In Memoriam

FRANCES CHENERY BEEMAN

Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of North Dakota
Order of the Eastern Star
1943 - 1944

Although Sister Beeman had been an invalid for a number of years and had been confined to care in a nursing home, it is with sorrow that we announce her death on August 14, 1972. Funeral services were held on August 16 in the Grace Episcopal Church at Jamestown, North Dakota, where she had been a choir member for over forty years.

Sister Frances, born in Jamestown, North Dakota, July 30, 1888, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar St. Clair Chenery. In 1908 she was married to the late Irving E. Beeman and they made their home in Jamestown where they raised their family of four sons.

It was also in 1908 that Sister Frances was initiated into Lady Washington Chapter No. 1, O.E.S., at Jamestown, where she held continuous membership and was honored with a Life Membership in 1953. She served Lady Washington Chapter in many offices and presided as its Worthy Matron in 1918.

When installed as Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of North Dakota in 1943, this was, to her knowledge, the first time a mother and daughter had become Worthy Grand Matron in the same Grand Jurisdiction. Her mother, Jennie M. Chenery, had been Worthy Grand Matron of North Dakota in 1911. Sister Frances was pleased that all her family were either members of Eastern Star, or Masons or both.

Sister Frances presided at the Fiftieth Anniversary Session — “Our Year of Golden Opportunity Session” — and her projects were directed toward the war effort. However, the beginning of our Eastern Star Home required special attention and projects to furnish and establish it during a period of national restrictions was a real challenge. Her humaneness and humor helped to carry her through a difficult year.

Her deep concern for the welfare of our Order and for others reached beyond the boundaries of North Dakota. While visiting a son in Japan in 1952, a highlight in her Eastern Star life came when Sister Ruth Jones, Most Worthy Grand Matron, called her to accompany her on the official tour of the chapters in Japan as her assistant. Sister Frances was commissioned to carry on the work of revitalizing the chapters when Sister Jones returned to the States. While doing this work, Sister Frances was able to organize three assemblies of Rainbow for Girls, and do considerable work in the orphanages. Her life was filled with such acts of loving kindness and the making of friends.

“A door swings briefly open, and a loved one slips away
Slips smiling from life’s shadows into bright eternal day
Where earthly grief is forgotten, where pain shall be no more,
To peace, past understanding, God has opened wide the door.”

The officers and members of the Grand Chapter extend their heartfelt sympathy to her three surviving sons, St. Clair, Wellsley and Charles and their families, to her two sisters and to Lady Washington Chapter No. 1.

In tribute to her memory, let this memorial be read at the next stated meeting of each subordinate chapter and the charter draped,

JEANETTE NUMEDAHL
Worthy Grand Matron

FRANKIE E. RAGAZ
Grand Secretary

ROBERT L. ATKINS
Worthy Grand Patron