Vocal solo - "Beautiful Star"

Brief Sketch of Robert Morris' Life

Brother Rob Morris, whose name brings a thrill of pride to each Eastern Star's heart, was born near Boston, Mass. August 31, 1818. He became a school teacher and taught in several states, finally locating in Mount Sylvan Academy for some years. Here he took unto himself a wife in 1841, whose union was blessed with what at that time was regarded as a mother small family of seven children.

Rob Morris was during his lifetime, probably the wealthiest Eastern Mason in the country if not in the world. He was crowned Poet Laureate of Freemasonry and a greater part of his life was devoted to Masonic research.

If Brother Morris had done nothing more for Freemasonry than to have written his Immortal Poem, "We Meet upon the Level, and We Part upon the Square" he would have won an imperishable name in the Annals of the Craft, but this is only one of many things that he did in his long active life to
promote the interests of the institution he so dearly loved.

In 1855 he published a Ritual, and under it, he organized bodies known as Constellations. From this grew Families, and finally, the Order of the Eastern Star. Later Dr. Morris moved to Kentucky, engaging in newspaper work, finally settling in Louisville in 1866, where he spent twenty-eight years. In 1858-9, he was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and about this time wrote his famous poem, "The Level and the Square."

He was an extensive traveler in this country, and made several trips to the Holy Land, having visited 1500 Masonic Lodges; instead of an unmeaning tragedy, the work became, under his lecturing, a bright, intelligent symbol.

It has been said of him that while he was a most learned and accomplished gentleman, he was very plain and unassuming, with the most pleasing personality, full of wit and humor and with a heart overflowing with love for his fellowmen. He was generous to a fault and was frequently known to part with his last dollar to aid some one in distresses. He passed from this life in 1888, having lived the allotted span of life, three score and ten years.

3. Reading poem, "The Level and the Square."