

MY MEMOIRS

OF

DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE

By:

Mabel R. Krows

FOUNDER AND PAST SUPREME CULEN

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In every human mind some images, words and facts remain without effort on their part, to imprint them, instilled perhaps in childhood.

All our progress is an unfolding like our white rose bud. One first has an instinct, then an opinion, then a knowledge just as a plant has root, then bud, then fruit.

All things have a beginning, first comes thought then action. Likewise all human institutions and ritualistic associations have cause to inquire into the source from whence they came. In like manner came into being our beloved order of Daughters of the Nile.

Having been reared in a Masonic environment my interest was always keen regarding Fraternal Organizations.

My father, Emmet W. Rossman, belonged to both York and Scottish Rite Masons 32nd deg. and a member of Zuhrah Temple A. A. O. N. M. S. He was a member of their Patrol, the first ever formed in these United States, under Captain Shoey. This was in Minneapolis.

My mother, Eva A. Sperry Rossman, belonged to Zuhrah's Ladies, a local organization in Minneapolis composed of the wives of members of Zuhrah Temple Shrine A.A.O.N.M.S. After moving to Seattle she frequently spoke of Zuhrah's Ladies saying many times how nice it would be to have something like it in Seattle when and if they had a Shrine in Seattle. Thus it was instilled deeply in my memory.

The only Shrine at that time was Afifi Temple in Tacoma, Washington, to which many Seattle gentlemen belonged. Mr. Krows belonged and was a member of Afifi Patrol. This was several years before I knew him. We were married in 1904.

The latter part of the year 1905, the Tacoma Shriners organized a ladies Auxiliary called Daughters of Isis, which many Seattle ladies joined. I joined in 1906 but never attended again.

This auxiliary was disbanded early in 1908 by the decree of the Imperial Potentate.

Nile Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. was organized in Seattle in 1908. All Seattle men belonging to Afifi Temple joined as charter members of Nile.

Many Seattle ladies who had been members of this Isis Auxiliary formed a social club in Seattle called the Isis Club. The only prerequisite being that those eligible had been members of the Isis Auxiliary in Tacoma. This club finally disbanded in December, 1912. At this last meeting I invited some of the ladies to meet at my home, 1502 Palm Avenue, February 20th, 1913 to discuss forming a club similar to Zuhrah's Ladies in Minneapolis. I invited only those who were then wives of Nile Temple members. Those attending the luncheon were Minnie Jaffery, Cleo C. Kline, Elizabeth Davies, Lena McVey, Margaret Grant, Harriet Thompson, Inda Lee Rosenberg, Gertrude Lovier, Elizabeth MacDonald, Rosalie B. Crawford, Ellen Richter, and myself.

As these ladies were all wives of Shriners belonging to Nile Temple the name chosen for the club was Ladies of Nile. The following officers were then elected; President - Mabel R. Krows; Vice President - Minnie M. Jeffery; Secretary - Elizabeth Davies; Treasurer - Gertrude Lazier, who later remarried. Her name then was Gertrude Lazier Hodgson. I then asked Cleo Kline, who had been an officer in the Isis Auxiliary in 1906, to see if that ritual could be obtained and changed to meet our needs. She reported at the next meeting that it hadn't been kept.

After this first meeting, Ellen Richter dropped out. At the March 6th meeting held at the home of Elizabeth Davies, Gertrude Lazier (Hodgson) said she knew a member of Nile Temple, an author and poet, namely Charles Faustis Whaley, who she thought might write a ritual for the club. She was then appointed to ask him.

Due to the fact that our early records were written on sheets of paper, many of them were lost. No minutes are in evidence from March 6th to June 5, 1913 or from July 3rd to September 18, 1913. What became of them is unknown to me.

I do remember of meeting March 20th, 1913 at the home of Minnie Jeffery. Gertrude Lazier (Hodgson) reported to me that Noble Charles Whaley would consent to write a Ritual for us.

Noble Whaley was a writer of some note and the Shriners in the Pacific North West had given him the title of Poet Laureate. I have in my possession two autographed books which he wrote, one given to Mr. Krow's father entitled "Dawn of the 20th Century" published in 1898 and the other given to my husband, entitled "The Confessions of a Master Mason", published in 1914. In both these books are paragraphs and phrases which we find in our Ritual.

