

# Spooky Times in Maysville, KY



*Yes, the town is located in MASON county.*

Maysville native **George Clooney** is known to come from a well-connected Hollywood family. It's also admitted in the mainstream press that George is [related](#) to Abraham Lincoln. What got me going on this paper, though, is George's great-great grandfather [Andrew Clooney](#), who was born in Maysville in 1874 and died on Halloween in 1947. That's a particularly spooky set of dates. Looking more into Andrew Clooney, we find he married [Crescentia Koch](#), who was also born in 1874. Crescentia's [father](#) was an eyewitness to the Lincoln assassination, which Miles has previously exposed as a spook event. Andrew Clooney was mayor of **Maysville** over multiple terms. With a modern-day

population of 9,000, you wouldn't think "Mayor of Maysville" meant all that much back in the 30s, though Mayor Clooney apparently met with FDR in 1933 to discuss local flooding issues.

The Clooneys often talk about Maysville and George premiered one of his movies in this little town on the banks of the Ohio River (see photo to the right). I found this interesting, as Maysville doesn't seem impressive at first glance.



But let's take a deeper look. **Daniel Boone**, whom Miles has written about before, is one of Maysville's founders. Next we learn George's aunt [Rosemary Clooney](#) was a huge Hollywood star, and grew up in Maysville's spooky [John Brett Richeson House](#), located at 331 W. 3rd St. Already, we've found a lot of numerology in this little town. The house's namesake founded **Maysville Academy**, a 19<sup>th</sup> century boarding school for spooks. This academy churned out top brass including president **Ulysses S. Grant**, Union general **William Nelson**, and confederate general **Albert Johnston**. Note that Confederate President Jefferson Davis called Johnston "the finest general officer in the Confederacy."

Let me keep hitting Maysville's history for a moment. The town was "an important stop on the Underground Railroad, as the free state of Ohio was just across the river." **Harriet Beecher Stowe** based part of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* on her visit to the town. By the 1850s, abolitionists were flocking to Maysville, and this development was linked to a mysterious powder keg explosion there in 1854 (though it was officially never solved). An army officer at the time said it was,

Doubtless the heaviest discharge of gunpowder that [has] ever taken place upon this continent. No similar disaster is remembered, in the world's history, where so little injury to life resulted amidst such immense and general danger.

The local newspaper [reported](#) more spooky numbers - claiming **33** houses were demolished by **800** powder kegs. This was likely a strike by pro-slavery advocates against the abolitionists moving in, many of whom were assisting slaves in escaping across the river to freedom in Ohio. So already we've got some action going on in this little town, more than I would've expected based on reading the Clooney bios.

While researching Maysville, I noticed some of the buildings stick out, like they are too elegant to be from a random small town. For instance, check out the **Cox Building** in downtown Maysville (on the right). The building has its own Wiki [page](#), which notes its "upper **three** stories .. were designed explicitly for use as a Masonic Temple, specifically for the York Rite Knights Templar." Interesting. The building itself is of course located on **Third** St. and contains all sorts of Masonic and Knights Templar symbolism inside.



Another building that seems out of place in Maysville is the **Russell Theatre**, which opened in December, 1930. Looks grand, doesn't it?



But it's weird to find a swanky 700-seat movie theatre - built during the Great Depression no less - located in a small town where the average [household income](#) is currently under \$30k. Also, the address is 9 (3 x 3) E. **Third St.** What gives?

The Russell theatre's [website](#) says **James Barbour Russell** "decided to erect a movie palace .. as a philanthropic gesture to his hometown .. the project topped \$200,000 which would be approximately \$2,808,000 today." The theatre further

featured a Mediterranean garden theme with painted facades of lush landscaping. Stone and plaster balconies hung with Spanish shawls, and faux Lombard trees and trailing ivy [added] to the effect. Plaster statuary adorned both the lobby and the main floor of the theater. The ceiling, which was painted a dark navy blue to mimic a night sky, twinkled with tiny lights. Indeed, many were later surprised to discover that they had attended an indoor movie, as the "night sky show" was so realistic. It was only at the end of evening that patrons were able to see the elaborate indoor ceiling, as a rainbow flashed across "the sky" to signal the end of the feature film.

