



Happy St. Patrick's Day

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Connecticut Granger



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March 2015

Our many obligations



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
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Wow! What a bitterly cold and snowy February we had. I'm glad it's over. I can't wait to hear the sound of the red winged blackbird and those shrieking peepers, the first signs of spring. Hope it comes fast.

Since I have become your State Master I have heard throughout my travels and meetings to remember our Obligation to the Order. I find these words challenging me, as with the changes to welcoming new members to our Order, with the welcoming ceremony, if a new members doesn't follow up and witness the four degrees they miss out on the lessons of the Grange and skip over the other Obligations of the Order. The Four Degrees are the foundation of our organization, a solid footprint to which we grow upon. Without a solid foundation a structure weakens and can collapse without warning.

Through our life travels, we have all taken many obligations. As 4Hers, a pledge to Heart, Head, Hand, Health. In FFA a creed "we believe in the future of Farming, with the faith..." In our churches by baptism, confirmation, obligations to our faith. In marriage we obligate to each other for better or

worse, richer or poorer, till death... To organizations like local fire departments, we volunteer to serve, which means to commit to the training, state regulations.

With all these examples we strengthen the foundation of these groups, with our obligation, commitment, pledge, creed. Then we should strengthen our Grange Foundation by sharing the knowledge we have learned to those members who are traveling blind along the path of obstacles, rough and uneven. These acts will bring us together as the family we believe the Grange builds between its members.

With that said all come out to the Degree Days scheduled in the upcoming months and witness the four degrees with friends.

At the National Convention and the Northeast Leader's Conference, the National Master had asked me for the Connecticut State Grange mailing list of members. Our State Grange passed a resolution not to give out our mailing list to protect our members from unsolicited mail. I did give the State Directory to the National Master so he could communicate to the Granges directly. This is in regards to the protection of the Grange Trademark. The National Grange is working to protect the trademark of the Grange from those who wish to use it for non-Grange purposes. The history is long and complicated but the battle is long and expensive, anything to do with lawyers always is. The National Grange is seeking

donations from individuals and Grangers to help offset the cost of these litigations. If monies can't be raised then the National Grange will borrow against the National Grange Building to continue this litigation. So help out if you can to protect our trademark

Camp Berger will be open again this camping season and the Kimberly's are expecting an increase of campers this year as the camp has a big bang for the buck, with programs. Grangers who wish to sponsor a campership can continue, and donations to the camp maintenance fund can still be sent to the State Grange Central Office and sent to the appropriate accounts. We are planning a clean-up day to help offset the cost of outside contractors for raking leaves. Watch for the Camp Clean-Up announcement.

Inspections will already have started by the time of this reading, but please be courteous and welcome my Deputy Staff into your halls, but beware... your inspecting officer may be the State Master himself, this is to help out other deputies. I will hope to see more of your Granges this month, and Happy St. Patty's Day to all. Come spring!!!

Legislatively Speaking



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The Connecticut General Assembly is now in session with the various legislative committees starting to process bills. Public hearings are being held on a regular basis concerning these bills. So far the State Grange has testified on three

different bills. The first was Proposed Bill No. 518, An Act Concerning Driving With A Pet On The Drivers Lap. We testified on this bill in response to a resolution that the delegates passed at the last State Grange session supporting restriction of pets on laps. Our delegates expressed concern that drivers are distracted by these animals and about the safety of the animals. Our testimony was noticed by some of the press in attendance and the Connecticut State Grange was mentioned in various papers and radio news agencies mentioning our support of this bill. The press also noted our support for pet restraints in vehicles.

The second bill testified on was Proposed Bill No. 346, An Act Concerning The Farmland Restoration and Vacant Land Programs of the Department of Agriculture. This bill would allow the Department of Agriculture to prepare restoration plans which are required by the Natural Resources and Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture. This would set the foundation for the state to apply for federal grants to assist with the costs of restoring some of Connecticut's farmlands into productive land.

The Grange also supported Proposed Bill No. 6731, An Act Concerning the Treatment of Certain Farmland for Purposes of the Estate Tax. This bill would exempt land classified under the "490" program from being included in a decedents assets. This would reduce the inheritance tax the survivors would need to pay. Presently many families are forced to sell some of the land in order to pay these taxes. This bill would help preserve this valuable land.

All of the testimonies have been placed on the Connecticut State Grange web page www.ctstategrange.org. Any future testimonies will also be placed there as well.

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Next Issue... April



Articles and Photos for the next issue are due on Mar. 5.



A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



Legislatively Speaking

Continued from page one...

The Governor has also just released his proposed budget for the next two years. One of the proposals is to cut \$13.5 million from the Community Investment Act. This is where much of the funding comes from for land preservation. The Governor is proposing increasing funds for the States lagging transportation infrastructure. There have been rumors of reinstating tolls to help raise revenue for this. He also proposed decreasing the sales tax to 6.20% but wants to eliminate the tax exemption on clothing and shoes under \$50.00. One big hit to the small towns is the elimination of subsidies to assist with the costs of having resident state troopers. The budget will be a work in progress for the next few months with both sides pulling it apart and hopefully coming up with a budget before the end of the session.

Ag Facts

Do you follow the Connecticut State Grange on Facebook and other social media? Maybe you should! The following are some of the interesting Ag Facts our Public Relations Department sends out daily on Facebook:

A hive of bees flies over 55,000 miles to bring you one pound of honey. A honey bee can fly 15 miles per hour. Honey bees visit 50-100 flowers during one honey collecting trip.

Archeologists have found evidence that humans have enjoyed eating apples since 6500 B.C. Each of us eats more than 19 pounds of apples annually.

Dairy cows drink 35 gallons of water a day – the equivalent of a bathtub of water. Dairy cows weigh about 1,400 pounds.

Each cow eats 20 to 25 pounds of grain, 40 to 60 pounds of ensilage, 30 pounds of hay and drinks about 15 to 25 gallons of water a day.

It takes just 40 days for most Americans to earn enough money to pay for their food supply for the entire year. In comparison with the 129 days it takes the average American to earn enough money to pay federal, state and local taxes for the year.

Cultivators are the most valuable citizens...they are tied to their country” - President Thomas Jefferson.”

It takes 24 to 26 hours for a hen to produce an egg; there is 30 minutes between each egg-producing cycle. The egg shell may have as many as 17,000 tiny pores over its surface. Through them, the egg can absorb flavors and odors. Storing them in their cartons helps keep them fresh!

Today's farmers produce 262 percent more food with 2 percent fewer inputs (labor, seeds, feed, fertilizer, etc.), compared with 1950. (Source: American Farm Bureau)

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing depends on farmers to produce paper currency-75% of every bill is made of cotton. (Source: USDA.gov)

Agricultural land provides habitat for 75 percent of the nation's wildlife. Deer, moose, waterfowl and other species have shown significant population increases during the past several years. (Source: NCSU.edu)

Every U.S. pear is picked by hand. The United States is the 3rd largest producer of pears in the world, with the top producing states being Oregon and Washington. Pears are one of the few fruits that don't ripen on the tree. They are picked when they are fully mature, but not yet ripe. Do not refrigerate an unripe pear – they are meant to ripen at room temperature. (Source: FarmFlavor.com)

Soybeans are an important ingredient for the production of crayons. In fact, one acre of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons.

Contest season is almost here!



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

It's that time of year again. We should all be thinking about the Photo, "A Number" and Talents Contests. Please don't wait until the last minute. Come May and June everyone wants to get outside and enjoy the nice weather. And, this year I think we are all looking forward to it more than usual.

"Let's Celebrate" will be held the 13th & 14th of June.

The photo contest will be judged on June 13th at Cheshire Grange Hall. The categories are America The Beautiful, Animals, Grangers In Action, Family Celebrations, and Historic places or Events. Full

details are in the Bluebook, plus all Lecturers have a copy of the rules. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Early information says they have to be at the hall between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. but while I will be there at 9:00 I am extending the time to bring them in until 11:00 so you can bring your CWA entries and Photos at the same time.

Grange Sunday is June 14th. It will begin with the State Chaplains Service at 11:00 followed by a luncheon served by the Youth Committee. I'm told they will be serving Shepherds Pie this year. At 1:00 we will hold the Judging for the "A Number" and Talent Contests.

You don't have to sing or play an instrument to enter the Talent Contest. There are all kinds of talent. Numbers are limited to six minutes. It can be less, but not more. The winner will have their expenses paid at the 100th Annual North East Grange Lecturers'

Conference. Maine is a great State to visit and I am sure everyone will enjoy the conference this year. Here is your chance to have your fees paid for you.

