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WISCONSIN CITIZENS WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES CABINET

ALEXANDER WILLIAMS RANDALL, *Postmaster General, 1866-1869*

Born October 31, 1819, in Ames, Montgomery County, New York, Randall was educated in common schools and attended Cherry Valley Academy. He read law under his father and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1838.

Randall moved to Prairieville (later Waukesha), Wisconsin in 1842 and practiced law. An antislavery Democrat, he was named postmaster of Waukesha by President James Polk in 1845. He was elected Waukesha County's first district attorney in 1846. The same year he was elected to the first Wisconsin Constitutional Convention.

Randall supported the Free Soil Party in 1848, but returned to the Democratic Party in 1849. He was elected to the Assembly as an Independent Democrat in 1854, serving in the 1855 session. Unsuccessful as the Republican candidate for Attorney General in 1855, he was then appointed judge of the 2nd Circuit to fill the balance of an unexpired term.

Elected Governor on the Republican ticket in 1857, he served two terms, from 1858-1862. His second term was notable for his efforts to organize Wisconsin's participation in the Civil War.

Randall was named Minister to the Papal States by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. The same year, he was named Assistant Postmaster General, a position he held until 1866, when he was named Postmaster General by President Andrew Johnson, serving until the end of the Johnson Administration in 1869. He supported Johnson throughout his administration, against the sentiments of most Republicans. He did not return to Wisconsin after his term as Postmaster General, but opened a law practice in Elmira, New York, where he died on July 26, 1872.

TIMOTHY OTIS HOWE, *Postmaster General, 1881-1883*

Born February 24, 1816, in Livermore, Maine, Howe graduated from Readfield Seminary and read law, being admitted to the Maine Bar in 1839.

Howe moved to Wisconsin in 1845, settling in Green Bay and practicing law. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 1848 and Lieutenant Governor in 1849, both on the Whig ticket. He was elected judge of the 4th Circuit in 1850, serving as judge from 1851-1855. Circuit court judges at that time were *ex officio* supreme court justices; Howe served in that capacity from 1851 until the creation of a separate Supreme Court in 1853.

Howe became an adherent of the Republican Party at its founding in 1854. The Legislature elected him to serve in the U.S. Senate in 1861; he was reelected in 1867 and 1873, but was not reelected in 1879. During his tenure in the Senate, 1861-1879, he was a supporter of President Abraham Lincoln in his efforts to defeat the southern rebellion during the Civil War and he tended to support the Radical wing of the Republican Party, favoring Radical Reconstruction in the south and opposing President Andrew Johnson. He supported President Ulysses S. Grant and opposed President Rutherford B. Hayes' policy on Reconstruction.

After leaving the Senate, Howe was appointed to the Paris International Monetary Conference in 1881; the same year he was appointed Postmaster General by President Chester Arthur, serving until his death on March 25, 1883.

WILLIAM FREEMAN VILAS, Postmaster General, 1885-1888; Secretary of the Interior, 1888-1889

Born July 9, 1840, in Chelsea, Orange County, Vermont, Vilas moved with his parents to Madison, Wisconsin in 1851. He received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1858 and an L.L.B. from Albany (N.Y.) Law School in 1860. He practiced law in Madison until 1862, when he was commissioned captain of the 23rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, resigning as lieutenant colonel in 1863, after which he resumed his law practice.

Vilas served as a professor of law at the University of Wisconsin Law School from 1868-1885. Active in Democratic politics, he was chairman of the 1884 Democratic National Convention, which nominated Grover Cleveland. After his election as president, Cleveland appointed Vilas Postmaster General; where he served until 1888, when Cleveland appointed him Secretary of the Interior, where he served until the end of Cleveland's first administration in 1889.

Elected by the Legislature to the U.S. Senate in 1891, Vilas served one term, 1891-1897.

Vilas returned to his law practice in 1897. He was also interested in the development of pine lands and paper manufacturing in the northern part of the state. Devoted to the University of Wisconsin, Vilas served on the Board of Regents from 1881-1885 and from 1898-1905. Vilas died in Madison on August 27, 1908.

