

# SQUARE & COMPASSES



EAST TRINITY MASONIC LODGE #157 ROCKWALL, TX SEPTEMBER 2025  
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## COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD

### AUGUST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The August Meeting went off without a hitch.

Brother Atterberry reported on the Shoes for Kids program. Almost 2,000 pairs of shoes were distributed.

WM read a letter of thanks from the student who received money from ET to attend a Leadership Academy.

-ET is on track to meet the Vanguard Requirements. A committee will be formed to shepherd the lodge through the myriad of requirements for this year.

-other committees to be formed are:

- Finance
- Social
- Scholarship

-An EA prof followed by a FC degree will be held the week after Aug Stated

-presentation of the Community Builder Award will be rescheduled to September 17th.

-The lodge will be dark on the first Monday of September, due to the Labor Day holiday.

The Community Builder Award was designed by the Grand Lodge of Texas to enable local Masonic Lodges to recognize outstanding non-Masons who have distinguished themselves through their service to the community, government, church or synagogue or to humanity. It seeks out those men and women who year in and year out quietly and without fanfare show devotion to their community and its people without the expectation of recognition.

It has been quite a few years since East Trinity has presented this award. This will change in a couple of weeks. The membership voted to present the Community Builder Award to Mrs. Darby Neilsen of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs Neilsen was nominated during the April Stated Meeting. Darby has led the Chamber since November 2018. Under her stewardship, the Chamber achieved the prestigious 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 2022 and continues to expand its impact through programming that elevates local

businesses, tourism initiatives, and community engagement

The presentation will be at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting on September 17th. The meeting will be at the Lakepointe Church and will begin at 8:30 AM. There is a fee to attend. Details can be found on the Chamber of Commerce website:

<https://business.rockwallchamber.org/events/details/september-partnership-breakfast-143165>

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### DON'T FORGET THE STATED MEETING

The stated meeting will be held on September 8th, 2025. The meal will begin at 6:30 PM. Lodge will begin at 7:30 PM.

**Fraternal Eats** . The meal will be spectacular!! And wash it all down with both sweet and unsweet iced tea and soft drinks.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 8th— Stated Meeting
- Sept 15th —MM practice
- Sept 17th—Comm. Builder Award presentation
- Sept 22nd —MM Practice
- Sept 29th—MM Degree

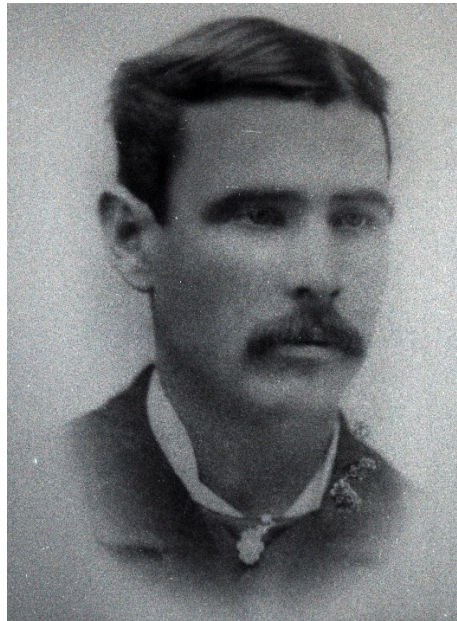
## EAST TRINITY LODGE HISTORY CORNER

*This historical sketch is the 25th article in a series of the history of the East Trinity Lodge. This month we are featuring the lodge's 22th Worshipful Master H. C. Heath.*

### Howell Cobb Heath

Biography

#### Worshipful Master for the East Trinity Lodge (1897)



**H. C. Heath**

Howell Cobb Heath was born in Kaufman County, Texas on 18 November 1857. The Post Office listed on the 1860 census was Rockwall. Howell's father was John Oswell Heath (42). John, his first wife Martha Jones and daughter Jezabel came to Texas from Kentucky. Martha died and John married Mariah Conner (nee Kern) in 1854. Mariah (33), was born in North Carolina and previously married to John Conner. The other children listed on the 1860 census were Jezabel (14), Adaline (13) Ephraim Charles (9), Martha A. (7), Mariah J. (6), William H. (4) and Howell C. (2), the youngest child. The first three children came from the J.O. Heath & Martha Jones union and the last three came from the John & Mareah union.

The next record we found for Howell was the Texas Marriage Index. He married Lizzie Tregg in Rockwall, Texas on 4 February, 1886. Six years later they are listed on the 1900 census. In 1900, Howell was 42, living in Rockwall and his occupation was Cotton Buyer. His family was his wife, Lizzie B. (28), one daughter Irine (12) and a son John O.S. Heath (6).