The theatre's website describes Russell as a "a flamboyant, well-known Maysville businessman who made his early fortune in the grocery business." A newspaper [clipping](#) mentions Russell "drove a large yellow convertible.. [and] with his distinctive white hair and beard and a prominent swagger, he was easily recognized and widely admired."

So we've got a swaggering small-town grocery store owner. Does that sound like someone who can afford to build a lavish multimillion dollar "movie palace" during the Great Depression? Of course not. It turns out Russell's father **Milton Russell** founded this lucrative Maysville "grocery store." We then learn Milton's "[enterprise](#) sold wholesale groceries, [but] liquor was its principal product." Ah ha. Milton "made himself an indispensable factor in connection with the business" and went on to employ a "large corps of traveling salesmen" who hawked "leading brands of whiskies [and] a full line of wines, gins, and brandies of the highest grade."

That makes sense: Maysville is after all the [birthplace](#) of bourbon. The Russell's were selling liquor and had a large distribution network; that's how they got rich. Selling groceries at a mom-and-pop-shop

isn't going to finance a movie palace, nor would it pay for Milton Russell's "unique and unforgettable Maysville mansion," which has its own Wiki [page](#).

Milton died in 1902, and the liquor business passed on to his son, James Barbour Russel. James "continued to sell liquor from the wholesale grocery until National Prohibition" started in 1920. But do you really believe he stopped? After all, ten years into Prohibition, he was driving a convertible and [bragging](#), "What the Roxy is to New York ... The Russell [theatre] will be to Maysville." Russell seems to have gotten even *richer* during the 20s and early 30s, which makes sense as Prohibition notoriously eliminated legal competition in the liquor market. Also keep in mind that Kentucky has a history of opposing federal interference in its booze sales, as it refused to collect the federal [whiskey tax](#) back in the 1790s.

A Google search confirms my suspicions that Maysville was a bootlegging center - and then some. Indeed, [George Remus](#) - "King of the bootleggers" - based his operation out of Cincinnati, an hour north of Maysville. Remus [controlled](#) "all aspects of the bourbon industry, from creating the product in Kentucky distilleries to shipping and distribution, and then through the sales process." *The St. Louis Dispatch* writes, "Remus was to bootlegging what Rockefeller was to oil" and notes his net worth would be in the billions today.

Remus was the biggest bootlegger of them all and, incredibly, bought Maysville's **Pogue Distillery** at the beginning of Prohibition. The Pogue distillery would become "[central](#) to his operation."

Remus operated pharmacies as fronts in the larger towns, which allowed him to legally transport liquor from places like the Pogue distillery in Maysville for "medicinal purposes." He would then "orchestrate raids and thefts of his own merchandise" so he could resell the booze on the black market.

Remus bribed a massive number of government officials, including the U.S. Attorney General, and threw "shockingly lavish parties." He's a character on the HBO show *Boardwalk Empire* and some claim he's the inspiration for Jay Gatsby. At any rate, this explains why we see luxurious Prohibition-era buildings around Maysville; there was illegal booze money flowing through the town.

James Barbour Russell (who built the theatre) had access to prime booze, a large distribution network, and was very wealthy. He was undoubtedly working for Remus, which explains how he lived a lavish lifestyle while outwardly running a "grocery store." And who was mayor of Maysville and all-around prominent citizen during this time? That's right, Clooney's great grandfather Andrew. Andrew was 46 years old when Prohibition began in 1920, meaning he was an influential person at the same time Remus was bribing officials and pumping illegal booze out of Maysville. Clooney's got to be involved in some capacity, which explains how Rosemary had the wealth and connections (like mobbed up Bing Crosby, who we'll meet in a moment) to pursue Hollywood stardom. Incredible.



