

Our Sister's of Hiram

We, as Freemasons, are duty bound by our most solemn obligation to aid and assist worthy brother Master Masons, their Widows and Orphans whether-so-ever disbursed, so far as we can without material injury to ourselves and those who depend upon us. We in Tuckahoe have, for many years, each December remembered the widows of members of the lodge who passed away during the year. We have traditionally presented those ladies with a poinsettia flower during a personal visit from an officer or member of the lodge.

When the Master asked that I prepare a program to honor our Masonic Widows I spent some time thinking about the "title" or designation of widow. It is a name that society has for many generations bestowed on women who have survived their husbands in life. My father taught me, early on, that the title of widow carries with it a certain amount of due respect, honor and reverence to be accorded to those women who crossed my path in life. But, that designation we have applied also seems to me to carry with it a sad connotation. So, I want to share with you tonight some thoughts about these "widows of our Lodge" and suggest to you that we give them a new name.....they should become our "Sister's of Hiram". The name, "Sisters of Hiram," is biblical in nature and comes from Second Chronicles, Chapters 2, 3, and 4, and First Kings, Chapter 7, beginning with verse 13.

About 2900 years ago.....give or take a year or so.... in the Land of Phoenicia, there was a great City-Kingdom located at the City of Tyre on an island, which is now part of modern day Lebanon. This City-Kingdom was ruled by Hiram, King of Tyre. The City, of course no longer exists, but, a modern city carrying that name of Tyre, is now located on the shore, near where the Ancient City stood.

King Hiram of Tyre had in his service a man well-skilled in many arts and sciences of that day. This man's fame as an artisan was widespread. This servant was from the Tribe of Naphtali, and he married a daughter of the Tribe of Dan. A son was born to them, who they named Hiram, probably in honor of the servant's great King, Hiram of Tyre. Young Hiram proved to be a very intelligent and zealous young man. In due time, the father taught his son many things, and he became a skillful worker in all kinds of metals, stone, timber, linen and other materials.

Then his father died. The King took the young Hiram into his service as his principal artisan for all works of graven images and other great works; and the fame of young Hiram as Master of Works spread far and wide -- well beyond the borders of his own country. He was also known as "Hiram, the Widow's Son," a Great Artisan.

Down through the ages, Master Masons have considered Hiram, the Widow's Son, to be their ancient brother, and we honor him as such. Thus, it follows, logically, that wives of Masons can be considered to be Hiram's sisters, and when those Masons go forward to Heaven, their surviving wives should still be considered to be "Sisters of Hiram" -- and therefore, entitled to the affection, reserved by Masons, for their departed brothers' wives.

In preparing for his year in the East, Wor. Bro Eades wanted our Lodge to continue the traditions of the past years and include the ladies of our Brethren in our lodge activities. Tonight Tuckahoe Lodge honors our “Sister’s of Hiram” from this lodge, and those of any sojourners that reside in the area, they are our special guests at tonight’s festivities.

We offer Masonic Assistance, and advise our “Sister’s” that the Brethren of the lodge are available to offer aid and assistance with needs that they may have around the home.

You are invited to be our guests at our annual family picnic and patriotic celebration in July, and our November celebration here at the lodge. You, of course, have a standing invitation to join us for dinner prior to any of our stated meetings all year long.

We as a lodge are so thankful that you supported your husband’s involvement in the Masonic fraternity for whatever time he shared your life here on earth. Tonight we acknowledge your presence and want everyone, no matter where you might travel, to be able to recognize you as part of our Masonic family. Tonight we have for each of our special guests the Masonic Blue Slipper pin. Cast in the shape of a ladies dainty slipper, it bears the deep, rich color of blue, representing the color of the starry-decked heavens, and this blue lodge of Masons. It is emblazoned with the Masonic square and compasses, and the all-seeing eye that represents the ever-watchful eye of God.



To find a deeper meaning of this pin, we have to go back in history to the time of Boaz – you'll find that story in the book of Ruth. This is the well-known story of Naomi returning to her own country after the death of her husband, Elimelech, and their sons. One daughter-in-law, Ruth, a Moabite, accompanied her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem of Judah, but both were destitute. Ruth went to work in the fields to enable her to look after her mother-in-law. However, the law of the land stated that the husband's next of kin was duty bound to redeem his possessions and look after his widow and offspring. The next of kin refused to do so. Boaz offered to become the redeemer of Elimelech's property - a proposition that the next of kin very quickly accepted. As it was in former times, in order to seal the bargain, Boaz and the next of kin met at the gates of the city in the presence of the elders. The next of kin drew off his shoe and handed it to Boaz as a token of the bargain. Boaz held the shoe up for all to see - he asked them to be witnesses that he had become Naomi's protector, Ruth's husband, and the redeemer of Elimelech's property.

Thus today we have this little blue slipper as an emblem of the protective influence of Masons for their wives, widows and daughters.

With that in mind, Wor. Bro Eades is pleased to present you with your special gift....a pin that designates you as one to be revered and honored by not only the brethren of Tuckahoe, but by all members of the Craft.....as a "Sister of Hiram".

This Masonic emblem symbolizes our continued concern and honor for the widows of a Brother Master Mason, a Brother whose name added luster to the Craft as he labored with us in the quarries of Freemasonry. Now that his name has been entered upon the Roll of the Celestial Lodge, we cannot forget those things, which he loved so deeply, nor can we be un-mindful of our duty to him, and to those who remain behind. It is our privilege to present this emblem to you, and hope you will wear it with great pride. It is our desire that it be to you a reminder of your ties to us; a relationship wherein you will find friends who will assist you in times of need, join with you in times of gladness, and welcome you into a continued association with us as we continue our labors of Friendship, Brotherly Love and Truth.

You are not alone. When moments may cause you to doubt, look at this emblem and be assured that we are there and we care. This pin was created with the hope that it would be worn by our "Sister's of Hiram" on all appropriate occasions, especially when traveling, so that she may be recognized, greeted, and assisted when necessary, by Masonic friends throughout the world. It is an emblem of honor and should be worn separately, not in conjunction with other jewelry. May she who wears this emblem find that she is not alone. We are there and we care.

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