

Story of the Order of the Amaranth

By: Paul L Meyer RQP of Colorado 1966

The story of the Order of the Amaranth is part of the story of the Masonic Fraternity. It is part of the story of the love and reverence of all good men for their wives, widows, mothers, daughters, step-daughters, legally adopted daughters, sisters, half-sisters and granddaughters. Geographically it takes us in the very start of the European Continent. The Order of the Amaranth exists throughout the world.

For many years the Order was immensely popular in Europe. The most distinguished ladies and gentlemen considered themselves honored by being made members of the Order.

During Queen Christina's reign, the Order was supported with royal pomp, dignity and magnificence by the Ladies and Knights of her Royal Court. She Created the Order of the Amaranth for Ladies and Knights of her royal Court, building it around the character of Lady Amaranth, who was portrayed as being a beautiful, virtuous, and talented Lady of the Court. The Order was perpetuated and today the Order of the Amaranth is Sweden's oldest chivalric order.

As originally created by Queen Christina, the Royal and Social Order of the Amaranth had no more connection with Masonry than did the beautiful Catholic Cathedrals constructed by masons and by builders of old before the structure of Masonry was developed and embodied in our present day Fraternity.

In 1860 James B. Taylor, a prominent Mason of New Jersey, using the Order of the Amaranth as existing in Sweden, adopted and altered its ceremonies and language so as to make it appropriate to Masonic purposes, which with some revisions is in universal use today.

The Supreme Council was formally organized in New York City, June 14, 1873 by Robert McCoy 33degree, Vicar General of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction.

Robert McCoy's intention was to make three degrees; "Eastern Star;" "Queen of the South;" and "Amaranth" as pictured in the Amaranth Ritual. His plan was to have these degrees given separately but under control of one body.

In 1915 our emblem was adopted and patented. During the same year, papers of incorporation were filed under the laws of the State of New York. On the 18th of September, 1956 we were reincorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio. On September 18, 1956 papers of incorporation were taken out under the laws of the State of Ohio.

In 1921 it was voted that we remove the "Eastern Star" as a basis of membership in our Order, and now our membership is taken direct from Masonic families, receiving the wives, widows, mothers, daughter,, legally adopted daughters, step-daughters, sisters, half-sisters and granddaughters of Master Masons.

One asks why the Order of the Amaranth is referred to as the "Gem" of Masonry. The answer is simple. The Order of the Amaranth is a means by which one is permitted to practice the principals of Masonry. It is one the vehicles and conveyances by which we carry on friendship, love of humanity, patriotism, and service to our country and to our fellowmen.

In Amaranth, initiation is by a Master Mason. Installation of Officers is by a Master Mason. Elections are held by Master Masons. All the floor work is on square corners and turns, and is performed in pairs. When the Royal Matron is installed, in order to keep the Order as closely associated with the work of the Master as possible, the Holy Bible is placed in her care. Swords which are generally those of Knights Templars are seen much in evidence. As a Mason sits in the Court Room, he sees and hears many things that bring to his memory pleasant experiences and incidents in his Masonic Fraternity.

Under all present laws, rules, and regulations, all Rituals and Landmarks, no women can come any closer to being a 32 Degree Adoptive Rite Mason than when she is privileged to become an Honored Lady of the Amaranth. There exists no more nearly a Masonic Fraternal Meeting ground of Masons and their families than is found in the Order of the Amaranth. That is why one finds in the Amaranth Courts so many husbands and wives serving, attending, and enjoying a fuller and richer Masonic heritage together than is possible anywhere else in the world.

The Order of the Amaranth is a "Gem of Masonry," for its structure, its ritual, its principals, being of a Masonic Family origin, are all a beautiful expansion of the basic structures, rituals, and principals of our ancient and wonderful Masonic Order, which has existed for centuries.

The Order of the Amaranth means many things to many people. To its early members it meant the opportunity to build upon strong foundations of Truth, Faith, Wisdom and Charity. A fraternal order, having for its purpose, service to humanity set to music of fraternal love. To its present members, the Order of the Amaranth means a challenge to build higher and stronger upon these foundations of Fraternal Love and Service.

It means the Hand of Fraternal Friendship to those in distress.

It means Thinking and remembering about its members in the hours of sorrow and sickness.

Most of all it means the Opportunity to Serve its Fellowmen, to enjoy the close fraternal ties of mutual respect and understanding, to enrich our lives with friendship worth far more than gold and silver.

It means the strength, courage and inspiration to achieve a strong peace of mind, and degree of happiness that comes in serving a cause greater than ourselves.