Every Pomona should have an entry in the "A Number" Contest. The title this year is "Animals". Use your imagination. Any number suitable for a Grange meeting is eligible. Time limit is six minutes. In this contest that includes set-up and performance. Subordinate Granges within a Pomona can combine their efforts. If the Pomona does not have an entry it is the Pomona Lecturers duty to prepare a number.

Hopefully when you get this the sun is shining and spring has arrived bringing warmer temperatures. I know a lot of Granges have had to cancel or postpone meetings due to all this lovely white stuff that has been falling this winter. In the meantime I hope to see lots of you around the State.

Family Activities Comm.



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

Do you include non-Grangers when promoting our needlework contests? Getting people outside of the Grange to enter can be a good way to pique their interest and think of joining. Make extra copies of the directions and entry blanks and ask if you can

leave them at the local high school, senior center or library with a contact number on the back. If there is no Junior Grange near you, try to interest the young people of your family and their friends in entering the needlework contests. The more the merrier.

Membership Moment

Maggie Buck, Membership Comm.

This membership article was written on a very cold night in February. Lots of us grangers have seen the weather stop our meetings and slow are plans down. But spring will be here soon and we must be ready to go out and get new members. Members that can help our organization thrive. If your funds are low and your membership is small, its the perfect time to think about growing and trying something new.

Find out what events are going to take place in your granges town. Will they let you put up a small booth and advertise

the Grange? While you don't need a lot of expensive props, you will need some type of conversation piece to attract people to your booth. Perhaps you have a member that has pet chickens or rabbits that will garner attention. Does someone do needlepoint that could be raffled off? Could a small number of grangers dress up in costumes and perform a skit? Do you have great bakers that could give out some type of small treats? While you have people's attention: tell them what a great organization the Grange is and that it needs their help to be even better.

New Members

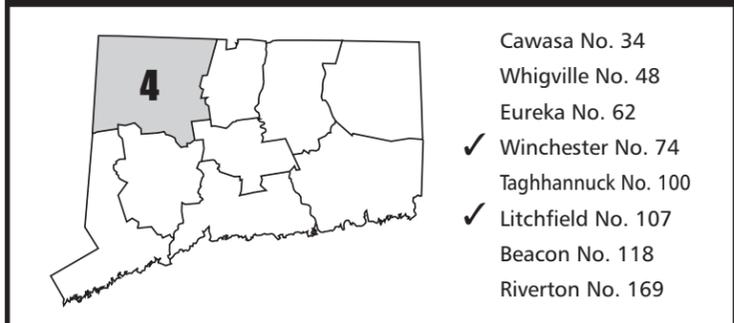


Connie Richardson
Yvette Richardson
Laura Devlin
Patrick Gombas
Debra Larson
Cindy Wakeman
Bob Gemza
Larry Baldyga

Greenfield Hill #133
Greenfield Hill #133



Mountain County Pomona No. 4



MISSION STATEMENT
 Mountain County Pomona No. 4 has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau
Mar. 21: Riverton Grange Hall – Day meeting

Winter has not been kind to Mountain County Pomona. We managed to get our December meeting in but the February meeting fell casualty to the Monday winter storm cycle that plagued us all winter long. The Pomona did not meet in February so our next regular meeting will be on Saturday, March 21 beginning at 4 P.M. with a potluck supper. The location will be Riverton Grange Hall and we would love to see all of our Grange friends and neighbors come out of their winter dens and enjoy a leisurely Pomona meeting. See you there!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau
March 10: St. Patrick's Day, Ref. Potluck Supper at 6
March 24: CWA Program-Country Store, Ref. Pam Wright & Don Fancher
March 28: Cabin Fever Craft & Bake Sale, 9-2 P.M.
Apr. 14: 1st & 2nd Degrees
Apr. 28: 3rd & 4th Degrees,

Potluck Harvest Supper at 6 P.M.

Winchester Grange has managed 2 meetings since the beginning of the year with the second January and first February meetings cancelled due to weather and lack of parking. The snow banks in the Center are enormous this winter. A bucket loader had to be brought in to clear the snow from the front of the Grange hall in late February. The town of Winchester has been "winging" back the banks to make more room, however it has made it extremely difficult to get the Grange hall cleared out. Spring can't come soon enough!

The Worthy Lecturer plans a program on St. Patrick's Day at our first meeting in March and the CWA will educate us on their programs and projects for the year at the second March meeting.

Calling all Degree Team members! Winchester will confer all four degrees in April on two candidates. Any Granges wishing to bring candidates to Winchester to receive the

degrees should contact Master Todd Gelineau at 860-626-0326. We need to know in advance to make sure enough roses and other preparations are made prior to the degrees. We would love to have additional candidates visiting with us!

The Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir will return to Winchester Grange for a concert in May. Stay tuned for more

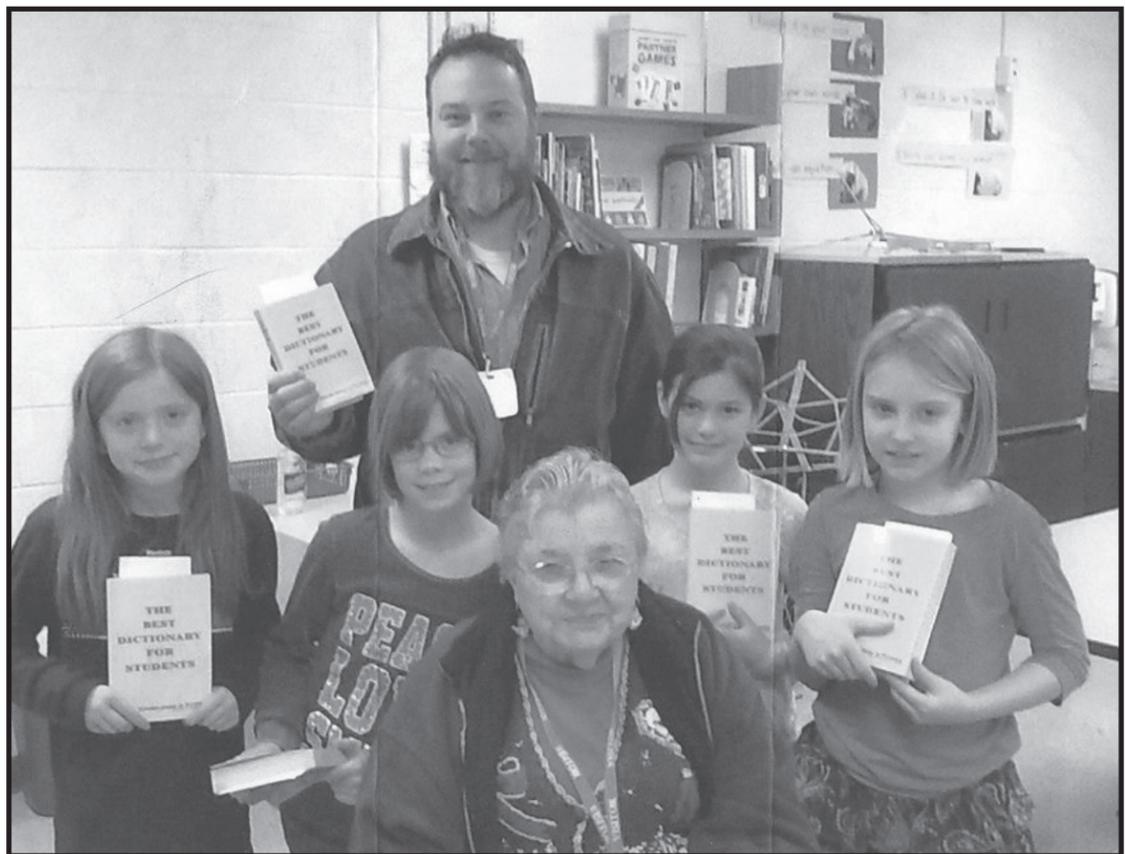
information. Last year's concert was wonderful and a full house was on hand—we know the same will be true this time around. The concert is free and will be preceded by a free potluck supper- your only requirement will be to bring a dish for supper. Please join us!

LITCHFIELD GRANGE #107

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau
 Progress continues at

Litchfield Grange. At the February meeting Richard Prescott was elected the new Master of the Grange along with an abbreviated slate of officers who will be just the beginning of great things to come for the Grange in Litchfield. They now have the extraordinary opportunity to create a new Grange - a Grange that suits both the members of the Grange and the modern Litchfield community.