JEREMIAH McLAIN RUSK, Secretary of Agriculture, 1889-1893

Born June 17, 1830, in Morgan County, Ohio, Rusk moved to a farm near Viroqua, Wisconsin in 1853. Elected as a Republican to the 1861 Legislature, Rusk resigned shortly after the legislative session to take a commission with the rank of major with the 25th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He rose to command the regiment in 1864 and resigned with the brevet rank of brigadier general in 1865.

The same year he resigned his military commission, Rusk was elected State Bank Comptroller, and was reelected until the position was eliminated in 1870. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 6th District in 1870, and served three terms, 1871-1877. He then retired to his farm in Viroqua. He was offered a variety of administrative and diplomatic posts by President James Garfield, but declined them all.

Rusk was elected Governor on the Republican ticket in 1881; his tenure in office, 1882-1889, remains the third longest in state history. His service as Governor is most remembered for his response to incidents of labor unrest in Superior (1882) and Milwaukee (1886).

Shortly after leaving the governor's office, Rusk was appointed Secretary of Agriculture by President Benjamin Harrison. He served in that capacity throughout the Harrison Administration, 1889-1893.

He returned to his Viroqua farm after leaving office and died there on November 21, 1893.

HENRY CLAY PAINE, Postmaster General, 1902-1904

Born November 23, 1843, in Ashfield, Massachusetts, Paine graduated from Shelburne Falls Academy in 1859. He moved to Milwaukee in 1863, where he worked as a clerk in a dry goods store, and in the insurance business. Active in Republican politics, Paine was appointed

postmaster of Milwaukee by President Ulysses Grant in 1876, and held that position until the Democratic administration of Grover Cleveland was inaugurated in 1885.

Returning to private business interests, Paine served as an officer in various corporations in Milwaukee, including the Wisconsin Telephone Company; the Milwaukee Street Railway Company and its successor The Milwaukee Electric Rail and Light Company; the Milwaukee and Northern Railroad; and the Chicago and Calumet Terminal Railway.

In addition to pursuing a number of other business interests during this period, Paine was active in the Stalwart wing of Wisconsin's Republican Party, opposing the insurgency of Progressive Robert M. La Follette during the late 1890s. An important supporter of William McKinley's presidential campaign in 1896, he helped secure the second spot on the ticket for Theodore Roosevelt in 1900. After succeeding to the presidency upon the assassination of McKinley, Roosevelt appointed Paine Postmaster General in 1902.

Paine died in office in Washington, D.C., on October 4, 1904.

JULIUS ALBERT KRUG, Secretary of the Interior, 1946-1949

Born November 23, 1907, in Madison, Krug received his B.A. at the University of Wisconsin in 1929, and his M.A. in public service management at the University of Wisconsin in 1930.

Krug worked as a staffer for the Wisconsin Public Service Commission from 1931-1935. He helped Kentucky establish its Public Service Commission in 1937. He then held various positions at the Tennessee Valley Authority from 1937-1944.

On loan from the Tennessee Valley Authority, he worked at the Office of Production Management (later the War Production Board) from 1941-1944. After a brief period of service in the U.S. Navy, he was named acting chairman and then chairman of the War Production Board, serving from 1944-1945. He was appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Harry Truman in 1946, serving until 1949.

After leaving the cabinet, Krug opened a public utility consulting firm in Washington, D.C., and later served as chairman of the board of Brookside Mills in Knoxville, Tennessee. There he and his brother founded the Volunteer Asphalt Company. Krug died in Knoxville on March 26, 1970.

JOHN AUSTIN GRONOUSKI, Postmaster General, 1963-1965

Born October 26, 1919, in Dunbar, Gronouski was raised in Oshkosh, where he graduated from St. Peter's High School. He received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1942.

Serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942-1945, Gronouski flew 24 combat missions in the European Theater.

Gronouski received his M.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1947. He taught public financing, banking, and related subjects at the University of Maine from 1948-1950, and taught statistics at Roosevelt University evening school from 1953-1956.

Gronouski received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1955. He was a research associate at the University of Wisconsin studying Wisconsin's income tax administration from 1956-1957. He became a researcher on the Michigan Tax Study while teaching public finance and banking at Wayne State University from 1957-1958, when he became research director of the Wisconsin Tax Commission in 1958.

