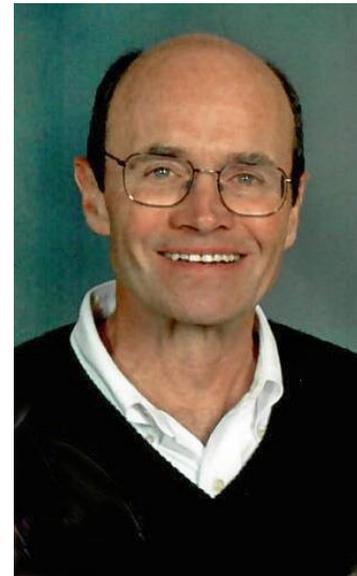


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Max: 870 words



Franklin Pierce Mason II, Ph.D.

April 8, 1942 - ?????? ??, ????

Long-time resident of Clayton, California

Franklin Pierce Mason II was born on April 8, 1942 in Ossining, New York. He was the son of Willard Franklin Mason and Agnes Armstrong Leckie Mason.

Franklin was a 13th generation American. His first American ancestor is Jehu Burr, a Puritan from England, who came to Massachusetts in 1630 as a part of the Winthrop Fleet. As such, Jehu was one of the first inhabitants of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Jehu Burr is the two greats grandfather of Aaron Burr, the vice president of the USA during Thomas Jefferson's first term (1801 – 1805). Franklin also had many other Puritan ancestors who came from England between 1630 and 1640 (and later).

In addition, Franklin had many Quaker ancestors, who came to Pennsylvania from England in the early 1700s, as well as ancestors from Holland (1650s), Norway (1658), Wales (1716), France (1730), Germany (1759), Northern Ireland (1760), Ireland (1845), England (1856), and Scotland (1903).

When Franklin was about two, his family moved from Ossining to Hempstead, New York then shortly after to Farmingdale, New York. When Franklin was five years of age, he moved with his family to Westport, Connecticut, where he attended Saugatuck Elementary School, Bedford Junior High School, and Staples High School, from which he graduated in 1960. Westport was the ideal community in which to grow up. It was a small town in the best sense of the term, with tremendous community activity and support, where everyone in the town was truly your neighbor. Westport also had (has) one of the best public education systems in the country. And in the 1950s and 1960s, Westport was an artists' and writers' mecca. In addition, Westport is just an hour from New York City, with all of its cultural opportunities.

During his school years, Franklin was very involved in music. He played the coronet beginning in the second grade. Then, he graduated to baritone horn and Sousaphone in junior high and high school. And he was president of the band in his senior year in high school. In addition, Franklin was a member of the

boy's soprano choir at his church, Saugatuck Congregational Church, from age 7 to 14 years. Then, in high school, he was in the chorus and a cappella choir. In college, Franklin learned the guitar, banjo, and mandolin, and he was in several folksong groups.

During his junior and senior years in high school, Franklin taught at Kid Gloves, Inc., a physical fitness, after-school program for boys 8 to 12 years of age. Then at age 35, Franklin took up long distance running, running the 10 K race in about 42 minutes.

After high school, Franklin attended Kalamazoo College in Michigan, graduating in 1966 with a B.A. in Chemistry. At K College, he was a National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Participant. He then attended the University of Oregon from which he received a Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1971 and where he was an NSF Graduate Fellow. Franklin also attended Columbia University in New York City in 1964/65. In addition, Franklin was a post-doctoral fellow in Geochemistry at the University of Oregon in 1971/72.

From 1972 to 1981, Franklin taught chemistry at a variety of colleges and universities, with his final teaching position being at San Jose State University in California from 1979-1981. In 1981, Franklin left academia for a position in the high-tech world of the Silicon Valley. In that world, Franklin was a Technical Writer and Manager of Technical Publications for Finnigan Corporation, a manufacturer of mass spectrometers. After a 22-year career with Finnigan (including a two-year sojourn at Varian Corporation in Walnut Creek), Franklin retired in 2004.

In 1970, Franklin learned the Transcendental Meditation technique. He continued the practice of TM until his death. In 2011, Franklin wrote the book *The Evolution of Human Consciousness*, which is a summary of the theory and practice of the TM technique.

In 1982, Franklin married Christina Lois Potter, daughter of Paul Russell Potter and Janet Louise Williamson Potter. Christina received her D.D.S degree from the University of California, San Francisco in 1984. From 1984 to 1990, Franklin and Christina lived in Sunnyvale, California from which they moved to Clayton, California where they lived for the rest of Franklin's life. Franklin and Christina have four children, Karen Christina, Ann Elizabeth, Franklin Pierce III, and Paul Alexander.

While the children were growing up, Franklin documented everything on film and video: births and birthdays, baseball games and dance recitals, band concerts and military marches (Karen was in the Marine Corps), graduations and Christmas (especially Christmas).

Franklin was involved in the arts and sciences, attending regularly, and donating to, the San Francisco Symphony, Lamplighters Music Theater (Gilbert and Sullivan productions), De Young Museum, Legion of Honor Museum, Academy of Sciences, San Francisco Zoo, Monterey Bay Aquarium. He also donated regularly to the Contra Costa Food Bank, Children International, Heifer International, Toys for Tots, and Population Connection as well as several genealogical societies and historical sites, including Mount Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg.

From 1976 to his death, Franklin's principal hobby was genealogy and family history. For the results of much of his findings in that area (and some of his other writings), refer to the following website: "franklinmason.com" (with the quotes for better search results).

Another important hobby of Franklin's was collecting Lincoln Logs and documenting their history, with his son Paul.

From 2009 to 2018, Franklin went on a journey of developing wholesome and nutritious foods, specifically snacks. Although he was never a success in a commercial sense, he learned a lot about nutrition and healthful foods, which helped him live a long and healthy life.

Franklin was preceded in death by his mother and father and by his brothers, Willard Leckie Mason and David Irvine Mason. He is succeeded by his sisters Janet Thompson Mason West (Michael) and Genevieve Barnes Mason Scandone (John) and by his brother James Hildreth Mason.

Franklin is also survived by his wife Christina Lois Potter Mason and by his children Karen Christina Mason Stephens (Peter), Ann Elizabeth Mason Borden (Jesse), Franklin Pierce Mason III (Anna), and Paul Alexander Mason (Naomi). He is also survived by his grandchildren Michael Noel Stephens and Mason Russell Stephens; Asher David Grace Borden and Sophiah Karolyn Borden; and Levi Franklin Mason and Oliver Pierce Mason.

Franklin is to be buried at the Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery in Wilmington, Delaware. He will be the sixth generation of the Mason family, in direct line, to be buried there.