It's also interesting to note that George Clooney now makes more money in tequila than acting. *Forbes* ranked Clooney as the [highest-paid](#) male actor in 2018 even though he wasn't in any movies that year. Clooney was nonetheless #1 because of his tequila company Casamigos. Clooney and two friends supposedly put up \$600,000 apiece to start the company, and each received a ridiculous [return](#) of **\$333** million from the company's sale four years later. *The Wall Street Journal* criticized the transaction and noted it likely overvalued the company.

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Ok, back to Rosemary Clooney. Rosemary, George's aunt, grew up with her sister Betty in the Maysville SpookHouse we saw earlier in this paper. She got noticed while singing duets with her sister, and was signed to Columbia records where she released many hits. During this time, she appeared in a TV series on CBS, starred alongside **Bing Crosby** in the hugely profitable movie *White Christmas*, and hosted her a variety show on NBC. Rosemary and Bing become closely associated, and Bing even wrote the introduction to Rosemary's autobiography. Rosemary makes a tongue-in-cheek joke early on in this book, [writing](#) "a lot of folks [in her town] were in the CIA: Catholic Irish Alcoholics." Clooney's father George may actually have been; he was stationed in Germany in the 1950's as part of the Military's Armed Forces Radio Network, which of course had a propaganda focus. Clooney's father died in **1974**.

Back to Rosemary's collaborator Bing Crosby. [Wiki](#) humorously mentions Crosby "is one of **33** people to have **three** stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame." Crosby was a big star and a bigger spook. His sales figures seem made up; he supposedly sold over 200 million records by 1960, had 25 singles hit #1, and is the 3rd most popular movie star of all time. Wiki says Bing was "one of the richest men in the history of show business. He had investments in real estate, mines, oil wells, cattle ranches, race horses, music publishing, baseball teams, and television."

Later on, we receive conflicting info as it says, "In retaliation for not paying his gambling debts, Crosby received death threats and was forced to ask people, including Sinatra, for money so he could avoid being killed." What? I thought he was one of the richest people in show biz, ever. It's further admitted that "Crosby had ties with figures in the Mafia since his youth" and "was friends with high-profile mobsters such as Bugsy Siegel and Frank Nitti." So this is who Rosemary Clooney - George's future entré into Hollywood - was palling around with. Rosemary and Bing also both died at **74** years old. More numerology.

Keep Rosemary's mob ties in mind as you look at the [image](#) below, which features George and his wife at a Maysville restaurant. The restaurant is aptly located on Rosemary Clooney St., and the guy in the middle is the owner - probably just some small-town businessman happy to serve the local boy who made it big, right?

Wrong. His name is [Jerry Lundergan](#) (Wiki gives his birth year as **1946** or **1947**) and he's twice served as Chairman of the Kentucky Democratic Party. He's also got a wrap sheet. He stepped down as Chairman in 1987 after accepting a no-bid contract given to his personal company, was charged with additional ethics violations while serving as a state senator in 1989, and was finally sentenced to 21 months in prison in 2020 for "orchestrating a multi-year scheme to funnel more than \$200,000 in secret, unlawful corporate contributions into [his daughter's] campaign for United States Senate."



So, in this small Kentucky town that is mentioned in less than one sentence in George Clooney's father's [bio](#), we've now found Daniel Boone, multiple A-List Hollywood stars, top Civil War brass, a mysterious explosion, Freemasons, billionaire bootleggers, and corrupt politicians. This is surprising.

Back to Rosemary Clooney. She had another friend who's even more famous than Bing. This friend was **Robert F. Kennedy**. [Rosemary](#) accompanied RFK "every step of the way" during his 1968 presidential campaign and was present during his assassination. The story goes that Rosemary was so disturbed after Kennedy's death that she suffered a mental breakdown. An article from the time is telling:

Robert Kennedy died June 5, but Rosemary Clooney refused to believe it. She told people that the report of his death was just "a plot to scare us" .. At a press conference she told reporters: "I don't want to sing for people who kill" .. [Eventually] doctors who had been alerted to her condition forcibly restrained her and took her by ambulance to the local hospital.

