

BROWN, Sue M., clubwoman; b. Staunton, Va., 1877; d. Jacob Wilson and Maria (Harris) W.; ed. high sch., Oskaloosa, Ia.; m. Atty. S. Joe Brown of Des Moines, 31 Dec. 1902. Active in women's clubs, civic, fraternal and religious orgns., in Republican politics as mem. Polk Co. Rep. Central Com., and several times as State Dir. of Women in the Negro div. of Rep. State and nat. campaigns; was one of the two negro women on Dr. Glenn Frank's Nat. Rep. Com. on Program, 1938-40; Rep. Com. Woman. precinct 39 Polk Co.; co-chmn. Negro Div., Rep. State Central Com.; served as lt. in Polk Co. Div., Council of Nat. Defense, pres., Col. Chas. Young Auxiliary of Am. Red Cross; mem. Admin. Bd., Nat. Assn. of Colored Women; sec. tr. bd., Frederick Douglass Mem. & Hist. Assn.; pres., Central Assn. of Colored Women; steward, Paul A.M.E. Ch., Des Moines, Ia.; supt. Young People of Northwestern Conf. of A.M.E. Ch.; chmn. trs. Ia. Assn. of Colored Women. Author: American Social Ethics, 1911; History of O.E.S. Among Colored People, 1925; History of Central Association of Colored Women, 1940. Travel: U.S., Can. (as Internat. Matron O.E.S.), 1923-26; Eng., Fr., Ger., Austria, It. (as del. to Internat. Council of Women of the World), 1930. Husband first Negro to receive post grad. degree and only Negro Phi Beta Kappa of Ia. Univ. Interests: civic, social, religious, and fraternal. Recreation: club work. African Methodist Episcopalian. Republican. Office: 207 6th Av., Des Moines, Ia. Home: 1058 5th Av., Des Moines, Ia.

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FOREWORD

After associating, in a fraternal way, With Sister S. Joe Brown, of Des Moines, Iowa, our International Grand Matron, and having sat and listened attentively to her reading at Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 19, 1924, I am firmly of the opinion that Sister Brown, in the accompanying work, has given to the Eastern Star world the result of years of study, travel and research, which in my judgment, is the most complete concise and authentic history of the Order, among our group of any yet presented. It has rightfully been adopted by the International Conference of Grand Chapters as the official history of the Order and all Grand Chapters should accept it and see that it is properly distributed throughout its bounds, as a long desired necessity.

Sister Brown, in giving this history to the Eastern Star world, has no doubt, added more to our universal understanding and unification than any other one agency, and it will redound to her honor and glorification in years to come.

Our prayer is that she may retain her health and youthfulness and for many years to come, adorn and serve the race and Order. We bespeak for this volume ready acceptance and a broad circulation, throughout the Grand Chapters.

J. C. SCOTT,
International Grand Patron

1968-69 3

410 - N-4 Ave.
Marshalltown, Ia.
Jan. 23, 1978

Helen Warren Johnson
Birth place - Marshalltown, Ia.
Schooling - Marshalltown Public Schools
and Adult Education Business Classes.
Member of Second Baptist Church - Church
Secretary for over 30 years.
Member of Church Women United;
Hospital Auxiliary; Y. W. C. A.;
Travel Club; Breakfast Club;

Past Worthy Matron of Exclusion Chapter
#12 and now Secretary.

G. G. N. M. of Exclusion Grand Chapter, and
Member of Scholarship Board. While
G. G. N. M. ~~was~~ sponsored "Woman of the
Year" (Celebration honoring Ruth
Culbertson as "Exclusion Grand Chapter
Woman of the Year")

- Employed by Spunkers for over 23
years, twenty years as Manager of the
China and Gift Department. Retired in 1975

2'
Member of Youngers 20 year club. 4

Hobbies - Likes to travel -
2 trips to Hawaii
In 1976 trip to Phillipine Islands
and Guam.
Earlier trips to Canada and
Mexico.

Dorris:
Please tell sisters in Des Moines
that Sister Myrtle Coffman of St. Wodys
is in University of Ia. Hosp.
South Wing - Room 616A
Ia. City
She has been ill since Thanksgiving
but Dr's found a mass on left lung.
Pray for Her. She will be having surgery.
We had a nice Christmas. You +
Paul drive up sometime.
Sincerely Helen.

Mary Roney Valentine 1948-50 5

Born in Madison, Ia.

