

Cole, Alwyn (empty) Combest, Billy H. Connally, John B. 1 Shooting 2 Injuries - Wounds 3 Treatment at Parkland Hospital 4 Interviews Connally, John B., Mrs. Connor, Peter Francis Conway, Hiram L. Conway, Hiram P., Mr. & Mrs. Cornwall, F. I. Corporon, John Couch, Malcolm O. Cox, Roland A. Craddock, Gladys Crafard, Curtis Laverne Craig, Roger Craig, Walter E. Crawford, James N. Creel, Robert Crenshaw, Charles Crowe, William D., Jr. Crowley, James D. Croy, Kenneth H. Crull, Elgin English Cunningham, Cortlandt Cunningham, Helen P. Curry, Jesse Edward Curtis, Don Teel Cutchshaw, Wilbur Jay

Daniels, John L. Daniels, Napoleon J. Davis, Barbara Jeanette Davis, Fred (or Floyd) Davis, Fred (or Floyd) Mrs. Davis, Monroe Davis, Virginia Louise Davis, Virginia Ruth Day, J. Carl Dean, Patrick T. Decker, J. E. "Bill" Delgado, Nelson De Mohrenschildt, George De Mohrenschildt, Jeanne Dhority, Charles N. Dietrich, Edward C. Dillard, Thomas C. Dobbs, Farrell Donabedian, George Donovan, John E.

Dougherty, Jack Edwin
Dowe, Kenneth L.
Dulany, Richard Brooks (empty)
Duncan, William Glenn, Jr.
Dymitruk, Lydia Berdjanskja

Eberhardt, August M.
Edwards, Robert Edwin
Ekdahl, Edwin A.
Enochs, Edwin, Mrs.
Ethier, Margie Norman
Euins, Amos Lee
Evans, Julian
Evans, Myrtle
Evans, Sidney, Jr.

Fain, John W. Fehrenbach, George W. Feldsott, Louis Fenley, Robert Finck, Pierre A. Fischer, Ronald B. Fisher, N. T. Fleming, Harold Folsom, Allison G. Ford, Declan P. Ford, Katherine Foster, Bill Lee Foster, J. W. Frazier, Buell Wesley Frazier, Robert A. Frazier, William Bennett Fritz, J. W. "Will" Fugua, Harold R.

Gallaher, John F. Gangl, Theodore Frank Garner, Jesse James Garner, jesse James, Mrs. Garrett, Richard Warren Gauthier, Leo J. George, M. Waldo Geraci, Philip, III Gibson, Donald, Mrs. Giesecke, A. J., Jr. Givens, Charles Douglas Glover, Everett D. Goin, Donald Goldstein, David Goodson, Clyde F. Graef, John Graf, Allen D.

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Graves, Gene
Graves, L. C.
Gravitis, Dorothy
Gray, Virginia
Green, Howard L., Mrs.
Greener, Charles W.
Greener, Woody Francis
Greer, William R.
Gregory, Charles Francis
Gregory, Paul Roderick
Gregory, Peter Paul
Gregory, Thomas R.
Guinyard, Sam

Hall, C. Ray Hall, Elena Hall, John R. Hall, Marvin E. Hallmark, Garnett Claud Hamblen, C. A. Hankal, Robert Leonard Hansen, Timothy M., Jr. Hardin, Michael Hargis, Bobby W. Harkness, D. V. Harrison, Oliver W. Harrison, William Joseph Harrison, W. T. Hartogs, Renatus Hawkins, Ray Haygood, Clyde A. Heindel, John Rene Hilmick, Wanda Yvonne Helms, Richard Henchliffe, Margaret Hibbys, Warren E. Hicks, J. B. Hill, Clinton J. Hill, Gerald L. Hill, Jean Lollis Hine, Geneva L. Hodge, Alfred Douglas Holland, Sterling Mayfield Holly, Harold B., Jr. Holmes, Harry D. Hoover, J. Edgar Hosty, James P. Howard, Thomas F. Howell, Charlotte Howlett, John Joe Hudson, Emmett J.

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Hulen, Richard Leroy
Hulse, C. E.
Humes, James J.
Hunley, Bobb
Hunt, Jackie H.
Hunter, Gertrude
Hutchinson, Leonard Edwin
Hutson, T. A.

Isaacs, Martin

Jackson, Phil Jackson, Robert H. Jackson, Theodore Jamison, R. F. Jarman, James Earl, Jr. Jenkins, M. T. Jenkins, Ronald Lee Jez, Leonard E. Jimison, R. J. Johnson, Arnold Samuel Johnson, Arthur C. Johnson, Arthur C., Mrs. (Gladys) Johnson, Joseph Weldon, Jr. Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, Lyndon B., Mrs. Johnson, Marvin Johnson, Priscilla Mary Post Johnson, Speedy Johnston, David L. Jones, O. A. Jones, Raymond Jones, Ronald Coy

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Kaminsky, Eileen
Kanton, Seth
Kara-patnitzky, Waldemar Boris
Kaufman, Ferdinand
Kaufman, Stanley M.
Kellerman, Roy H.
Kelley, Thomas
Kelly, Edward
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LaCouer, Louis (empty) Lane, Doyle E. Lane, Mark Langley, Kenneth Latona, Sebastian Lawson, Winston Lawrence, Perdue William Leavelle, James Robert LeBlanc, Charles Joseph Lee, Ivan D. Lee, Vincent T. Lehrer, James Leslie, Helen Leverich, William Lewis, Aubrey Lee Lewis, Carroll G. Lewis, Erwin Donald Lewis, L. J. Litchfield, Wilburn Waldon Livingston, Clyde I., Mrs. Longley, Kenneth Lord, Billy Joe Lovelady, Billy Nolan Lowery, Roy Lee Lujan, Daniel Lumpkin, George L. Lunday, Ray H. Lux, J. Philip Lyon, K. E.

