



Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

MAY 2018

State President



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

This past month I attended Master's Conference and met with the Northeast Masters. We are always talking about how to get new members in the Grange. We all have seen a large decline in members in our State Granges, and constantly ask how to get new members. I have talked with the State FFA officers at Ag Day as to why we can't attract FFA members to join the Grange. They seem to answer that FFA members are so busy with school, projects, work, getting ready for college that they don't have the time to do anything else. They suggested we approach 4Hers as potential members and may get parents to join in as a family activity. They also suggested that we advertise at local fairs to get the Grange out in the public. I have also been asked what I am doing to get new members to join. I can't get you new members in your community, these are your people, neighbors, friends, family. Only you on the local level can get new members for your Grange. The State Grange Membership Committee can get you supplies and membership packages for your Grange but you have to ask for them. We have lost a lot of members, many by death. We have lost the youth and young adults as new members. We have to look outside our normal operations of the Grange. Technology is the new norm for the youth, we must adapt for them to interact with

us.

The Grange story has survived 150 years, did our founding fathers think the Grange that they developed would still be here today with the same format they designed? Our value is honesty, charity, fellowship, ethical, faithful. We hold these values close and this does make us different from other organizations. We are family, whether we like it or not. Let us all work together to get new members.

The National Grange Convention will be in Stowe, Vermont this November. We had a walkthrough of the Stoweflake Resort to see the layout of the Convention. The resort is charming, but tight, food will be great but rooms are limited. The Night of Excellence and Seventh Degree is off-site. The good thin is plenty of local restaurants around. Ben & Jerry's is just down the road. Bad news is it is six hours from home, main road is under construction, and weather is unknown (snow). The convention committee has been praying for great weather, even the locals have said the weather was great last November, fingers crossed. Connecticut will host the hospitality room on Saturday, the last day of the Convention. So we will be looking for volunteers to help man the the hospitality room. Chairpersons for Connecticut's hosting of the Hospitality Room are Todd Gelineau and Faith Maus. Please contact them if you would like to volunteer.

The Big E has again changed the process for handing out tickets and parking passes to vendors. We will have application forms for those who wish to work and the New England Grange Building and for marching in the parade on Grange Day.

The bridge outside Gate One is supposed to be under construction during the fair so traffic will be re-routed around this so it may



Congressman Joe Courtney met with the Connecticut Delegation to the National Grange Legislative Fly-In held in April. I to r: Alma Graham, State Leg. Director, Rep. Courtney; Gordon Gibson, State Legislative Liaison and Bruce Graham. The meeting was held in his office on Capitol Hill.

impact shuttle parking. We will see at the May meeting. If you wish to work in the Sales Room in the Grange Building, or be in the parade, please let me know.

We have sold Litchfield and Echo Grange Halls so there is some furniture and regalia available at the Central office. We would rather let a Community Grange use these items than store them here.

Agriculture is going through trying times, with trade tariffs, low farm prices, pressure from outside vendors, we must support our farmers. In New England, our dairy farmers are struggling to stay in business, even with the Boston and New York fluid milk markets our farmers are being squeezed by outside markets and a flood of surplus milk. Over the years we have lost many local processors, Sealtest, Mosiers, Dairy Mart, Lincoln, Yankee Milk (powdered milk) so a lot

of milk is brought in from other states. Organic milk from California, a2 milk from Australia is now being advertised. They are all

battling against our local dairy farmers. Something has to be done to protect local farms. Drink more milk!

Legislative Fly-In 2018



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
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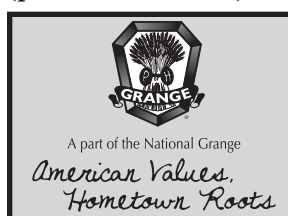
In mid-April, I along with my husband Bruce and Gordon Gibson attended the National Grange Legislative Fly-In at the National Grange office in Washington D.C. About 35 Grangers from all over the country attended. There were several youth members who attended as well as some Junior

Grangers. We arrived on Sunday and had an informal meet and great at the hotel.

Monday morning started out on a high note with a power outage at the hotel due to severe thunderstorms that passed through during the night. It was interesting taking showers by the light from the flashlight app on my cell phone. At least we still had hot water.

We spent Monday listening to a number of speakers. Burton Eller, the National Grange Legislative Director filled us in on some of the legislative agendas items that they are involved with. The National Grange has partnered with some other organization working to find

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OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP

NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due
May 15

Greenfield Hill Grange No. 133 celebrates 125 years

This year, Greenfield Hill Grange #133 celebrates 125 years of continuous service to their community and to the Grange. We honor this milestone with another re-print from "The Connecticut Granges," printed in 1899. There is a great deal of interesting information about Greenfield Hill in this article and the style of writing is almost as entertaining as its contents.

More than two and a half centuries ago sightly and beautiful Greenfield Hill was picked out and chosen by the hardy Puritan pioneers as a spot where a God-fearing community might be established and a successful husbandry prosecuted.

That the fathers chose well and built wisely has been amply demonstrated. Their judgment and sagacity have been well attested by the abundant annual harvests and the profit and prosperity the fecund soil has yielded in perennial plenty to all the generations.

At the close of the last century the hamlet comprised some 1,400 people, most of whom were tillers of the soil. The cultivation of flax was a prominent industry at the time and twenty-acre fields of it were a common sight. Many thousands of bushels of the seed were annually shipped to market. A veracious local chronicler of events of that period finds authority for the assertion that no part of the world was more fruitful than Greenfield.

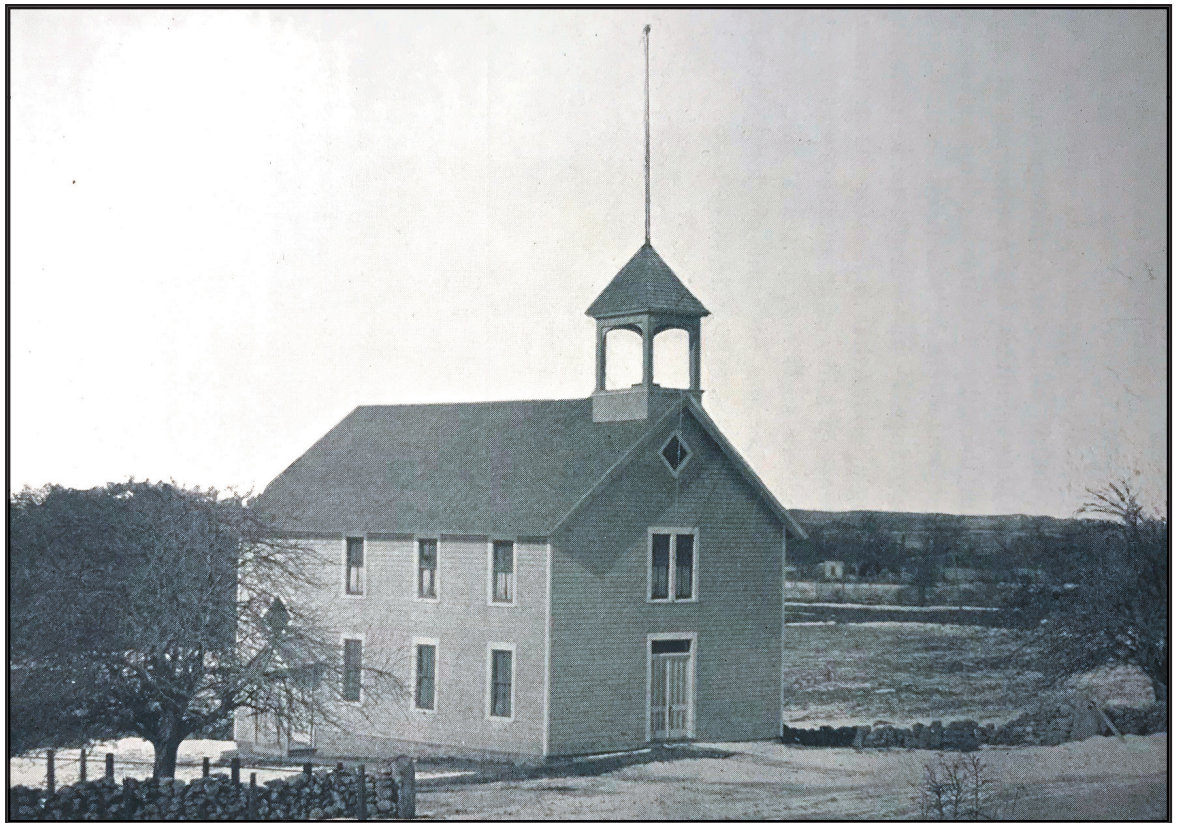
This community, like all those of Puritan origin, was imbued with a spirit of self-sacrificing devotion and animated by stern and uncompromising