Received a High School edu-
cation, spending last two
yrs. in secretarial work.

For nineteen yrs. She
was Dir. Asst. to Dir.
Harper & Harper.

Member of Bethel
A. M. E. Church. Served as
Supt. Sunday School, Sect.
Treas. and at present, Trustee

Affiliated with the
Council of Churches, and
Voting Precincts.

D. H. Matron of Electa
Grand Chapter O. E. S. - 3 yrs

G. R. Matron of R. E. O. G. -
2 yrs

in 1944. She is a
member of Naomi Court #1,
Havenport, Iowa

Odessa Roberts 1951-52 6

She was born in Muskogee, Okla. moving to Davenport Iowa in 1916. and was married Josh who was a Past Grand Worthy Patron.

They had six children, One is a Doctor, a Pharmacist, an Accountant and a Economist.

She is a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church and has been Church Treasurer for many years. For many years conferring of Amaranth Degree and the conferring of possibility of Grand Court was a disputed question, but Sister Roberts under the Official Proclamation from Texas, was deputized and given the Authority to set up Amaranth Court & was elected Royal Grand Matron in 1947. She is a member of Naomi Court #1, Davenport, Iowa

Mrs. Carl Majors
424 N 12th St.
Keokuk, Iowa 52632

1955-56 7

Dear Harris,

This is my second attempt to write you! I had to go to Cedar Falls for 10 days & it made me fall behind.

I've been involved in many things over the years - so will just skip over some -

Mary Elizabeth Johnson Majors
born - Keokuk, Iowa

Educated in Keokuk - attended the U. of Illinois -

Member of Bethel A.M.E. Church. served on the trustee Board.

Member of Electa Chapt. #17, P. S. Matron of Electa G. Chapt. P. S. International Flag

Beaver - P. S. M. R. E. O. A.

during the period I served as G. R. M.

Her ~~my~~ interest in a Scholarship for Children and Grandchildren of members of Electa Grand Chapter was realized when a loan fund ^{\$250.00} was set aside by Electa G. Chapter, to be added to each year.

~~Need~~ Business & professional Women's, Women
of Achievement Award.

Member of B.P.W. - Soroptimist International

Vice chm. City Planning Commission

Member of Urban Development Commission
N.A.A.C.P. - Self Culture Club.

Pres. 1st dist. I.F.R.W.

Serve on boards of Historical Society (Life member)

" " " Community Concert -

Written up in Who's Who Among Black Americans

Cut any of this you wish -

Love,
Mary

Gladys Taylor

Feb. 19, 1978

8

Dear Sister Wilson, 1957-58

Here is the information that you asked for. I hope that I'm not too late. I put your letter aside and then forgot about it. It's surprising what age we do to you. (smile)

Born March 18, 1918 at Carnegie Iowa attended and graduated from public schools of Cedar Rapids in Jan. 1936 married June 2, 1936 in Cedar Rapids to Mr Beverly S Taylor mother of 2 sons, B.G. Jr and Steven W Taylor.

Grandmother of five (4 girls and 1 boy) member of Bethel A.M.E. Church and the Order of the Eastern Star. Elected G.W. Matron for the year 1957-1958. Elects Grand Chapter celebrated their 50th year anniversary during my 1957 term of office.

Have just retired from Rockwell International (Collins Div) after 25 years.

Enjoy all sports and participate in bowling.

Gladys Taylor



1959 acting
1960-1961

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Bertha Elizabeth Wolder was born August 30, 1910 in Omaha, Nebraska, the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Bates. At an early age she moved with her family to Colfax and (then to) Mason City, Iowa where she attended school, graduating from high school and junior college. After her marriage to Murzay L. Wolder of Marshalltown, the couple lived in that city for twelve years and during that time became the parents of three sons and two daughters. In 1939 the family moved to Des Moines where Mrs. Wolder still resides.

Having grown up in a Masonic family, it was only natural that Mrs. Wolder follow in the same pattern. She was initiated into Excelsior Chapter No. 12 of Marshalltown in 1929, demitting to Princess Zorah Chapter No. 10 of Des Moines in 1945 and elected Worthy Matron of that chapter in 1949. She was appointed and later elected Grand Registrar of Electa Grand Chapter, an office she held for 7 years. In 1959 she was elected Grand Worthy Matron and held that office for two years.