Is there some truth to what she was saying? I don't know, but the problems were severe enough that she wasn't seen again in public for **eight** years. Incredibly, this makes Rosemary the second Clooney relative to have been present at a president's assassination. Remember I said at the beginning George's great great grandfather [Joseph Henry Koch](#) was an eyewitness of the Lincoln assassination. This explains why Clooney is currently producing a [movie](#) about the Lincoln assassination.

The mainstream actually admits Clooney is [directly](#) related to Lincoln; Reuters writes, "Lincoln's mother **Nancy Hanks** was the half-sister of Clooney's 4th great-grandmother [Mary Ann Sparrow](#)." This is a **very** close relation to such a momentous historical figure, though the mainstream articles try to downplay it. For what it's worth, Clooney's grandmother Sparrow married the oddly named [Benjamin Franklin Whitehouse](#) and together they had 14 children. **It also links us to Tom Hanks, a close cousin of Clooney.**

It's also interesting to note that Clooney's maternal grandmother is Marie Frances **Guilfoyle**. If that surname sounds familiar, you may be thinking of Fox News personality and Trump advisor [Kimberly Guilfoyle](#). But she's a Republican, and Clooney is a bleeding heart liberal, right? Well, turns out Kimberly is from ultra-liberal San Francisco and spent two years as First Lady of that city while married to then governor **Gavin Newsom**. Newsom is of course a Democrat, and now is Governor of California. Guilfoyle and Newsom divorced in 2006, but the story deepens as it turns out Kimberly's father **Anthony Guilfoyle** ran Newsom's campaign and was [referred](#) to as "The Godfather" of San Francisco politics. I can't definitively link Clooney's Guilfoyle's to these San Francisco Guilfoyle's, but both lines go back to Ireland where they're located just an hour from each other, so a relation seems likely.

And then in George's Hollywood movies, we of course see endless Intelligence-related roles. He has played:

- A Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Special Forces in *The PeaceMaker* (1997)
- A Major in the Army Special Forces in *Three Kings* (1999)
- A CIA Agent in *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* (2002)
- A CIA Agent in *Syriana* (2005)
- A war correspondent .. caught up in a CIA's operation in *The Good German* (2006)
- A US Marshall .. who's being spied on by the CIA in *Burn After Reading* (2008)
- A character based on "several real-life psychic spies" in *The Men Who Stare at Goats* (2009)
- An Army Lieutenant in *The Monuments Men* (2014)

Yes, some of these movies are comedic or tongue-in-cheek, but I think we see where George Clooney gets his inspiration from: Intelligence.

Alright, so how did Clooney get his start in Hollywood? We're told he tried to play pro baseball with the Cincinnati Reds and was quickly cut, so he went to college but ended up dropping out twice. To understand Clooney's next step, it's important to know that for most of the 50s and 60s, Rosemary Clooney was married to [José Ferrer](#), a Puerto Rican actor who graduated from a Swiss boarding school and Princeton University. Ferrer starred in dozens of movies and received "the National Medal of Arts from Ronald Reagan .. the first actor to receive that honor." Rosemary had five kids with Ferrer, including **Miguel Ferrer** who was a successful actor in his own right, known for roles in *Robocop* (1987) *Traffic* (2000), *Iron Man 3* (2013), among others. Anyway, Miguel - George's first cousin - went to Kentucky to shoot a movie in the 80s and hired Clooney as an extra. Up until this [point](#) Clooney had been "drifting, not applying himself at Northern Kentucky University," but was encouraged by Miguel to enter the family business. George [soon](#) "packed up his stuff ... and drove to Aunt Rosemary's house in California to give show business a try." Some articles make it sound as though Clooney was taking a big risk, but in reality he was moving into the mansion of an established Hollywood star who hung out with Bing Crosby and the Kennedy's. Clooney eventually broke through with a role on the TV show "ER" and the rest is history.