Noble Whaley started to write soon after being asked and Gertrude did all his typing for him. All we thought then was that it would be a Ritual suitable for the small club.

At the meeting at Minnie Jeffery's it was decided to include as members of the Club, ladies who were not only wives of Nile Temple members, but also wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of any Temple.

At subsequent meetings the following ladies were invited to join, Mrs. Andrewette Patten, Mrs. Lou C. Hollister, Mrs. Nellie I. Moore, Mrs. Elizabeth Morrison, Mrs. Elizabeth Sackmen, Mrs. Edith Gattis, Mrs. Levelia A. West, Mrs. Claire Phillips, Mrs. Jennie Swartsbaugh, Mrs. Emma Biglow and Mrs. Lillian Kisho.

The club continued to meet through the summer months. Noble Whaley met often with us, reading parts of what he had written, conferring with us, and discussing lines and phrases which might be suitable.

As there were so many momentous decisions to make, the Club began to meet more frequently, meeting twice and sometimes three times a week for all day meetings. Committees began to work on Constitution and By-Laws, emblems, pins, paraphernalia, headdresses, and Temple colors.

Decisions must also be made regarding forms of application blanks, petitions, how names should be proposed, and as our Ritual pertained to Egypt, whether to wear Egyptian Robes.

Energy and power was required to get things in motion, afterwards the moving body had a tendency to continue. It was a spontaneous action, the members did not look too far ahead, but later as they progressed, their thoughts wandered back and they remembered with rapture what they had accomplished.

The author, while writing, studied each copy after Gertrude Lazier (Hodgson) had typed it and many times he thought of something more to add, but she could never tire of retyping such noble sentiments. The Ritual was the expression of the elevating thoughts of Charles Faustus Whaley and his work was a labor of love.

In August 1913 Noble Whaley had completed the initiatory ceremony and the obligation. The Club members were invited to Gertrude Lazier (Hodgson's) home to hear it read for the first time by Noble Whaley. Those present were Minnie Jeffery, Cleo Kline, Elizabeth MacDonald, Gertrude Lazier (Hodgson) and myself. Noble Whaley also invited Noble Walter Krows and Noble Frank Lazier to hear it read.

Noble Whaley had a fine kindly voice and read with much feeling and as we listened we began to realize we had a Ritual of incomparable merit. It was he who suggested that the Bible be opened at Christ's sermon on the Mount. All these noble thoughts were Noble Whaley's and his alone.

The opening service, amplified opening, burial service, closing and installation were completed later. He had it all completed by March 1914. One September 18, 1913 at the home of Cleo Kline, Gertrude read the initiatory service, assisted by Edith Gattis, to the members present, after which I gave the obligation to those present, namely: Nellie I. Moore, Gertrude Lazier, Elizabeth MacDonald, Elizabeth Sackman, Minnie Jeffery, Andrewette Patten, Cleo Kline, Levelis West, and Edith Gattis. This was the first time the obligation was ever given and I gave it at each subsequent meeting until all members had taken it.

There was nothing we could do to show our appreciation of what Noble Whaley had done for us by writing such a wonderful Ritual except to have a letter of appreciation sent to him.

On October 16, 1913 at the home of Minnie Jeffery the officers for the first Daughters of the Nile Temple were elected. The name "Hatsu" was suggested by Minnie Jeffery after the first Egyptian Queen known in ancient Egyptian History.

We called our order Daughters of the Nile as Noble Whaley, whenever he addressed any of us, always said "My Daughter". And Nile was for the river "Nile" as our order was pertaining to Egypt.

In the beginning when the club was started our name "Ladies of Nile" was named that because we were all wives of Nile Temple Shriners. Later when there were Daughters of the Nile Temples in other cities, each Temple had a name and number according to when they were constituted, such as our in Seattle being called Hatsu Temple No. 1 Daughters of the Nile, the next was Miriam Temple No. 2 Daughters of the Nile, located in Victoria, B. C. Canada; Tirzah Temple No 3 Daughters of the Nile located in Butte, Montana, etc.

The first officers elected were Minnie Jeffery, Queen; Edith Gattis, Princess Royal; Gertrude Lazier, Princess Tirzah; Levelis K. West, Princess Badoura; Andrewette Patten, Treasurer; Carrie Knight whom we obligated, not a founder, Secretary. She dropped out a short time later and I was chosen to fill that office

and as we had no musician I also filled that office. Andrewette Patten and I also did the singing for the ceremonials that first year for Queen Minnie Jeffery.

