

SQUARE & COMPASSES



EAST TRINITY MASONIC LODGE #157 ROCKWALL, TX AUGUST 2025
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EAST TRINITY'S NEWEST MASTER MASON



Brother Jonathan Guzman became ET's newest Master Mason last Monday night. Brother Guzman (pictured front row center above) has worked hard on his Masonic journey, and has now reached the peak. To his left in the photo is Dr. Leo Tipay, a retired Methodist minister and member of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. He served as Chaplain for the evening, delivering the opening and closing prayers.

Inside this issue:

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS	1-2
HISTORY CORNER	3— 5
TRUE STORIES AND EVENTS	6-7
FROM LABOR TO REFRESH	8-9
ADVERTISING	10-11

DON'T FORGET THE STATED MEETING

The stated meeting will be held on August 4th, 2025. The meal will begin at 6:30 PM. Lodge will begin at 7:30 PM.

Fraternal Eats . The meal will be pancit, egg rolls, chicken adobo, and fruit. And wash it all down with both sweet and unsweet iced tea and soft drinks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 4th— Stated Meeting
- August 11th-FC degree
- August 18th-Practice
- August 25th-Practice
- September 1st-Lodge Dark

JULY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The July meeting marked the first stated meeting for the new officer line. And as expected, it went smoothly.

The WM announced his goals for the year. He wants to qualify for the Vanguard Award, encourage more fellowship, increase proficiency in ritual work, and make excellence the standard.

The WM formed the Lodge Audit Committee. The members include the SW, JW and SD. He tasked them to complete their audit prior to September 1st. He also announced the formation of the Golden Trowel committee.

Brother Atterbury gave an update on the Shoes for Kids program. Once again, East Trinity is playing an integral part in the success of the program. Anyone who would like to donate to this worthy program may do so by giving the donation to the Secretary.

Three members were suspended for Nonpayment of Dues.

The Secretary read the text of the bylaw change, making the positions of Marshal, Master of Ceremonies, and Steward optional, to be filled at the discretion of the WM.

The Community Builder Award will be awarded in August. Date TBD.

Two petitions were voted on the results were favorable. One was a Petition for Affiliation by Dues Card, the other was a Petition for Advancement for a new FC brother transferring his membership to ET.

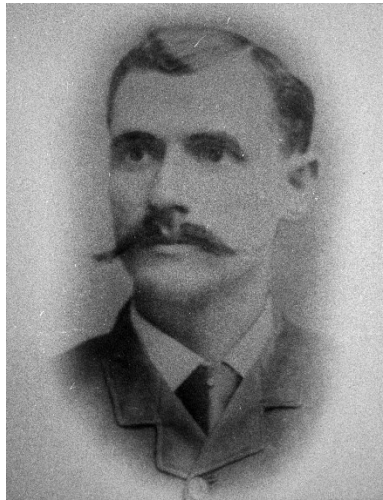
EAST TRINITY LODGE HISTORY CORNER

This historical sketch is the 24th article in a series of the history of the East Trinity Lodge. This month we are featuring the lodge's 21th Worshipful Master J.A. Selby.

Joel Algood Selby

Biography

Worshipful Master for the East Trinity Lodge (1894-95)



J.A. SELBY

Joel Algood Selby was born on 6 December 1860 in Tennessee. Joel's father, John Johnson (J.J.) Selby was born in Tennessee on 28 February 1820. J. J. is listed as a farmer in the 1850 census. Joel's mother was Matilda Louise Harp, born in Tennessee on 13 October 1821. John and Matilda were married 7 March 1839 in Putnum County, Tennessee. John died in Tennessee on 16 Sep 1872 and Matilda died in Rockwall, Texas on 5 January 1883. Joel's parents had 14 children and he was the youngest.

The first record we found for Joel A. Selby was the 1880 census. He was 19 years old and his occupation is listed as "At School". He was living with his mother, Matilda Selby in Putnam, Tennessee. His father, John Johnson, died eight years before, in 1872, so Matilda was head of the household.

The next available census was 1900 and lists Joel A. Selby, living in Shreveport, Louisiana. His occupation is "Physician, General". He and his wife Leila have two sons, J. Winford (5) and Joel A. Selby Jr. (4). On this census record, Leila's brother, James William Peyton (25) is living with them.