Howell's Half-brother, Ephraim C. Heath, was the Worshipful Master of No. 157 for the years 1880, 81, 82, and 84 so he probably encouraged Howell to become a lodge member.

We first found H.C. Heath in the lodge records in 1896. He was 39 years old at that time and he served as Senior Warden. Listed in the lodge records that year were E.C. Heath, serving as Treasurer and J.O. Heath

listed as a Master Mason. This was J.O. Heath's 43<sup>rd</sup> year as a member of the lodge. We believe that Howell lived several years out West in Memphis, Hall County, Texas because there is a record that shows Howell's son, John O. Shepard Heath, was born in Memphis, Texas on 29 January 1894.

In 1897, H.C. Heath became the Worshipful Master and the Lodge Return for this year follows:

#### **THE OFFICER LINE-UP FOR 1897**

H.C. Heath – Worshipful Master

George Lindsey – Senior Warden

L.W. Vance – Junior Warden

L.W. Mason – Treasurer

E.W. Hardin – Secretary

Paul Snow – Senior Deacon

W.T.G. Bishop – Junior Deacon

L.W. Wilkinson – Senior Steward

W.G. Scott – Junior Steward

T.B. Lanham – Tiler

**Past Masters** - W. T. Barnes, E. C. Heath, W.C. Lanham, W. F. Jones. G. A. Truitt, E. W. Hardin, W.W. Bishop J.A. Selby.

**Master Masons** - M.S. Austin, R.L. Arthur, J.T. Adams, A.S. Ater, E.M. Bourland, W.L. Brown, J.O. Beasley, M.A. Brown, T.W. Bailey, A.E. Barnett, J.A.F. Brownwell, J.E. Baugh, J.F. Corry, J.O. Dawson, C.W. Darr, T.J. Evans, C.R. Ellis, W.L. Floyd, E.D. Force, J.L. Faries, J.H. Fender, J.M. Foraker, A. Green, J.O. Heath, E.C. Heath, J.A. Hardin, W.P. Holt, H.C. Heath, W.B. Hall, J. T. Keahey, T.L. Keys, A.L. Kirby, J.J. Lowe, H.W. Manson, Neils Morton, B.K. McKindree, W.A. Merchison, James Melady, J.M. Nichols, J.W. Peyton, Jr, E.O. Rigsbee, E.T. Rice, L.F. Smith, R.A. Snead, J.T. Vance, James W. Vance, W.C. Vernon, J.S. Vernon, W.C. Vernon, A.K. Wilkerson, R. White, J.H. Williams, J.M. Wright, H.H. Walker, T.J. Evans, Jacob Zuspahn, W.L. Lawhorn: Total, 68.

**Entered Apprentices** – Robert Reed, A., B.F. Burtner.

**Fellow Craft** – J.C. Gaines.

**Demitted** – W.H. Clarkson, Mark Davis, W.E. Ellis, J.M. Foraker, P.A. Lamberson, John Neely, H.G. Malone, D.A. Underwood, L.J. Wheat.

**Suspended for Nonpayment of Dues:** W.H.L. Campbell, J.M. Jackson.

***Reinstated: J.H. Williams.***

In 1897, Howell Cobb Heath became the Worshipful Master of East Trinity Lodge No. 157. During this same year, on 27 December, Howell's father, John Oswald Heath died. More details about John O. Heath's life are in an article published in the East Trinity Newsletter.

Howell C. Heath completed his year as Worshipful Master and then he served as Senior Warden for the year 1898. E.C. Heath was also the Lodge Secretary that year. H.C. Heath and E.C. Heath are both listed as Past Masters and J.O. Heath's death is also listed on the 1898 Lodge Return.

In 1899, W.C. Lanham was the Worshipful Master. E.C. Heath is listed as the Secretary and H.C. Heath was the Senior Deacon. Both Heath brothers are listed as Past Masters.

In 1900, E.C. Heath again served as Secretary and both E.C. and H.C. Heath are listed as Past Masters.

The year 1900 was a tragic year for the Heath family. Howell Cobb Heath is listed under "Deaths" on the 1901 Lodge Returns. His findagrave.com entry states he was born on 18 November 1857, died on 2 December 1900 in Dallas, Texas and is buried in the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery. He was just 43 years old.

