ANCIENT SYMBOLOGY.

Short History of the Star Points.

In presenting a short history of the Star Point heroines, it is difficult to get a comprehensive picture, without infringing on the origins of Masonry; for the two have a spiritual tie through the ages.

The great majority of searchers into antiquity agree that both Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern Star originated in the ancient mysteries and similar orders established thousands of years before Christ. In fact, most writers on this subject trace the Rituals of religious and fraternal organizations to the ancient "Drama of Faith," the old "Osirian Passion-Play," having the Trinity: Osiris, Isis and Horus. However this may be, all the ancient orders had women members.... in some cases, these women seemed to have a predominant role.

The Rev. Joseph Fort Newton, in his book "The Builders," credits the Greater and Lesser Mysteries with the Signs, Tokens, Grips, and Passwords. He believes that Freemasonry originated in the Greater Mysteries, and the Order of the Eastern Star originated in the Lesser Mysteries. In any case, the Egyptians represented the number five by a Star having five rays. Occasionally the center of this Star had the rays of the sun or an eye, to represent Osiris. So, we see that the Star has long been closely associated with ancient symbolism.

The Thesaurus of 1793 lists the five rays of the Star as Master Mason's daughters, Master Mason's widows, Master Mason's wives, Master Mason's sisters, and Master Mason's wife's sisters. It was not until 1869 that this last point was changed to Master Mason's mothers.

In these Constellations, the Officers consisted of Sister Principal, Vice Principal, and five Sisters of Rays... namely, Ray Blue, Ray Orange, Ray White, Ray Green, Ray Red, Treasurer and Secretary. A great many women were initiated into these Orders, yet they were never considered eminently successful; and, later, Families were organized. However,- in the Mosaic Book of 1855 of the American Adoptive Rite, the name Constellation is represented by five Stars within a circle. The "Pillars" are the five male officers who fix the time and place of meetings, nominate their successors, and appoint the five female officers who were called "Correspondents," and who represented the five Points of the Star.

These five "Correspondents" were:
Luna... who impersonated Adah in the drama,
Flora... who impersonated Ruth in the drama,
Hebe... who impersonated Esther in the drama,
Thetis... who impersonated Martha in the drama, and who acted as Conductress, and
Arema... who impersonated Electa in the drama.

Previous to 1856, the Rays were called Jephthah's Daughter, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa; - but about that time Robert Morris caused the name Adah to be substituted for Jephthah's Daughter.