

SQUARE & COMPASSES

EAST TRINITY MASONIC LODGE #157 ROCKWALL, TX JANUARY 2026
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CHRISTMAS DINNER



DUES January begins with 50 members who have not yet paid their dues. Remember that after January 1st, a member who has not paid his dues (in arrears) may not attend lodge.

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

DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The December Meeting went well. It was a great ending to a great year.

-a petition for a candidate was presented and an investigative committee was formed. The petition will be voted on in January.

-our water bill was high again, over \$300. There is a leak in the female restroom. A discussion ensued regarding replacing the toilet, and doing the repairs ourselves to save money. A vote was taken to allow up to \$250 to fix or replace the toilet. The vote was favorable.

-ET is on tract to receive the Vanguard Award this year

-The Christmas meals will be distributed on December 22nd

-A reminder that the Grand Communication will be in Waco from January 15th to 17th.

-JW discussed the upcoming Christmas parade.

-The treasurer gave an update of our bank balance. It was only about \$15 different from November.

-Bro Rowe was elected to be the proxy for ET and GL

The meeting was closed at 8:20 PM

The Christmas Dinner was a smashing success. Everyone had a great time. Our Steward brought a whole roasted pig, which was delicious, of course. A big thanks to JW Glenn Goodrich for coordinating the event this year. Thanks Glenn!!

CHRISTMAS MEAL GIVEAWAY

The annual ET Christmas meal giveaway occurred on December 22nd. We had 50 meals ready to go to needy families. We still had some left at the end of the day, so those unclaimed meals were donated to Helping Hands. A big shout out to Bros LaBlank, Goodrich, Willard, and EA Bro [REDACTED] for helping out.

Fraternal Eats. The dinner for this Monday will be something really, really good. The dessert will be something very, very tasty. And all washed down with soft drinks, tea, or water.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 5th-State Meeting
- January 12th-EA Prof and FC Degree (Tentative)
- January 15-17th-Grand Communication
- January 19th-practice
- January 26th-practice

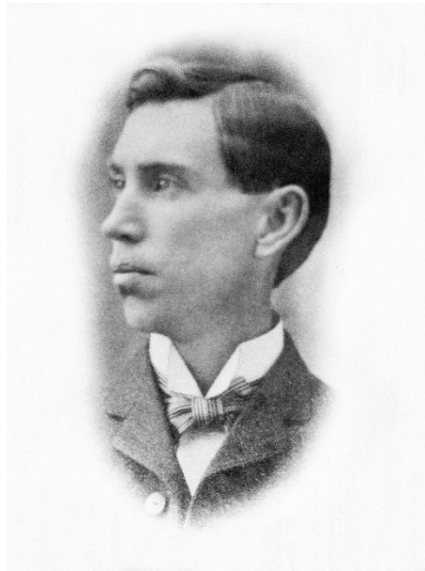
EAST TRINITY LODGE HISTORY CORNER

This month we are featuring the lodge's 26th Worshipful Master R.M. Womack.

Rufus Marvin Womack

Biography

Worshipful Master for the East Trinity Lodge (1906)



R.M. Womack

Rufus Marvin Womack was born in Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas on 17 March 1876. His father, William O. Womack, was born in Texas and his mother, Rebecca Jones was born in Louisiana.

In the 1880 census, Rufus was four years old and living with his father (William) and mother (Rebecca) in Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas. His father is 28 years old and his occupation is "Merchant". His wife Rebecca is 22 years old and is "Keeping House".

In 1898, Rufus married Edna Earl Ray in Grayson County, Texas, and in the 1900 census, they were living in the town of Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas. Rufus was 24 years old and his occupation was "Banker". Edna was 23 years old and there are no children listed in the household.

R. M. Womack first appeared in the Lodge records in the 1904 Returns and he is listed as a Master Mason. In 1905, Rufus served as the Senior Warden for the East Trinity Lodge and in 1906 he served as the Worshipful Master.

THE OFFICER LINE-UP FOR 1906

R.M. Womack – Worshipful Master
 H.H. Walker – Senior Warden
 H.B. Barmes – Junior Warden
 J.F. Allday – Treasurer
 J.F. Peek – Secretary
 Frank Clark – Senior Deacon
 M.L. Halford – Junior Deacon
 T.H. Sullivan – Senior Steward
 J.L. Austin – Junior Steward
 W.C. Lanham – Tiler