Taghannuck Grange No. 100



Ruth Schnell, of Taghannuck Grange No. 100 (Front, Center) poses with students at a Sharon, CT area school after presenting Dictionaries to third graders in the Words for Thirds Program.

Hi! Ho! Come to the Fair



Hi! Ho! Come to the Fair. We will meet you there. Date Saturday, May 16 – Place- Prospect Senior Center. If you have been to the Senior Center you know how easy it is to get in- really handicapped accessible. If you haven't been there or attended one of our activities, come and see and have a good time.

A catered fair supper will be available from 5:30 to 8:30. No one will leave hungry. The price \$10.00. Also bring some change as we will have some games of chance, an auction and a raffle.

You can also enter one of our exhibits: Dept. A – animals, Dept. B Baking (cupcakes), Dept. C – Crafts this is anything you made and Dept. P – Photo – enter a picture of your pet. Premium Books will be out before you get or read this. Call me (Joanne) if you need one.

For our "We Reach Out" we are asking each Grange to fill a shoebox to be given to the West Haven Veterans Hospital. Items needed are: toothpaste, toothbrushes, playing cards, stamps, greeting cards, white socks, pads, pens, etc. Your help will be appreciated.

S. CT Past Masters

March 14 we travel to Cheshire for our meeting. In place of the usual potluck supper, we are going to enjoy a corned beef dinner put on by the members of Cheshire Grange. Sounds good! If you need a ticket, give Marge Bernhardt a call.

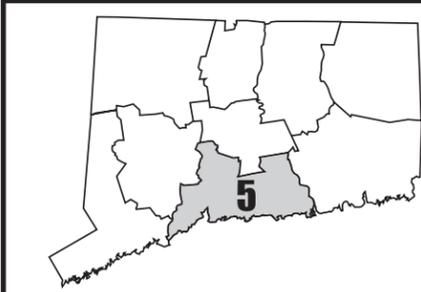
We will hold our meeting, program and country store after supper. The program title is "Let's Be Irish" in charge of Vice President Cindy Charbonneau. Election of Officers is on the agenda. Nominating Committee is: Ronald Gunther, Carl Bernhardt and Charles Dimmick.

PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!

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 Vice President
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New Haven County Pomona No. 5



Cheshire No. 23
Wallingford No. 33
✓ North Haven No. 35

MISSION STATEMENT

New Haven County Pomona through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Wesle Dymoke

Mar. 9: Regular meeting at Wallingford; Program "Young At Heart"

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Mar. 3: March Winds

Apr. 7: Is It Spring Yet?

better than the old one. It runs too fast or too slow.

We are trying to cope with winter. Who isn't? Emily Alexander has been in the hospital again. Now is at home recuperating.

Hope the groundhog can get out to look around.

It means that spring is coming.

My new calendar is no Be warm and well.

Cheshire Gets Crafty



Members of Cheshire Grange No. 23 begin working on their holiday crafts at the beginning of each new year. Their Crafting evenings go on throughout the year and their projects are used as gifts presented to shut-ins and residents of area nursing homes. The snowy winter season hasn't left Cheshire unscathed with several of their nights cancelled due to weather. Like all of us, they are hoping for a quick return of warm spring weather that will not interrupt their activities any further.



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

There have been many questions regarding the recent data breach involving the IRS. Unfortunately the third party vendor (Urban Institute) that handles the 990N E-Postcard filings for the IRS was also part of this breach. The IRS insists that no sensitive data was compromised in the breach but strongly encourages everyone who has a password protected account to log on and change their passwords as soon as possible. For those of you who rely on the State Grange to file, we have already changed the CT State Grange password and the filings have been completed for Granges needing our assistance to do so.

At the end of February a mailing went out to each Community and Pomona Grange. This mailing contained several components:

- 1) Granges who have the State Grange file for them received the receipt from the IRS indicating the filing has been accepted for this year. All other Granges were reminded that they need to file if they have not already done so.
- 2) All Granges received copies of a revised membership recognition form for the National Grange. Late in 2014 we received notice from National that shipping charges would be added to all orders for seals and certificates. We have updated the forms to include these charges to make it easier on all Granges. Checks for Golden Sheafs still need to be made out to the National Grange and sent to the State Grange for verification and (in turn) submission to National Grange.
- 3) A revision sheet for the Connecticut State

State Secretary

Grange by-laws. As a result of action taken at the 130th annual session in October, two sections regarding mileage and per diem for delegates to State Session and the Camp Berger Trustees have been deleted from the by-laws. If you have a copy of the by-laws, please make note of these changes.

- 4) Granges in East Central Pomona and Mountain County Pomona received a copy of a resolution adopted by the State Executive Committee formally adjusting the jurisdictions of these two Pomonas to include towns without Granges in the former areas of Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11 and North Central Pomona No. 13.

From the Urban Institute: A Notice to All Users of Form 990 Online and e-Postcard (990-N) Websites:

The Urban Institute's National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS) recently discovered that an unauthorized party or parties have gained access to the Form 990 Online and e-Postcard filing systems for nonprofit organizations. This unauthorized access affected nonprofits that used IRS Forms 990, 990-EZ, and 990-N (e-Postcard). It also affected users of Form 8868 extensions and filings for charitable organizations in Hawaii, Michigan, and New York.

Once we discovered the attack, we contacted IRS and made every effort to secure the systems and user accounts. We are working with law enforcement agencies as they conduct an investigation. In addition, we have retained a leading cybersecurity firm to help us analyze the situation and strengthen security. Our investigation is ongoing. Based on current information, we believe no information from the filings themselves was compromised. These forms do not contain Social Security numbers or individual tax filer information, so such sensitive information was not available to the hackers.

Copies of the 990 returns, including the e-Postcard, are public documents that are released by the IRS annually.

If you use these systems on behalf of your nonprofit, we strongly encourage you to change your password immediately. If you use the same password for your organization's Form 990 Online and e-Postcard that you do for other websites or applications, we strongly encourage you to change it immediately in each of those instances.

To enhance security, all users accessing the Form 990 and e-Postcard systems are also being required to change their passwords upon logging in, or were when they logged in most recently.

The Urban Institute has a strong commitment to privacy and data security and will continue to work diligently to protect your organization's data. We apologize for this disruption and any inconvenience this incident may cause our users.

If you have any questions, please consult the FAQ below. You may also contact us at security@form990.org or at 1-800-564-9110.

Sincerely, Elizabeth T. Boris, Director, Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy

FAQ

How will I know if my nonprofit's information was accessed?

The intruders gained access to information on all registered users for the nonprofit organizations that have used IRS Forms 990, 990-EZ, and 990-N (e-Postcard) on these systems. This also affects registered users for IRS Form 8868 extensions and filings for charitable organizations in Hawaii, Michigan, and New York.

If you have used these systems, it is likely that some of your information was accessed. All users were sent an email notification by the Urban Institute.

What information was accessed?

Usernames, first and last names, email addresses, IP addresses, phone numbers, and passwords were accessed. Other publicly available information may

...Continued next page

have been accessed as well, such as the Employer Identification Number (EIN), name, and address of the nonprofit organization. To our knowledge, the filings themselves (Form 990, 990-EZ, and state registration and renewal information) were not compromised. Our investigation is ongoing.

How do I know if my username and password were compromised?

We have notified all users of the systems by email. If you have accessed any of these systems, you should assume your username and password were compromised, regardless of whether you received an email.

What should I do if my username and password were compromised?

Change your password immediately. If you use the same password on other sites, please change it there as well.

Was my personal information, including Social Security number, accessed?

No. Forms 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, and Form 8868 extensions do not include personal Social Security numbers or individual tax filer information, so such sensitive information was not available to hackers.

Was my credit card information accessed?

No. Forms 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, and Form 8868 extensions do not include credit card information; therefore, such sensitive information was not available to hackers. If you made a payment for Form 990 Online through PayPal, that information is visible only to PayPal and was never visible to or stored on the affected system.

Do you provide credit monitoring?

No. These forms and systems do not include credit card information or Social Security numbers, so such sensitive information was not available to the hackers.

Were Schedule B forms accessed?

We have not found any evidence that Schedule B (donor lists) forms were accessed. Our investigation is ongoing.

Does this incident affect 1040s and individual filers preparing their tax returns?

No. This system is designed and used only for

nonprofit organizations, not for individuals. Individuals cannot file tax returns using these forms and systems. I need to file my nonprofit organization's 990, which is due May 15.