I gave the obligation at this Club meeting to Margaret Grant who later became the first Supreme Banker of the Supreme Temple.

On October 30, 1913 an all day meeting was held at the home of Edith Gattis at which time Mrs. Electa Whaley, wife of the Author of our Ritual was voted to be the first Honorary Life member of Hatesu Temple.

At this meeting we voted to elect eligible ladies before inviting them to join. Noble Whaley had suggested we elect members in this manner. We decided to close the charter with 100 members, these members to pay \$5.00 initiation fee and then we would raise it.

I appointed the following committees: Calc Kine, on Heddresses and Minnie Jeffery on design of pins.

Then in talking things over we realized if we were to expand and form more Temples we should have a governing body, it also to have a name. After some discussion we decided to call the governing body the Supreme Temple Daughters of the Nile, that all members of Ladies of Nile Club be its first members, they to be called the Founders of Daughters of the Nile, then as more Temples were constituted, all Queens, Past Queens, and Princess Royals of these local Temples be members of this Supreme Temple. We then unanimously elected Levelia K. West as presiding officer of the Supreme Temple, giving her the title of Supreme Queen.

At this time, Minnie Jeffery, Queen elect of the local Temple Hatesu, appointed some of her appointive officers. They were as follows: Elizabeth Mac Donald, Princess Marshal; Jennie Swartsbaugh, Princess Chaplain; Cleo Kline, Princess Nydia; Rosalie Crawford, Princess Zulicke. The offices were not all filled as some were too timid to accept office. To fill these vacant offices we obligated some of the Charter members to fill the stations.

On November 6, 1913 the club voted to have Noble Whaley's picture in the front of each Daughters of the Nile Ritual when it was printed. Harriet Thompson was chosen as Honorary Past Queen.

On November 21, 1913 the following Supreme Officers were elected; Supreme Princess Royal, Gertrude Lazler (Hodgson); Supreme Princess Tirzah, Cleo Kline; Supreme Princess Badoura, Mabel R. Krows; Supreme Princess Recorder, Rosalie Crawford, and Supreme Princess Banker, Margaret Grant. Supreme Queen elect, Levelia West appointed the following officers: Zenobia, Harriet Thompson; Supreme Zora, Elizabeth Davies; Supreme Zulicema, Lillian Misho; Supreme Marshal, Edith E. Gattis; Supreme Chaplain, Minnie Jeffery; Supreme Lady of the Keys, Ina Rosenberg; and supreme Lady of the Gates, Lou Hollister. I do not remember that these Supreme officers were installed.

The Club and local Temple continued meeting at the homes of members during December, 1913, and January 1914, skipping some during the Holidays. We were working on Constitution and By-Laws, Heddresses and pins, studying our parts from typewritten sheets, bringing in names to be balloted upon, etc. I presided over all meetings until February 1914 then Minnie Jeffery took over and I filled the office of Recorder of Hatesu Temple.

On February 5 and February 14, 1914, Minnie Jeffery presiding, we met at Mrs. West's, balloted on names and did routine work. February 14th, our first pins were received. We met February 19th, 1914 with Mrs. Grant and February 25th with Cleo Kline. Mrs. West was appointed to secure Scottish Rite Temple for our Ceremonial. Noble Whaley aided in obtaining the Temple for us. Mrs. Jeffery was called East because of a death in the family and Princess Royal, Edith Gettis, presided at subsequent meetings until Minnie Jeffery returned. It was on March 12, 1914 an all day meeting at Andrewette Patten's that we decided to give all members the title of "Princess" when addressing them. It was then also that we changed the names of Secretary and Treasurer to Recorder and Banker.

Referring back to February 14, 1914, the meeting of the Temple carried a motion that all money's received be banked under the name of Hatsuo Temple No. 1 and signed by our first Banker Andrewette Patten. After this Supreme Queen West held a short business meeting. Mabel R. Krows acted a Supreme Recorder pro tem. The Ritual and By-Laws committees reported that their findings would be ready by the next meeting. Minnie Jeffery's committee on pins had a sample of a pin and presented it for inspection. This pin was adopted; the design being a green scimitar with a suspended golden crescent in its center a white rose. Cleo Kline reported on design of Headdress consisting of three bands of gold fastened together at the ends with pendants of green and white pearls. They accepted this as the official Headdress.

