

Palestine No 1 92
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THE ROB MORRIS QUIZ

"Members and visitors of Palestine Chapter, it is now our privilege to present our regular annual Rob Morris Program, honoring the Founder of our Order. I am going to read aloud a brief resume of some interesting facts about Rob Morris, and I want to urge you to pay close attention to everything I read to you, because tonight we are going to have a Rob Morris Quiz, and you may be selected to answer a question about Rob Morris.

Rob Morris, Founder of the Order of the Eastern Star, was born near Boston on August 31, 1818.

He attended the best schools in New York, and was educated and trained for the practice of law. He became a very successful lawyer, and later became president of Mt. Sylvan Academy, Oxford, Mississippi.

It was while president of Mt. Sylvan Academy that he met and married Mill Charlotte Mendenhall, and while several children were born of this union, only three survived to reach adulthood. A granddaughter, Mill Ella Morris Mount, Louisville, Kentucky, is Past Grand Matron of Kentucky, and now holds the important post of Grand Secretary of that jurisdiction.

In the year 1850, Rob Morris invited a brother Mason and his wife to his home, and with his own wife in the room, communicated to them the degree of the Eastern Star. Writing in 1854 concerning the work of the Order he said: "I spread abroad the knowledge of the Eastern Star; alike in border communities to ladies in homespun, in cities to ladies in satins. The new degree was received with ardor. At the great meeting in Newark, New Jersey, and later in New York City, I talked for two hours or more, telling all that I could draw from the Holy Scripture, Talmud and writings of Josephus concerning the heroines of the Eastern Star."

The Rob Morris family moved to La Grange, Kentucky in 1860, having previously lived near Hickman, Kentucky, where he edited "The Voice of Freemasonry"; and wrote his famous poem, "The Level and the Square."

The earliest ritual was published in the year 1855, and under it a number of organized bodies operated under the title, "Constellations." From this grew "Families" (Suggested by the use of Brother and Sister after initiation) and finally, the organization progressed into the dignified title "Order of the Eastern Star" which name it bears today.

In the early ritual, officers included five correspondents,

who must be sisters and who correspond to the five Star Point officers of today. The floral emblems were the same as today, with the exception of Ruth, whose floral emblem was the sun-flower, and Martha, whose emblem was a pine branch with cones. The colors were the same as today.

Rob Morris, whose christened name was Robert, had his name legally changed to "Rob" because of another Robert Morris who was also a writer of that era, and with whom our Rob Morris did not wish to be confused. Although some claims were made by friends that Rob Morris was a descendant of the Robert Morris who affixed his signature to the Declaration of Independence, careful delving into the history of both families fails to show any connection whatsoever between the two families.

In February, 1883, at a dinner honoring Rob Morris, a suggestion was made by Robert Macoy, of New York, that Rob Morris be crowned Poet Laureate of Masonry. Before a decision was reached, this question was sent out to 1,000 distinguished Masons in the United States, Canada and Great Britain; "Is Brother Morris worthy of so distinguished a place as the laureateship of Freemasonry?" The response was overwhelmingly in favor of thus honoring him, and so for the second time in the history of the craft (the first Poet Laureate was Robert Burns), this honor was conferred upon a Master Mason.

Rob Morris passed on July 31, 1888. His grave at La Grange, Kentucky, is always carefully tended, and may be noticed from some distance away because of the impressive twenty foot marble shaft that dominates the cemetery.

The old Rob Morris homestead at La Grange is the property of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, and is already a favorite Shrine among devoted members of the Order of the Eastern Star."

The Worthy Matron may now designate and introduce the Quiz Master for the evening and he or she may conduct the Quiz after the manner of the well known radio programs, carrying either a real or imitation microphone around the room to the various participants of whom he will ask the following questions:

- Q. Where was Rob Morris born?
- Q. In what year was Rob Morris born?
- Q. Do you remember the exact date of his birthday?
- Q. What was Rob Morris' original profession?
- Q. Where was he educated?
- Q. What was the name of the school of which Rob Morris became president and in what state was it located?
- Q. Do you remember Mrs. Morris' maiden name?

- Q. Rob Morris' granddaughter, Miss Ella Morris Mount, holds what important Eastern Star office in Kentucky?
- Q. In what year was the first initiation held?
- Q. In what year was the first ritual published?
- Q. Were the floral emblems the same then as today? The colors?
- Q. Was Rob Morris a descendant of the signer of the Declaration of Independence?
- Q. Was Rob Morris legally intitled to change his name?
- Q. Who suggested that Rob Morris be crowned Poet Laureate of Masonry?
- Q. In what year was Robert Morris so crowned?
- Q. In what year did Rob Morris pass on?
- Q. Where is he buried?
- Q. Who owns the old Rob Morris home?

He conducted this quiz as a "Radio Quiz" program - each one who answered a question received a prize - "gum or sucker - just for fun" - Everyone enjoyed the evening - and they thought they learned a lot about Rob. Morris.

This was not an entirely original program but it had never been used in our chapter before -

Tulma King W.M. - 1965-66.
 Palestine Chapter #92, Hugo.