Is your system secure, and may I proceed with the filing?

Yes. The system has been secured and is fully operational. To eliminate risks, both systems were rebuilt on new, secured servers. You may file your e-Postcard at any time, and the 2014 Form 990 and 990 E-Z will be available at the end of March.

Does this affect other systems or data housed by the Urban Institute or the National Center for Charitable Statistics?

No. We have confirmed that the unauthorized access was limited to this particular system and server. No other servers were compromised.

Who are the unauthorized parties that accessed your system?

Urban Institute is working closely with law enforcement to investigate the attack. The investigation is ongoing. We do not know who is responsible at this time.

What is the Urban Institute's connection to Form 990 Online and e-Postcard?

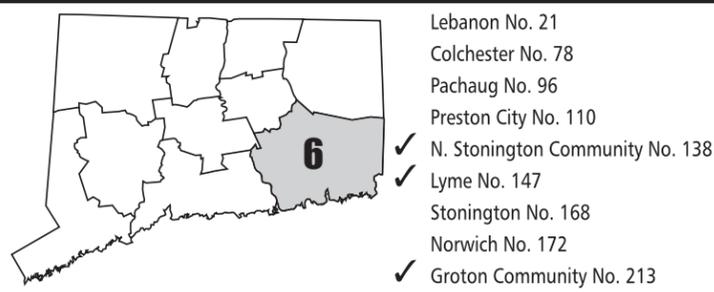
Urban Institute is home to the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy (CNP) and the National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS). NCCS works with the IRS, state charity officials, policymakers and researchers to collect and analyze data on the nonprofit sector. It also offers assistance and information directly to nonprofits.

In 2000, NCCS began work on electronic filing of state and federal forms and was one of the first organizations to offer electronic filing with the IRS beginning in 2004.

In 2007, NCCS adapted its e-filing technology so that small organizations could complete the e-Postcards that the Congress mandated in the Pension Protection Act of 1996.

NCCS, CNP, and the Urban Institute play no role in evaluating, screening, or assessing nonprofit organizations' returns. Returns are forwarded directly to the IRS.

New London County Pomona No. 6



MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

March 14: Talent Show, N. Stonington Grange

Apr. 19: Degree Day, North Stonington Grange

Come to North Stonington on Mar. 14th with your Talent and A-Number entries. The meeting starts at 7:30. Please call the Lecturer for details.

We are planning a Degree Day for April 19th. If you or any of your members have never seen the Degrees in full form, please plan to attend. The lessons presented in the first four degrees of our Order are so beautiful and teach such wonderful lessons they are not to be missed. The Master tells me she needs a few more people for her team. These are non-speaking parts so you won't have to learn anything. There will be a rehearsal on April 12 at 1:00 at N. Stonington Grange. The Degree Day begins at 1:00 on the 19th and will be followed by a potluck dinner (so plan to bring your favorite recipe). Hope to see a big crowd there.

The first four Degrees of our Order

Are wonderful to behold.

So bring all your members in April

And watch all the beauty unfold.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

March 13: "Consternation"

March 27: "Astonishment"

At our January 9th meeting we were given

some exercises to help us improve our balance and prevent falls- a much needed skill for some of us. On January 23rd we were honored by a visit from our State Master and Hank the Burrow. The program was given by Jeff Schneider, a senior pyrotechnical with Grucci Fireworks. His pictures of the magnificent displays put on by Grucci, both in the U.S. and abroad, had us all in awe.

In March we will have a surprise program on the 13th; but that evening is the deadline for entries in the Talent and A-Number contest. Calling all talented members. Your program/number is limited to 6 minutes (including set-up). Call the Lecturer or Secretary for details if you would like to participate. The Lecturer's State Program, "What's Cookin?" will be presented on the 27th. Let's hope Sue has another winner. And if Old Man Winter will just give us a break and send his blizzards elsewhere, next time I'll tell you all about

freaky February.

LYME GRANGE #147

Apr. 2: Maundy Thursday, Meeting Omitted

Apr. 9: Look what the March winds blow in. Invite your equal. Neighbor's night.

Apr. 11: We host East Central Pomona at Good Will Grange Hall

May 7: First & Second Degrees, Memorial Service

Mother Nature sent another zinger our way and Lyme has postponed our meeting again for one week. This is getting to be a pattern, snow-wise.

In January Ruth Young was presented her 70 year certificate and Alione Cone presented her 65 year certificate by Deputy Jeff Barnes. He also installed our new Steward, Norman Stitham.

Each day a Caribbean island sounds wonderful for people who enjoy the warm weather. Florida's temp today is 32°. Not good!

GROTON GRANGE #213

Corr: Susan Kenney

Groton Grange welcomed the New Year with our usual meeting. There was consideration of our next fundraiser which is going to be the sale of an assortment of snacks. The program was on resolutions and how to lose weight.

There was a discussion of the CWA contests and the Youth Scavenger Hunt.

PLEASE JOIN US

Cheshire Grange CWA program

"ROSES AND REFUGE"

Featuring a presentation on

"MY SISTER'S PLACE"
Our CWA special project

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

7:30 P.M.

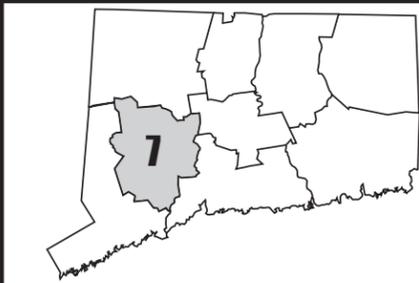
Cheshire Grange

R.S.V.P. Jane Miller 203-272-8255

Email- jfrm888@gmail.com

TEA CUP AUCTION - REFRESHMENTS

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Jean Meehan

We were pleased to have our State Master Noel Miller and his wife visit us at our meeting in Bethlehem. Our program was all about presidents and everyone was given a citizenship test. Our state master is very knowledgeable about the presidents. Hank the Burro helped our Lecturer with the program. We enjoyed great refreshments and country store by the Bethlehem Grange. Our next meeting will be March 18 at Oxford Grange hall. The program is "Cheese". that means each grange in our Pomona will be putting on an A number or have talent and they will be smiling for the audience. The winner will represent our Pomona at the Let's Celebrate Day at Cheshire Grange in June. The theme is Gardening in Connecticut. We hope to have some talent

and some good A numbers.

Excelsior Pomona will hold a degree day April 18 at 2 pm at Beacon Valley Grange Hall. Any Grange who has candidates that need to take their degrees or see the degree are welcome to come. Please contact Joanne Cipriano with a count.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Continuing with our TV theme programs, the title of our March 13 program is "Green Acres." Being close to St. Patrick's Day, I'm sure everyone will be decked out in green. Carole Mancini is the hostess for the refreshments following the meeting and that means we will be enjoying her Irish soda bread.

A reminder to all our members - On Saturday, May 2 we will be having a tag sale. We need your help.

If you have something to donate, give us a call. If you are a buyer come and check the bargains. Please pass the word to your relatives, neighbors and friends.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Albert Maddox

March 23: 7:30 P.M.

We are back to Monday night meetings at 7:30 P.M. Refreshments by Rob Buck and Skip Maddox.

On April 11 we will hold our Flea Market from 9 to 1 P.M. For table space, please call 203-264-8151. Get well wishes go to Katie Coad and Linda Coad.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

Well here it is a new year and we look forward to a busy one. We have been busy making items for the local convalescent home and

Prospect Senior Center for Valentines Day, Easter and St. Patrick's Day.

We were able to help three homeless people with giving them a warm coat and some healthy food this winter. Our March 12th meeting will be all about St. Patrick with an Irish Celebration. Those that maybe visiting is asked to wear something green. At our February 12th meeting Cupid helped us finish our Valentine Cards for the patients at the senior center.

Prospect Grange is working with all the businesses and civic organizations to have a Heritage Day in the month of May. We hope to put our grange more in the eye of the public and teach them something about the grange and our history in our community. Our mayor

has agreed to help us. That is one of the biggest steps toward our Heritage Day success.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

We will be having a bake sale on May 16th at the Firehouse with the Garden Club.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Rob Buck

Ticket sales are going well for the Feb. 28th Chili cook-off and dinner. We invite all, Grangers and non-members to come to the event. Tickets are \$7.00. \$5.00 registration fee to enter a 1-2 gallon crock-pot of chili in the contest judging. We even have DJ coming for entertainment for the evening so it should be fun! Contact me at 203-267-6796 to reserve tickets or email steward@ctstategrange.org.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Breaking Down the Press Release

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Understanding how the media works, what makes the news, and how to make the news, is valuable knowledge for any Grange. The perfect place to start is with a well-written press release.