Supreme Temple had no more meetings until June 25, 1915 when they met at the home of Supreme Queen West.

One March 19, 1914 at my home, Chairman of Ritual Committee was requested to have twelve Rituals printed as soon as possible. We had sent east for a Copyright.

March 23rd at Nellie I. Moore's, Mrs. West reported that Wegners Orchestra had been secured to play for the Installation which was scheduled for April 2, 1914. Mrs. Gettis had procured a quartette to sing for us and a Dr. Adams to give us a reading. Mrs. Lazier (Hodgson) had 1000 invitations printed.

As I had given the obligation to all the Founders, I was asked to give it to the following who were to fill some vacant stations. These ladies were all charter members except Jennie Swertsbaugh and Claire Phillips who were Founders: Mrs. Cassie Knight, Mrs. Clara Gilmore, Mrs. Frances Thompson, Miss Vivian Gill. I was appointed to get material and make a dust colored robe, Mrs. West the Amphora and Gertrude Lazier the veil. Mrs. Phillips was to take Mrs. Gettis' station as Princess Royal as Mrs. Gettis was to be acting Queen.

As Princess Bedours Mrs. West worked out the floor work. It was Mrs. Patten who procured the "Knocking Song" which we still use.

Also at this March 23rd meeting we wrote to Supreme Queen Elect Levelia Vest for a Charter.

Our last meeting in the homes was held March 26th at Rossie Crawford's.

On March 28th and March 31st, 1914 we met at the old Masonic Temple at First Avenue and Bell Street

On April 2nd, 1914 we met at the Scottish Rite Cathedral for our first ceremonial with Edith Gettis acting Queen, Claire Phillips as Princess Royal, and I as organist besides being Recorder as we had no organist that first year. Andrewette Patten the Banker and I also sang duets for the first Ceremonial. The piano was moved over to my desk each meeting.

At this first Ceremonial fifty-two were received into the order. Mrs. Laura Laubscher was our first exemplifying candidate. Even though the work was learned from typewritten sheets it was beautifully exemplified by all officers.

After the Ceremonial was over and acting Queen Gattis asked for remarks from new members those who responded: Mrs. Case, Tacoma, Wash., Mrs. Welch, New West Minister, B. C., Mrs. Gill, Mrs. Collier, Mrs. Durrant, Mrs. Fuhlrodt who is the daughter of F. Under Harriet Thompson, Junior Past Queen, were all loud in their praises of the beautiful ritualistic work, and proud to have been made charter members of the first Daughters of the Nile Temple.

Noble Whaley was not permitted to attend the Ceremonial but he did attend our rehearsals.

At 8:30 P.M. the same evening, April 2nd, 1914, we held an open Installation, invitations having been sent out for the occasion.

Supreme Queen Levelis K. West acted as Installing Officer with Edith Gattis as Supreme Marshal.

The following Officers for Hatesu Temple were installed:

Gertrude Lazier now Gertrude Hodgson	Princess Tirzah
Elizabeth MacDonald	Princess Marshal
Jennie Swertsbaugh	Princess Chaplain
Andrewette Patten	Princess Banker
Mabel R. Krows	Princess Recorder and Musician
Cleo C. Kline	Princess Nydia
Rosalie Crawford	Princess Zulicks
Flora Gilmore	Princess Zenobia
Jean Hall	Princess Zora
Nellie I. Moore	Princess Zulieana
Inda Rosenberg	Lady of the Keys
Lou Hollister	Lady of the Gates
Vivian Gill	Attendant
Frances Moore Thompson	Attendant

Mrs. Gilmore, Hall, Thompson and Miss Gill were not Founders but Charter members. Mrs. Harriet Thompson was our first Junior Past Queen. After installation Mr. Lazier was called upon for a few remarks. He was loud in his praise of Noble Charles F. Whaley's character and ability as a writer.

Noble Whaley, Author of our Ritual, was invited to the Throne and gave us a wonderful talk, many beautiful thoughts.

After a short program, dancing concluded the evening entertainment.

Our first Ceremonial and Installation were both a huge success.