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

Master Masons - M.S. Austin, I.J. Austin, F.M. Anderson, John T. Adams, T.H. Adams, D.J. Anderson, A.L. Adamson, A.C. Ater, B.F. Burtner, M.A. Brown, J.E. Baugh, T.W. Baily, W.W. Bishop, H.B. Barnes, H. Bagley, J.C. Barringer, J.T. Benbrook, C.W. Bryan, E.W. Bourn, M.A. Brown, J.T. Bailey, H. Bagley, J.F. Black, W.J. Brewer, W.A. Bunch, Ebie Carnes, J.F. Corry, G.M. Curtis, J.E. Crisp, J.H. Chisolm, L.L. Crawford, Frank Clark Jr., J. D. Cox, C. A. Corey, W.A. Curfman, C.W. Darr, L.L. Darr, W.B. Dowd, T.J. Evans, T.J. Evins, J.R. Eldridge, E.D. Foree, L.F. Gregory, J.W. Glover, T.J. Green, A.W. Harvey, Guss Hartman, William F. Harvey, J.S. Hulbert, Thomas D. Isbell, E.A. Jacobs, J.L. Jones, T.L. Keys, B.F. Keasey, W.C. Lock, A.E. Love, C.R. Love, T.B. Lanham, W.L. Lawhorn, T.L. Lawhorn, George Lindsey, B.B. Lanham, G.R. Limley, Joseph Moore, H.W. Manson, L.W. Mason, Olin Mason, J.L. McCarter, J.F. McCristie, Hubert McCurry, J.W. McKnight, Joseph Moore, C.C. Newman, J.L. Posey, E.O. Rigsbee, W.C. Roberts, Ned Rigsbee, V.T. Stowers, R.A. Snead, B.F. Spafford, P.W. Scott, I.R. Trotter, R.T. Tipton, W. C. Scott, James T. Vance, George F. Vernon, L.W. Wilkerson, H.W. Walker, T.W. Wade, H.M. Wade, R.W. Wynne, B.H. Wisdom, Jacob Zoospan: Total, 106.

Entered Apprentices – None.

Fellow Crafts – Bunyan King, A. W. Winert.

Demitted – W.A. Mercherson, J.F. Green.

Deaths – J.W. Vance, H.W. Manson.

Reinstated – A.C. Ater.

Rufus served one year as Worshipful Master and then he is listed in Grand Lodge Proceedings, Lodge Returns, as a Past Master for the years 1907 thru 1947.

In 1910, Rufus was 34 years old living on Galewood Street in Justice Precinct 1, Rockwall, Texas. He and his wife Edna have two sons and one daughter: Son David R. Womack (18), son W. B. Womack (9) and daughter Edna Womack (4).

In 1918, Rufus registered for the World War I draft. He was 42 years old. His draft Card lists his address is Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County, Texas and his occupation was listed as "Vice President" of the *City National Bank* in Sulphur Springs. His wife Edna and their children were living in Sherman, Grayson County.

In 1920, the census shows Rufus living as a boarder in the Williamson M. Walker household in Sulphur Springs. He is married and his occupation is Vice President in Banking. Edna and the children are still living in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas, 75 miles away. Research shows that there was train service between many towns in East Texas from the early 1900s through the 1950s so commuting between Sulphur Springs and Sherman was possible. Rufus continued to be a Past Master and member in good standing of the East Trintiy Lodge in Rockwall.

In 1930, the census shows Rufus still in Sulphur Springs and he is still the Vice President of the bank there. He is living in a rented house on Connally Street and he continued to be listed as married.

On 26 May 1935, Edna died and she is buried in Grayson County, Texas.

Rufus Womack died in Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County, Texas on 15 March 1948 and he is buried at the Whitewright cemetery in Hopkins County. He died just two days shy of his 72nd birthday.

Rufus was a Master Mason, Worshipful Master, Past Master and faithful member of the East Trinity Lodge No. 157 for 44 years.



Oak Hill Cemetery

Whitewright, Hopkins County, Texas

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

(Special thanks to my editor)

MASONIC TRUE STORIES AN EVENTS

<http://www.mastermason.com/bridgeportlodge181/STRANG08.HTM>

MY FIRST MASONIC MAGIC MOMENT

by Brother Harold Fink J.W.

Konosioni Lodge 950 Fayetteville New York

While doing a load of wash I stepped next door to have a beer and read my book while I waited. Two fellows were looking at a gold ring they had just found in the parking lot. One guy said, "It's a military ring." The other observed, "Naw, it's a trade school ring. It has a square & compass on it. (My ears perked up.)

I said, "Mind if I take a look, guys?"

It was nothing elaborate; a small, gold ring . . . well-worn, S&C on one side, the initials RB on the other.

I remarked, "Weighs about 3 grams; marked '10 ct,' . . . worth about 15 to 20 bucks at the most. You'd probably get more from the Brother who lost it. Nice ring, though. I don't have one myself. I have more important things to spend the family's money on."

So I told them I would post it in the local Masonic newspaper, "the Word," and I would meet them here next month with the reward. They agreed.

Nobody answered the ad.

My beloved mentor the R.:W.: Rocco Buffano said in his best 78-year 'old-school Italian voice,' "Kid, ya know, my name's Rocco Buffano."

Not being the sharpest cookie, I said, "Yeah, nice name, Rocco."

He said, "Wake up Kid!

I'll take the ring, since none have claimed it."

Well, I'll try to make this short. Oops, too late . . .

