

JULY-2025

THE TEMPLE TIMES

The Official E-newsletter of The Roswell Masonic Bodies



FROM THE EAST - Roswell 18

Brethren,

As we have come halfway through the year I am amazed at the accomplishments our Lodge completed with several funerals and the raising of our newest Master Mason Bro. Blake Womack. With these lows and highs it was nice to hear what others have stated when visiting our Lodge.

The month of June we had 2 official visits.

DDGM Robert Parish and Senior Grand Warden RWB Alex Cosby.

Our practices have been focused on degree work up until this month. We can now focus on assisting the Brethren on their roles this upcoming year and get them a bit more fluent.

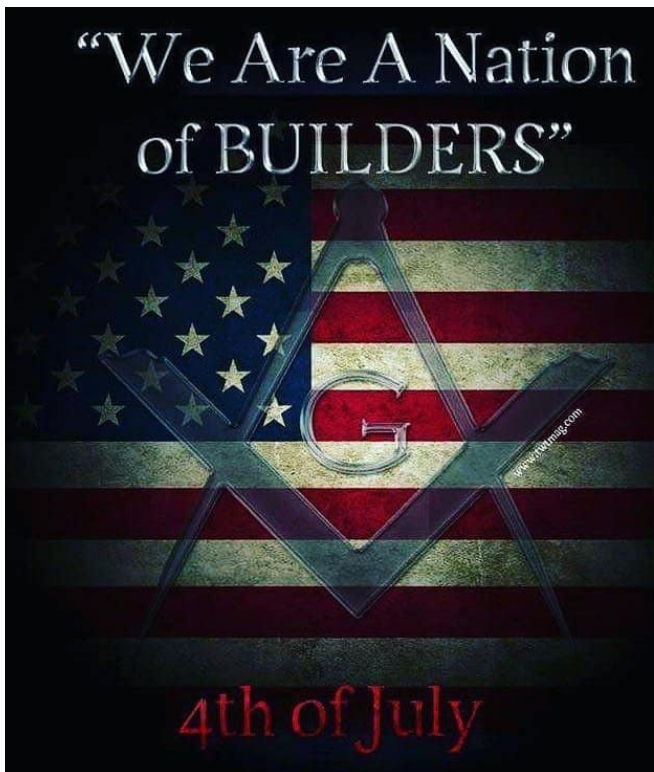
I would like to say how much I appreciate both Jacob and Aaron for stepping up and taking chairs much needed to be filled

May your days be Blessed.

Fraternally,

Bryant Dunlap

Master Roswell #18



Further Light

"Behold How Good and Pleasant It For Brethren To Dwell Together In Unity"



In conjunction with the Masonic Charities foundation, Roswell Lodge #18 gave out over \$10,000 in scholarships to the youth of Roswell this year.

Left: Just a few of our scholarship recipients.



Regular Communication Thursday July 3, 2025

***Dinner 6:30**

***Lodge Meeting 7:30**



Roswell Masonic Heritage Trust June Donation List

2025

Donations

MWB Tom and Kay Payne
WB and Mrs. Mark W. Daniels
Bro. and Mrs. Travis Daniels
In honor of WB Richard Smith



Congratulations to Bro. Blake Womack for being Roswell 18's newest Master Mason. A very special thank to MWB Bobby Arther for delivering the Grand Ol' Book presentation and to RWB Chuck Bass for delivering the charge. It was a wonderful evening.

Stay better informed and up to date at our Facebook page
Roswell Masonic Lodge # 18-Making good men better since 1889.

Freemasonry and the American Revolution

The month of July is special to all Americans because we celebrate the birth of our nation on the fourth of July. On that date in the year 1776, representatives of the thirteen American colonies, assembled at what is now known as Independence Hall in Philadelphia, adopted a manifesto asserting their political independence from the British crown. We know that document as the American Declaration of Independence.

Over the last two centuries various Masonic writers have often attempted to inflate the involvement of members of the Masonic fraternity in the events leading up to and resulting from this important historic event. It has often been claimed that all or most of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons; or that all or most of the general officers serving under Washington were Freemasons. These claims have been made to bolster the theory that the events of the American Revolution and the formation of the American colonies into an independent republic were carried out according to some Masonic plan, and in accordance with universal Masonic principles.

It is always best that such claims be tempered by the light of responsible and accurate historic research, not for the purpose of discounting the patriotic nature of our early American Masonic fore-bearers, but rather to understand the role that Freemasons did play in the formation of this great nation. Probably the best accounting of Masonic membership among the signers of the Declaration of Independence is provided in the book *Masonic Membership of the Founding Fathers*, by Ronald E. Heaton, published by the Masonic Service Association at Silver Spring, Maryland. According to this well researched and documented work, proof of Masonic membership can be found for only eight of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence. They are:

- Benjamin Franklin, of the Tun Tavern Lodge at Philadelphia;
- John Hancock, of St. Andrew's Lodge in Boston;
- Joseph Hewes, who was recorded as a Masonic visitor to Unanimity Lodge No. 7, Edenton, North Carolina, in December 1776;
- William Hooper, of Hanover Lodge, Masonborough, North Carolina;
- Robert Treat Payne, present at Grand Lodge at Roxbury, Massachusetts, in June 1759;

- Richard Stockton, charter Master of St. John's Lodge, Princeton, Massachusetts in 1765;
- George Walton, of Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Savannah, Georgia; and
- William Whipple, of St. John's Lodge, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Additionally, another five or six signers have from time to time been identified as members of the fraternity based on inconclusive or unsubstantiated evidence.