On April 14, 1914, Minnie Jeffery having returned to the city, conducted a business meeting and Gertrude Lazier installed those who had not been installed on April 2nd. Minnie Jeffery installed as Queen, Edith Gattis as Princess Royal, and Levelis K. West as Princess Badoure.

On April 28, 1914, we met at the Masonic Temple for a business meeting. Gertrude Lazier reported that the copyright was on hand and we were empowered to have the Rituals printed, she to have charge of that. April 30, 1914 at Scottish Rite Cathedral the second Ceremonial was held, at which time fifteen more members were initiated with Mrs. Geraldine Fletcher as exemplifying candidate. Mrs. Fletcher is now one of Hatasu Temple's past Queens. There were now sixty-seven names on our Charter aside from the names of the Founders.

Referring back to when we were practicing for our Ceremonial, Noble Whaley asked me to always play the first four bars of "Traumerei" at Zuliems's Station when music was called for, which I did. It however was not put in the Ritual.

One thing I've always regretted is the fact that because some thought the Queen's lecture was too long the following paragraph was taken out. I do so hope that some day they may decide to again add it.

This is what was taken out.

"Then be not weary in well doing for know you this, you cannot stand still for long. You must advance or retrograde and on the day you do no wrong though you have shown no kindness, you are but where the dawn awoke you with one day lost. No day comes back and life is short at best. There will be one blank page in your life's history and you will have missed the golden opportunity of gathering one more white pebble for use in the building of your moment of character."

All Supreme Temple Sessions were held in the homes of the Supreme Queens until I presided just before going out of office in June 1918. We met for that session in the Scottish Rite Cathedral with three Temples represented, all the Temples organized up to that time.

It was under the leadership of our Second Supreme Queen, Minnie M. Jeffery, that credit for expansion must be given, as it was she who started the first two Temples after Hatasu, namely: Miriam Temple No. 2, Victoria, B. C., and Tirzah Temple No 3, Butte, Montana.

As the Supreme Temple at that time had no funds, Supreme Queen Jeffery cheerfully defrayed all expenses for the trips to these two cities for the purpose of organizing. The first world war held us back some. Up to 1920 all Supreme Queens belonged to Hatasu Temple, the first four being Founders. They were: 1st, Levelia K. Vest, 2nd, Minnie K. Jeffery, 3rd, Mabel R. Krowr, 4th, Edith Gattis, then Charter member Annie N. Larson. At first there were no other Temples from which to choose the officers.

Hatasu Temple held its Funeral Service the first time for our first Honorary member, the wife of the author of our Ritual, Mrs. Electa Whaley, who passed away on May 19th, 1916.

At the beginning of the year 1916, Mrs. Laura A Schubert who became Queen of Hatasu in 1920, was Recorder. It was she who established the method of giving each member a permanent number which all Temples followed. I, as first President of the Club, was given card No. 1, Minnie Jeffery, as Vice-President, was given card No. 2.

Hatasu Temples' first drill team was started in 1915. The chorus was started in 1930 after the organization of the dancing girls which started in 1921.

The writer of our Ritual, Noble Charles F. Whaley, passed away August 24, 1917 at the age of seventy-five. His passing was deeply regretted. Sorrow was expressed that he could not have lived to have received all the honors due him for he certainly deserves all the laurels and devoted memories of our Order.

The rest is a matter of History. The Founders worked hard in the beginning, not for honors but for the satisfaction of work well done. This wonderful organization is our reward. The result of our efforts has far exceeded our expectation.

Of the first twelve who met at my home February 20th, 1913 there are four of us living. Only six Founders are left at this time - September 1951.

There are 100 Temples located in the U. S. A., Canada and Hawaii.

The last verse in one of the books Noble Charles F. Whaley wrote makes a wonderful ending for my memoirs. It is as follows:

"As a pedestrian may cross a brook
Upon the stepping stones by careful strides
Pausing on each his equipoise to gain,
And gauging well the distance to the next
Thus step by step at last he gains the shore
So we by careful strides and measured steps
At last must reach the margin or the shore."

Mabel R. Knows
Founder and Past Supreme Queen.

September 24, 1951

I've done research work and gone into much detail in writing these memoirs so that my family or anyone desiring information about the beginning of the Order of Lighters of the Nile may have authentic data.