

SQUARE & COMPASSES



EAST TRINITY MASONIC LODGE #157 ROCKWALL, TX APRIL 2026
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MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The March stated meeting was opened at 7:30 PM in a Fellow Craft Lodge.

Minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Lodge Business:

Bills totaling \$248.89 (water, electric, and internet) were approved and paid.

The Dues in Arrears Committee reported 23 brothers currently delinquent.

The Vanguard Award requirements continue to be met. WM presented a power point presentation explaining the requirements

The 2026 East Trinity Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held May 8th at Buffalo Creek. Volunteers are welcome. Rockwall Ford has agreed to be a title sponsor. We still need players, hole sponsors, volunteers, etc.

A proposal to donate money to the Rockwall ISD AG barn was made. WM asked the matter be investigated further.

East Trinity will host a Briscoe Workshop on April 25th.

WM asked for nominations for the Community Builder Award.

A reorder of ET challenge coins was discussed to replace the dwindling supply. The initial quote from the



GOLDEN TROWEL CEREMONY

Brother Doug Barkley was awarded the Golden Trowel Award last Monday in a ceremony. The ceremony was attended by his wife, Meredith, and his twin daughters, Blythe and Camille.

He stated he was deeply honored to have been chosen by the Golden Trowel Committee to receive this award. The award is given once a year to the brother who has given exceptional service to the lodge.

original vendor was

\$902. WM asked for more quotes.

WM asked the Social Cmte to plan something to be held within the next couple of months.

Scholarship Cmte is reviewing applications.

DUES

As of this writing, 18 brothers are delinquent.

Remember that a brother who is in arrears may not attend lodge until his dues are brought current. Many brothers are paying thru Grand Lodge, which makes things go a lot easier. If you would like to pay the traditional way, then please send your payment to:

East Trinity Lodge 157
104 South Goliad
Rockwall, Tx 75087

Inside this issue:

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS	1
History Corner	2-4
Masonic Short Talks	5-6
From Refreshment to Labor	7
ADVERTISING	8-9

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 6th–Stated Meeting
- Apr 13th– practice
- Apr 20th-practice
- Apr 27th-practice
- May 4th-Stated Meeting

Fraternal Eats. The menu remains classified, but history suggests nobody leaves hungry

EAST TRINITY LODGE HISTORY CORNER

This month we are featuring the lodge's 28th Worshipful Master H.B. Barnes.

Henry (Hal) Barnett Barnes

Biography

Worshipful Master for the East Trinity Lodge (1909 & 1934)



H. B. Barnes

Hal Barnett Barnes was the son of Wiley Turner Barnes and grandson of Sterling Rex Barnes. Wiley Barnes was the Worshipful Master for the years 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, and 1879. Sterling Barnes was the first Junior Warden and Charter Member of the East Trinity Lodge.

Hal was born on 15 Jan 1883 in Rockwall, Texas. His father, Wiley was born in Lauderdale Co., Alabama on 4 Aug 1834 and his mother, Katherine (Kate) Athelia Manson, was born in Wilson County, Tennessee on 8 July 1850.

Hal B. Barnes and Miss Frances C. Nash were married in Wise Co. Texas on 26 Jun 1913. Reverend S.C. Riddle presided. Their marriage license was obtained from Rockwall County.

H.B. Barnes was first listed as a Master Mason in the Lodge Returns in 1904. He was listed as a Junior Warden in 1906 and he served as Senior Warden in 1908. In 1909, he became the Worshipful Master for East Trinity Lodge at age 26. He also returned 25 years later and became the Worshipful Master for a second time in 1934 at age 51.

THE OFFICER LINE-UP FOR 1909

H.B. Barnes – Worshipful Master

J.L. Austin – Senior Warden

B.B. Lanham – Junior Warden

J.F. Allday – Treasurer
 I. J. Austin – Secretary
 H.A. Briscoe – Senior Deacon
 E.M. Love – Junior Deacon
 T.E. Parker – Senior Steward
 A.L. Adamson – Junior Steward
 W.C. Lanham – Tiler

Past Masters - W.C. Lanham, E. C. Heath, E. W. Hardin, H.A. Briscoe, J.H. Chisholm, R.M. Womack, H.H. Walker.