The objective of a press release is to capture the attention of your audience, whether this is within your community or state-wide, and to educate the reader on not only on the activities of your Grange, but on the existence of the Grange itself.

We cannot stress enough the importance of a well written press release. We constantly come across inaccurate, poorly written or unedited press releases that simply will not be read by the media. They become a waste of time to journalists who are already bogged down with information overload. And some releases are just not publishable. A poorly written press release will be a very fast turn off for any journalist or editor and will reflect negatively on your Grange's efforts.

Some of the best writers will occasionally miss grammatical errors or typos, but by making sure you read, edit and re-edit your press release, you drastically reduce the chance for error.

An engaging press release with an interesting, "hook," or angle is an excellent way to gain exposure for your Grange and can lead to not only publication in newspapers, magazines and on the internet, but in some cases media interviews with appearances on television and radio stations as well.

Here's a few tips to help you with writing your press release:

1.) Make sure the

information is not only interesting, but newsworthy.

2.) Tell the reading audience that your information is intended for them and why they should continue to read it.

3.) Start with a brief description of the news (called the "hook") then distinguish who announced it and why you are announcing this information.

4.) Ask yourself, "How are people going to relate to this and will they be able to connect?"

5.) Make sure the first 10 words of your press release are effective, as they are the most important.

6.) Avoid excessive use of adjectives and fancy language. Deal with just the facts.

7.) Provide as much contact information as possible: individual to contact, address, phone, fax, e-mail, website address.

8.) Make it as easy as possible for the media to do their jobs.

In the ever-expanding 24/7 online and traditional media world, if you can pitch your Grange professionally, then you have a chance at media coverage and reaching many more people than you ever thought possible.

If you or your Grange needs assistance writing press releases, please contact the Public Relations Committee. We're here to help!

E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.

The Social Connection Committee of the Connecticut State Grange presents



Hi! Ho!
Come to the
Fun Fair!

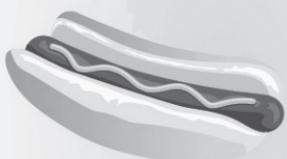
Saturday, May 16, 2015

Prospect Senior Center

6 Center Street (Routes 68 & 69)
Prospect, Connecticut

Price: \$10.00

Entertainment, Games of Chance,
Auction, Raffle, Favors,
Exhibits to Enter and more!



Catered Fair Supper
including the

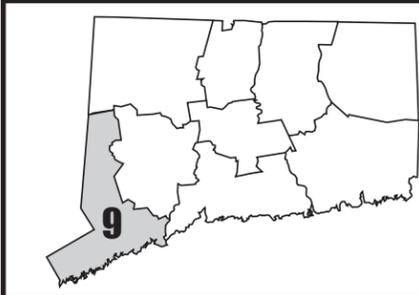
best hot dogs - guaranteed!

Food Stand Open from 5:30 to 8:30 PM



TICKETS: Available from the Social Connection Committee and in each Pomona.
More Info: social@ctstategrange.org

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- Redding No. 15
- ✓ Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairfield County Pomona is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: Dennis Rich

March: "Irish Night), Refreshments at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30

Harmony Grange will be having special meetings for the next few months to plan our 125th Anniversary Celebration which we have tentatively scheduled for a Sunday in mid May. In addition to speakers on the history of Harmony Grange and its association with the Town of Monroe and surrounding towns, we are planning on having programs to promote membership. For our February meeting, a member of the State Grange Membership Committee has been invited to speak on obtaining new members. Harmony Grange will also explore how we can get grants to improve our hall. In particular, we would like to make it handicap accessible. This subject was discussed at the State Grange meeting in Glastonbury on February 1.

Our 70 plus year member, Gertrude Wilson is still at Lord Chamberlain Rehabilitation and she has been moved to long term care section. We pray for her to improve so she can join us at our meetings. Gertrude likes to receive mail. Her address is: Lord Chamberlain, 7003 Main St., Stratford, CT. 06614, c/o Gertrude Wilson, Room 313.

On January 20, 2015, The USDA Farm Service Agency held three meetings at Harmony Grange. This Agency hosted regional producer education forums to educate and inform producers on the new and revised programs that will be available from the 2014 Farm Bill. The Agency held presentations in 6 Connecticut counties in coordination with UCONN

Extension Service. Each location featured a session on the new Agriculture Risk Coverage (County and Individual)/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) and revised Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Several of the local area farmers attended the meetings and they were interested in the Grange and its promotion on agriculture. The Agency wants all producers to know of the new and revised programs and opportunities available to them. NAP protects against crop losses due to weather events and is available to any crop that is not eligible for federal crop insurance.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Mar. 16: "Poultry and Green Eggs", Meeting at 7 P.M.

Mar. 21: Spring Fling Chicken Dinner; 6 P.M. (Doors Open at 5 P.M.)

Our January meeting was fruitful in that we took in eight new members via the Welcoming Ceremony. These are Connie Richardson, Yvette Richardson, Laura Devlin, Patrick Gombas, Debra Larson, Cindy Wakeman, Bob Gemza, and Larry Baldyga. Our State Master/President Noel T. Miller was in attendance, participated and made helpful comments and suggestions!

We are continuing to plan for suitable events for our future Juniors. For information contact Cindy Wakeman at (203) 243-1887 or email – greenfield133@gmail.com.

On Saturday, March 21st we will have a "Spring Fling Chicken Dinner. It will feature boneless stuffed chicken, masked potato casserole, salad, bread, coffee and dessert. All this for a \$20

donation. Reservations are recommended. Call Steve at (203) 367-4373 or Jim at (203) 259-8023.

Looking ahead to April, the Penny Lane Players will present Shakespeare's "MacBeth" on the second and third weekends. Times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7 P.M. (10th, 11th, 17th, 18th) and Sunday matinees at 2 P.M. (12th & 19th).

All of our Grange friends are welcome at our meetings and activities!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Mar. 10: St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Our Barn Dance and Chili Dinner at the end of January was a huge success, with over 100 people in attendance. There were enough leftovers to take home for the Super Bowl and next snowstorm! After expenses (caller, musicians, food and paper goods) we netted approximately \$200. There was good food, good company, and a bonfire for toasting marshmallows. The remaining funds were added to the scholarship money for a local high school graduating senior and Camp Berger.

Our 5th Community-wide Tag Sale is scheduled for May 29-31, with set-up that Thursday. Check out the Grange Facebook pages and website for more information on this and other future events.

One last note: Dues are due! They are \$40 for one year and \$75 for two

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Donald Offinger

March 5: Cardiac Health with guest speaker Nancy Capelle

March 19: Nutrition and Healthy Eating Habits

April 2: Neighbor's Night Pot Luck Dinner (bring a dish to pass)

April 16: All About Composting

Continuing with our series of programs on Healthy Living, we enjoyed hosting and presenting three fabulous seminars on Cheesemaking, Keeping Backyard Chickens and Beekeeping. Following our Cheesemaking program we welcomed into membership Gena and Michael Greer. Many

thanks to our Lecturer, John Kriz for coordinating the Beekeeping and Cheesemaking programs, and to Bil Mikulewicz for his definitive talk on Backyard Chickens. We are very fortunate to have such talented and knowledgeable group of members. Bil collaborated with the Discovery Center of Ridgefield in presenting the talk on chicken husbandry.

Following along the theme of Healthy Living, we are co-sponsoring the March 5th program on Cardiac Health with Wilton EMS at which time we will welcome Nancy Capelle to the stage who will tell her heart-wrenching story of how she survived a heart

attack and cardiac arrest only days after her 40th birthday. She will detail how she made changes in lifestyle and how her family as adjusted. This will be a public program for all to clearly understand who to lead a heart-healthy life. The talk will also cover the importance of everyone knowing how to perform CPR. Both Nancy and Cannon member Don Offinger are EMT members of Wilton EMS.

It's not too early to circle August 30th on your calendar for our annual Agricultural Fair.

Please note our meeting and event schedule listed above. Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- won't you join us?

Youth Activities

I would like to introduce you to the members of the State Grange Youth Committee. Jean Meehan from Prospect Grange and Anne-Marie Knochenhauer from Groton Grange will share the directorship with Jodi Ann Cameron from Ekonk Grange and Bryan Kaplan from Beacon Valley Grange.

