1762-1816) While working as George Washington’s private secretary, Lear rubbed elbows with the most important men in society. When Lear tried to achieve his own success through a real estate venture, he incurred massive debt. Some say Jefferson offered Lear a diplomatic position, Consul to Santo Domingo, to help Lear escape creditors. The appointment ended after only a year, when Napoleon sent an army to conquer the area. In 1803, Lear travelled to Algiers as consul. Two years later, the public criticized him or paying pirates a ransom to free prisoners in Tripoli. His diplomatic service ended when the ruler of Algiers bought the United States would lose the War of 1812, and sent Lear home at the start of the conflict. In 1816, Lear committed suicide, and left no note to explain his actions. 

![image](https://example.com/image1)

2. FREDERICK GREUHM (ca. 1770-1823) As Minister from the Prussian Government to the United States, Greuhm worked to obtain relief for wounded soldiers. He died in 1823, and became the first foreign minister to pass away in the United States. Although his funeral was held in the pouring rain, the procession was “one of the largest seen in the city,” and it featured “all the principle Officers of the Government,” according to The National Intelligencer in 1823. R31/S32

3. PUSH-MA-TA-HA (ca. 1764-1824) Push-Ma-ta-Ha served as a Choctaw Indian Chief, warrior and diplomat, and fought with Senator Andrew Jackson in the battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. Push-Ma-ta-Ha died of diphtheria in Washington in 1824, while seeking payment for debts owed by the government to his nation. His military funeral, led by Jackson, stretched a full mile with thousands in attendance. The funeral was so large that it blocked traffic on the streets.

4. WILLIAM PINKNEY (ca. 1745-1823) Pinkney became known for his philanthropy, such as helping to establish the American Red Cross. In 1879, a bank he founded went bankrupt, and because faulty records were blamed as the cause of the failure, he spent three months in jail. Although all charges were dismissed, Pinkney had to resign as Consul. However, he continued his charitable acts, by working with Alexander Graham Bell to manage the Volta Bureau’s library for the hearing impaired. He also developed a close friendship with Helen Keller. She referred to him as her “dear foster father,” and he called her his “most beloved daughter.” R46/S106

5. CAPTAIN RICHARD HENRY O’BRIEN (ca. 1758-1824) As Consul General to the Barbary Coast, O’Brien worked to protect U.S. trade in the Mediterranean. Negotiations in the area were treacherous, and countries often had to bribe pirates and royal leaders to stay afloat. In 1785, Algerian pirates overthrew O’Brien’s ship, and he and his crew were enslaved. The ruler of Algiers declared war on the United States. After years of talks, the United States and Algiers reached a peace agreement – the U.S. government would pay over $990,000 to Algiers, which had amounted to over $14 million today. After gaining his freedom, O’Brien needed to help raise the money. In 1796, he sailed back to Algiers to deliver the fee. Along the way, he was again captured and freed by pirates, and he also helped negotiate peace between the United States and Tunis and Tripoli. One year later, he returned to Algiers as Consul General to the Barbary Coast. However, negotiations deteriorated, and Tripoli declared war on the United States. In 1803, the head of Algiers shipped O’Brien home. R31/S39

6. WILLIAM PINKNEY (ca. 1764-1822) Along with serving as a diplomat in England, Russia, and Naples, Pinkney held many respected positions in the United States. He graced the House of Representatives with his fiery orations, drew audiences to Supreme Court cases as the Attorney General of Maryland, was a prominent Mason and received his Masonic Degree in 1820.

7. WILLIE PERSON MANGUM, JR. (ca 1827-1881) After working as a Supreme Court lawyer, Mangum took his legal skills abroad. He arrived to serve as U.S. Consul in Ningpo, China, two days after the city had been captured by rebellions. A treaty granted foreign authorities rights to settle disputes involving Japan. Mangum wrote to the English ambassador in Ningpo, requesting protection. Mangum served in U.S. mail service in China, and in his postal system. He again fought violence – a civil war. Mangum became an imperial Prince, and also settled disputes involving Japan. Mangum’s problems throughout his life, and his death, is a mystery. He wrote how Russia could counter...
American Minister to Ecuador, Mahany helped negotiate a treaty that freed a U.S. citizen who was arrested in Ecuador for participating in a revolution. R28/S8

[12. HENRY STEPHEN FOX (ca. 1791-1846)] As Minister Plenipotentiary from Britain to the United States, Fox gained a reputation as an “extraordinarily queer” man. He slept in until 1 or 2 p.m., avoided company, gambled frequently, and always looked as if he were sick. Lord Byron recorded one encounter with Fox: “I met the other day with Henry Fox, who has been dreadfully ill, and as he says, ‘so changed that his oldest creditor would not know him.’” R56/S96

[13. JOHN FORSYTH (ca. 1780-1841)] Along with serving as senator and governor of Georgia, Forsyth thrived at international relations. He represented the United States as minister to Spain in 1819, and worked as J.S. Secretary of State n 1834. While holding diplomatic posts, Forsyth gained the Spanish King’s codification for ceding Florida to the United States, and became involved with Texas’ annexation and admission. Forsyth also convinced France to pay the United States reparations for damages exacted during the Napoleonic Wars. For one of his more controversial actions, he supported the “Trail of Tears,” the forced removal of the Creek and Cherokee nations. R37/S65

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