

INFORMATION ON THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

PAST (1871-2019)

The Eastern Star was first established in France for the families of Masons. It has evolved through the years to the present organization we have today primarily through the efforts of Dr. Rob Morris, Master Builder of the Eastern Star. In 1849-1850, he worked at writing a Ritual. He systematized the Degrees, contemplated the themes, incorporated from the pages of antiquity the heroines and names upon which the beautiful work is built, established the signs and passes, colors and emblems of the Order and developed the fundamental principles which have remained unchanged through the years. The first Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized in Michigan in 1867. Before the close of 1876, nine other Grand Chapters were organized including one in Missouri.

The first Subordinate Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Missouri was organized in Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri in December, 1871 under the name of Queen Esther Chapter No. 1. Other Chapters were evidently organized in rapid succession, for within the next three and one-half years the number of Chapters had grown to 143. Due to the rapid growth of Chapters within the state, a meeting was held in St. Louis and the Grand Chapter of Missouri was organized October 13, 1875. The meeting in 1875 established the Grand Chapter to meet annually and a Constitution for the organization was passed.

The Silver Anniversary Session was held in October, 1899, in St. Joseph, Missouri. There were 243 Chapters with a combined membership of over 8,000 members. The Missouri Eastern Star members served as host for the Temple of Fraternity at the 1904 World's Fair. The Golden Jubilee was held in October, 1924, in St. Louis, Missouri. There were 531 Chapters with a combined membership of 72,532 members. During the "war years" the Order of the Eastern Star sold \$40,400.00 in War Bonds and Defense Stamps (1942); presented eight ambulances to the armed forces to be used overseas (1943); collected \$1,200.00 for China Relief and \$27,024.00 for Ward Cars for overseas Hospital Trains (1944). The Diamond Jubilee was held in October, 1949, in St. Louis, Missouri. Chapters were still being instituted and total membership was 77,870. The "Startennial" or 100th Anniversary Session was held in October, 1971, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Order of the Eastern Star





FUTURE

From those dear Members of the Past we have received a beautiful heritage. Dr. Rob Morris and other visionaries have given us an organization dedicated to Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness – principles that have an uplifting effect on all who adhere to them. The lessons that our Order teaches are not new, for they are taken from the pages of Holy Writ, but they are as pertinent today as they were yesterday, and as they shall be tomorrow.

It is related that the Wise Men, after having followed the brilliant Bethlehem Star, after finding that for which they sought, returned each to his own country, but by “another way.” This is the influence that following His Star could and should have on us – returning to our homes, to our everyday life, but by a different route, with different directives.

If the Order of the Eastern Star has served in this manner, if the lessons it emphasizes can have an influence on our lives, if we do indeed direct our footsteps “another way” after having seen His Star in the East – then we hold in our hands a priceless inheritance, a treasure to pass on to future generations.

Therefore, with fullest confidence, we place in your hands a priceless treasure. It is an intangible gift, something that cannot change ownership in the market place, but rather, can change the lives of all who possess it. Something that will enrich your lives and make you more aware, that will give you happiness and friendship, that will offer you countless opportunities to serve your God and your fellow man.

And in the Serving and in the Giving and in the Loving you will possess that for which many seek but never find. You will find the fulfillment of your noblest aspirations; you will grow tall.

We entrust to your care our own inheritance, the beautiful ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

Lovingly,

The Eastern Stars of Today

What is Past – is past;
What is Present – is fleeting;
What is Future – is that on which
We pin our Hopes and
Dream our Dreams.