Governor Gaylord Nelson appointed Gronouski state Tax Commissioner in 1959. He served in that capacity until President John Kennedy appointed him Postmaster General in 1963.

Gronouski led the effort to implement the Zone Improvement Program (ZIP Codes) during his tenure, which ended in 1965. President Lyndon Johnson then appointed Gronouski Ambassador to Poland, where he served until 1968.

After leaving diplomatic service, Gronouski became the founding dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Government at the University of Texas, serving until 1974. He remained on the faculty until 1976.

Federal District Judge John Reynolds, whose court had ruled on a controversial school desegregation case in Milwaukee, named Gronouski Special Master to oversee the Milwaukee Public Schools' implementation of his desegregation order in 1976. He served in that capacity until 1977.

President Jimmy Carter appointed Gronouski to chair the Board of International Broadcasting in 1977, a position he held until 1981.

Gronouski retired to Green Bay, where he died on January 7, 1996.

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., Secretary of Defense, 1969-1973

Born September 1, 1922, in Omaha, Nebraska, Laird was raised in Marshfield and graduated from Marshfield High School. He received his B.A. from Carleton College in 1942.

Laird served in the Navy from 1942-1946, serving as a lieutenant aboard the destroyer *Maddox*, where he participated in numerous battles in the Pacific Theater.

Shortly after leaving the Navy, Laird was elected to the Wisconsin Senate as a Republican to fill a vacancy caused by the death of his father, Melvin R. Laird, Sr., beginning a tenure in the Senate that spanned the years 1946-1953. During that time he served on the Legislative Council (1949-1953) and the Joint Committee on Finance (1949-1952).

Laird was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1952; his service in the House lasted from 1953-1969. He served on the House Appropriations Committee; his service on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Education and Welfare led to a long term interest in health issues; his service on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee led to expertise on issues of national defense, and to an appointment by President Richard Nixon as Secretary of Defense in 1969. Laird served during the "Vietnamization" phase of the Vietnam War, which led to an end in U.S. involvement shortly after the end of his tenure as secretary in 1973. Laird then served as counselor on domestic affairs for President Nixon from 1973-1974, his last service in public office.

Laird became a senior counselor for national and international affairs for Reader's Digest in 1974, and has served on numerous corporate boards since leaving public life. He has also been an active supporter of the Marshfield Clinic.

Laird in recent years has divided residency between Washington, D.C., and Fort Myers, Florida.

LAWRENCE SIDNEY EAGLEBURGER, Secretary of State, 1992-1993

Born August 1, 1930, in Milwaukee, Eagleburger spent his early childhood in Waupun; his family then moved to Stevens Point after World War II. An active Republican in his youth, Eagleburger began his college studies at Central State College in Stevens Point, but earned his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1952. After serving two years in the U.S. Army, earning the rank of first lieutenant, Eagleburger returned to the University of Wisconsin, earning his M.S. in political science in 1957. During this period he took and passed the State Department's Foreign Service exam, beginning a life-long career as a diplomat and architect of U.S. foreign policy.

After postings to Honduras and Yugoslavia, where he became an expert on Yugoslavian affairs, Eagleburger spent the late 1960s at various positions in Washington, D.C., concluding with a position on President Richard Nixon's transition team in 1968-1969. After a period with the U.S. mission to NATO in Brussels, Belgium, he spent 1971-1973 as a top official in the Defense Department under Secretary Melvin Laird, a family acquaintance.

Upon being named Secretary of State in 1973, Henry Kissinger hired Eagleburger as his executive assistant and deputy undersecretary of state for management. He remained in that position until the end of Kissinger's tenure as Secretary of State at the end of the Gerald Ford Administration. President Jimmy Carter named Eagleburger Ambassador to Yugoslavia in 1977, where he served until 1981. With the beginning of the Ronald Reagan Administration, he returned to high-ranking positions in the State Department under Secretaries of State Alexander Haig and George Schultz, but in 1984 accepted a position as president of Kissinger Associates, a foreign policy consulting firm founded by the former Secretary of State.