purpose. These attributes told in after generations and succeeding progeny has been marked by qualities of stability of character and intellectual resourcefulness. Few villages, even in prolific old Connecticut, have furnished larger lists of names of distinction.

For eighty years the people of this settlement, men, women and children, made Sabbath journeys through a wilderness to the church in Fairfield, that being the nearest meeting house. In 1726 they built one for themselves. It was of the typical Puritan pattern, a square structure of logs with a four-sided roof running to a peak in the center. It was surrounded by a stockade, at the gate of which was posted an armed sentinel during the occupancy of the building for church service.

In this church Ref. John Goodsell was ordained pastor on the 18th of May 1726. The society was called the Northwest Parish of Fairfield, but in 1729 the name was changed to Greenfield Hill.

It was voted to hold the parish school in this meeting-house for six months in the year. This was the primary impulse to a movement which brought great distinction to Greenfield Hill in after years. School accommodations kept pace with the growth of the village, but in 1783, Rev. Timothy Dwight, at the time a tutor in Yale College, (he afterwards became president of that institution), and a preacher of some note, was called to the pastorate of the church, and with him there came to Greenfield the germ and



Greenfield Hill Grange Hall, shortly after its construction in 1897.



Greenfield Hill Grange hall as it stands today. The large flag pole on the roof is now gone but many of the distinguishing features are still there. Over time a porch and an addition to the back of the hall have been constructed.

purpose of a new thought in education which marked equal privileges with man. The generic source for this great principle, so fundamental in the Grange organization, was in the broad educational thought and purpose of this gifted divine.

Soon after his installation he started a school for both sexes with the purpose of making its graduates the equals in scholarship of the students of Yale College. He succeeded so well that the fame of Greenfield Academy spread over all the land. His advanced ideas concerning the intellectual capacities of

women found free play. To them he applied the same devoted energy in teaching that he gave to his male pupils, with the result of proving the wisdom of his judgment and awakening the public sense that found general expression sixty years later in the founding of colleges and institutions of learning for woman.

The school was first established by the Hubbell family; but afterwards came to occupy an academy built for it upon the village green.

With such antecedent agricultural renown and the prestige that comes of having been the seat of the first institution in

America for the education of women, it is natural and fitting that Greenfield Hill should espouse the Grange movement and become the home of one of the strongest Granges in the State.

Greenfield Hill Grange #133

Greenfield Hill Grange #133, was organized on January 23, 1893, with eighteen charter members.

During the six years of its existence the membership grew from the original eighteen to one hundred and twenty-six; one hundred and seven by initiation and one by

demit.

For nearly four and a half years the Grange held its meetings in the hall of Greenfield Academy. But this was attended by some inconveniences, and this fact, together with the prospect for a continuance of the growth and prosperity, stimulated a desire for a home of their own, and in 1896 a movement was started which culminated in the present capacious and handsome Grange Hall.

It was an arduous undertaking for the young Grange, but it was pursued with a vigor and tenacity that knew no defeat. Secretary Clarence Bradley, in his annual report, says of the effort; "Several sites were sought for and we were cornered in many ways. But we stuck to it, and in 1897 a generous sister, Mrs. Simeon Pease, gave a deed of the land now occupied by the Grange Hall." Many willing hands made light the task of preparing the ground and foundation, and on April 24, 1897, an old-time New England "raising" of the Hall took place. It was formally dedicated on the 19th of the following June. This event, so pregnant with meaning to the Grange, was attended with ceremonies of fitting impressiveness and marked an historic day in the annals of Greenfield.

The hall, in its present completed

condition, included fittings, furniture, piano, etc., has cost \$1,631.14. This sum does not include the time and labor given to its construction by the members of the Grange, however. Of the total cost, \$1,081.14 was obtained through subscriptions, entertainments, dues, etc. A conservative estimate places the value of the Hall at somewhat above two thousand dollars.

This policy of the Grange owning its hall operates upon the collective body very much as does the ownership of his home by the individual. There is stimulus in it to earnestness, devotion to matters in hand and that spirit of zeal which argues purpose, prosperity and a reaching out toward advancement on all the lines that point to betterment. It constitutes a new bond of compact for the local Grange, a loadstone for drawing the Patrons together and collaterally a generative force which makes for the upbuilding of the social fabric.

The addition of forty-five names to the roll of membership of Greenfield Hill Grange since the completion of its home in June, 1897, would seem to be a fact full of significance, and one to point the way to those Granges ambitious to augment their membership.

This Grange is favored in the possession, by several of its members, of a talent for music and the histrionic art. This, with a pronounced gift for management, has enabled them to give many entertainments which have yielded good store to their exchequer and made popular the programmes they have visited with neighboring Granges with. It is moreover blessed with considerable intellectual endowments in the native gifts and acquired accomplishments of many of its members. The Lecturers' hours are therefore uniformly replete with interest. Exchanging visits with neighboring Granges is much in favor and a source of profitable enjoyment.

Legislative Fly-In

Continued from page one...

solutions for combating and education the public on the Opiod epidemic. National Grange is watching state and federal proposals that may restrict access to healthcare such as the 1115 Waiver to Medicaid request in Massachusetts. They are following recommendations to allow importation of drugs from other countries and potential changes to the Medicare Part D program to close the "donut hole".

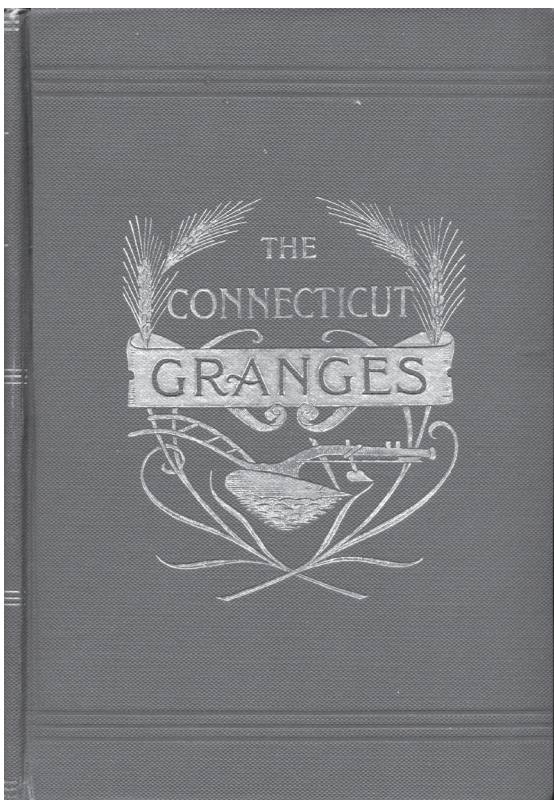
The 2018 Farm Bill was being presented in the Legislature while we were there but there is not much information available yet. The Grange will be monitoring the Farm Bill as it progresses. Risk Management with crop insurance and conservation are among some of the areas they will be watching.