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4-1 Autopsy

McCullough, John G. McCurdy, Daniel Patrick McDonald, M. N. McFarland, John Bryan and Meryl McGee, Homer Lee McGrath, Duane J. McKenzie, William A. McKinney, Robert E. McKinzie, Louis McMillion, Thomas Donald McVickar, John McWatters, Cecil J. McWillie, Lewis J. MacCammon, Jim Malley, James R. Mallory, Katherine Mamantov, Ilya A. Mandella, Arthur Markham, Helen Louise Martello, Francis L. Martin, Frank M. Martin, James Herbert Martin, J. D. Maxey, Billy Joe Mayo, J. H., Mrs. Mayo, Logan W. Meller, Anna N. Merrell, Barney Meyers, Lawrence V. Michaelis, Heinz W. Miller, Austin Lawrence Miller, Dave L. Miller, Lewis D. Mitchell, Mary Ann Molina, Joe R. Montgomery, Leslie Dell Mooney, Joseph Mooney, Luke Moore, Henry M. Moore, Russell Lee Mumford, Pamela Murphy, Joe Murphy, Paul Edward Murray, David Christies, Jr. Murray, J. Jackson Murret, Charles F. ("Dutz") Murret, Charles W. Murret, Eugene John Murret, John M. Murret, Charles F., Mrs. (Lillian) Murret, Marilyn Dorothea

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  8 Defection to Russia
  9 Finances
  10 Suicide Attempt
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        binder)
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  2-2 Young Communist League (empty)
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  3-1 Trip to Mexico
  3-2 Proposed Russian Trip (1963)
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       Leslie Welding Company
       William B. Reilly & Company
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     Remains
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Oswald, Marina
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 8 Protective Custody of Secret Service
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 2-1-2 Affiliations
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Pappas, Icarus M.
Patterson, B. M.
Patterson, Bobby G.
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Pena, Orest
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Peterman, Mildred
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Pick, Edward John, Jr.
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Pierce, Edward Eugene
Pierce, Rio Sam
Pike, Roy William
Pinkston, Nat A.
Piper, Eddie
Pitts, Elnora
Pizzo, Frank
Poe, J. M.
Postal, Julia
Potts, Walter E.
Powell, Nancy M. (see also Tammi True)
Powers, Daniel Patrick
Powers, David
Price, Charles Jack
Price, Malcolm Howard
Priddy, Hal, Jr.
Pryor, Roy Auburn
Pugh, Oran
Pullman, Edward J.
Putnam, James A.
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Slack, Gardland, Mr. & Mrs. Slack, Willie B. Slaughter, Malcolm R. Smart, Vernon S. Smith, Bennierita Smith, Edgar Leon, Jr. Smith, Glenn Emmett Smith, G. W. Smith, Hilda L. Smith, Joe Marshall Smith, John Allison Smith, John W., Mrs. Smith, William Arthur Snyder, Richard E. Solomon, James Maurice Sorrels, Forrest V. Standifer, Roy E. Stanridge, Ruth Jeanette Staples, Albert F. Statman, Irving Steele, Charles Hall, Jr. Steele, Don Francis Stevenson, M. W. Stombaugh, Paul Stovall, Robert L. Stovall, Richard S. Stringfeller, L. D. Strong, Jesse M. Stuckey, William Kirk Studebaker, Robert Lee Surrey, Robert A.

Tague, James Thomas Talbert, Cecil E. Tasker, Harry T. Taylor, Gary E. Taylor, Robert Adrian Thompson, Llewellyn E. Thorne, John M. Thornley, Kerry Wendell Tice, Wilma May Tippit, J. D. 1 Shooting Witnesses 3 Autopsy Tobias, M. F., Mr. & Mrs. Tomlinson, Darrel C. Tormey, James J. True, Tammi (see also Nancy M. Powell) Truly, Roy S. Turner, Fay M. Turner, James

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Vargas, Tommy Vaughn, Roy Eugene Vinson, Phil Voebel, Edward Voshinin, Igor Vladimir Voshinin, I. V., Mrs.

Wade, Henry Waldman, William J. Waldo, Thayer Walker, Charles T. Walker, Edwin A. Walker, Ira N., Jr. Wall, Breck Walters, Eddy Raymond Watherwax, Arthur William Watson, James C. Weinstock, Louis Weissman, Bernard Weitzman, Seymour West, Troy Eugene Westbrook, W. R. Webster, Jane Carolyn Whaley, William Wayne White, James C. White, Martin G. Whitworth, Edith Wiggins, Woodrow Wilcox, Lawrence R. Williams, Bonnie Ray Willis, Linda Kay Willis, Philip L. Wood, Homer Wood, Sterling Charles Wood, Theresa Worley, Gano E. Worrell, James Richard Wort (first name unknown) Wright, Norman Earl (see also Earl Norman) Wulf, William Eugene

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Roll Description

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