

Frank Masland Jr. Timeline

- 1895 Born in Philadelphia to family of weavers with English origins.
- 1905, age 10 Grew up in a rural suburb of Philly. Developed a passion for the outdoors.
- 1914, age 24 Entered Dickinson College where he was better known for mischief than academic performance.
- 1916, age 21 Dropped out of law school, joined US Navy to fight in WWI.
- 1918, age 23 Married his college love Virginia Sharp. Remained faithful till her death in 1984. Had two sons.
- 1919, age 23 Oversaw relocation of the Masland carpet mill from Philly to Carlisle during the flu epidemic of 1918-19.
- 1920, age 25 Parents divorced, reinforcing his abhorance of drink and fast living.
- Early 1920s Became general manager of the Masland carpet mill, one of the world's largest.
- 1930, age 36 Nominated president of the company, which he guided through the turbulent years of the Great Depression and WWII.
- 1934, age 40 Purchased 300-acre fixer-upper subsistence farm on Old York Road, able to help his family through lean times.
- 1943, age 49 Retooled factory to wartime production after Pearl Harbor is bombed.
- 1948, age 54 Joined nature clubs. Also embarked on 3-week life-changing river journey in Grand Canyon. Retired from the company.
- 1951, age 56 Purchased Kings Gap from James McCormick Cameron's estate.
- 1955, age 60 Wrote influential memorandum concerning the Navajo reservation, getting attention from the US government.
- 1956, age 61 Began first of several terms on National Park Advisory Board, lasting until Richard Nixon administration. Also led efforts to remove a Dickinson professor called out by the McCarthy hearings.
- 1962, age 67 Participated in First World Conference on National Parks in Seattle, which inspired extensive national parks programs in Africa and various countries over the coming decades.
- 1970, age 75 "If we are to achieve a beautiful land, ... environmental education must begin in kindergarten," wrote Frank in letter to Carlisle paper.
- 1973, age 78 Transferred ownership of Kings Gap to Commonwealth of PA.
- 1984, age 89 Wife Virginia dies. Around this time, Frank makes large philanthropic donations to local schools, churches, and organizations.
- 1994, age 99 Frank dies in his Carlisle home on July 30, fondly remembered by friends, family, and the Carlisle community.