We had a multiple of speakers concerning the expansion of rural broadband. This is not a big issue for out state but in parts of the country it is important. It is estimated that 19.4 million people do not have access to high speed broadband and of that 1/2 are children. Farming businesses have become more computer dependent and need access to high speed internet. More schools are requiring the internet for homework assignments and rural children are unable to get the internet in their homes. This requires them to go to libraries or other locations to do their homework. There are a couple of proposals that ask for the release of unused spectrums of the UHF bands and open them up to broadband use.

After lunch we had a briefing by Ray Starling, from the White House who is the Special Assistant to the President for Agriculture, Trade and Food Assistance. He said that the President is looking at how to expand our agricultural economy. He has four areas they are looking at: 1. Agricultural Trade, we are exporting more that we import and what is best for financial economic growth. 2. Agricultural Labor: we discussed the H2A program which is the program for using migrant workers for agricultural needs. One of our Grange members had participated in this program and presented the 450 page application that needs to be filled out each season for the H2A program. He asked for them to review and streamline the application process. 3. Regulatory review reform and 4. Infrastructure: the President is requesting that 25% of infrastructure funds be set aside for rural programs in the form of block grants for the states to manage.

We then traveled over to the Department of Agriculture for briefings by three members of the department. They talked about some of the programs and grants that are available for rural communities.

Tuesday we all spent the day "on the hill" visiting with our National Senators and Representatives. We dropped in at all of the Connecticut Legislative offices and left information for each office. Bruce, Gordon and I had a long visit with Representative Courtney of the 2nd district where besides the issues that National was watching we discussed some of our interests. We also had a productive visit with the agricultural staff member in Senator Murphy's office. Some of the issues that we discussed concerned funding in the upcoming Farm Bill. We recommended that some of the programs funding allow for 'wobble room' adjustments so that the state could adjust the programs making them more conducive for the states needs. As Gordon was quoted, "one size does not fit all". We brought up the question of the definition of milk. We found that a bill has been presented defining milk but at this time they have not been able to get the leadership to move it along for a vote. We asked about the status of a bill that would make adjustments to the Medicare program to eliminate the loophole where elderly are being placed in the hospitals on observation status and not admitted. They get the same care as anyone admitted. When they have to move to a convalescent home Medicare is denying paying for the home as the patient was never admitted to the hospital leaving the family to pay for convalescent home care. This bill is also stalled.



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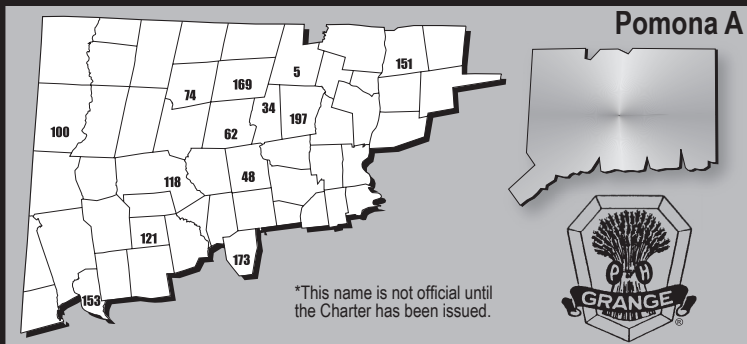
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Mountain Laurel Pomona



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Cawasa No. 34
Whigville No. 48
Eureka No. 62
Winchester No. 74
Taghannuck No. 100
Beacon No. 118

Bethlehem No. 121
Enfield No. 151
Bridgewater No. 153
Riverton No. 169
Wolcott No. 173
Simsbury No. 197

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

May 8: MUSIC NIGHT!

The big night is ALMOST HERE! ... Winchester Grange Music Night! This year's program, coordinated by Pianist Mary Lou Keefe promises to be an extravaganza. You are invited to join us for this special evening on May 8, beginning at 7 P.M. at the Grange Hall located at 100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT. Mary Lou Keefe and Mary Sullivan will be featured on piano, Peter Hurlbut (fire chief and Grange member) and John Keefe will play guitar, Alexis Lamere and friend will play flute and Jerry Alonzy and Judy Robinson will sing. It should be a fun night. Much of the music featured in the program will be numbers requested in a survey of members, so the selection should be wide and varied.

After the music, we will be having a Country Store (penny auction) while having refreshments.

If you are coming from another Grange, please (if possible) let us know by email at lecturer@winchestergrange.org or by phone at 860-482-2733. We hope to have a full hall for this very special night.

TREMENDOUS NEWS! – In the coming months, the parking lot in front of the Grange Hall and Post Office will be excavated, graded and re-paved. The Grange's lot has become quite notorious for its hills, valleys, cracks and ugly potholes. The running joke (not really a joke because it actually happened), Treasurer Bill Ahrens had to remove his socks after walking through the parking lot in the dark,

stepping in one of the many pond-worthy holes.

This project, of course, will not be inexpensive. It is estimated to cost \$23,000 from beginning to end. The Grange had planned to take out a loan from the Connecticut State Grange to cover the cost of the project. At our first meeting in April, the President of the Winchester Center Vol. Fire Dept. attended and announced their commitment to donating \$10,000 to the project. In addition, \$3,000 of the excavation and grading work (labor) will be donated, leaving a \$10,000 loan to be secured from the State Grange. This has been done and the project is ready to go forward. We cannot thank the members of the Winchester Center Volunteer Fire Department enough for the kindness and generosity. For those who do not know, the Fire Department is located in the back portion of the Grange property, So while the

re-paving will benefit the fire department, this gift to the Grange is above and beyond anything we could have dreamed. We also thank the members of the Winchester Community for donating their labor to the project and to Progressive Paving. We can't wait to see our hall's appearance improve dramatically when this project is completed.

For those who may have mailboxes in the Post Office, there will be some disruption while this project is in progress. There will be one day when it will not be possible to drive onto the property as the paving cures. We will keep you posted as the dates for this are up in the air until the warmer settles in for good.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

May 21: CWA Judging Contest, 7:30 P.M.

We gave First Church

of Bethlehem a huge box of food collected for a needy family in Bethlehem for Easter.

Our Flea Market was successful thanks to everyone who helped. Thank you everyone for your thoughts, cards, prayers while I recovered from hip replacement.

We honored Elaine Brodeur as our Citizen of the Year. She is Past President of the Bethlehem Fair. She is very active in 4H and many other organizations/activities.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

June 16: Election of Officers.

July 14: Red White & Blue – Picnic. Bring a dish that begins with the letter "G"

We learned all about Root Beer at our last meeting and had a lot of fun. I'm anxious to try some of the delicious sounding

recipes made with root beer. Who knew? Welcome back Richard, it's been a long winter. Our Spring Fair was a great success as lots of people stopped to chat, admire our wares, make a purchase and ask about the Grange. The only discouraging thing to hear was –"I didn't know Enfield still had a Grange" Why we are so invisible is a puzzle as we do a lot of Community Service, and have been a presence at the Farmer's Market for the past 5 years. We got an invitation to come before another group to talk about the Grange, and hopefully interest some to join.

Our challenge for the July picnic is to provide a food dish that starts with the letter "G" and I hope we all don't bring grapes. I know we meet early in the day but truly hope to get visitors. Please come, our door is always open.

Brodeur receives Bethlehem Award



Bethlehem Grange No. 121 honors Elaine Brodeur, 22 year president of the Bethlehem Fair Association, for her dedication to the Fair, Community and Agriculture at a meeting of Bethlehem Grange on April 23.