We are planning to have lots of activities for the grange youth to do to keep them busy. Our theme this year is "Youth, our future generation." We hope to promote the grange and therefore, get youth interested in joining the grange. We have the following programs so far, a Youth Scrapbook Contest, Poster Contest to promote youth membership, a Youth week-end, BBQ, hoping the youth in the eastern part of the state will continue with a drill team, with hope of getting one started in the western part of the state. Sign-a-song, public speaking and a scavenger hunt.

if there is any other program that you the youth would like to see, please feel free to contact me or Anne-Marie Knochenhauer.

We are proud to announce the Youth program for the year is available. Some of the booklets have been passed out at the Pink Sash Day. We will see that each Pomona gets a copy and will try to get a copy to all Subordinate Granges here in Ct. We do hope the Youth in our grange will take advantage of the contests and events planned for the year. The booklet also includes some of the National Grange contests. Please check the National Grange website for more information.

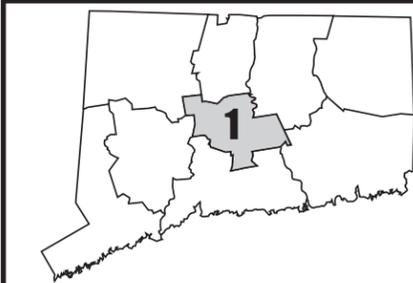
We are planning Shepherd's Pie for the Let's Celebrate luncheon at Cheshire Grange Hall on June 14. There will be a salad and a dessert included at a price just \$7.00 any profits will go to the Youth Fund.

Barn Dance



Norfield Grange held a Barn Dance and Chili Dinner with an attendance of over 100 people in February. It was a great opportunity to get out and stretch before the next storm!

Central Pomona No. 1



- Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: M. Harrison

Greetings Grangers - As is everybody else, we are snowed in at the present. All done with the Super Bowl, I hope your team won. We at the Meriden Grange will be having a teddy bear drive for S.A.F.E, a national organization which collects gently used teddy bears & other stuffed pets, to have on hand for first responders when a child is involved. We ask that any bears be clean, have no odors or tears, and absolutely NO BATTERIES.

We will be collecting bears during our meeting on 2/13 and at our dinner in March. Keep in mind our anniversary is in March and I would love for the Grange to have a huge delivery to the CT S.A.F.E. person in Hebron.

Our meeting on the 13th will have Sugar,sugar as the program, I'm sure we will have something for those with a sweet tooth. Valentine's Day is not just

for lovers, it is a good excuse to celebrate during the dark winter time. Pouring over seed catalogs with their cheerful pictures help with the winter doldrums too.

We had fun at our Jan. meeting when our members shared their hobbies. It was fun to learn a little more about our fellow Grangers. Most everyone had fun with the assignment of drawing a Grange member. I hope to have a small gallery of our efforts with a "guess the Granger" sheet.

Hope to see you before Spring.

Respectfully submitted, M. Harrison,lecturer

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

March 13: Scroll saw Assoc. of the World

March 27: The way we used to be, the good old days.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

Colchester Grange trips for 2015-2016

America's Music Cities: Departing October 16-23, 2015. Visiting Nashville, Memphis, and New Orleans. Highlights of the tour – visit historic RCA Studio B-Country Music Hall of Fame – Ryman Auditorium – Grand Ole Opry Show and Backstage Tour – Graceland – French Quarter – Swamp Tour – New Orleans School of Cooking. Early booking price \$2,649 pp twin. Price includes group transportation to Bradley Airport, Round Trip Airfare, Hotel and Transfers.

Panama Canal and Caribbean Cruise: Departing March 7-18, 2016. You will be transported to the airport for a flight to Fort Lauderdale. Transfers to and from the pier and enjoy 11 nights on the beautiful Zuiderdam. You will visit Half Moon Cay (private island) Aruba, Curacao, Cartagena, Colon, Panama, Costa Rica, and enjoy a partial Panama Canal Transit. Prices start at \$2,199 pp twin for an inside cabin, plus \$365 taxes.

If you have any questions about the trips or would like a flyer on either or both trips contact Cathy at 860-887-9621 or crussi45@sbcglobal.net.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Thanks and enjoy life!

Cathy Russi, Trip Coordinator for Colchester Grange #78



Irish Soda Bread

Hank's Hankerings

Celebrate the luck of the Irish with this classic St. Patrick's Day recipe for Irish Soda Bread from Taste of Home.

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup raisins
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

Directions:

Place raisins in a small bowl. Cover with boiling water; let stand for 5 minutes. Drain and pat dry.

In a large bowl, combine the flours, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In a small bowl, whisk the egg, buttermilk and butter. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in raisins.

Transfer to a 9-in. x 5-in. loaf pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack.

Yield: 1 loaf (16 slices).

Source: <http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/most-popular-irish-soda-bread>



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

2015 seems to be the year of weekly snowstorms. Noel has been teaching me the ins and outs of plowing.

Not much to report for my travels during February. Let's hope March sees better weather ahead and melting snow!

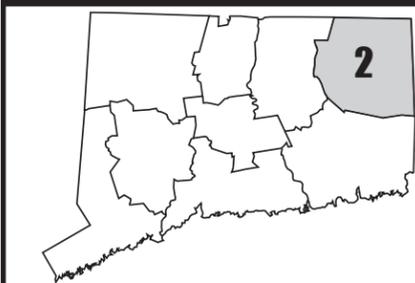
I love to visit (let's hope the weather allows!) and make new friends too! Invite me to your Grange meeting or event! I want to meet as many of you as I can! Send me an invitation to my email: HanktheBurro@ctstategrange.org.

And if you haven't already liked my Facebook page, please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Be sure to say Hello if you see me around the State!



Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- ✓ Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- ✓ Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

MISSION STATEMENT

Quinebaug Pomona supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Mar. 11: Irish Hearts, Ref. Something Green

Apr. 8: CWA Program, Ref. All

Snow, Snow go away! We've got more than Alaska! With the high piles – be careful of crossroads when driving. People out there too. The poor animals out there, maybe they have fur coats, but they still have feelings!

We draped our charter in memory of Esther Lyons and please don't forget our shut-ins. Send a card or visit them. We had a program on groundhog day and prizes on the best Valentines that were homemade.

Wood piles are getting small. We sure will be happy for spring. Maple syrup time is coming up. Sending for seeds too. There's always hope!

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Mar. 18: March Winds

We are keeping warm.

Our regular meetings are still held and we are working on getting the hall set-up for spring events.

The AARP continues to meet at our hall.

We have had some heavy snow but gratefully the neighbors keep us plowed out.

Some members are on vacation in a warmer climate.

Looking forward to spring.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Mar. 2: Farmers Frolic – Agriculture

Mar. 16: To Be Announced

Apr. 4: Happy 125th Anniversary Killingly Grange #112

On Feb. 16th we had Hobbies on Parade, held over from Feb. 2.

Killingly Grange still hosts the farmer's market and breakfasts. Results have been good. Now that we have a regular schedule. The markets will continue until April – 1st & 3rd Saturday 10-1 P.M. Vendor Crafts are also invited.

We still have Nick Anderson and Shady Creek Boys & Girls Blue Grass on the 4th Saturday through to April, weather permitting. Dinner is available by Grange members at 6 P.M. The public is invited.

Some of our Grangers have been laid up with various degrees of colds. So hope everyone is recuperating well by now. "Don't shovel." One of our older members, Josie Stenback fell earlier in the fall and has a broken hip. Hopefully she is doing well and will be back as Flora. At our upcoming Grange meetings soon (weather permitting) we did cancel our last meeting because the weather was bad with snow. Do we have snow or what? After all the last few winters with little or no snow, guess it's our turn to have a good load of white stuff sent down to slow our pace a bit. Looking ahead- Killingly Grange's 125th anniversary on April 4. Mark that date!