Sometime after Joel's father died, Matilda joined Joel and they moved to Rockwall, Texas. We found a tombstone for Joel's mother, Matilda, in Rockwall County, Texas and we also found a Rockwall, Texas marriage record for J. A. Selby and Leila Peyton, dated 25 Oct 1891. This matches the time frame that Joel was a member of the East Trinity Lodge No. 157 (1892-1901). The census also shows that when the 1900 census was taken, 5 June 1900, Joel had left Rockwall and was living in Shreveport, Louisiana. We did not find a demit record in the Lodge Returns.

We found that Joel Selby's wall photo lists him as Worshipful Master for the years 1894 and 1895; however, our Lodge Return records, that were sent to the Grand Lodge, listed W. C. Lanham as the Worshipful Master for 1894 and lists J. A. Selby as the Senior Warden in that year. This raises the possibility that something unusual happened and Brother Selby took over as WM for that year. In 1895, Joel was elected as the WM and his officer lineup is listed below. Notice that W. C. Lanham is listed as a Past Master and a Master Mason. W. C. Lanham was WM ten times.

THE OFFICER LINE-UP FOR 1895

J.A. Selby – Worshipful Master
L.W. Mason – Senior Warden
W.C. Scott – Junior Warden
E.C. Heath – Treasurer
E.W. Hardin – Secretary
M.A. Brown – Senior Deacon
L.F. Smith – Junior Deacon
W.C. Lanham – Senior Steward
G.A. Truitt – Junior Steward
T.B. Lanham – Tiler

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

Master Masons - M.S. Austin, F.M. Anderson, R.L. Arthur, E.M. Bourland, W.T. Barnes, W.L. Brown, J.O. Beasley,, T.W. Bailey, A.E. Barnett W.H.L. Campbell, W.H. Clarkson, J.O. Dawson, Mark Davis, William Ellis, Solomon Fletcher, W.I. Floyd, J.M. Foraker, A. Green, J.O. Heath, E.C. Heath, J.A. Hardin, J.S. Hewitt, E.W. Hardin, H.C. Hoskins, W.P. Holt, W.F. Jones, J.M. Jackson, J. T. Keahey, T.L. Keys, J.J. Lowe, T.B. Lanham, W.C. Lanham, W.L. Lawhorn, H.W. Manson, Neils Morton, B.K. McKindree, J. W. Neeley, J.M. Nichols, E.O. Rigsbee, E.T. Rice, R.A. Snead, D.A. Underwood, J.T. Vance, James W. Vance, W.C. Vernon, J.S. Vernon, W.C. Vernon, A.K. Wilkerson, R. White, J.M. Wright, H.H. Walker, T.J. Evans, Jacob Zauspann: Total, 58.

Entered Apprentices – Robert Reed, A. Lee Kirby, B.F. Burtner.

Fellow Craft – J.C. Gaines, J.A.G. Brownwell.

Demitted – FS.D. Waggoner, A.G. Stuart, T.J. Evans.

Deaths – J.B. Curtis, S.N. Heffington, W.M. Jones

Suspended for Nonpayment of dues – D.C. Fondrew, T.M. Curry, J.T. Ketchum, E.B. Ashurst, A.G. Stuart.

The 1910 census shows Joel (42) living in Shreveport, Ward 9, Louisiana. Occupation was "Doctor". His wife Leila (36) was "keeping house" and the two sons Wilford (15) and Joe (14) are living in the household. Also living with them was A.A. Peyton (68). This is Leila's father.

Joel's obituary states that he died on 1 June 1924 at the age of 62. As a citizen of Shreveport, he was identified with many local enterprises. He was one of the leaders in the development of West Shreveport, following the building of the Kansas City Southern railroad through the city. Mrs. Selby (Leila), died a few years ago. He was survived by two sons and a daughter. Both sons were employed in the local oil industry.



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

(Special thanks to my editor Barbara A. Powell)

MASONIC TRUE STORIES AND EVENTS

THE RUG OF APPRECIATION

As a young man Sarkis H. Nahigian fled Armenia to escape persecution and arrived in the United States in 1890. He worked hard and became a successful businessman in Chicago and a devoted Mason. In 1948 he presented a priceless Oriental rug, 46½ feet long and 29½ feet wide, to the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. In presenting the gift he said:

"I came to America believing in miracles. I say these words with gratitude, faith and pride. Gratitude -- to the generations of hard-working and God-fearing men and women who came to this new country to make a home for freedom. Faith, in that the democracy they built will never die. Pride, in that my chance has come to show my appreciation for being an American. And believe me when I say there is no finer title, no higher position than to be a citizen of the United States."