Winchester
Grange

MUSIC NIGHT
and
COUNTRY STORE

TUESDAY, MAY 8
7:00 PM

WINCHESTER GRANGE HALL
100 Newfield Road
Winchester Center, CT

www.winchestergrange.org

EUREKA GRANGE
presents

Baked Potato Extravaganza & Bake Sale

Join us to enjoy delicious baked potatoes with all the toppings, including chili. Beverages are included. There will also be a Bake Sale.

Only \$5.00!

SATURDAY
MAY 19th
5 - 6:30 PM

Eureka Grange Hall
777 Litchfield Tpke. (Rte 202)
in the Nepaug section
of New Hartford.

For more information:
CALL (860) 482-1111
or (860) 307-7000

Bridgewater brings spring cheer



Bridgewater Grange #153 brought some spring cheer to some of their members when they created these spring flower arrangements for them to enjoy.

Whigville Grange No. 48



Kyle Zimmerman was awarded a special certificate of appreciation from Whigville Grange No. 48. Kyle helped to rehabilitate the grange building and grounds as part of his Eagle Scout project. Photo courtesy of the Whigville Preservation Group.



Ted Shafer, First Selectman of Burlington, CT, in front of Whigville Grange No. 48 with the group in charge of cleaning up Prospect St. Photo courtesy of the Whigville Preservation Group.

Simsbury Grange & Green Monster E-Cycling

Monster-Size Recycling Event Saturday, May 12 • 9 AM - 12 Noon

Andy's Shopping Center
836 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury, CT 06070

ACCEPTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Televisions
- Computer Monitors/Screens
- Toner and Ink-jet Cartridges
- Modems/Routers, Switches or Hubs
- Main-frames and Server Racks
- DVD and CD Players
- ALL Storage Media
- Computers and Laptops
- Printers and Fax Machines
- Telephones or PBX systems
- All Types of Cables and Wiring
- Stereos and Radios
- iPods, Walkmans and P.D.A.s and more



NOT accepting ANY of the following:

- Air-Conditioners
- Washers/Dryers
- Refrigerators
- De-humidifiers
- Water-coolers
- Light-bulbs
- Vacuums
- Microwaves
- Household batteries

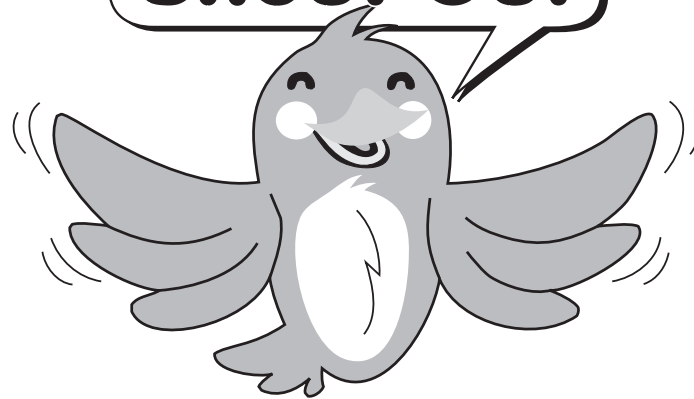
More information on the items accepted can be found on Green Monster E-Cycling at <http://www.GreenMonsterE-cycling.com> or contact them at 860-231-1426

Information on Simsbury Grange can be found at <http://www.SimsburyGrange.org> <http://www.Facebook.com/SimsburyGrange>

A \$10.00 donation is suggested.



Granger Shout Out



Beacon Valley members thank David Knapp for all his help in promoting our activities. He's added a new spark to our Grange.

Tag and Bake Sale



To benefit
local animal shelters.

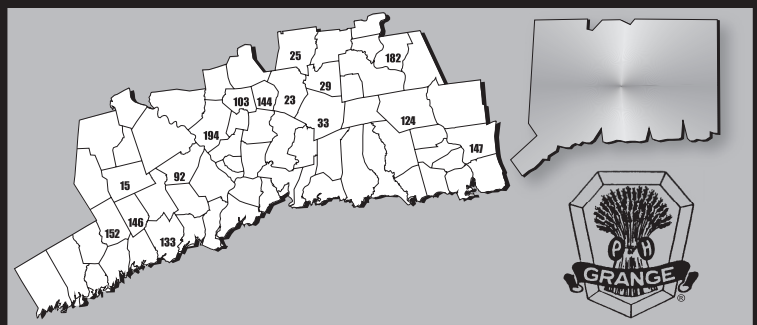
Saturday, May 5th
9 am - 2 pm

Sponsored by Whigville Grange
South Main St., Whigville, CT (Burlington)

Free parking and admission

Interested in renting a table?
Call Debbie at 860 582 9863

NUTMEG POMONA



Redding No. 15	Greenfield Hill No. 133
Cheshire No. 23	Prospect No. 144
Southington No. 25	Norfield No. 146
Meriden No. 29	Lyme No. 147
Wallingford No. 33	Cannon No. 152
Harmony No. 92	Hemlock No. 182
Beacon Valley No. 103	Oxford No. 194
Higganum No. 124	

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marie H. Parker

Redding Grange held its regular meeting on April 9. Many things were discussed. Nice night had by all.

On April 23, our meeting was being cancelled and Redding is going to meet with Bethlehem Grange for a fun night.

Our next meeting will be held on May 14 with a Mother's Day theme.

Redding has taken in two new members, Linda and Mike are helping to clean up the Grange hall. It is now looking very nice.

A great big thank you to all the other Redding members who came down to help clean. Great job gang!

Now we need some visitors so we can get more people than just Redding members at our meetings. Come one, come all and visit.

We also report the passing of Dorothy A. Crofut.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

May 2: Ballroom Fever-Come Dance With Us; Bakeless Bake Sale to benefit My Sister's Place
May 16: CWA Night – Pirates

We had three successful fundraising dinners in March. Monday craft nights continue as well as preparing for our Cheshire Grange Community Fair in August. We hosted the organizational meeting in March for the new Nutmeg Pomona. As I write this it is snowing, reminding me of Mother Nature meddling with some of our meetings this winter. We are planning a Pork Roast Dinner for Saturday, June 16. More details will follow. Mark your calendars.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel Lauttenbach

May 10: Spring Gardening – Program by Dan

May 12: Our Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale! This is the Saturday before

Mother's Day.

May 24: Anniversary Night

Our last meeting prior to our March 28 meeting was a business meeting on January 11, 2018. It has been challenging to schedule meetings that everyone can attend without being snowed out.

On March 28 everyone who attended the meeting was handed a vegetable planting guide specifically for Zone 6; roughly for the Hartford-New Haven area. There was a column of dates for seed starting plants indoors and another column for when to bring the plants outdoors and/or planting seeds outside. For the most planting is after May 15.

Jim Lamoureux talked about the CT Ag Fairs spring meeting. As everyone has heard, the State of Connecticut has budget problems and there is basically no money for animal testing that the state ought to be doing. The association offered to donate \$3,000 to make up for the gap in animal testing for our fairs. He also brought with him two boxes of fair brochures. This year's brochure is half the size as last year's. This resulted in a savings that will be applied to TV ads advertising our fairs. Some other notes, local fairs will now be called Grange Fairs starting in next year's brochures. We discussed some of the ways the state is trying to collect more funds such as adding tolls to the interstates and the \$20 addition to your car registration for State Parks. I also mentioned that most of the Wildlife Management Areas are supported by hunters; yet according to Connecticut Wildlife magazine the number of active hunters has dropped 13% in the last 7 years following a national trend. So there is real concern how these areas will be funded given the dwindling funding from the state and the number of

active hunters.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our May meeting will be held on the 11th. that is if the snow ever stops falling. As I am typing this the snow is coming down pretty hard for April. Lecturer Judi Reynolds will present her program on Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Master Joanne will be the host for the social hour.

