



## Biography

### **FOUNDERS OF RETAIL STORES THAT COMPRISE MACY'S INC.**

#### **Rowland Hussey Macy, Founder of R.H. Macy and Company**

R.H. Macy founded the world famous retail store, Macy's, in 1858. Originally, it was a small, consumer goods store in Boston, Mass. After several of his stores closing, Macy tried a new business approach and opened another store on Sixth Avenue and 14th Street in New York City. This store attracted big crowds and was his first successful business plan. Macy used a red star as the symbol of his store because as a sailor he had one tattooed on his arm. Through taking on several business partners, R.H. Macy and Company soon grew and sales were skyrocketing. In 1877, Macy died at age 57 in France. He left the company to his son, Nathan. Macy has been credited with being the best merchant of his day. R.H. Macy and Company became apart of Macy's Inc. in 1994.

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## **Joseph and Lyman Bloomingdale Founders of Bloomingdale's**

Brothers Joseph and Lyman Bloomingdale opened their first retail store in 1861. Originally, the store started out selling the year's fashionable hoop skirts in Manhattan's Lower East Side in New York City. With the going out of the hoop skirt trend, the brothers closed their store and moved to Third Avenue and 56th Street to sell more of a variety of clothing. The brothers were from a European background and used European trends to stand apart from other retailers at the time. Customers were drawn to the new fashion and started to shop at Bloomingdale's more often. New additions were added to the neighborhood bringing in wealthier families to buy from Bloomingdale's. Advertisements were used throughout the city and people could not escape seeing Bloomingdale's name all over. The store grew, and the brothers were successful. There are now 36 stores nationwide. Bloomingdale's became part of Macy's Inc. in 1930.