

Dr. Rob Morris

LIFE

*Program given by 11/75
Ruth Nittleton
Cando Chapter # 290 ES.*

Rob Morris was a man of fine appearance and splendid social qualities, was generous, kind, tender of heart, courteous, loving in disposition, and was happiest when sharing what the Lord had bestowed upon him with his less fortunate brothers, he was a lover of children, devoted but firm parent, a kindly neighbor, home loving and a devout Christian.

Rob Morris was born near Boston, Mass. on Aug. 31, 1818 (or 157 years ago) He was the youngest of a family, all of whom had been born in New York City, and shortly after his birth the family returned to New York.

Following his graduation from college, he went to Mt. Sylvan Academy, near Oxford, Miss. where he became principal of the Academy.

There he met and married his wife Charlotte ~~and~~ on Aug. 26, 1841. They had 7 children.

His family lived in Mississippi 10 years and then moved to LaGrange Ky. where he lived until his death in 1888 at the age of 70.

The Morris home at LaGrange, Ky is owned by the Grand Chapter of Ky.

If we were to visit this Home we would be received by the caretaker, and we would find the 8 rooms of a two-story building full of Morris' furniture. Especially interesting was a little old-fashioned organ. Enlarged pictures of Dr. and Mrs. Morris are found in the living room. Books and scrap books and the Big Bible that was signed in his own writing, are in his office on the second floor.

We could walk to the cemetery which is just a few hundred yards from the Morris home, to visit the graves of Dr. and Mrs. Morris. A tall marble shaft marks their resting places.

On one side is the Square and Compasses, and on the other the Five-Pointed Star. On the iron gate to the cemetery are these words: "Valley of Rest".

O. E. S. GRAND
CHAPTER LIBRARY

Education

Rob Morris

Rob Morris was a direct descendant of ROBERT MORRIS , one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Rob was well educated, being trained in Law and taught school for 7 years. He was President of Mt. Sylvan Academy at Oxford, Miss.

It was here he became interested in an idea that the female relatives of Master Masons should share, in a measure , the benefits of a GREAT ORDER.

Rob was one of the best informed Bible students of his day.

He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and in the absence of the Pastor he would serve the church with Bible lectures on the HOLY Land.

SONGS and POEMS

Dr. Rob Morris was a poet, and a writer of note. He was the composer of many Sunday School songs, poems and lectures. He wrote more than 300 poems and songs in the interest of Masonry and Eastern Star.

We will share with you a bit of the Star Point Poems.-----*have Star points read*

Many of his poems had a sad and melancholy note especially those written during the Civil War. Let us remember he was born and

reared in the NORTH but he spent a great deal of of his life in the SOUTH, so his heart must have been very heavy at the bitterness in the land. One of his poems , "The Wasting of War" was sent to President Lincoln.

One of the best known poem is "The Level and the Square". *Read poem*

"There is a world where all are equal,
We're hurrying to it fast;
We shall meet upon the level
When the gates of death are passed."

Songs---"Never Slight a Hailing Brother".

At the International Temple at Washington D.C. as you enter the Reception Room , over the mantel hangs an oil painting of this distinguished Master Builder of the Order. The background music is one of his songs, written while seated on the *shore* ~~bank~~ of the Sea of Galilee in Palestine. "O, GALILEE"

*Pictures of the room.
Pictures of the Rob Morris Little Red Schoolhouse.*

JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER

She will not die as thief or murderer dies,
Whose fate but expiates his horrid crime;
She will not veil her pure and loving eyes,
As fearing death, for hers is death sublime;
Lo, with determined heart and eye she stands,
Her face upturned toward Celestial lands!

RUTH

From Moah's hill the stranger comes,
By sorrow tried, widowed by death;
She comes to Judah's goodly homes,
Led by the trusting hand of faith.

Entreat me not, dear friend, to go
Or leave thy cherished side;
The Lord hath called me here, I know,
And here I will abide.

Esther

Nobly she stands, a Queen; the glittering band,
Mark of a royal state, beneath her hand;
She points the silken robe with peerless grace,
Pure as her soul and pallid as her face;
Then reaches to the Scepter, whence is drawn
The kingly pardon she has bravely won.

Martha

Raise thy hands above, sweet mourner,
Higher, higher, toward the throne!
Ah, He sees thee, hears thy story,
Hears and feels that plaintive moan.
He has wept for human sorrow,
Let thy sorrows with Him plead;
Raise thy hands in faith, and doubt not
He hath power o'er the dead.

ELECTA

Thine, true Electa, thine which tells, Of His distress and thine!
The Cross upon whose rugged limbs Ye both did bleed and pine!
The Cross by heavenly wisdom given To raise our thoughts from earth to
Heaven.
Dying, as Jesus died, upon the tree, - Was ever worthier sacrifice than he
Sacred the Cross, the nail, the thorn; for He who suffered has redeemed ^{us} ~~an~~
Just as she passed to blest eternity, She pleaded "LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

"Never Slight A Hailing Brother" was composed and sung at an
assembly of MASONS held at Memphis, Tennessee, in the summer of
1863, in which both Federal and Confederate soldiers were present.

Never slight a hailing brother-
Be it Blue or Gray he wear;
Never ask his creed or country,
So he's faithful to the Square;
Only know he's true and faithful
To the solemn vow he swore,
And then a generous hand extend him
As in peaceful days of yore.

Sad the strife, and fearful, Brother,
Almost hopeless seems the end;
Some have felt its utmost horror,
In the loss of home and friend;
And oh, this day FREEMASONS conquer,
Faithful, faithful to the SQUARE.

When sweet peace shall bless us, Brother,
And the fire and shop have ceased,
Then we'll strive not to remember - All the cruel things
But there's one thing we'll forget not, that passed,
While a memory we bear;
It is the sacred tie so cherished
By the Brothers of the SQUARE.

CHAPLAIN

(closing prayer)

Our Father, whose love has created us and given to us the high and solemn privilege of life, we thank Thee for the assurance that Thou hast given us in the eternal life which lies beyond death.

In these moments, as we join together in solemn tribute to Rob Morris, increase our faith and brighten our hope. We thank Thee for the life of him, dear to the hearts of many. For his thoughtfulness of others, for his gentle heart, for his example of courtesy and devotion to duty, we give Thee grateful thanks. May we from Rob Morris' fine example be filled with sympathy for the sufferings of others and inspired to higher service and nobler living. So may the memory of our dear departed be a blessing unto us forever.

Amen.