Our next tag sale will be held on Saturday, May 4th. To our stay-at-home members, if you have any treasures we could use them.

Ron Fischer will hold the next Open Mic on Saturday, May 19th from 2 to 5 P.M. As usual, we invite everyone to come and enjoy the music or participate. Snack food will be available. As always, everything is free of charge. Thanks to David Knapp and ron who have done a good job with publicity.

On the same day we will have a Grange promotion table in the center of Naugatuck.

Thanks to Judi Reynolds who suggested having a pancake breakfast. Attendance could have been better, but, we did make a profit.

Our medical list keeps growing. Victor Godin who had heart surgery and expected to be home by now had pneumonia and now has the flu. Ray Legg had a hip replacement and is now recuperating at home after a hospital and convalescent home stay. Sue Brush made a couple trips to the hospital. Pat Fischer had a problem and is now out and about. Arthritis has taken a toll on our Pomona Harriet Sawczuk and Pat Bisson. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Lori Golias

Our Spring Pasta Night will be held on May 19th from 5:30 until.... It will feature pasta and meatballs, salad, and all the fixin's. \$20 donation (\$10 children). Reservations only. No tickets will be sold at the door. Reservations call Jim 203-259-8023 or Steve 203-367-4373.

We are happy that our wonderful Grange Hall is host to ballroom dancing-Every second and fourth Saturday. Contact Deborah Quinn for info at 203-345-8517.

Spring is finally here, and the gardening has begun, so save the date for our Annual

Agricultural Fair. It will be held on August 18th. Help us celebrate the 125th year at the Greenfield Hill Grange. Hope you bring home a blue ribbon! Visit us on Facebook. www.Facebook.com/GreenfieldHillGrange

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

June 7: Have Your Strawberries Ripened Yet?; Memorial Service

July 5: Curiosity Killed the Cat

Aug. 2: Picnic, 7:30 P.M.

What will the weatherman send us for our fair?

Old Man Winter has come and kidnapped spring. Six inches of snow for the first week of April. What next? Will we go from winter to summer and skip spring?

WE DID IT! Eventhough our Master was in the hospital with her grandson David (our Steward) everyone pitched in and we conferred the degrees. Sue Pianka came and tickled the ivories. Cindy Anderson came and helped in several offices where needed. And Dan Mutchler came and did Master for the degrees. It was just wonderful how every person stepped up and helped.

Our 8th Annual Plant and Food Sale will be on May 19. Donations of plants and food will be much appreciated. We had the most wonderful meeting. It must goes to show you what can be accomplished when we all work together.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Donald Offinger

May 3: Special program on the American Chestnut - speaker series

May 17: All about wine-making with John Kriz

June 7: Business Meeting
June 21: Legislative Wrap-Up program by our local State Senator and Representatives

A fun field trip was made on April 5th to the newly opened Nod Hill Brewery in Ridgefield to learn about their product line, business model and ingredients sourcing. Members enjoyed samples in the tasting room, and learning about this new small business in our area.

Another great evening of Silent Movies was presented by John Mucci with four Laurel & Hardy movies on the bill of fare! An enthusiastic audience enjoyed one of the films which dated to the early 1920s; plus the piano score that John played made for a great night.

Looking ahead, we will be hosting an interesting

speaker series program on the American Chestnut on May 3rd. This event will coincide with our 119th anniversary on May 4th. All are invited to this fascinating talk on scientific research that will hopefully someday re-introduce the American Chestnut to the landscape.

Billiesue Hollingsworth reports that she has tomato plants growing under lights, and Don Offinger reports that one greenhouse is filled with 1800 potted tomato plants that will be over 2-ft tall and for sale by Mother's Day. Cabbage and Kale transplants in his second greenhouse will be ready to set out in long rows within the next few weeks.

Many thanks to Dearth Fusaro for facilitating our having WiFi service available in the Grange Hall for our use in programing, and for our renters who have been begging to have this.

Stay tuned for date confirmation for our annual Legislative Wrap-Up program in June hosted by Gail Lavielle, our Grange member and our state representative. Gail has arranged this forum for several years for the community.

Please note our program schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- won't you join us?

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

May 11: Election of Officers

May 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

June 8: Memorial

June 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

May 4: Put Some Spring in your Step

May 18: Remember the Veterans

May 25: G.O.M.A.D. Music and Dance Party, Potluck at 7 P.M., Music at 8 P.M.

Our Chili Cook Off late last month fed and entertained a satisfied crowd for the fourth year in a row. The G.O.M.A.D. parties continue to be well attended by an enthusiastic crowd and continue to raise interest in Oxford Grange, and have even given us some new members. As we get further into this spring, work on the hall will continue, and the garden spaces outside will continue to be developed along the Three Graces theme.

It's 10:00 and...



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

LECTURER LATLEY?" Our Lecturers don't just attend meetings and present their program. They have to plan ahead doing research to put together the program you watch. Have an idea for a program? Why not offer to help your Lecturer. I'm sure they would be thrilled.

Did you take any good pictures in the last year? No? Well spring is here (at least I hope it is) along with all the gorgeous flowers and spring buds. Why not take a day trip and snap some pictures for our Photo Contest. The categories are: America the Beautiful, Animals, Grangers In Action, Family Celebrations, Historic Places or Events and Antique Vehicles. You

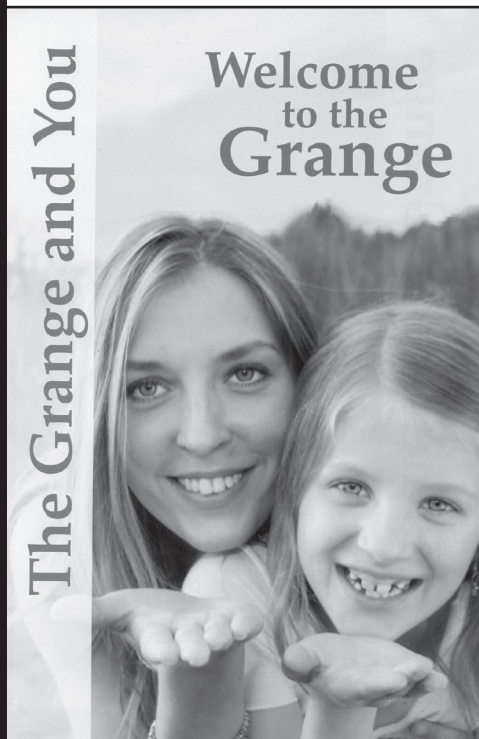
I laugh each night. Just before the news comes on they play a recording that says 'It's 10:00, Do You Know Where Your Kids Are?' I'm sure that for most of you, like me our children are grown and on their own. I certainly don't try and keep track of them, nor, do I know where they are. So, let me change that a little and say, "HAVE YOU THANKED YOUR

can enter one photo in each of the categories. Complete rules are in the Bluebook. If you don't have access to one, let me know and I will mail or e-mail you a copy of the Photo Information. Photos may be mailed to me so they arrive by Friday, June 8th or may be brought to Cheshire Grange Hall between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 9th. If you haven't already marked your calendar for Sunday, June 10th, please do so now. Our Talent and "A Numbers" will be judged that afternoon as part of Grange Sunday and the photos will be on display. The Best of Show Photo will go on to National for Judging. This is the day we Celebrate what the Grange does. Bring your friends. Come to Church at 11:00

a.m. – enjoy a dinner put on by our Youth – view the CWA and photo contest entries and winners and then go upstairs and enjoy

the talents of your fellow grangers. This would be a nice way to get a new member. Show them what the Grange is all about.

