



MASON & HOGE

Ties to History

Building constructed 1888

Photo from 1890's



Photo from 1960's



Mason & Hoge Families

Claiborne Rice "C.R." Mason - Grandfather of [Silas B. Mason](#)

Silas B. Mason

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Silas Boxley Mason II (October 22, 1879 – April 14, 1936) was an American construction executive and racehorse owner, born in [Orange County, Virginia](#). He was part of a Mason family that had been involved with the construction business since 1827.^[1] A graduate of [Washington and Lee University](#) and [Princeton University](#), he went on to make the Mason & Hanger company one of the largest construction contractors in the United States.

His first high-profile venture came in 1927 when he was awarded the contract for the [George Washington Bridge](#) foundation on the [New Jersey](#) side.^[2] During the 1930s Mason would cement his reputation as a master builder when in 1933 he headed the M. W. A. K. consortium (Mason-Walsh-Atkinson, Kier) that built the [Grand Coulee Dam](#) in [Mason City, Washington](#).^[3] His company would then become involved in the construction of the [Lincoln Tunnel](#).^{[4][5]}

Thoroughbred racing [[edit](#)]

Silas Mason and his wife Suzanne (née Burnett) met with success in [Thoroughbred horse racing](#) with horses registered in her name. A native Kentuckian, she was a descendant of [Colonel Richard Henderson](#), who, along with [General George Rogers Clark](#), [Daniel Boone](#), and others, were Kentucky pioneers who formed the [Transylvania Land Company](#).^[6] The couple purchased a home and breeding farm near Lexington, Kentucky called Duntreath.^{[7][8]}

During his tenure, Silas Mason's partner in the construction business was [Arnold Hanger](#).^[9] They also teamed up to race horses together under the *nom de course* Warm Stable.^[9] In April 1929, the Warm Stable partnership purchased [Preakness Stakes](#) winner [Victorian](#) from [Harry Payne Whitney](#) as part of a three-horse deal. A four-year-old at the time, Victorian raced and won into 1930, but the stallion had been acquired primarily for breeding purposes and stood at stud at the Masons' Duntreath Farm near Lexington, Kentucky.^[10] Victorian died in 1934 having sired less than three full crops.^[6] However, five years later the colt [Head Play](#) made his owners famous with a second-place finish in the [Kentucky Derby](#) and a win in the [Preakness Stakes](#).^{[11][5]} The Masons also owned [He Did](#), winner of the 1936 [Santa Anita Derby](#).

Mason & Hanger [[edit](#)]

Silas Boxley Mason II took over the leadership of Mason & Hanger with the death of Harry Hanger in 1925. Silas was the grandson of the company founder, Claiborne Rice Mason, and the son of its second president, Horatio Pleasants Mason. Silas Boxley Mason II's uncle, a younger brother of Horatio, was also named Silas Boxley Mason.

Claiborne Mason had been born in [Chesterfield County, Virginia](#) in 1800 and founded the Mason Syndicate in 1827, when contracted to work on a section of what became the [Chesapeake and Ohio Railway](#). In 1870, the company's name was changed to Mason & Hoge. Railroad work was its main construction business, including bridges and tunnels. Notable projects included the [Rays Hill Tunnel](#) and the [Dingess Tunnel](#).

Silas B. Mason II	
Born	October 22, 1879 <div>Orange County, Virginia, U.S.</div>
Died	April 14, 1936 (aged 56) <div>Grand Coulee, Washington, U.S.</div>
Resting place	Frankfort Cemetery
Education	Princeton University
Occupation(s)	Construction businessman, racehorse owner & breeder
Board member of	Mason & Hanger, Keeneland Association
Spouse	Suzanne Dallam Burnett

S. French Hoge, Banker, Dies

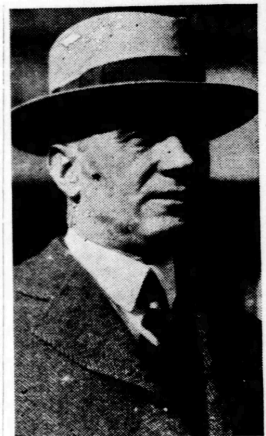
Frankfort Manufacturer Succumbs In Michigan Hospital.

The Courier-Journal Frankfort Bureau. Frankfort, Ky., Sept. 2.—S. French Hoge, Frankfort banker and manufacturer, died at 5 p.m. today in a hospital at Traverse City, Mich., near where he was spending the summer.

He was president of the Capital Trust Company, the Hoge-Montgomery Company, shoe manufacturers, and the Frankfort Broom Company, a director of the New Capital Hotel, the Commonwealth Life Insurance Company and the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, and a member of the board of trustees of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

He was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and a former member of the board of directors of the Kentucky Progress Commission, and had held various positions in the Kentucky Bankers' Association.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. May W. Hoge; two sons, Charles E. Hoge, Kansas City, and Fulton W. Hoge, Los Angeles, and four daughters, Mrs. Oldham Clark Louisville; Mrs. Robert T. Caldwell, Ashland, Ky.; Mrs. Carruthers Coleman, Lexington, Ky., and Miss Matilda Hoge, Frankfort.



S. FRENCH HOGE.

Berea College Willed \$10,000 By Ohio Man

Alliance, Ohio, Sept. 2 (AP)—The will of the late Dr. George B. Haggard, admitted to probate today, revealed a bequest of \$10,000 to Berea College, Berea, Ky., for the education of deserving boys and girls. The estate was appraised at \$194,889.

