



F. Alexander Chandler
Past Patron, Belmont Chapter No. 108
Grand Patron

ADDRESS OF THE GRAND PATRON
F. ALEXANDER CHANDLER
May 9, 1919

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF MASSACHUSETTS

OPENING OF SPEECH

Sisters and Brothers:

In undertaking a retrospective view of my year as Grand Patron, I find myself living over again some of the momentous months of world history and in connection therewith some of the most unusual conditions in the history of our Grand Chapter.

Summoned last May to the office of Grand Patron, I was stranger to the rank and file of the O.E.S. membership. I was honored with a very complete vote at the election and was immediately received in a most wholesome and cordial manner.

I soon found Sister Wright, whom I had known slightly heretofore during her years of service to the Order, to be an ambitious and resourceful Grand Matron.

Together we received the plans brought to us from the General Grand Chapter for a nation-wide War Work Campaign, to be undertaken with the 900,000 members of our Order to the country, and during weeks of correspondence with the officers of the General Grand Chapter believed that we should soon have a plan to present to our members in which each individual member should have a definite part.

Unfortunately, the governmental plan of recognition of only a few of the more general organizations as official war charity agencies, and some other exigencies, finally caused the entire abandonment of any General Grand Chapter plan.

Sketches were then tentatively prepared for an O.E.S. Community Center Building for Boston Common, to be used in conjunction with the City of Boston Canteen for soldiers and sailors. The plan would have called for a fund of approximately \$35,000, if undertaken, but would doubtless have been heartily established and supported by the members of our state jurisdiction. We found, however, that the location for a building of this size on the Common could not be secured, so the plan was given up. I feel that is extremely regrettable that no wide purpose of War Work has been undertaken as the result of a general O.E.S. plan.

The War Work done by our various subordinate Chapters has been efficient and in no few cases very considerable. The Honor Rolls in nearly every Chapter have been long and representative and are records which will ever remain silent reminders of keen appreciation of duty and desire to serve, and serve well, our fellows.

I feel now, however, with the Armistice signed, the armies demobilizing, and the world returning to a peace basis, that our opportunities to serve are still with us; and trust that the Order of the Eastern Star may be one of the foremost agencies in the big plan of readjustment.

The ritual of our Order is very beautiful, the teachings most wholesome; — are we all doing our best to take our part as members of the Order, fortunate in our bonds of fealty to endeavor to live better and more helpfully with each other and to leaven the conditions of the world about us?

Systematic destruction of life and property has a terrible force of example on many minds. War is impossible without cheapening values placed on life and property and the weakening of ordinary respect for laws which are necessary to regulate and safeguard.

It took a long period of education to bring men to the necessary firmness of mind for battle. We all took our part in supporting and working with one another for the success of the combat. Now it will take all the wisdom of society to restore the mentality which insures respect for law and scrupulous care of life. What agency for social service during the period we are now in as the fundamental fitness for service to equal that of the Order of the Eastern Star which has been respected and deemed worthy for years?

Sisters and Brothers, if we thought during the great conflict that we did all that we could, let us now with the added strength gained during the War Service “carry on” and move toward higher and greater standards. Let us work together in the spirit of brotherly love, believing in the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man, onward and upward forever.

Perhaps it will interest our members to know of some of the activities of the office of Grand Patron.

Personally — being a merchant in Boston, with my office located not far from the very center of the city, I have received many calls from the officers and members of our various Chapters.

Being on the mailing list of all of our Chapters to receive all of the notices from each, there has been offered good opportunity for reading of intimate Chapter routine.

In addition, many of our sister jurisdictions extended seasonal greetings — notices of their Grand Chapter sessions, and other fraternal correspondence.

There has also been during the year a goodly amount of communication with members on Chapter matters — incidental to invitations for fraternal visits, inspections, installations, By-Law revision, etc.

CLOSING OF SPEECH

And so now, Sister and Brothers, if you will accept this as my Swan Song. I would ask you to do so, appreciative of the full sincerity in which this report is made. I particularly want to thank my Associate Grand Officers, Past and Present Matrons and Patrons, and other good friends who have so cheerfully and loyally given me their support and assistance. I regret that I could not have accepted more and all of the hospitality which you have offered me; it has been very hard to decline so many invitations this year.

I certainly appreciate, more than I can express, the extreme honor and consideration of those chapters that have elected me to honorary membership.

There have been some calls and conferences, and some letters and exchange correspondence, which have been below the standard of fraternal love and esteem which we profess and try to maintain; but I have endeavored to assist in the maintenance of harmony, good order, and good fellowship, and believe that I have been able to counsel in some matters with some of our Chapters and have brought continued success in place of a break which might have come through discord. I trust that in so far as it has been mine the stewardship, that you will find in my returning to you the office for your further bestowal, that it still has all of its heritages, and is in good order.

I trust that my records of activity and accomplishment during this time have been such as to in some measure allow you to feel that I merited your confidence in placing me in this high and honorable office.

I thank you and wish for you each and all many prosperous and happy years.

Very respectfully submitted,

F. ALEXANDER CHANDLER, *Grand Patron*