NOW Available from the State Grange Store



The CT State Grange has just received a fresh supply of "The Grange and You." This booklet is designed to give new members (especially those not immediately receiving Degrees) important background information about the Grange. Contact the State Secretary for more information.

This booklet can also be useful and informative for existing members!

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.

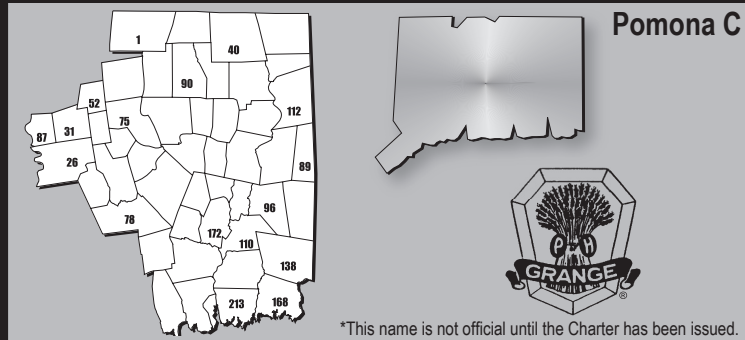


We received a phone call from Bob Hall of Hemlock Grange with an answer to the April photo. He believes that the three men facing the camera are (LtoR) Arthur Ellsmore, Bob Lyons and Mr. Thibideau. All three are either from Plainville or Bristol Grange. He does know who anyone else in the photo is.

Do you have any idea who these people may be? Even if you have an idea but are not exactly sure, please let us know. Quite often we are able to piece it together from bits and pieces provided by a number of members.



E. Connecticut Pomona



*This name is not official until the Charter has been issued.

Stafford No. 1	Ashford No. 90
Glastonbury No. 26	Pachaug No. 96
Manchester No. 31	Preston City No. 110
Senexet No. 40	Killingly No. 112
Vernon No. 52	N. Stonington Comm. No. 138
Coventry No. 75	Stonington No. 168
Colchester No. 78	Norwich No. 172
Hillstown No. 87	Groton No. 213
Ekonk Community No. 89	

EASTERN CONN. POMONA

Corr: Noel Miller

May 12: Fifth Degree at Killingly Grange #112

We will confer the Fifth Degree at 7:00 P.M. on May 12 at Killingly Grange Hall. Please come join us.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

May 16: Spring and Memorial Service

We continue to have regular meetings and will hold them on the third Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. through the fall.

We voted to provide the Connecticut Granger to all of our members.

We are waiting for the repair of our heating units after a power surge.

We have decided that each committee should be in charge of the program for one meeting.

Our scholarship applications have been delivered to the high schools and we will have the awards program in August.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

May 3: Mother's Day

We are looking to have a tag sale in May to clear out and make some cash. We welcome back our snowbirds and hope to see you at a Grange meeting.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Polly Leonard

Colchester Grange #78 and Holy Trinity Ladies Philoptochos Society Agape Chapter in Norwich created a partnership to

offer Easter Gifts to local veterans. We titled the program "Project of Hope." Together we wanted to offer new hope as the winter months leave us and spring arrives (we hope). The two groups shopped and filled colorful buckets with many canned goods including a small ham so the Veterans could enjoy an Easter meal. The bucket also included candy, pastry and a \$10 gift card to Walmart. We were very pleased as the 18 veterans come to the community room of the TALVI housing unit to pick up their gift. Each man was so pleased and held out their hands in appreciation.

We look forward to providing more special projects to the Veterans that live in the special housing facility for veterans.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

What a wonderful time we had with our dear friends from Richmond, RI! 17 of us took them our program and 19 came from Richmond to Ekonk bringing us lots of Family Feud fun! Richmond's Pete Fish was a super

"Richard Dawson... Steve Harvey" host! Our cupcake contest went over well and 9 year old Brianna Gervais beat out the Subordinate entries with her clever cupcake caterpillar (chocolate cupcakes with raspberry filling). We appointed a five-member committee

to look into improving our parking area now that our Grange actually owns the land. Betsy Molodich proudly reported that the Northeast District Dept. of Health gave our Grange a 100% on our health inspection--can't do any better than that! We, sadly, draped our Charter in loving memory of James Larkin Sr. Two of his grand-daughters are very active Juniors at Ekonk and his daughter, Tammy, brought everyone to near tears with her beautiful voice as she sang "The Hills Are Alive With the Sound of Music", surrounded by several Juniors when we took our program to Richmond! A wonderful family! Ned Sebastian is Chairman for the May 6th awards luncheon, when we have an amazing 450 years of Grange membership to celebrate. We are honoring Sterling residents Michael and Wyatt Jordan, who saved the life of an injured young woman, pulling her to safety just before her pickup truck burst into flames. May 12th we are invited to the dedication of the Veterans Park, abutting the Jewett City facility for formally homeless veterans that our Grange began working with at its inception. Then that day, at 5:00 p.m., we will have our annual roast beef supper with all profits donated to the Veterans

housing there. May 19th, we will be at Brooklyn Fairgrounds, preparing and serving the food for the annual Relay for Life and donating all profits to Relay for Life. Then at 7:30 p.m., we are having our 3rd and final square dance. We voted a \$100.00 donation to the Northeast states hosting National Grange in Stowe, VT, specifically to help pay the cost of the National Junior Grange tour. Ekonk's Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron are Co-Chairmen for this committee. Brenda Craig has done an exemplary job as Chaplain protem in the absence of her Aunt, Paulette Craig. By the time that you read this, Paulette will have flown home to Voluntown after a winter in sunny Florida! Our Juniors continue to amaze us with their accomplishments. Olivia Izzarelli, 5, waits tables at our suppers with a determination unparalleled; what a gem!

They held a fundraising Pampered Chef Party at the Grange, enjoyed a painting class by Artique and earned around \$900.00 on their Easter fruit and nut sale!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

May 11: "All good things are difficult to achieve; and

bad things are very easy" **May 25:** "We should feel sorrow, but not sink under its oppression"

We have too many officers on the "disabled" list and would like to wish them a speedy recovery and sincerely hope they will be back with us soon.

At our March 9 meeting we reviewed our knowledge of ritual and found it to be a bit rusty. On the 23rd Sue presented her State program, and it looks like another winner to us. We were happy to welcome Kathy Tefft, Master of Lyme Grange, to our meeting. Kathy ably filled in, not only as Chaplain, but as our "Little Old Lady, North Stonington Granger" as Ellie (the real "terror of Northwest Corner Boulevard") was unable to make the meeting. It was an enjoyable evening.

Members of the Fair committee have been hard at work putting in new water lines on the grounds. Before you know it, it will be Fair time! (July 12-15). Hope to see you there.

Our May 11 meeting is a surprise. May 25 is the evening we remember Grangers who have joined the Great Grange Above. And if those poor little peepers don't get frozen in again, next time I'll tell you all about awesome April.

Killingly Grange



Joan Nichols, CFBA Director of Member Relations and Community Outreach spoke before a group of farmers at Killingly Grange. Her topic was trends and opportunities in CT agriculture. Photo courtesy of the Connecticut Farm Bureau.

Community Service

George & Sharon Russell, Co-Chairs

The Connecticut State Grange Community Service Grant Program is open to all Granges that participate in the Community Service Program. If you received the grant in 2017, you are eligible again this year if you start a new Community Service project. Your Grange can receive up to \$150 by filling out the grant application. You should have an application in the materials that were passed back to you at State Session last year. If you cannot find them let me know and I will get you the application. You can email me at georgerussell1948@gmail.com

Last year we introduced a new program from our State Grange. The National Grange has a recognition award for firefighters, law-enforcement officers and teachers of the year award. Last year we did not receive any applications. We would like to try it again this year if your Grange would like to submit an application for this award; you can get the application on the National Grange website or you can let me know. I will make sure you receive one. All applications should be submitted to George and Sharon Russell by September 1, 2018 so they can be honored at our State Session in October.