*Established "Capital Trust Company" in 1923



- **1827:** Claiborne Rice “C.R” Mason founded “Mason Syndicate”
- **1870:** Mason Syndicate renamed to “Mason & Hoge”
- **1907:** Mason & Hoge renamed to “Mason & Hanger”
- **1926:** “The Silas Mason Company” founded as a subsidiary
- **1999:** Mason & Hanger joins “Day & Zimmermann Company”
- The oldest American Architectural/Engineering Firm

NEARLY 200 YEARS OF HISTORY



1820s
1827
 Mason Syndicate founded in Virginia by C. R. Mason focused on railroad construction.

1860s
1861
 C. R. Mason joins the Confederate Army and becomes a road and bridge builder for General Stonewall Jackson. General Robert E. Lee refers to Mason as “An experienced bridge builder.”

1865
 C. R. Mason is faced with rebuilding his company. After four years of Civil War, his estimated \$1 million pre-war wealth is almost gone. He begins by helping restore the Virginia Central Railroad.

1870s
1870
 Renamed to Mason & Hoge.

1890s
1896
 Mason & Hoge completes it's portion of the largest construction project in the world, the Chicago River Reversal, ahead of schedule. The project receives two designations from the A.S.C.E., Monument Of The Millennium and Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

1900s
1902
 Mason & Hoge receives first project for the U.S. Military. Louisville District COE: Lock & Dam #10 on the Kentucky River.

1907
 Mason & Hoge renamed to Mason & Hanger.

1910s
1910
 Moodna Siphon Tunnel. One of two deep pressure tunnels Mason & Hanger built as part of the Catskill Aqueduct System, New York, through nine miles of solid rock. A.S.C.E. designates Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

1917
 U.S. enters WWI in Europe. Mason & Hanger awarded first of five wartime contracts to construct Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Kentucky. Over 1700 buildings completed in less than 3 months.

1918
 Silas Mason oversees Old Hickory Powder Plant contract in Tennessee. For the 25,000 workers needed to complete the job, Mason & Hanger constructs the city of Old Hickory to accommodate a population of 100,000 . . . in only eight months.

1920s
1926
 The Silas Mason Company founded as a subsidiary to assist in the New York Subway work.

1930s
1934
 Construction begins on the first of three tubes of the Lincoln Tunnel for the New York Port Authority.

1940s
1942
 Mason & Hanger completes construction of the New River Ordnance Plant in Virginia and begins construction of the Louisiana Ordnance Plant in Louisiana.

1947
 Mason & Hanger begins operation of the Atomic Energy Commission's Burlington Plant in Iowa, the AEC's first production plant for high explosive components for nuclear weapons.

1951
 Mason & Hanger begins operation of the Iowa Ordnance Plant in Burlington, Iowa and Cornhusker Ordnance Plant near Grand Island, Nebraska.

1952
 Mason & Hanger begins design for the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site.

1952
 Working at AEC's Nevada Test Site for nuclear weapons, Mason & Hanger develops some of the nation's leading technologies for designing structures to resist dynamic loading. The structures include 300' and 500' detonation towers and Gravel Gerties.

1956
 Mason & Hanger begins operation of the Atomic Energy Commission's Pantex Plant, outside Amarillo, Texas, the AEC's second production facility for nuclear weapons.

1957
 After WWII delays construction, Mason & Hanger completes the third tube of the Lincoln Tunnel.

1962
 Working for Thiokol Chemical Corporation, Mason & Hanger builds a manufacturing plant and testing silo for solid propellant rocket motors. Thiokol's motor was the first stage, or booster, for the Saturn rocket, used to launch the manned Apollo spacecraft into Earth orbit.

1963
 Mason & Hanger designs first hardened launch complexes for the Titan I ICBM's at Vandenberg A.F.B. and four other operational complexes.

1964
 Mason & Hanger provides experimental design of Zero Plutonium Reactor near Idaho Falls, Idaho.

1970s
1977
 Mason & Hanger forms the design arm of the company, Mason & Hanger Engineering, which becomes The Mason & Hanger Group in 1998.

1977
 Mason & Hanger, acting as Owner's Representative, finishes the \$45 million Civic Center in downtown Lexington. This complex includes the famous 23,000 seat Rupp Arena.

1980s
1981
 High Explosives Application Facility Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California. 111,000 SF facility was labeled as “The most advanced facility of its type in the free world”.

1990s
1995
 Mason & Hanger is awarded a nationwide Army Reserve Contract, and starts a series of new large facility design and renovations, that continues to this day.

1999
 Mason & Hanger joins the Day & Zimmermann family.

2000s
2004
 Battle Area Complex Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii. The \$29 million BAX is the cornerstone range at Schofield Barracks. Supporting both mounted and dismounted infantry platoon “live fire” operations with computer driven fully automated targets and scoring from the Range Operations Center.

2005
 Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific, Security Upgrades to Naval Subase KITSAP in Bangor, Washington. With a construction cost of \$30 million, the design includes: Entry Control Facilities, Emergency Generator Buildings, Security Force Facility and a Waterfront Enclave Fence.

2009
 Mason & Hanger designs the Counter Terrorism Operations Training Facility Urban / Suburban Training and Forensic Science Training Complex in Glynco, Georgia for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. These facilities serve as an interagency law enforcement training organization for more than 80 federal agencies and also provide services to state, local, tribal and international law enforcement agencies.

2010
 In response to the attacks on the World Trade Center, Mason & Hanger designs a state of the art training facility for the Asymmetric Warfare Group at Ft. A.P. Hill, Virginia.

2016
 Mason & Hanger purchases architectural and engineering firm, Hankins & Anderson (H&A) with offices in Richmond and Virginia Beach, Virginia to expand mission solutions supporting the design of secure, mission-critical facilities.

TODAY
 To see more projects visit www.masonandhanger.com/portfolio.

2027
 Mason & Hanger to celebrate the company's 200 year anniversary, as the oldest American A/E Firm, with a rich history of supporting the U.S. Federal Government.