"Here we have freedom of thought, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech. One does not appreciate what these freedoms mean until one recalls what it was to be deprived of them. Now, again, in humble spirit, it gives me great pleasure to donate to our beloved George Washington Memorial Building, the largest Persian Royal Meshed carpet I have ever known. I donate this carpet in grateful appreciation of all the unlimited privileges and friendships and support I have enjoyed in this blessed United States of America, and not among the least of these is my privilege of being a Mason."



A MASON LOSES A BET AND NEW YORK GAINS

Paul Boynton, during the 1832 political campaign, lived in the Green Mountain country of Vermont. Those were dark days for the Craft. Andrew Jackson, a past Grand Master of Tennessee, was the candidate for the Presidency against William Wirt, a Mason running on the Anti-Masonic ticket. Brother Boynton was a devoted Freemason and did not recant or hide his association with the Craft while the storm was brewing and many members deserted. He made an election vow that if Vermont went for Wirt he would move "out west". In those days "out west" meant St. Lawrence Country, New York, to New Englanders.

When Wirt won in Vermont (the only state in which he won), Brother Boynton kept his word and moved. At the end of an eighty day journey on horseback, Brother Boynton settled down in Canton New York. He swapped his horse for a watch and a gun shop. He became the best gunsmith in the area and his gun stocks are now collector's items. He invented many things, such as eight day clocks and a pedometer. In 1835 he built what is now known as The Royal Arch House, located at 12 Pine Street, as a constant reminder to friend and foe alike, that he was a mason. Emblems familiar to the Royal Arch Mason are on the front of the building. It is said that he dug his own grave and made his own marker, except for the date. He died on July 13, 1851.



PRESIDENT RAISES TWO SONS ON THE SAME NIGHT

On November 7, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the meeting of Architect Lodge No. 519 in New York and raised two of his sons, James and Franklin D., Jr. An honorary membership certificate was presented to the President by the Lodge.

SILENT CAL AND THE CRAFT

President Calvin Coolidge had the reputation of being a person of few words. One time while attending a public function he was told by a young lady, "Mr. President, I made a bet that I can get you to say three words." To which he replied, "You lose."

Although not a Mason, he was not stingy with words when he talked about Freemasonry. While Governor of the Bay State, he addresses the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and said: "It has not been my fortune to know very much about Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons, and I have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruits. I know of your high ideals. I have seen that you hold your meeting in the presence of the Bible, and I know that men who observe that formality have high sentiments of citizenship, of worth, and of character. That is the strength of our Commonwealth and Nation."

A BIT OF JOHN HANCOCK

John Hancock was a member of St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts. He was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence. He wrote in a bold flourishing style. When asked why his signature was so large, he replied: "So that George III may read it without putting on his spectacles."