When George H.W. Bush became president in 1989, Eagleburger accepted the position of deputy Secretary of State under James Baker III. When Baker resigned to run Bush's unsuccessful reelection campaign in August 1992, the president made Eagleburger acting Secretary of State, then Secretary of State in an interim appointment in December. He served until the end of Bush's term in January 1993. Although Eagleburger dismissed his short tenure as "an accident of history," he was the first career diplomat in the more than 200 year history of the State Department to serve as Secretary of State.

After leaving office, Eagleburger served as an international consultant to a Washington, D.C. law firm, as a member of the Iraq Study Group, seeking diplomatic strategies relating to the Iraq War, and as Chairman of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims. He died on June 4, 2011, at Charlottesville, Virginia.

LESLIE ASPIN, JR., Secretary of Defense, 1993-1994

Born in Milwaukee on July 21, 1938, Aspin graduated from Shorewood High School. He received his B.A. from Yale University in 1960, his M.A. from Oxford University in England in 1962, and his Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1965. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966-1968, attaining the rank of captain. Aspin was an assistant professor of economics at Marquette University from 1969-1970.

Aspin was active in Democratic politics throughout the 1960s; he unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for State Treasurer in 1968. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 1st District in 1970, beginning a span of service in that body of 1971-1993. Aspin served on the Armed Services Committee throughout his tenure in the House. Initially taking a dovish stance on defense issues, Aspin began to see defense expenditures in a more favorable light, particularly during his years as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, 1985-1993.

Aspin was named Secretary of Defense by President Bill Clinton and served from 1993-1994. After leaving the cabinet, Aspin served as a professor of international policy at Marquette University's Washington Center for Government; and as chair of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and of the Commission on the Role and Capabilities of the United States Intelligence Community.

Aspin died in Washington, D.C., on May 21, 1995.

DONNA EDNA SHALALA, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 1993-2001

Born on February 14, 1941, in Cleveland, Ohio, Shalala attended Cleveland public schools and received her B.A. in 1962 from Western College for Women. She volunteered for the Peace Corps in Iran from 1962-1964. She served as a lecturer and assistant to the dean at Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University from 1966-1970, and from which she received her Ph.D. in 1970.

Shalala was an assistant professor of political science at Baruch College of the City University of New York from 1970-1972, and an associate professor and chair of the Program in Politics and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University from 1972-1979. While serving in that capacity, she also served as a visiting scholar at Yale University in 1976, and as Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development during the administration of President Jimmy Carter, 1977-1980.

After leaving the Carter Administration, Shalala served as president of Hunter College of the City University of New York from 1980-1987. She then served as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1987-1993. While serving as chancellor she was named Secretary of Health and Human Services by President Bill Clinton. Her service spanned the years 1993-2001, the entire tenure of President Clinton, making her the longest serving secretary in the history of that department.

Following her departure from government service, Shalala was named president of the University of Miami (Florida), and has served in that capacity since 2001.

TOMMY GEORGE THOMPSON, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 2001-2005

Born November 19, 1941, in Elroy, Thompson was educated in Elroy public schools. He received his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin in 1963 and his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1966. The same year, Thompson was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly on the Republican ticket, where he served from 1967-1987. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican nomination for Representative to the U.S. House from the 6th District in the February 1979 special primary election.

During his tenure in the Assembly, Thompson was usually in a leadership position, serving as Minority Caucus Vice Chairperson in the 1971 session; as Assistant Minority Leader from 1973-1981; and as Minority Leader from 1981-1987.

Thompson was elected governor in 1986, the first of four consecutive successful runs for governor. His total tenure of 1987-2001 is by far the longest of any governor in Wisconsin history. During this time, notable for welfare reform legislation, he also served as chairman of the National Governor's Association (1995-1996) and chairman of the board of Amtrak, the national passenger railway (1998-2001).

President George W. Bush named Thompson Secretary of Health and Human Services in 2001; he succeeded fellow Wisconsinite Donna Shalala. Thompson's tenure, which ended in 2005, included the public health concerns following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Thompson made a brief run for the Republican presidential nomination in the summer of 2007, but ended his candidacy after a poor showing in the August Iowa straw poll. He won the nomination of his party for a seat in the U.S. Senate in 2012, but was defeated in the general election.

Thompson now lives in Madison.