Sister Wolder is also a member of Theodosia Court No. 5 R.E.O.A., holding the status of Royal Matron, and a member of Iowa Grand Court, where she has been Grand Conductress and Grand Lecturer, an office she held for four years.

She is a member of Corinthian Baptist Church, the Y.W.C.A. and over a period of years had been an active in a number of other social and civic organizations.

She can always be depended on to get the job done.

Blakely Taylor

Electa Grand Chapter O. E. S.

(PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION)

State of Iowa and Jurisdiction

MRS. RUTH CULBERSON, G. W. Matron
740 10th Avenue, South, Clinton, Iowa 52732

MR. CHARLES WATKINS, G. W. Patron
1145 14th Place, Des Moines, Iowa 50314

MRS. IVER JEANE BAILEY, G. A. Matron
420 Union Street, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

MR. ERNEST J. MIDDLETON, G. A. Patron
211 Independence Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa 50703

MRS. MARJORIE MARSH, Grand Treasurer
314 Avenue D., Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

MRS. HATTIE M. MIDDLETON, Grand Secretary
211 Independence Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa 50703

MRS. JANICE RIDDLEY, Grand Registrar
729 27th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50312

MRS. HALEY O. HOUSTON, Grand Conductress
935 24th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50312

MRS. CHARLOTTE WELDON, G. A. Conductress
1508 Mt. Pleasant, Burlington, Iowa 52601

MRS. HELEN W. JOHNSON, G. Chairman of Auditing
410 North 4th Avenue, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

MRS. MILDRED GRAVES, G. Chairman of Returns
1054 16th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50314

MR. DeEDWIN WHITE, G. Chairman of Jurisprudence
409 South 4th, Burlington, Iowa 52601

MRS. BERTIE M. HOGAN, G. Chairman of Ways & Means
821 28th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50312

MRS. ALBERTA M. CRUMP, Grand Lecturer
809 E. 15th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52803

MRS. BERTHA WOLDER, G. Chairman of Finance
1144 18th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50314

MRS. MARY J. MAJORS, G. Chairman of Scholarship
424 North 12th Street, Keokuk, Iowa 52632



OFFICE OF

1962-63

Jan. 30, 1978

Dear Dorris:

I was ill during the Holidays, but feel fine at present. Time moves on and we wonder why we haven't accomplished more, but we can be thankful for our many blessings. Hope you and Family are well. Really looking forward to a grand time there.

Here is the information you requested.

Marjorie Lewis Marsh was born Feb. 4th in Ft. Madison, Iowa. She is the youngest of ten children. Her parents were Mr. & Mrs. Clarence H. Woods. She belongs to a Family of Master Mason; one a 33rd. degree. She graduated with honors from the Ft. Madison Public High School and attended Stowe Teacher's College in St. Louis, Mo. She married Tom Marsh, and have two Sons and Five Step-Children.

She is a Lay Member and Treasurer of Bethel A. M. E. Church, and a former Superintendent of the Sunday School. She belongs to the Democratic Women's Club of which she is a past secretary and treasurer. Member of the Human Rights Commission and Secretary Pro-Tem.

She is a Past Worthy Matron of Fidelity Chapter, #30, O.E.S., now serving as Secretary. Past Grand Worthy Matron of Electa Grand Chapter, serving now as Grand Treasurer. Past Worthy Matron of Shiloh Court, #4, and Past Grand Royal Matron of Iowa Grand Court R.E.C.A. Also Past Grand Lecturer of both Orders.

Sisterly yours,

Marjorie Marsh
Marjorie L. Marsh

(1964-65)
Almeda "Collins" Dickerson was
born Nov 12, 1926 and was a ~~OK~~
graduate of Davenport High School.

She is a member of Naomi Chapter #1
and is a Past Matron. She is a
Past Royal Matron of Naomi Court
and Past ~~Royal~~ Grand Royal Matron
of Iowa Grand Court. She is
a Past Grand Worthy Matron of
Electa Grand Chapter.

Past President of Iowa Toast
Mistress Club

She is a member of Progressive Baptist
Church. Love to be with people.

Gave up job at St. Luke Hospital
because of ill health.

Started officers of Grand Chapter
wearing white formals.

Scholarship Fund started during her
Administration.

(over)

She has three sisters, and
all are Eastern Stars; one
brother.

Three daughters and two
sons. Two daughters are
Eastern Stars.

Love was and is her
way of Life.

