

*GRAND CHAPTER OF DELAWARE
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR*



IN MEMORIAM

ESTHER MELVIN BERNER

Past Grand Matron

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Sister Esther Melvin Berner, Past Grand Matron on Friday, November 1st, 2019.

Sister Esther was born at Elsmere Delaware on November 18th, 1923 and moved to Seaford, Delaware in 1938 where the family built a home on Hearn's Pond. In 1940 the family moved to Pompton Lakes, New Jersey but return to Hearn's Pond in 1952. Sister Esther was employed by Service Trucking for 10 years and 30 years for Tri Gas & Oil. Sister Esther married Harry Berner on July 1st, 1989 at Gethsemane Methodist Church. For 14 happy years they traveled the country in their RV, attending Eastern Star and Masonic functions.

For over 70 years Sister Esther was an energetic figure in the Order of the Eastern Star having joined Sussex Chapter No. 7, Seaford, Delaware on June 4th, 1953. She served as Worthy Matron of Sussex Chapter No. 7 in 1970 with Brother Thomas H. Tull as Worthy Patron and in 1977 with Brother William J. Bryant as Worthy Patron. At the conclusion of her year as Worthy Grand Matron in 1985-1986, she presided over the "Starlit Garden of Life" Session with Brother Harry Meck of Ruth Chapter No. 19, Wilmington, Delaware.

Throughout her life, Sister Esther was committed to serving others, not only in Eastern Star, but as an active member of three area Methodist churches – Cannon, Gethsemane and St. Johns; she taught bible classes and even drove the bus to bring children to Gethsemane for Sunday school.

She is survived by nieces Rose Elaine Melvin Hall of New Castle, Delaware, Sharon Esther Melvin Schmidt of Melrose, New Mexico, and nephew, Brother David Earl Melvin of Seaford, Delaware, whose caring presence in her life for 15 years has never wavered.

Another leaf has fallen, another soul has gone
But still we have God's promises in every robin's song;
For He is in His Heaven and though He takes away
He always leaves to mortals the bright sun's kindly ray,
He leaves the fragrant blossoms And lovely forests, green,
And gives us newfound comfort when we on Him will lean.

--Franklin Lee Stevenson

Funeral service was held Wednesday November 6th, 2019 at the Cranston Funeral Home, Seaford, Delaware with burial in Cokesbury Cemetery, Reliance, Maryland.

In loving tribute to Sister Esther's memory, we request that this Memoriam be read at the first stated meeting after its receipt and the Altar to be draped for a period of 30 days.

Donna S. Hiddemen
Worthy Grand Matron

Thomas J. Morganstern
Worthy Grand Patron

Barbara F. Lott, PGM
Grand Secretary