These two programs could help your Grange with money to finish a new project or to recognize a member and your Grange for their outstanding community service. Please discuss these applications at your Grange meeting in the near future and the members may have qualified recipients.

Cross Bones Cookies



Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

If you are checking the recipe in the Blue Book for the Cross-Bones cookies, the instructions omit when to add the eggs. Add them after the sugars and butter and peanut butter are creamed. Since there is to be NO Pomona judging of needlework, each Subordinate Grange

will be responsible for getting their entries to Cheshire Grange for judging on June 9, before 11:00 a.m. I would suggest that several Granges pool their entries and designate one person to deliver them. Make sure labels are securely attached including readable names and Granges. They will be on display through Sunday at "Celebrate" and can be picked up afterwards. The same rules apply for the craft and door decoration contests. Remember you do not get the craft entries back as they go to the Big E for sale at the Country Store. Good luck to all.

GRANGEREVIVAL.COM

Save the Date

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JULY 23-28, 2019

An occasion for all Patrons & Friends



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Looking Backwards to Move Forward

When using your Grange's history paves a path to the future.

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

The late Steve Jobs once said at his commencement address at Stanford University in 2005: "... you can't connect the dots by looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards."

When working with the Community Granges in Connecticut, one thing we often hear is "our Grange used to do it this way" or "back in the day our Grange used to have "x" event and it was the talk of the town." Every Grange in Connecticut has a past and a rich history. But is that history holding the Grange back from moving into the future? At first thought, the answer may be yes, because 'my Grange is stuck in a time warp and not forward thinking.' But in reality, the answer is no. So how do we connect the Grange dots?

Granges were originally organized because their founding members felt there was an unmet need in their local communities that the Grange could fulfill. For older Granges, that need may have been the betterment of agriculture practices and fellowship based on commonalities shared in both the home and the fields. For newer Granges, that need may still have rural roots, or it may be based in service projects, personal growth and family-oriented values. But one dot that connects the past and the future, and which is consistent from 1867 to today - Granges fulfill the needs of their local communities.

Each of us can recall our favorite memories - it may be the birth of a child, a wedding day, or even hitting a home run in the high school championship baseball game. According to the article "Your Brain Doesn't Contain Memories. It Is Memories" on Wired.com, Our brains have the ability to "collect, connect and create" impressions, which are the basis of our memories. Memories begin at birth, and through the neurons interpretation of time, thus our personal timelines begin. The same could be said for our Granges. From the moment each Grange is founded, their unique timeline begins. Just as no two people share the same timeline and memories, the same goes for Granges. No two Granges share the exact same history.

In order to use a Grange's history to blaze a path forward and connect those dots, each Grange must first be armed with the knowledge of their past. Start by making a detailed timeline of important Grange events and activities. (ie: building a hall, reaching the milestone of 50 or 100 members, hosting a popular event, holding the first Grange Fair and more.) This is a great year-long project for older members and younger members alike. Make it fun for all members. Put aside time at each meeting for project updates. Have

older members write down their Grange memories and stories of the past. (Or record a quick video of them telling their stories. All smart phones are video-capable.) This may be especially poignant as it may be the first time some of these members have shared these stories in years. Collect old photos, trinkets, regalia and memorabilia. Old minutes books are a treasure-trove of information. Plan a Grange trip to the local library or Historical Society for a research day. Use the internet for research. Websites like Newspapers.com, NewspaperArchive.com, ResearchItCt.org, or CTStateLibrary.org are great resources. Be sure to keep a good record of all the findings.

Now that your Grange has a complete picture of its history from start to present, how do we use that information? Take this opportunity to decide what has gone well over the years, and where there is room for improvement. As you review your findings, the needs of the community that your Grange fulfilled will become clear. Are those needs the same today as they were when your Grange was founded? 50 years ago? 25 years ago? 10 years ago? What made your Grange stand out in the past?

When your Grange stands out in the community, there is a direct correlation to being memorable. Why not capitalize on what worked in the past when looking forward and connect those dots. Think outside the box. The possibilities are endless.

-- Have a Grange Retro Night(s) and bring back some of the events from the Grange's past that were successful.

-- Revisit a service project that your Grange used to participate in (ie: cemetery clean-up, bottle collection, pennies for veterans, etc.)

-- Host a Community Potluck Dinner and honor non-Grangers who have historically supported the Grange.

-- Have an Open House and take a stroll down memory lane. Spotlight the historical findings of the Grange by creating a slide show or video of old photos and videos. Then have a photo booth, photo wall or selfie-stand for those in attendance to make new photo memories.

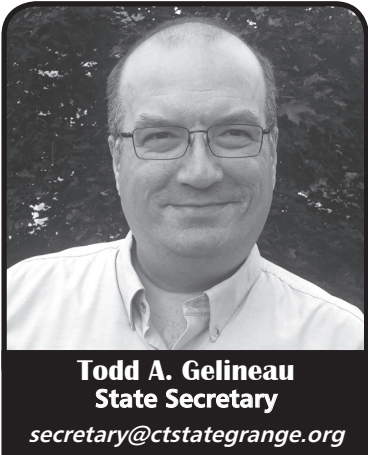
-- Submit Grange members' memories to National Grange for their "That's the Grange Way" program.

All Granges have the capability to connect their dots and be an engaging, current and relevant organization to their communities, and in doing so, create new memories for years to come. Need help getting started? We can help! Email Terri at information@ctstategrange.org or Bob at publicrelations@ctstategrange.org today.

Sources: www.designwise.net/steve-jobs-memorable-three-stories-speech-at-stanford-university-in-2005/

www.wired.com/story/your-brain-is-memories/

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

There have been quite a few procedural questions regarding the new Pomonas. Each Grange Secretary fills out a Mailing List Update form every quarter when completing their Quarterly Report. On the bottom of that form is a clippable sheet that serves as the

report to the Pomona Secretary. All Community Granges are encouraged to send this report form to your new Pomona Secretaries. It is far easier to send in changes as they occur than trying to constitute a complete list a year later.

DUES – In 2018, no dues are required. This means members are not required to pay them and the Pomonas are not required to pay dues to the State Grange for the 2017-2018 Grange year. Dues will become due and payable for the first quarter of 2019. Please let me know if this is not clear.

The Charter Applications for all three Pomonas have been forwarded to the National Grange and we are simply waiting for the new charters to arrive and (as part of that process) the numbers assigned.

The State Grange is working on the filings with the State and Federal governments. EIN numbers will be forwarded to each Pomona when they are received. Once EIN's are in place, your Pomona will be able to open bank accounts and the money held for you will be released by the State Treasurer.

While this is occurring, we realize there may be bills that need to be paid. As long as a bill has been approved for payment by using proper Grange procedure, the State Grange will pay those bills from the funds held in your Pomona's name. You simply contact me with the amount, to whom it is to be paid and when the bill was approved for payment and we will process a check for you. I know this process is a bit cumbersome but we are required to adhere to procedures that comply with IRS requirements.

I have had some questions regarding the fate of Good Will Grange Hall. As of this writing we have not made a decision. The Executive Committee is in the process of gathering quotes and estimates on making the hall more accessible and functional for our membership. Dollar amounts are still not known and this (among many other things) will play a major role in deciding what will be done with the building. I'm sure the Executive Committee will have an announcement once we have more information.

