

IN DAYS OF YORE
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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,
Hamilton, Missouri.

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Officers and members should wear old fashioned costumes.
The hall should be decorated to look as antique as possible.
Guests might be brought to meeting with horse and buggy, If this is not possible,
miniature cutouts of horse and buggy could be in decoration.

Welcome to guests by Worthy Matron:

It is a delightful privilege for me to welcome you to our Chapter, and to extend to you a greeting of our fraternal love. Your presence, your good cheer, and the sincerity of your friendship will be an inspiration to us as we assemble here together, and it will remain with us for many days to come.

As you come to us at a time that is symbolic of the good old days, we are pleased that you can tie your horse to the hitching post and abide with us for a while. It is the clasp of hands, and the smile of faces such as yours that makes this earth a pleasant place in which to live, and makes smoother driving on life's rough road. Our lives are influenced by the deeds of our friends, and for the good deeds which you have done, it is a pleasure to open wide our doors to bid you welcome.

For all the service you have given our hearts are open wide,
To wish that many blessings may each day with you abide;
We wish for you all love and joy; we wish for you all praise,
And all the other good things of the good old fashioned days;
For all your service, we now give our best in gratitude,
And all of our best wishes do the greatest joy include;
And as we walk in friendship and keep our standards high,
May we feel that we gained a friend as you went passing by.

Welcome song. Tune: "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree."

Chorus:

With reminders of some bygone day,
You've been traveling along our highway;
We did it to show you, that our love is so true,
And will be true through each coming day;
May your road always be without fears,
Without suffering, or sorrow, or tears;
We want your life to be, always happy and free,
As you travel life's way through the years.

Chorus:

You will know that our welcome is true,
And intended for no one but you,
For where could you ride with friends by your side,
Who would be truer all the way through;
May the flowers all bloom on your way,
May you always be happy and gay,
And as birds sing for you, you will know we are true,
And will be true through each future day.

To welcome other Grand officers:

It is a joy and a privilege to welcome you with our fraternal love. Your presence makes this meeting a very happy occasion. The honor which you have attained is a reminder of service well done. Our best wishes are with you for a life of continued success and happiness, for we are assured that you will ever use your best efforts to promote the future welfare and prosperity of our Order.

May sunshine fall daily along on your way,
And flowers bloom too, every hour of the day;
May fortune smile on you all the way through,
And time bring the richest of blessings to you.

Welcome song. Tune: "Comin' Thro' the Rye."

If we bring to you a welcome, as you come our way,
If we say we're glad to see you, each and every day,
It should make you oh, so happy,
Bringing joy each day,
So let us bring our welcome to you,
As you come our way.

May the world each day grow brighter, each and every day,
May the flowers shed their fragrance all along your way;
As we tell you that we love you
Each and every day,
We know it will make you so happy,
As you come our way.

Verse for presenting gift:

We are bringing you our treasures in this little gift to you,
For each service that is given just reward is always due;
May this gift help you to cherish that great light that shines afar,
For it leads you ever onward to our own dear Eastern Star.

Verse for presenting flowers:

May you place these little flowers in the memory of your heart,
That the message which they carry from you never will depart;
For they bring love from the members of our Chapter now most dear,
For the very best of wishes for a happy, joyful year.

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