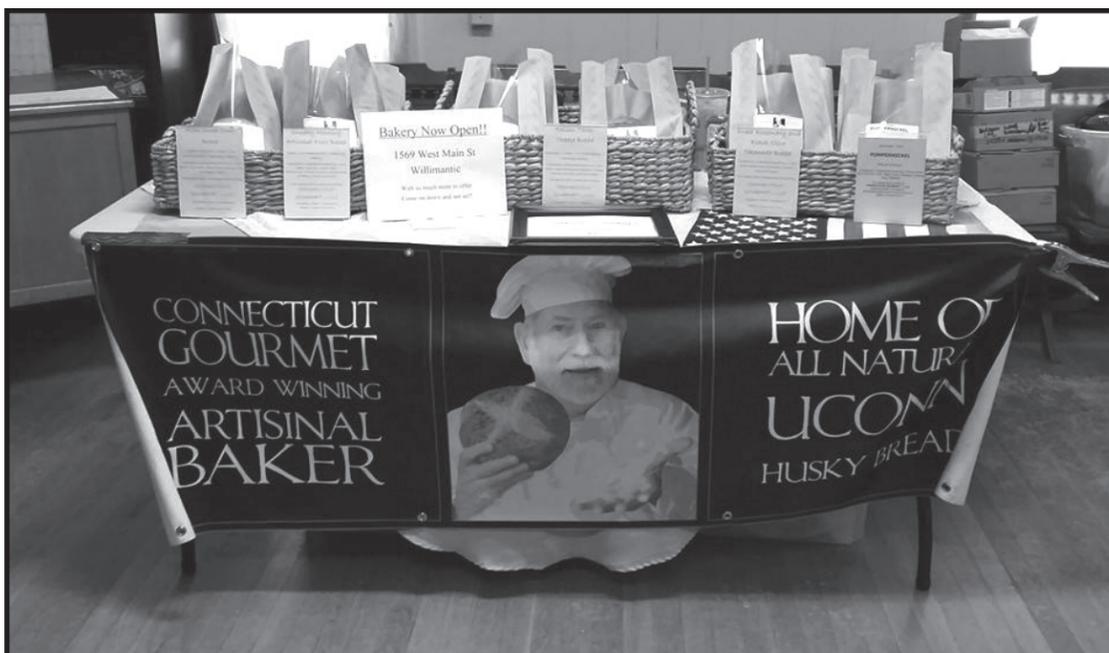
ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Apr. 14: Agriculture

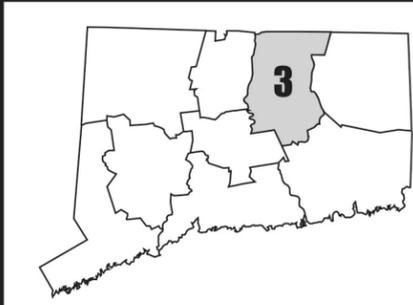
Apr. 28: Inspection falls on Tuesday. We will be working on our projects. The weather had not been meeting twice a month. Our spring Ham and Bean Supper will be on May 16th from 5 to 7 P.M. It seems the bad weather is over. We will now be

Killingly Grange Winter Market



Scenes from the Winter Market held monthly at Killingly Grange No. 112.

East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Granby No. 5
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151
- ✓ Simsbury No. 197

MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

Mar. 7: March Winds – Glastonbury

Our special meetings for both January and February were canceled for icy road conditions, the Good Will Hall weathered the storms even after Noel had problems with his new truck, all is good and the snow piles are growing. I think Quackers needs to come back for a fundraiser to buy Noel a snowblower. We will see at this rate the piles will not melt until June.

Call if you have candidates for our Degree Day on March 22 at 10 A.M. Happy St. Patty's Day to all.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Kim Jones

March 17: Annual Pot Luck Corned Beef Dinner, Stafford Grange Hall, 6:30 P.M.

Jackie Granata, Master Gardener from Stafford, gave a riveting presentation on foraging for wild edibles. Granata brought an abundance of samples and literature and explained the health benefits and preparation of numerous wild plants. For example, native white pine needles are full of vitamin C. They can be steeped in vinegar to use in salad dressings. Violet leaves and blossoms could be added to salads as well (also rich in vitamin C), as could red clover flowers (high in protein). Granata recommended adding one wild edible at a time to one's diet, to see if any adverse reactions occur. My personal favorite was the

sassafras tea (tasted like Fruit Loops!)

In December the Grange welcomed the Stafford Middle School Snowflakes for an evening of caroling and cookies. The 5 lady instrumental ensemble, led by Stafford Music Teacher Magda Widomski, performed about a dozen Christmas classics. Following the performance, State Master Noel Miller presented Milo Bradway with a pin for his 70 years of Grange Membership. It was a lovely ceremony for a lovely man.

We'll be on the lookout for Leprechauns at our annual Corned Beef Pot Luck supper on St. Patrick's Day. . .if we can find them under all this snow!

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

March 5: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Welcome Spring; Ref. Potluck Desserts, Kay Ruff

March 7: Glastonbury Host East Central Pomona #3

March 14: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 P.M.

April 2: Meeting 7:30 p.m., Eggs and Bunnies, CWA Contest (skit contest)

Glastonbury had a very nice meeting in January. Sister Priscilla Schmartz was recognized and presented her 1st place ribbon for her needlepoint entry in the Needlework Contest last fall, and she also received the Best of Show Ribbon. Her entry is just beautiful. The ribbons were presented

to be State Master, Noel Miller and Pomona Master Gordon Gibson. We were also happy to have with us, Sister Edith Schoell and Ruth Herbele. Sister Schoell offered her musical talent for us. Granges that are fortunate to have a pianist are very fortunate.

As I am preparing this article we are expecting to receive the Blizzard tomorrow, Jan. 27 into Wednesday, Jan. 28th. I sure hope they are wrong, but probably will not be. Hope to see some of you at our March 5th meeting. We can also use your attendance at the Card Party on March 14th.

May 2nd is not that far away. That is the date of our Semi-Annual Food and Tag Sale. Mark your calendar and plan on making something for the sale. The Sale runs from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. All assistance

will be most welcome.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Mar. 5: Spring – Refreshments, Noel Miller
Mar. 19: In Like a Lamb-Ref. Robert Warner

Boy did the snow and cold hit us, our parking area is half the size and the exit driveway is buried under a 8' high by 20' deep snow bank. We have a vendor who wants to sell organic soups and sandwiches from a cart in the parking lot but I think she may have to wait until the snow is gone. We are hoping for an early spring.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

March 14: Talent and A Number; Ref: Jim & Dawn
April 11: Know Your Ritual; Ref: Denise and Charlene

As I am racking my

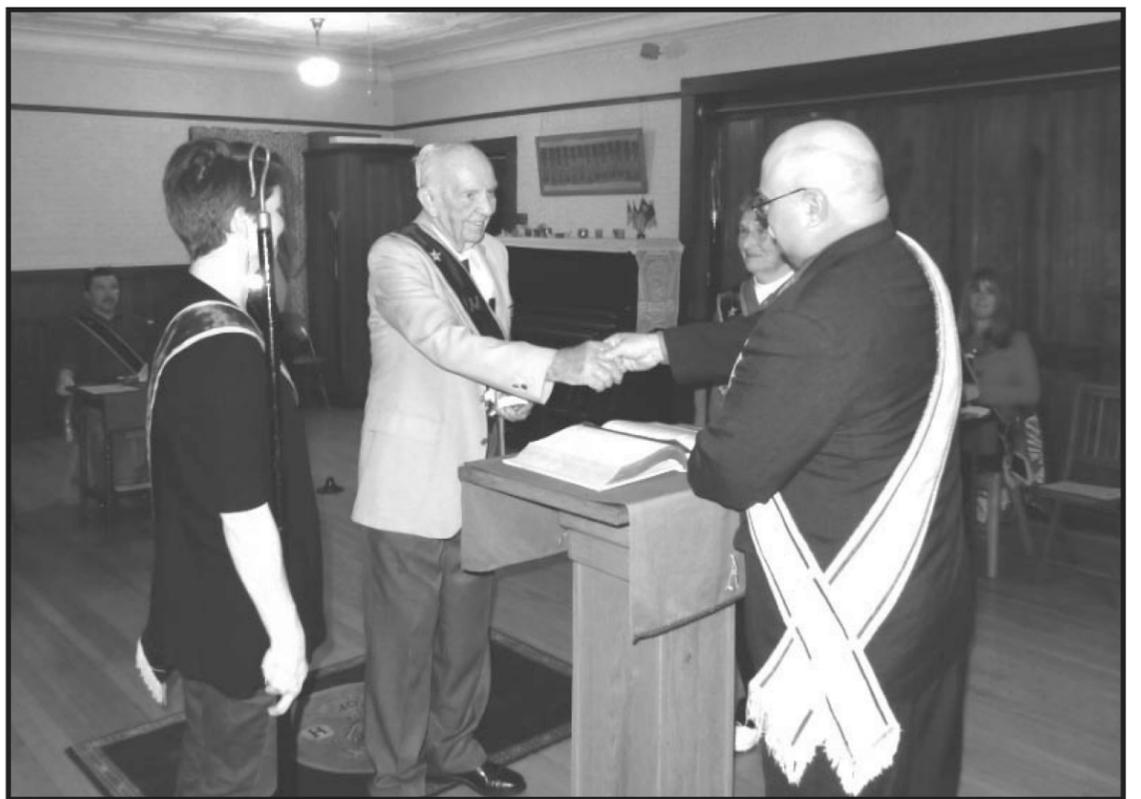
brain for news the first blizzard of 2015 is getting ready to pounce, which is a good reminder to check if a meeting has been canceled before heading out. If our meeting is canceled, keep in mind that we meet the following week unless it's a holiday week-end.

