

Name: Alexandre Dumas (père); born Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie

Date of Birth: 7/24/1802

Date of Death: 12/5/1870, died in his sleep of old age

Parents: General Thomas-Alexandre Davy de la Pailleterie and Marie Louise Labouret

- Thomas-Alexandre worked under Napoleon and attained the highest rank of any black man in a European army to date

Spouse: actress Ida Ferrier, 1840

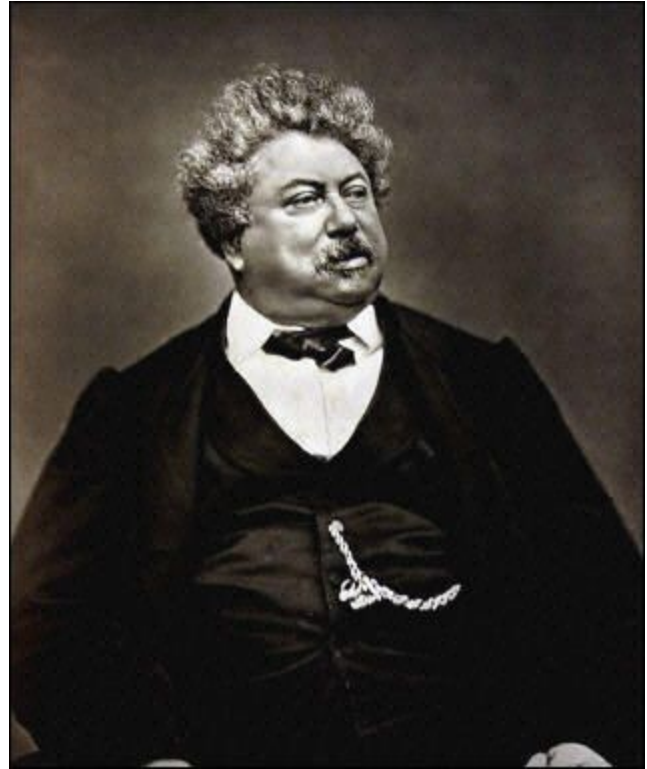
- He had two children out of wedlock: one with Marie Laure Catherine Labay-- his son Alexandre Dumas (fils). His daughter Marie Alexandrine has no recorded mother.

Children: Alexandre and Marie Alexandrine, along with 4-5 unknown other children

Religion: Christened Catholic

Life:

- His father died when he was 3; thereafter his mother, in acute financial distress, scraped together what schooling she could for him
 - He learned to handle the epee and sword, and read prolifically
- At 12 he observed the bloody war that deposed Napoleon; this would set the tone for his writing
- At 14, he became the errand clerk at an attorney's office and learned to prepare a contract and process payments, he eventually became a legal clerk
- His passion for writing bloomed at 16 when he met a man named Adolphe Ribbing de Leuven; the two wrote farces that didn't go anywhere
- At 21, Dumas made his way to Paris and called on friends of his father; one eventually gave him a post as a secretary to the Duc d'Orleans
- While in Paris, he reconnected with Adolphe and the two began to write for the theater again; Dumas also wrote poetry which slowly took off
- He climbed his way into society through seducing women who frequented salons
- The more he wrote, the more popular he became; the height of his career was *The Three Musketeers*, ghostwritten by his close friend Auguste Maquet, which he published in 1844
- He was slandered in the press upon publishing, which hurt him deeply and also financially
- In 1861, he traveled to Italy to fight in the efforts for Italian unification
- His debt increased and he eventually exhausted the money his writing had made him



- He died in 1870 having witnessed quite a few revolutions and was widely renowned as one of France's most famous authors

Personality:

- Wanted to achieve glory like his father
- Was scarred by early poverty and vowed to climb the ranks, which he did
- Was a hardworking, model employee; this carried over to his writing life- he hardly ever slept and worked pretty much non-stop
- Was a model son once he reached his 20s
- He was a womanizer, alleged to have had over forty affairs and dated much younger women in his old age
- Was actually hilarious and jovial
- Fought back against racists who called him out for being a "quadroon"
 - My father was a mulatto, my grandfather was a Negro, and my great-grandfather a monkey. You see, Sir, my family starts where yours ends.
- Gave everything he could to his son, Alexandre (fils), who followed in his father's literary footsteps
- Really enjoyed fighting

Dumas on Three Musketeers

- Upon rereading it in his old age, he thought "it was good", better even than Count of Monte Cristo