SPECIAL MEETINGS CALLED FOR A KING

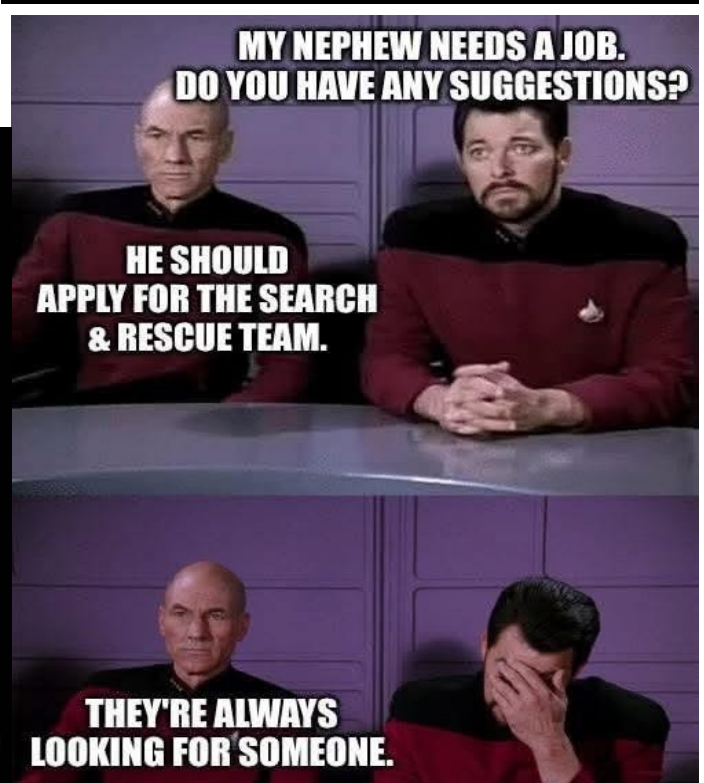
On December 20, 1874, a special meeting of New York Lodge No. 330 was held to exemplify the third degree for the edification of a Brother. His Royal Highness David Kalakaua, King of the Hawaiian Islands, and a member of Le Progres de l'Oceanie Lodge No. 124 (Supreme Council of France) Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. After the degree was exemplified, the Bible on which George Washington had taken his oath of office was displayed. The royal visitor asked that the book be opened at the page where the oath was administered. He took the book in both hands and kissed the page saying "I thank God for this privilege." On January 15, 1865, the same royal visitor attended Chicago's Oriental Lodge No. 33 which had called a special meeting. Over four hundred distinguished visitors attended.

A FULL MASONIC NAME

Hiram Abiff Boaz was born on December 18, 1866, at Murray, Kentucky. He moved to Texas at an early age. In 1891 he was ordained a Methodist minister. In 1922 he was elected a Bishop of the church. He became a member of Granger Lodge No. 677 of Texas. When he received his third degree, a large attendance because of the unusual name of the new member. He served as Grand Chaplain of Texas on 1953.

This brother had many interesting experiences connected with his name. He never tired of telling of the time he was traveling in the Holy Land and arrived at a Mosque in Hebron on the wrong day for visitors. When he told them his name was Boaz, it seemed as if he had given a magic password. Others were not admitted that day, but they opened the gates for him.

From Labor to Refreshment



Side Splittin Jokes

John is on his death bed and say to his wife,
"Can you give me one last wish?"
Wife: "Anything you want?"
John: "After I die, will you marry Steve?"
Wife: "But I thought you hated Steve."
With his last breath, John said,
"I do!"

From Labor to

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked up the boat up to the van and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back; now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible."

My loving wife of 5 years replied, "And, can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"

And that's how the fight started...

Grandpa to his grandkid,

"Go hide, your teacher is here because you skipped school today!

Grandkid, "you go hide...

I told her you passed away! 😂

Ha Ha Ha!



I finally got to see my Doctor on Monday and I showed him the rash on my bottom but he just ignored me and kept pushing his cart through Costco.

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BE THEIR VICTIMS.**

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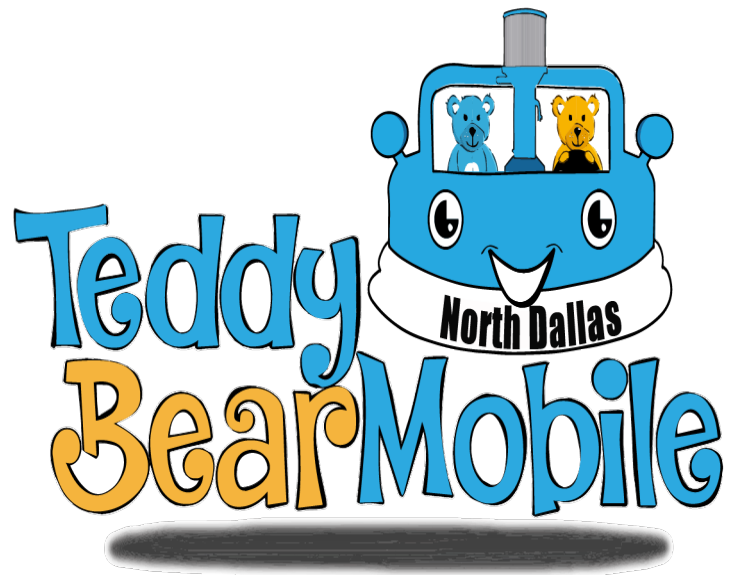
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