Have you subscribed to "Good Day!"? If not, please consider doing so. We have printed a subscription form in the last several issues of this paper. It is a wonderful publication and the National Grange needs to have quite a few more subscriptions to make the magazine sustainable into the future.

Don't forget the State Grange has a store full of supplies and promotional materials available. Contact me for more information.

Until next time, enjoy the "warmer" weather that is (hopefully) snow-free!



Cannon Silent Movie Night

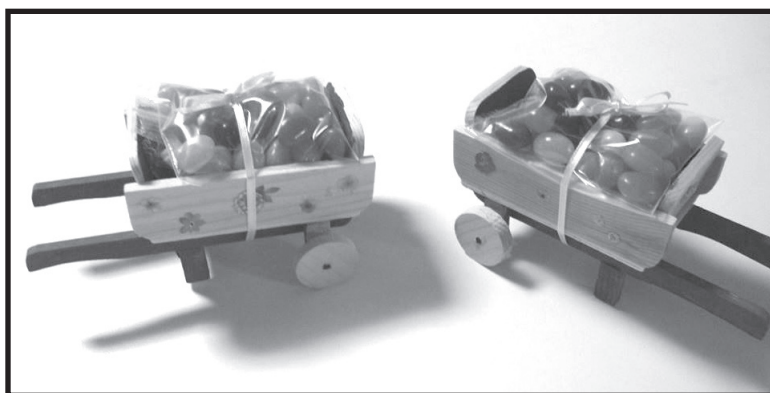
Cannon Grange recently presented its annual Silent Movie Night at their hall in the Cannondale section of Wilton. This year's presentation featured a Laurel & Hardy with live piano accompaniment. The hall was filled with lots of people and plenty of laughter for the antics of Stan & Ollie.





The members of Nutmeg Pomona (formerly Pomona B) gather for a group photo following their recent Installation of Officers at Cheshire Grange Hall.

Cheshire #23



Tray favors created by the members of Cheshire Grange No. 23 for the residents of Marbridge in Cheshire.

It's "Chili" in Oxford!



Members and guests gather for Oxford Grange's annual Chili Cook-Off

Social Committee

Our last dinner was held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday, April 28th. This is in between Connecticut Granger news reporting time so I can only say it was as successful as all of the other ones! Thanks to everyone who helped us.

We hope you are felting socks to be donated to the West Haven Veterans Hospital. If you need a pair of socks, please give me a call. I had some donated.

Have a Good Day!

Chris Hamp, National Lecturer

I know each and every one of us is busy, busy. It is fair season, for most of you it is get ready for State Convention time, and of course, it is that glorious time of the year when seemingly everything in our gardens is ready to be canned, frozen, or dried!

I am asking you to encourage your Granges and Grangers to subscribe to our new National Grange magazine, *Good Day!*

This is a quarterly publication of the highest quality! In my opinion, *Good Day!* is a beautiful, glossy, substantive magazine with a breadth of content and information that can keep any reader interested and absorbed. I'm positive that you will also find a plethora of ideas for Lecturer's programs (bonus!).

Please fill out and return

the subscription card below checks and cards and mail to the National Grange them to National Grange in Washington. Feel free to distribute copies of the subscription card to your members, collect the money/ batches or send yours along as soon as you get this to ensure delivery of the next issue. Be Awesome! Be a Doer!

Make it a Good Day!™

As a Grange member, for only \$14 a year you can receive our new quarterly magazine and enjoy great features, the latest information about the Grange, contests, programs, benefits and more!

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1616 H St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.



Snacks collected for troops overseas.

CESHIRE GRANGE

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR CWA PROGRAM

"PIRATES"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018
7:30 PM

TEA CUP AUCTION OPEN MEETING
CESHIRE GRANGE HALL

RSVP JANE MILLER 203-272-8255
EMAIL -jfrm888@gmail.com



CESHIRE GRANGE HOSTS ROAST PORK DINNER



SATURDAY
JUNE 16th
6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 44 WALLINGFORD ROAD, CESHIRE

Adults: \$12.00
Children 5 - 12: \$6.00
Under 5: Free

You can order/reserve tickets by calling:
Don Lanoue at 203-213-6235 or
Elizabeth Ryducha at 203-996-0851

Hank's Cherry Tomato Salad



The month of May ushers in the Picnic season. Instead of one of the old stand-by salads, bring something new and fresh to the next picnic or potluck! Food Network has a quick and easy recipe for Cherry Tomato Salad with Buttermilk-Basil Dressing.

Cherry Tomato Salad with Buttermilk-Basil Dressing

INGREDIENTS:

6 cups red and yellow cherry tomatoes, halved if large
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
2/3 cup buttermilk
1/4 cup sour cream
3 tablespoons thinly sliced fresh basil leaves
1 shallot, minced
2 cloves garlic, minced

DIRECTIONS:

Put the cherry tomatoes in a large serving bowl. Season with salt and pepper and toss.

In another bowl, whisk the buttermilk, sour cream, basil, shallot and garlic. Season with pepper. Drizzle the dressing over the tomatoes and toss. Chill before serving.

SOURCE: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/patrick-and-gina-neely/cherry-tomato-salad-with-buttermilk-basil-dressing-recipe2-2108234>



By Hank the Burro

Hello to all of my Grange friends! Here it is May and it sure doesn't feel like it! Hopefully Mother Nature is done with the cold and the white stuff and we can start warming up! This Burro likes the warm weather better than the cold, that's for sure!

I accompanied Noel to the annual Ag Day at the Capitol, where I helped work at the CT State Grange booth. I got to meet the Governor of Connecticut, Daniel Malloy, and made lots of new friends too!

Don't forget to follow me on Facebook for news of my latest travels. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

In Memoriam

Dorothy A. Crofut, G.S.
Redding Grange #15

Elaine Tryon
Glastonbury #26

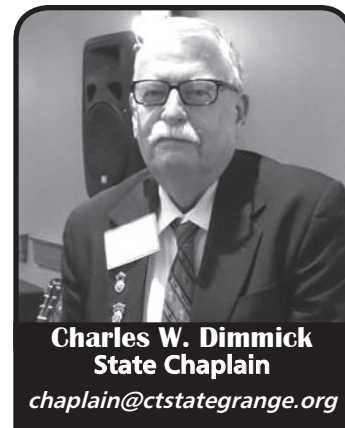
James Larkin, Sr.
Ekonk Community #89

Frank John Wujcik, Jr., G.S.
Preston City #110

Phyllis Redford, G.S.
Hemlock Grange #182

Please keep us notified of deceased members.
Use the email or the regular mailing address listed
in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

Seek ye the Lord



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Most of you, at one time or another, have probably heard the choral piece which begins

"If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me. Thus saith your God."

The words are by Julius Schubring, set to music from

Mendelsson's "Elijah". It is a paraphrase of Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart". This, in turn, is similar to what Moses tells the Israelites in the book of Deuteronomy, warning them against the evils they will find when they first enter the Promised Land, and how to overcome them: "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul." And lastly, in Matthew 7:7, Jesus says: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

But, you may ask, "Why should we seek the Lord?" Let's try an analogy. Suppose you should find yourself at a large gathering, where you don't know most of the people present, nor do you understand much of what is going on around you. Would you not seek out someone you knew and trusted, both to be a companion, and to guide you in understanding what was going on? Now, isn't that really a description of the world we live in, where we don't know most of the people other than our family and a few close friends, and where we really don't understand much of what is going on?

So, let us reach out to someone who we know and can trust and will be a faithful companion. God is right there, waiting for us to call upon Him. And we know we can trust him. We even put "in God we trust" on our currency. Proverbs 3:5-6 says Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Establishing that we should trust God, can we also consider God a friend? In the Letter of James we read "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend." Therefore let us seek the Lord, that we may have him as both guide and friend.