Master Masons – D.J. Anderson, T.H. Adams, B.F. Burtner, M.A. Brown, W.W. Bishop, T.W. Baily, J.T. Benbrook, J.T. Bailey, J.F. Black, M.A. Bunch, H. Bagley, J.E. Baugh, F. Clark, G.M. Curtis, , J.F. Carry, Ebb Carnes, L.L. Crawford, J. D. Cox, W.A. Curfman, J.H. Crump, C.W. Darr, W.B. Dowd, L.L. Darr, Roscoe Darr, J.T. Evans, M.W. Evans, D.C. Fondren, E.D. Foree, J.F. Good, J.W. Glover, T.M. Gillespie, W.W. Hartman, W.R. Harvey, W.W. Hartman, M.L. Halford, A.W. Harvey, W. R. Harvey, Gus Hartman, T. D. Isbell, J.F. Jones, L.N. Jackson, T.L. Keys, B.F. Keasey, A.C. Lock, A.E. Love, C.R. Love, C.R. Lane, T.B. Lanham, T.L. Lawhorn, G.R. Lemley, H.B. Lofland, Joseph Moore, L.W. Mason, Olin Mason, W.T. Monroe, J.F. McCarter, J.F. McCristie, Hubert McCurry, J.W. McKnight, S.M. McPhall, A. McPherson, C.C. Newman, R.M. Payne, T.E. Parker, , W.C. Roberts, J.D. Remassa, R.A. Snead, B.T. Stafford, W.G.. Scott, Paul Snow, T.H. Sullivan, J.R. Trotter, J.W. Teasley, G. F. Vernon, J.T. Vance, R. White, T.U. Wade, H.M. Wade, J.A. Wilkerson, H.W. Walker, L.W. Wilkinson, R.W. Wynne, B.H. Wisdom, J. H. Williams, J.H. Webster, Jacob Zoospan: Total, 101.

Entered Apprentices – J.M. Head, Ross Smith, Brue Hartman.

Fellow Crafts – R. Floyd.

Deaths – W.E Baum, J.S. Vernon.

Demitted – J. L. Posey, J.F. Peck, J.C. Barringer.

Suspended for Nonpayment of Dues – R.T. Tipton, C.A. Carry, E.O. Riggsbee, N.C. Riggsbee.

In 1920, Hal (36) and his wife Frances (32) were living on North Goliad Street in Rockwall and they had three children at that time: Florence (4), May Frances (2) and Hal B. Barnes Jr. (< 1). Hall Senior's occupation is listed as a "Clerk" in the industry of "Retail".

In 1930, Hal (47) and Frances (42) are still living on North Goliad Street in Rockwall and now they have five children: Florence M. (15), Mary F. (13), Hal B. (10), and two twin boys William V. (6) and

Robert N. (6). Hal Senior's occupation is "City Marshal", Industry "City Hall".

In the 1940 census, Hal (57) and Frances (52) were still living on North Goliad Street. He was again listed as the "City Marshall" and all their children were still at home: Florence (25), Mary (23), Hal Jr. (20), and twin sons, Bill and Bob (16).

In 1950, Hal Sr. and wife Frances were listed as living in Rockwall, Rockwall, Texas. Their children were all adults and had moved away. Hal Sr. was now working in the County Clerk's office. Hal was 67 and Frances was 62.

Masonic Brother Hal Barnes Sr. died in Rockwall on 17 November 1953, a member of the East Trinity Lodge for 45 Years. His Death Certificate lists him as retired and shows that he died from heart issues, he was 70 years old. He is buried at Rockwall Memorial Cemetery and his tombstone is engraved with the square and compasses Masonic symbol. His wife, Frances, lived 17 more years passing away on 15 February 1970, at age 83. Their eldest son Hal B. Barnes Jr. was raised to Master Mason at East Trinity Lodge No. 157 on 12 Dec 1940. He was 21 when he registered for WWII draft and served in the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant at the Head-quarter, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia. Masonic Brother Hal B. Barnes Jr. died in Dallas, Texas on 5 Oct 1974. He was 55 years old.

Compiled by Brother David L. Powell, East Trintiy Lodge No. 157

(Special thanks to my editor Barbara A. Powell)



MASONIC SHORT TALKS

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

by William R. Fischer

While reading a book of adventure, more fiction than fact, I came upon this paragraph.

"We came to an area of great construction and was stopped by a guard. He told us that we could not proceed in this direction. Knowing it would take at least a week to circumvent the vast work sight my mysterious friend approached the sentinel. After shaking his hand and speaking in that universal language of Masons we were permitted to pass unmolested. My friend told me that we would be welcome if we should pass this way again, plus this will stop anyone trying to follow us."

What a surprise to find out that we have a language! Boy have I been missing something!

It is said by some, that Masons have a universal language to which they use to communicate to every Mason in the world. We know this is not true. Or do we?