As for the Masonic membership among Washington's generals, it is true that many were members of the fraternity, but many were not. The recognized modern authority on the subject is James R. Case, former Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, who published his findings in the 1955 booklet *Fifty Early American Military Freemasons*.

When examining the participation of Freemasons in the American Revolution we should first remember the Ancient Charges of a Freemason, and especially that charge concerning "the Civil Magistrates, Supreme and Subordinate," which enjoins the Mason to be "a peaceable subject to the Civil Powers" and "never to be concern'd in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation." This charge was listed as the second of those contained in the Constitutions adopted by the Premier Grand Lodge at London in 1723, long before the American Revolution. How then can we justify the participation of American Freemasons in their rebellion against the King?

The answer can be given in two parts. First, the Masonic fraternity in the American colonies took no part in the Revolution, following Masonic tradition by taking no official stance. However, the fraternity's official neutrality may have owed as much to the divided loyalties of its leadership as it did to Masonic tradition. Many Masons were Loyalists. And second, rebellion against the state, whether justified or unjustified, is not a Masonic offense. The Old Charges state clearly "if a Brother should be a Rebel against the State, ... if convicted of no other Crime, ... they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his Relation to it remains indefeasible." This simply means that, in the case of the American Revolution, many brethren, feeling

Cont. from page 3

that the actions of the crown warranted revolution and independence, were justified in following their consciences without fear of violating their Masonic obligations or any Masonic law.

As the charge concerning the Civil Magistrates reminds us, "Masonry hath been always injured by War, Bloodshed, and Confusion," the fraternity was indeed injured by the war. General Joseph Warren, Grand Master of the Ancient's Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, lost his life at the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775 and his body was thrown into an unmarked grave. While he had led the American troops during that battle, his lodge brother, Dr. John Jeffries assisted the British troops. Nearly a year later, his body was exhumed and identified by another Lodge brother, Paul Revere.

Even before the Declaration of Independence, colonial Masonry suffered from the disruptions of the war, and the division of loyalties among its members. Many lodges found it difficult to meet regularly, and others ceased to meet at all. Many lodges were disbanded as occupying British forces prohibited private assemblies, and loyalist Masons fled the country or joined the British forces.

Although the Masonic fraternity played no part in the Revolutionary War, it can easily be shown that in many ways the revolutionary ideals of equality, freedom, and democracy were espoused by the Masonic fraternity long before the American colonies began to complain about the injustices of British taxation. The revolutionary ideals expressed in the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and the writings of Thomas Paine, were ideals that had come to fruition over a century before in the early speculative lodges of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, where men sat as equals, governed themselves by a Constitution, and elected their own leaders from their midst. In many ways, the self-governing Masonic lodges of the previous centuries had been learning laboratories for the concept of self-government.

On September 18, 1793, President George Washington, dressed in his Masonic apron, leveled the cornerstone of the United States Capitol with the traditional Masonic ceremony. Historian Stephen Bullock in his book *Revolutionary Brotherhood* carefully notes the historic and symbolic significance of that ceremony. The Masonic brethren, dressed in their fraternal regalia, had assembled in grand procession, and were formed for that occasion as representative of Freemasonry's new found place of honor in an independent American society. At that moment, the occasion of the laying of the new Republic's foundations, Freemasons assumed the mantles "high priests" of that "first temple dedicated to the sovereignty of the people," and they "helped form the symbolic foundations of what the Great Seal called 'the new order for the ages'."

~ Published by: Grand Lodge of Texas



The Roswell Masonic Appendant Bodies

Order of the Eastern Star

Roswell Chapter #10

First I want remind everyone that we do not have a meeting during July. We will resume meetings in August. Even though we have not had a meeting, we have been busy. We recently gathered at the Big Texan Restaurant in Amarillo for lunch then we attended the Texas Outdoor Musical. There were 32 people in attendance and we all had a great time.

This month we have our annual Campout that will be at Rainbow Lake in Ruidoso. We will be enjoying food, games and fellowship for 4 days in the mountains where it is cooler.



Debbie Davis-secretary



**Do everything with a
good heart, expect
nothing in return,
and you will never be
disappointed.**

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July 2025						
◀ June						August ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Practice 6:00 PM Roswell 18	3 Roswell 18 Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:30	4	5
6	7	8	9 SRLC Meeting 5:30 Practice 6:00 PM Roswell 18	10	11	12 Pecos Valley #7 Meeting 1:00 PM
13	14	15	16 Practice 6:00 PM Roswell 18	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Practice 6:00 PM Roswell 18	24 Roswell Shrine Club Meeting 6:30 Dinner 7:00	25	26 Pecos Valley #7 Meeting 1:00 PM
27	28	29	30 Practice 6:00 PM Roswell 18	31		

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