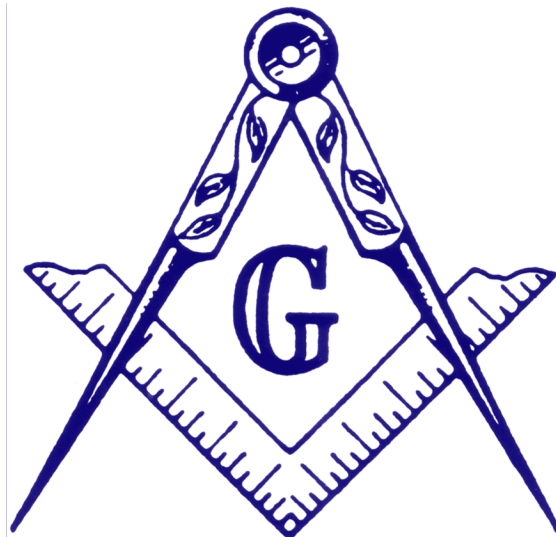
We found the Heath family plot at the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery on West Rusk Street but we could not find a marker for H.C. Heath. There are tombstones for Howell's father J.O. Heath and his brother E.C. Heath and there is an open space in the bounded plot area so H.C. Heath could be buried there.



Howell's wife, Elizabeth Trigg Heath died on 19 November 1901 and is buried in Rockwall. Their only son John O. Shepard Heath moved to Fort Worth and in 1930 he died and was buried in Rockwall. Their only daughter, Irene Heath White lived in Houston and Abilene, Texas. She died in Abilene, Texas in 1971 and she is buried in Rockwall.

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

(Special thanks to my editor Barbara A. Powell)



*Brethren, the True Stories and Events section is not included in this newsletter due to the website being unavailable. For this month, I have included a couple of Masonic Stories from another website. Enjoy!*

## THE TEST

Author: Unknown

Several years ago, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public. On some occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip and when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount." Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver with a smile replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "Oh God, Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This is a really almost scary example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Always be diligent, whether it be at the theater, restaurant, grocery, service station or just driving in traffic.

Remember, whether it be a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!

**Good men search for Freemasonry; Freemasonry makes them better.**



## THE GREAT SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

Acknowledgment: from an Article posted in: <http://masonictravels.com/the-great-secret-of-freemasonry/>

Recently I called at the home of a friend and found his wife reading a Masonic Paper. Since she and her people had long been a bitter anti-Masonic family, I asked her the reason for her change in reading material. She replied she had discovered the grand secret of Masonry; and related to me (*the original writer*) as follows:

“Soon after you were here last, I learned to my mortification, my husband had become a Mason. I felt it was because of you and I need not say how I felt toward either of you. I at once decided that my domestic happiness had come to an end. Some time later a circumstance occurred that for the first time gave me reason to doubt his integrity. Late on one of the coldest nights last winter my husband came in and asked, “Margaret, can you do without your blanket shawl?” I answered yes and he asked me to get it, also a bed comforter. I handed them to him and he left the house to join a friend who was waiting for him with a very large basket. My husband returned shortly with no explanation, either then or later for his actions. I decided to watch for my shawl, for if I once caught sight of it I could unravel this whole mystery. Soon afterward a female whisked past me on the street wearing my shawl.

“The good for nothing huzzy, I thought; and excitedly started in pursuit. I followed closely from street to street and into the fourth story of a bindery. As she sat down to work I immediately set about locating her residence to get a clue to my husband’s perfidy. On arriving at her home I saw that I was not mistaken for I found my comforter there.

“The who secret flashed on my mind at once, as clearly as if it had been written with a sunbeam from heaven. There I found a widowed mother in the last stages of consumption, and three children dependent upon the scanty pittance earned by the elder sister, whom I had followed. I learned from the dying woman a lesson, that in all my philosophy I had never dreamed of—such a tale of sorrow as I had never before listened to—and when she had related the deed of charity that had been the cause of all my unhappiness, I felt there was not room in my bosom to appreciate the disinterested benevolence of my husband. She said, “I do not know how we should have lived, but for the kindness of two persons who came here late one night, and left a basket filled with provisions, some bedclothes, a shawl and five dollars. They just opened the door and set in the basket, saying, “Accept this and ask no questions”; and left before I had time to inquire their names. I do not know who they were, and I have some doubts from where these things came. But I never forget in earnest prayers to Him, Who opened His hand and filleth the poor with bread, to ask, if these were men, He will keep them and theirs from the sorrows and afflictions with which I am visited. I left the house a better woman than when I entered it.”

# From Labor to Refreshment

\* Eat whatever you like because -  
The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54  
The inventor of gymnastics died at 57  
The world bodybuilding champion died at 41  
The best footballer in the world, Maradona, died at 60  
And then -  
The KFC inventor died at 94  
The inventor of Nutella died at 88  
The cigarette maker Winston died at 102  
The inventor of opium died at 116 in an earthquake  
The inventor of Hennessy died at 98  
How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?  
The rabbit is always jumping but it lives for around 2 years and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives over 200 years.  
So, rest, chill, eat, drink and enjoy life.