Our actions, thoughts and beliefs are universal. Through our actions our thoughts are well known, and we all believe in the Supreme Architect of the Universe. Maybe we do have a universal language. Through our acts of brotherly love we relieve distress and in this manner stay true to ourselves and to our obligation

PILLARS OF THE PORCH PILLARS OF CLOUD AND FIRE

by William R. Fischer

It is thought that King Solomon erected these pillars as a reference to the Pillar of Clouds and the Pillar of Fire. He did not simply erect them as ornaments, but as memorials of Gods repeated promise of support to his people. The name of the pillar on the left came from two words, IN and STRENGTH meaning of which is "in strength it be established" the name of the pillar on the right came from one word, JEHOVAH meaning "God". When you place them together you have "God will establish his house of Israel". These pillars stood as a daily reminder to those who entered the Temple. I mentioned Pillars of Cloud and Fire, at the beginning.

The Pillar of Cloud, emblematic of water, went before the Israelites by day and the Pillar of Fire emblematic of light, lead them by night in their journey through the wilderness. The one on the right represents the Pillar of Cloud, and the one on the left the Pillar of Fire. The names of the pillars are symbolic of the strength and stability of the Institution. They have many meanings but what they represent is the superintending and protecting power of the Deity. So our universal language is the Three Great Tenets of a Masons profession.

PROMISE

by William R. Fischer

Promise, which is a word of honor. The dictionary describes promise as "a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specific". Yet, it has become just another meaningless word we use to get ourselves out of a situation. You know the kind of situation I'm talking about:

1. I'll call you next week I promise.
 2. You do that again and I will ground you forever, I promise you that.
 3. I promised my wife three years ago I would paint this house and one of these days I'm going to do it.
- A promise made is never forgotten, break a promise and you will lose the trust and respect of others. When you make a promise your word and reputation is on the line. This is why you must weight the benefits and consequences. Do not make a promise you do not intend to keep, and know what you are getting yourself into before the promise.

There are five conditions in which a promise would not be binding.

1. Where the performance is impossible.
2. Where the promise is unlawful.
3. Where you were forced into a promise.
4. Where the conditions in which you made the promise do not exist.
5. Where either of the parties are not moral agents.

It is obvious that these conditions do not apply to Masonic promises.

1. Every promise is possible to perform.
2. No promise is unlawful.
3. There are no false conditions.
4. You voluntarily promise.
5. Both parties to the promise are moral agents.

Our promises are one of the moral secrets of the fraternity and is the cord that "binds" us as Freemasons.

From Labor to Refreshment



**The younger generation
exploring ancient ruins.**



April 1 is named FOOL'S DAY, after Steve April. He was born on 1st April 1579. He did 105 businesses in his lifetime. He lost all his father's assets, and so everyone started calling him father of the fools.

At 19, he married a 61-year-old woman who divorced him after a year because of his foolishness. He used to read all kinds of fake stories like you are doing now.

Happy April Fool 😊😊😊

I am a food but when you
spell me backwards i
become a month, what
am i? 😊

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WOMEN SHOULD
COME WITH
INSTRUCTIONS...
WHAT'S THE POINT
IN THAT? HAVE
YOU EVER SEEN A
MAN ACTUALLY
READ THE
INSTRUCTIONS?**

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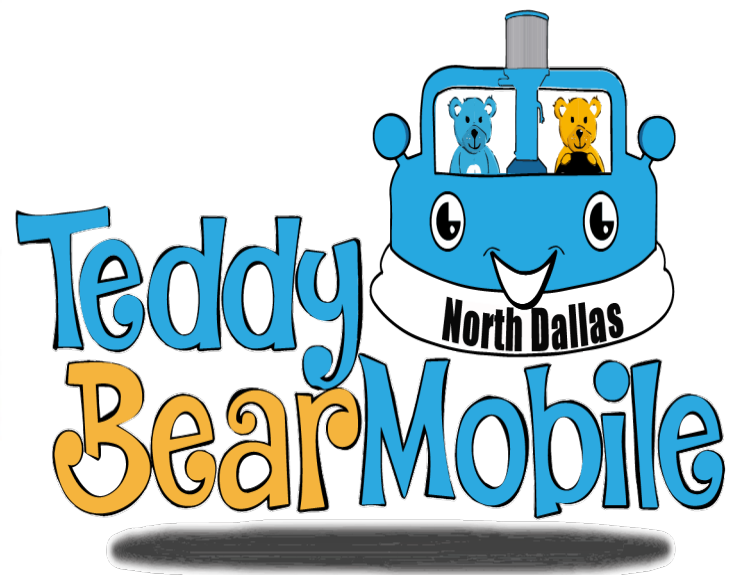
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