Fringelle Shores
1966-67

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Born in Sioux City, Iowa and attended
the Public Schools of Sioux City.
Married John, who is a member of
Deatur Lodge # 14. Mother of one son who
is a Counselor in a Boys Institution,
Ill.

She is a member of Malone A.M.
She was a Class Leader and has served
on the Steward Board

She is on the Volunter Board
Coordinator for the student volunteers of
High Schools in the City.

She is a member of Hour of Praise
Club and was President for 5 years.

She is a member of Harmony
Chapter # 22 since 1945.

PROFILE:

Mildred Graves
Past Grand Worthy Matron
Electa Grand Chapter O.E.S. P.H.A.
Iowa and Jurisdiction

Mildred Graves was born in Stonewall, Mississippi, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Wesley Peguese and spent her early childhood in Stonewall and Meridian, Mississippi. She was educated in the public schools of Stonewall, Mississippi, and graduated as Salutarian of her class from Wechsler High School, Meridian, Mississippi. Attended Teachers Normal Jackson College, Jackson, Mississippi, and taught in the public schools of Mississippi for a short while. After graduation from Crescent Beauty School, she has been a Cosmetologist in her own beauty shop for 18 years.

Married to a wonderful husband, Lawrence A. Graves, Sr. who is a Master Mason of North Star Lodge, No. 2 F.&A.M., and mother of three sons and two lovely daughters.

Having received "light" in 1949, Past Grand Worthy Matron, Mildred, has served as Grand Star Points, Grand Associate Conductress, Grand Conductress, Grand Lecturer, Grand Associate Matron and Grand Worthy Matron in 1970 and 1971.

While Grand Worthy Matron, in 1971 she initiated a 5 year financial contract with the Publisher of Black Hawk Publishing Company for each chapter throughout the Jurisdiction to hold Grand Session in their city with adequate finances to entertain as well as establishing an annual Electa Grand Chapter Scholarship Fund.

Mildred attended her first Grand Session in 1951 and have never missed a Session since.

She is a Past Worthy Matron of Princess Zorah Chapter No. 10; Secretary of her Chapter and has served this office for 20 years; Past Royal Matron of Theodosia Court No. 5, Royal Exalted Order of Amaranth; Past Grand Royal Matron of Iowa, Grand Court Royal Exalted Order of Amaranth; Past President of Administrative Council, Past Matrons and Past Patrons; Past Illustrious Commandress Zeid Court No. 50, Daughters of Isis; and Recordress of Zeid Court No. 50.

A member of social club, Mary Church Terrell No. 2 which holds a life membership in the N.A.A.C.P. and a social and travel Husbands and Wives club, Bow Knots.

A dedicated active member of St. Paul A.M.E. Church serving as a Trustee, Hostess, Lady Usher, Layman, Class Leader and past Sunday School Teacher.

She has been an active volunteer at Mercy Hospital for 5 years.

Those who are acquainted with her cannot help but know she is a faithful and diligent person in all endeavors.

B. S. W. M. Willella Phuellin

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1974-75

She was born in Moline, Illinois, where she spent most of her childhood until moving, with her family, to Davenport, Iowa, at the age of 14. After graduating from Davenport High School, she attended Kansas University in Lawrence, Kansas, where she was affiliated with the NAACP. She graduated from Poro Beauty College, Chicago, Illinois, receiving the Illinois license as a beauty culturist.

She then returned to Davenport, married, practiced beauty culture for a short while, enrolled and graduated from a keypunch training school, then entered into government service where she is at the present time.

She is I am a member of Progressive Baptist Church where she served as secretary of the Sunday School and a choir member, a charter member of the Iowa Toastmistress Club where I served as Grammarian and Hospitality Chairman, a member of Century Investment Club, and have served on various committees of the Democratic Club.

She joined the Order of Eastern Star in 1958 and has missed only one Grand Session since that time. She would like to think her greatest accomplishment during her term of office was drawing the Grand Body closer together through her love, dedicated service, and concern for all.

1976-77

A GLIMPSE.....



**Mrs. G. Ruth Culberson,
Grand Worthy Matron**

**Electa Grand Chapter,
O.E.S.
Iowa and Jurisdiction**

Ruth Culberson

Sister Garrett Ruth Culberson was born in Galena, Illinois, as the daughter and granddaughter of Prince Hall Master Masons.