I met the guys back at the bar (did another load of wash) and gave them \$25.00 for the ring. An old fellow asked, "Are you going to keep it?"

I replied, "No, it's going to a Brother who happens to have the same initials. Cool, huh?" The "old guy" shuffled off, and I drank my beer.

As I was about to leave he walked back in carrying a Big old Book. He said, "Here, take this. I don't read it anymore."

It was a 1911 Masonic Library . . . gold leaf . . . beautiful!! I "hemmed" . . . he "hawed." I bought him a beer and started reading. SO COOL! I had a grin from ear to ear. As I got up to leave and thank

him one more time, he reached into his pocket and pulled out a classic S&C blue-stone, heavy-gold ring and pressed it in to my hand. Shocked, I started to "spit & sputter." He said, "Don't worry about it; now you have one."

Needless to say, "Old John" never buys a beer when I'm there.

I may not know any Masonic "secrets, " but there is Magic in the Craft.

A LIVING MASON

Author Unknown

His name is John. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He was the top of his class. Kind of esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Mason recently while attending college. After moving to his new town, he finds that down the street from his new apartment is a well-dressed, very conservative Lodge. One day John decides to go there after work. He walks in with shoes, jeans, his work shirt, and long hair. The Lodge has already started and so John starts looking for a seat.

The Lodge is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now the Brethren are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. John gets closer and closer to the East and, when he realizes there are no seats, he squats down right on the carpet. (Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this Lodge before!) By now the Brethren are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the Secretary realizes that from way at the back of the Lodge, a Past Master is slowly making his way toward John.

Now the Past Master is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A good man, very elegant, very dignified, and very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid in the Lodge? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy.

The Lodge is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The Secretary can't even continue with the "Minutes" until the Past Master does what he has to do. And now the Lodge watches as this elderly man drops his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to John and welcomes him so he won't be alone. When the Secretary gains control, he says, "What I'm about to say, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

"Be careful how you live. You may be the only Mason some people will ever meet."



From Labor to Refreshment



**This morning I
started a 21 day no
swearing challenge
which I will restart
tomorrow**

**My husband recently
developed this funny little
habit where he says “no”
when what he actually
means is “Yes, my beauti-
ful queen.” Luckily I’m
here to remind him.**

FINALLY! BLONDE MEN JOKES:

A woman got a pet parrot, but she was horrified to discover that all it did was say mean things and insult her. Nothing she did could stop it. She was especially worried because her whole family was coming over for Christmas dinner.

But when the dinner finally came, the parrot didn't say a word the entire time. After the meal, the Parrot turned to its owner and said, "Please forgive my behaviour from before. I was entirely out of line."

"Wow," the woman said, "glad to hear it."

"If I may ask," said the Parrot, "what on Earth did that turkey say to you?"

A blond man is in the bathroom and his wife shouts "Did you find the shampoo?" He answers "Yes but I'm not sure what to do...it's for dry hair and I just wet mine."

A blond man spots a letter on his doormat. It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND". He spends the next 2 hours trying to figure out how to pick it up.

A blond man shouts frantically into the phone "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only 2 minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" asks the doctor. "No!" he shouts, "this is her husband!"

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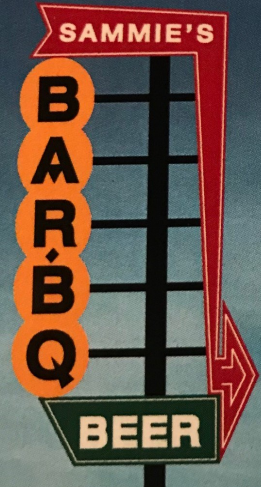
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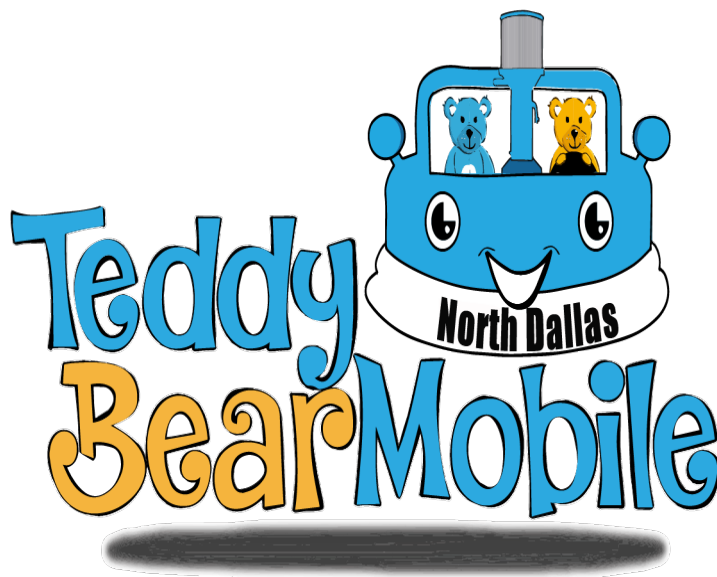
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