

Floral Ceremony

BY ALONZO J. BURTON



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Foreword

One of the earliest (perhaps the first) Floral degrees composed for use in Eastern Star Chapters was the Burton Floral Ceremony.

Brother Burton was born July 18, 1843, and received the Eastern Star degrees in the early lecture form about June 1, 1866.

He is the only living charter member of Stella Chapter, No. 29, located in Brooklyn, N. Y.

He was grand lecturer of New York in 1884; grand historian for several years, and in 1920 was made grand historian emeritus of the grand chapter of New York.

The Burton Floral Ceremony was composed in the autumn of 1874, under the following circumstances:

Brother Burton attended a Masonic funeral in Greenwood cemetery. As he watched the Brethren circle the grave and drop the sprig of acacia, the thought occurred to him of writing a floral ceremony for the O. E. S. Very shortly after, he composed the ceremony substantially as printed herein.

About the following March, he showed it to the most worthy grand patron of New York. He was much pleased with it and recommended it to the worthy matron of Stella Chapter.

Shortly after, it was brought out with great success, and later on the grand chapter endorsed it.

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