**Proud to say my wife really spoils me. I married her for her personality, and she has thrown in 5 more for free. Sometimes, if I'm lucky, I get to experience them all in one day.**

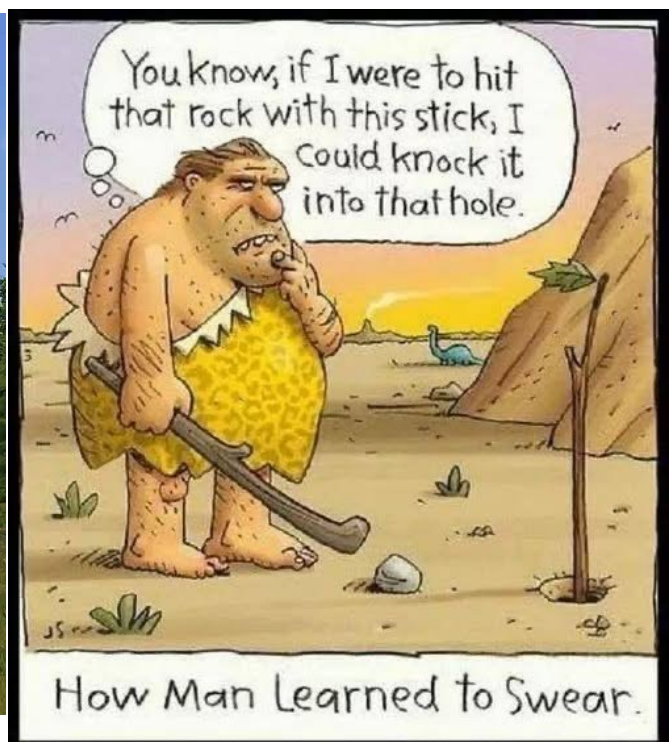


**I got fired from my job because I kept asking my customers whether they would prefer "Smoking" or "Non-Smoking."**

**Apparently the correct terms are "Cremation" and "Burial."**



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# From Labor to Refreshment



**My new car has a button for pretty much everything. There's even one that says 'rear wiper' still too afraid to try that one....**

**A cowboy told his grandson the secret to a long life. He said, "You gotta sprinkle a little gunpowder on your oatmeal, see. If you do, you'll live to a nice ripe old age." So the cowboy did this religiously every day, and sure enough, lived to the nice ripe old age of 96. When he died he left behind 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren ...and a 16 foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.**

**After Birth:  
How long does it take for the eyes to open?**  
**Cows - Immediately**  
**Goats - After 2 hours**  
**Cats - After 6 days**  
**Dogs - After 10 days**  
**Humans - After marriage**

Wife: "Could you please go buy one carton of milk and if they have eggs, get 6."

Short time later the husband returns with 6 cartons of milk.

Wife: "Why the h\*ll did you buy 6 cartons of milk?"

Husband: "They had eggs."



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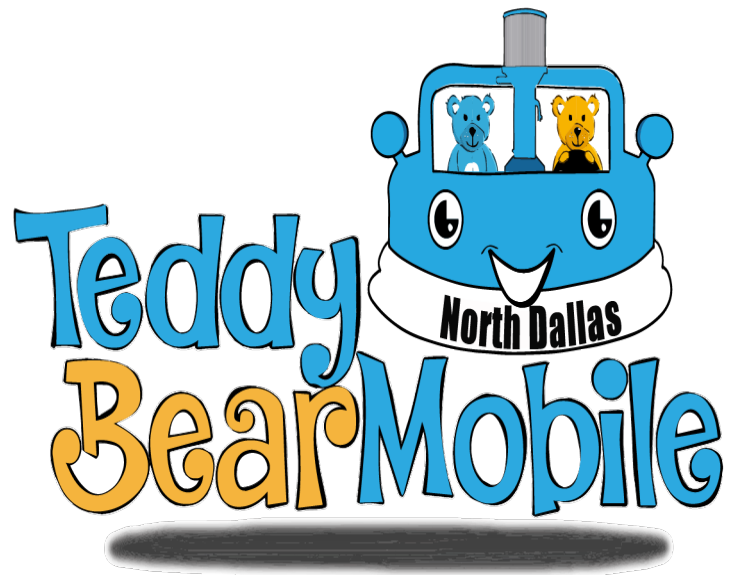
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