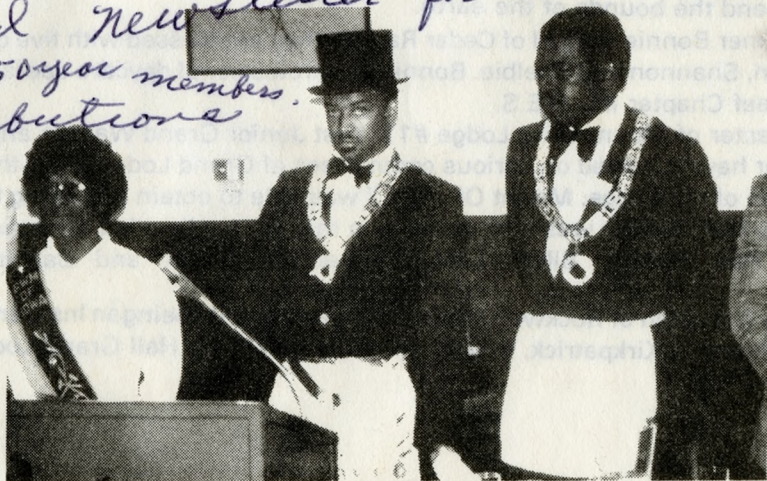
She is the lovely wife of Brother Vinson O. Culberson of McNeil Lodge #20, Clinton, Iowa, and they have 4 daughters and one son.

Very inspiring and dedicated, Grand Worthy Matron Culberson is Past Matron of Leah Chapter #8, Order of the Eastern Star, Past Grand Warder, Past Grand Sentinel, Past Grand Associate Conductress, Past Grand Conductress, Past Grand Associate Matron and Chairwoman of Foreign Correspondence in addition to being Past Grand Royal Matron of the Hannah Court No. 11 of the Royal Exalted Order of the Amaranth. She was selected as Eastern Star Woman of the Year in 1969 during the administration of Past Grand Matron Helen Warren Johnson and elected Grand Matron in 1975.

A Registered Professional Nurse, having graduated from General Hospital School of Nursing in Kansas City, Missouri, she currently is an Occupational Health Nurse for the Waukesha Engine Division of Dresser Industries, Inc. where she has been for 13 years.

An active worker in most community and civic affairs of the city as well as the state, she diligently attends Bethel A.M.E. Church with her family, her faith being well grounded and her path being guided by the unyielding and loving path of our Heavenly Master. Those who are blessed with her acquaintance cannot help but be warmed for she most certainly is the 'Fairest Among Thousands Altogether Lovely'

*She started newsletter for Electa Grand Chapter.
Recognition of 50 year members.
and started contributions
to Kidney +
Sickle Cell
foundation*



SKETCHES OF 1976-77 ELECTED OFFICERS

STEVEN E. GILMORE SENIOR GRAND WARDEN



Steven Gilmore
R.W.G.S. Warden



Steve & Bonnie

Antwan, Shelbie, Shannon & Famous
Emmett, Jr., is not pictured

Born Steven Emmett Gilmore in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Brother Gilmore is an accomplished traveller, in the truer sense of the world. Educated in the public schools of Cedar Rapids, Steven enlisted in the United States Army where after serving 3 years he was discharged in 1970. During one of his assignments in Germany, he was raised and received light as a Prince Hall Mason. Being studious, Steven chose to make this endeavor a vocation as well as avocation and sought to learn more about this magnanimous institution which is proclaimed universally to be the greatest man-made institution to transcend the bounds of the earth.

Married to the former Bonnie Stegall of Cedar Rapids, they are blessed with five children: Emmett Jr., Famous, Antwan, Shannon and Shelbie. Bonnie is a professional daycare operator and an active member of Silver Leaf Chapter #5, O.E.S.

Steven is Past Master of Mount Olive Lodge #17, Past Junior Grand Warden and current Senior Grand Warden, after having served on various committees of Grand Lodge. With the cooperation of many of the Brethren of the Lodge, Mount Olive #17 was able to obtain a building from the city and convert it to a Lodge Hall. Steven was instrumental in this effort. His other affiliations include A.G. Clark Consistory, Past Patron, Silver Leaf Chapter #5 O.E.S. and Bashir Temple #156 A.E.A.O.N.O.M.S.

He is employed by a division of Rockwell Internation in addition to being an Insurance Broker, and he is the nephew of Wilbur C. Kirkpatrick, P.G.M. of the M.W Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri.