

SQUARE & COMPASSES

EAST TRINITY MASONIC LODGE #157 ROCKWALL, TX JULY 2026

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JUNE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Another Masonic year comes to a close:

- A memoriam was read for Bro Ronald Lee Wade
 - A presentation on Applied Masonry was presented
 - 5 brothers were reported as being in arrears on their dues
 - the golf tournament was a success. Net profit was \$29,713
 - ET ended the month with \$135,646 in the bank
 - ET will have a Rodeo Night at the Mesquite Rodeo
 - Shoes for Kids event will be held on July 25th. Lodge voted to donate \$500 plus salaries of three officers to the charity.
 - Vote was taken for an increase for an endowment and degree fees. Vote was favorable and will take effect on June 23rd
- Continued in next column.....*

-New Officers for Masonic Year 2026-2027 were elected:

WM Mark Young
SW Glenn Goodrich
JW John Thomas
SD Anthony Parks
JD Samuel Macabbabad
Secretary John Gordy
Treasurer Luke Corley
Tiler Steve Spicer
Chaplain Tyler Rowe
Marshall Doug Barkley
MC Jeff Bryan

- A vote on the proficiency of these officers was taken. The vote was favorable.

A Ceremony of Remembrance

East Trinity held it's first ever Ceremony of Remembrance last month. The format of the ceremony was put together by Bros Tyler Rowe and Luke Corley. It was a solemn event and honored those brethren who have laid down their working tools during the past Masonic year. The brothers names and masonic histories were read,



and a candle was lit for each brother. The names of brethren honored were:

Bruce Beatty
Ronald Melton
Willis Abbott
Ron Wade

Bros Doc Lackey and Cliff Lindsey, even though they weren't members of ET, were honored as well.

The ceremony concluded with the closing of the Lodge of Sorrow for the Masonic year.

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Editor's Note: In honor of the 250th birthday of this great nation, I included a text of the Declaration of Independence, and a piece on the signers who were Masons.

Fraternal Eats . We will open the Masonic year with an American staple! The Steward will be grilling hamburgers, homemade potato salad, watermelon, corn on the cob, and a trifle. All will be washed down with sodas and tea.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 6th- Stated Meeting
- 13th- practice
- 20th-practice
- 27th-practice
- August 3rd-Stated Meeting

EAST TRINITY LODGE HISTORY CORNER

This month we are featuring the lodge's 31th Worshipful Master S.S. Vernon.

Samuel Scott Vernon

Biography

Worshipful Master for the East Trinity Lodge (1913)

Samuel Scott Vernon was born on 7 December 1884 in Rockwall, Texas. His father was Jonathan Scott Vernon, born on 15 January 1854 in Clayborn Parish, Louisiana and his mother was Emily Jane Payne, born on 31 March 1857 in Rockwall, Texas.

Since Sam Vernon was born in 1884, he wasn't in the 1880 census and because of the fire at the Department of Commerce building in Washington D.C. in 1921, the 1890 census was mostly destroyed making 1900 the first census record where S.S. Vernon was listed. The 1900 census shows that Sam Vernon was living in his father's household. His father Jonathan (46) was head of household. Sadly, his mother Emily Jane had passed away on 12 May 1899. The children in the Vernon household included son George F (18), son Sam (16), daughter Murrie E. (13), daughter Bertie C. (12), Son Lee B. (7), and daughter Katie R. (3). Samuel S. was listed as a student on this census.

On 13 November 1908, Samuel married Maude A. Canup in Rockwall, Texas and in the 1910 census, and they were living on Washington Street in Rockwall. Samuel was a mail carrier and his sister Kate Vernon was living with them.

THE OFFICER LINE-UP FOR EAST TRINITY LODGE 1913

S.S. Vernon – Worshipful Master

J.F. Allday – Senior Warden

O.C. Long – Junior Warden

H.B. Barnes – Treasurer

I. J. Austin – Secretary

J.L. Austin – Senior Deacon

B.F. Halford – Junior Deacon

W.G. Scott – Senior Steward

A.J. Stephenson – Junior Steward

B.B. Lanham – Tiler

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

Master Masons – D.J. Anderson, T.H. Adams, L.A. Adamson, M.A. Brown, J.H. Belew, B.F. Burtner, W.W. Bishop, T.W. Baily, W.A. Bunch J.T. Benbrook, S.P. Bolt, E.E. Belew, J.E. Baugh, Frank Boyd, F. Clark, G.M. Curtis, J.F. Corry, E. Carnes, L.L. Crawford, J. D. Cox, W.A. Curfman, L.A. Crump, A.F. Cruse, R.H. Collins, W.C. Darr, L.L. Darr, W.B. Dowd, R.C. Darr, V.E. Darr, C.W. Dennis, J.T. Evans, M.W. Evans, D.C. Fondren, E.D. Foree, R.N. Fender, J.W. Glover, J.F. Good, Floyd Jr, T.E. Gillespie, D.M. Goodrick, A.M. Garrott, W.W. Hartman, M.L. Halford, A.W. Harvey, W. R. Harvey, Gus Hartman, W.W. Hartman, W.E. Herren, L.A. Honeycutt, D.E. Herbelin, T. D. Isbell, J.L. Jones, L.N. Jackson, Willis Jones, T.L. Keys, B.F. Keahey, T.E. Keahey, T.B. Lanham, W.C. Lock, A.E. Lane, E.M. Lane, W.L. Lawhorn, Tom Lawhorn, G.R. Lemley, E.M. Loree, H.B. Lofland, J.R. Lofland, Joseph Moore, L.W. Mason, A.O. Mason, Mason, W.L. Monroe, J.W. McKnight, A. McPherson, C.C. Newman, J.A. Nash, R.M. Payne, T.E. Parker, J.H. Queen, W.C. Roberts, J.D. Remassa, T.B. Ridgell, T.B. Robertson, H.H. Reeves, R.A. Snead, B.F. Stoddard, Paul Snow, T.H. Sullivan, C.C. Scittern, J.A. Styles, L.L. Sams, J.P. Shelton, T.H. Smith, E.G. Trimble, G. F. Vernon, J.T. Vance, J.H. Vaughn, T.U. Wade, H.M. Wade, R. White, J.A. Wilkerson, H.W. Walker, J.E. Walker, L.W. Wilkinson, B.H. Wisdom, Barney Williams, J.H. Webster, J.H.G. Willis, Chester White, W.M. Weaver, J. Zoospan.

Entered Apprentices – Bruce Hartman, W.L. McDonald, J.S. Burch, Launie Walker, Earl Hall.

Deaths – J.L. McCarter, Joe McCristie.

Demitted – W.H. Badgley, M.L. Halford, J.W. Teasley, T.W. Haynes, J.A. Curtis, Joseph More.

Suspended for Nonpayment of Dues – W.C. Dowd, J.H. Webster, J.H. Williams, W.W. Neal.

In 1920, Sam and Maude were still living in the town of Rockwall. His occupation is listed as Mail Carrier on a rural route. They had two sons, Samuel Scott Jr. (7) and Robert Earl (5).

In 1930, Sam (46) and Maude (43) were still living in Rockwall. Their street address is listed as South Goliad. They did not own a radio set (a question on the census). Their two Sons were 17 and 15 years old and Sam Sr. is still working as a mail carrier on a rural route.

It was the time of the Great Depression so making a living was extremely difficult and it had a negative effect on East Trinity membership. Between 1930 and 1940, there were 53 brothers suspended for non-payment of dues. In 1932, Past Master Samuel S. Vernon was suspended for non-payment of dues as were four other members that year. Samuel was reinstated on 23 June 1938.

In 1940, the census was taken on 2 April and Sam (56) and his wife Maude (53) were living in Rockwall. Past Master Sam Scott Vernon died on 10 December 1940 from asthma complications, age 56. His death certificate listed him as a retired rural carrier and he is buried in the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery.

After Sam death, his first son Samuel S. Vernon Jr. moved to Fort Worth. Texas where he worked at the big aircraft factory in the build-up prior to World War II. He married Iva Juanita Jett in 1942 and they had a son and a daughter. Sam Jr. died on 1 April 1970 age 57.

Samuel's youngest son Robert Earl Vernon married Jo Clara Deaton in 1935 and They had a son Robert and a daughter Suzanna. Robert Earl submitted his petition to join the East Trinity lodge on 15 April 1943. He

first appears in the Lodge Return records as a Master Mason in 1944. Robert continued to be listed in the East Trinity Returns until 1965. He died on 21 January 1977, age 62.

Sam's wife Maude A. Vernon died in March 1974 and she is buried next to Sam at the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery.



Rockwall Memorial Cemetery

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

(Special thanks to my editor Barbara A. Powell)



A DECLARATION THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for

Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.



FATE OF THE SIGNERS

56 patriots signed the Declaration, but only 9 were confirmed to be Masons.

William Ellery (Rhode Island) A former lawyer, Ellery became Chief Justice of Rhode Island's Supreme Court after signing the Declaration. Later, he worked in a federal position tied to customs and port administration in Rhode Island. **Died:** 1820

Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania) Became a crucial diplomat for the new United States in Europe, before returning to the country and remaining heavily involved in politics, including anti-slavery efforts. Instrumental in negotiating the Treaty of Paris, and at 81, served as the oldest delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. **Died:** 1790

John Hancock (Massachusetts) Became Governor of Massachusetts, managing state instability and financial difficulties post-Revolution. Faced chronic health problems but was a popular leader. **Died:** 1793

Joseph Hewes (North Carolina) Hewes served as a Congressman after signing the Declaration, working on the Continental Navy, and organizing other wartime infrastructure. He donated his personal fleet of merchant ships to be used by Patriot armed forces. **Died:** 1779

William Hooper (North Carolina) Served as a state legislator and judge in North Carolina after having worked in the Continental Congress. Hooper suffered financially as a result of the war, with much of his property damaged by the British, who burned his home and plantation. **Died:** 1790

Robert Treat Paine (Massachusetts) A trained lawyer, Paine dedicated his professional life to the Massachusetts judicial system after the war was won. He served as the first attorney general of Massachusetts and later as a justice of its Supreme Judicial Court. **Died:** 1814

Richard Stockton (New Jersey) One of the sadder stories of the 56 signers, Stockton was captured by Loyalists and turned over to the British shortly after signing the Declaration. He suffered harsh treatment in captivity, and though he was released the year after, his health suffered, and his possessions were plundered. He resigned from Congress in part due to poor health, and lived the rest of his life in relative obscurity. **Died:** 1781

George Walton (Georgia) Worked on the frontlines and in Georgia's military leadership, being captured by the British during the occupation of Savannah. He became Governor of the state for just two months in 1779, before returning to the position in 1789. Later, Walton was appointed Chief Justice of Georgia's Superior Court, before being elected a U.S. Senator in 1795. **Died:** 1804

William Whipple (New Hampshire) Represented New Hampshire in the Second Continental Congress, working in logistical and military matters, including leading troops during key northern campaigns, such as the Battles of Saratoga. After the war, Whipple returned to politics in New Hampshire and worked as an associate justice of the state's Superior Court. **Died:** 1785

What About The Others.....

Hardship befell some of the other signers as well.

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the Revolutionary War.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers or both, looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

<https://www.sarconnecticut.org/the-price-they-paid/>

From Labor to Refreshment



**Honestly, I don't care
how I look in photos
anymore...
As long as I look good on
Ultrasounds, CT Scans
and MRI's.**



Four beer company CEOs walk into a bar.

**The CEO of Budweiser orders a Bud Light.
The CEO of Miller orders a Miller Lite.
The CEO of Coors orders a Coors Light.
The CEO of Guinness orders a Coke.**

**The other three look at him and ask, "Why
did you order a Coke?"**

The CEO of Guinness says,

**"Well, I figured if you three weren't
ordering beer, it would be rude if I did."**

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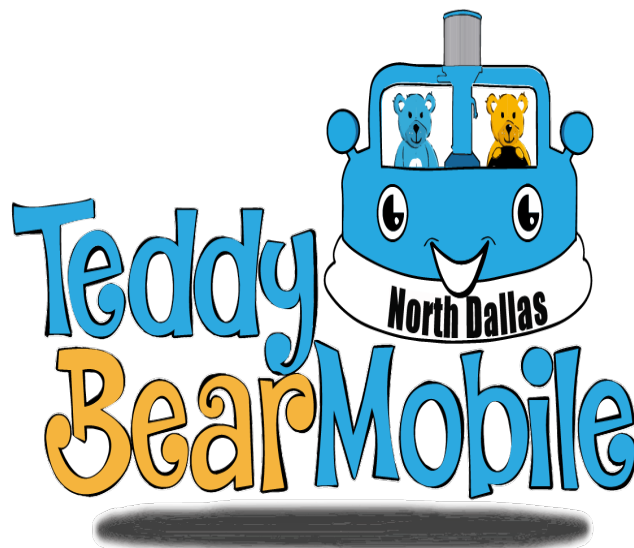
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Every time a brother gets a haircut at Yellow Jacket, just mention the Masons and they donate \$1 to East Trinity!!!!



Brother Jeff Bryan 214 232-9933



East Trinity Brother Geoffrey Lyons