We held a surprise baby shower for Jim and Amanda following our January meeting. Everyone wishes them well and can't wait to see some of those new baby pictures. Our collection for "My Sister's Place" was started with pocket change and as you know that does add up. Stay warm and come visit.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

March 4: We are having a members only potluck and meeting at 7 P.M. at Barbara Friedlan's house on March 4th. No meeting on March 11th.

Stafford honors Bradway



Stafford Grange No. 1 recently honored Milo Bradway for 70 years of continuous Grange service. State Master Noel Miller is pictured presenting Milo with a 70 year pin.

Opportunities to witness degrees

East Central Pomona will have a Degree Day on March 21 at Good Will Hall, 43 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury. We will start in the morning and do all four degrees and end with a potluck supper at the end. All have taken the welcome ceremony or the obligation ceremony and should witness the first four degrees. All are welcome to observe the degrees.

Excelsior Pomona will be holding a degree day on April 18 at 2 PM at Beacon Valley Grange #103 1354 New Haven Rd. Naugatuck CT Please contact the secretary, Joanne Cipriano with a count if you are going.

New London County Pomona will have a

Degree Day on April 19 at North Stonington Grange Hall beginning at 1:00 P.M. They will confer all four degrees and then have a potluck supper. Let us know if you have any questions.

Winchester Grange will confer all four degrees in April on the 14th and 28th. While not a degree day, it is an excellent opportunity for Granges in the Mountain County area to receive all four degrees locally. Please contact Master Todd Gelineau if you are interested in attending and/or bringing candidates. A potluck supper will precede the April 14th meeting at 6 P.M. Both degree meetings will begin at 7:30 P.M. at the Grange Hall located at 100 Newfield Rd. in Winchester Center.

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 story 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.

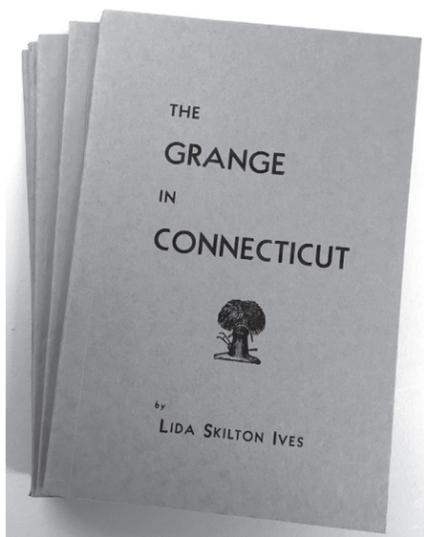


We heard from Annie Smith regarding the February Window to the Past Photo — “That looks to me like Kermit Richardson in the center. That may be Phyllis Bierce standing behind him with the glasses on, and King Beecher looking over her shoulder to the right. So many others look familiar, but I can’t place their names.”

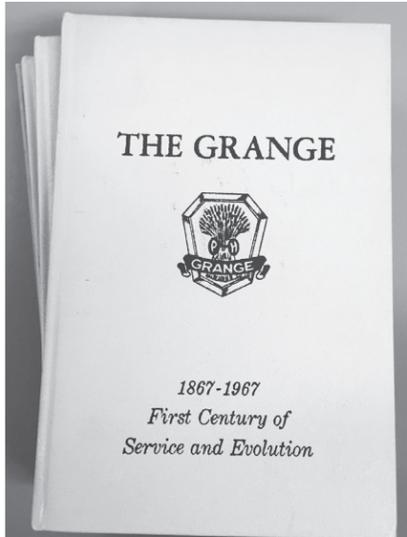


CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE STORE

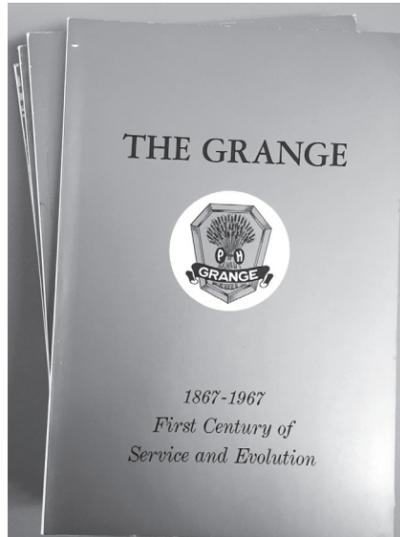
Each month we will feature various items available in the Central Office for sale to members and Granges. If you would like to order anything you see (or don't see) here, please email the State Secretary at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org or call 860-633-7550 to place your order. This month's items are all in very limited quantities. Once you order, your items will be sent to you and a bill will be sent by the State Treasurer later.



Lida Ives 1953 history of the Grange in Connecticut. Soft cover. \$10.00 +shipping.



100th Anniversary Commemorative of the National Grange. Hard cover. \$7.00 +shipping.



100th Anniversary Commemorative of the National Grange. Hard cover. \$5.00 +shipping.



Originally offered to commemorate the 1999 restoration of the National Grange Headquarters in Washington, D.C., this gold finished pin features the Grange emblem and an image of the Headquarters building. Get your pin today at the very low price of \$5.00 each. Great to give as gifts or as awards to members.



Michelle DeDominicis
State Junior Grange Director
juniors@ctstategrange.org



Junior Grange

Greenfield Hill Junior Grange Workshops:

Attention Kids!!! (Of all ages). We have a couple dates for Future Jr Grange workshops.

March 28th is going to be an egg dyeing possible egg hunt activity.

April 25th is going to be a gardening workshop. We will be building a small gardening tower and having the kids plant various herbs and probably a tomato or cucumber plant.

May (date to be determined next month) we will have a butterfly, hummingbird and bug themed workshop making butterfly and hummingbird feeders and also a bug hotel for ladybugs.

Please let us know if you are interested. Thanks.

CAMP BERGER

ADVENTURE - FUN FRIENDSHIP - DISCOVERY

Celebrating our 60th Year

Camp Berger is a

Co-Educational Overnight

Camp for Ages 8-16

Seven Weekly Sessions:

June 28-July 4, July 5-11

July 12-18, July 19-25

July 26-Aug 1, Aug 2-8, Aug 9-15

Camp Tuition \$400 Per Week

CIT Program for Ages 15-17

PROGRAMS:

Weekly Themes, Forest Golf
Archery, Frisbee Golf, Sailing
Canoeing, Arts & Crafts, Rocketry
Fishing, Orienteering, Geo Caching
Swimming, Volleyball, Basketball
Theatre, Rafting, Color Wars, Ping Pong
Yoga, Badminton, Ga-ga Ball, 4-Square
Hiking, Dodgeball, Rowing and More

**Located on Scenic Park Pond in
Winchester Center, Connecticut. Camp
Berger is large enough to ensure a fun filled
summer yet small enough, 120 campers per
session, to give individual attention. Please
feel free to call or email with any questions.**

Lyn & Chris Kimberly Directors

3 Broad Street

Weston, CT 06883

CampBerger@gmail.com

203-557-3339

Facebook: www.facebook.com/camp.berger

Summer Address:

Camp Berger

134 Wanhee Road

P.O. Box 181

Winchester Center, CT 06094

860-379-3558

www.CampBerger.com



In Memoriam

Angela Bolus, G.S.	Winchester #74
Barbara Dreger, G.S.	Winchester #74
Mary B. Pearl, G.S.	Preston City #110
Frederick Falk	Beacon #118
Ethel Hollister	Bethlehem #121
Helen Iverson, G.S.	Hemlock #182

Julie Swick was incorrectly listed in this column last month. We apologize for the error.

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

State Chaplain

Charles Dimmick, Chaplain

When we become members of the Grange, we take on certain obligations, and if we are elected or appointed to offices in the Grange we take on additional obligations. Let us make sure we fulfill those obligations, not just superficially but wholeheartedly.

The closing speech in the 4th Degree admonishes us "to be diligent—persevering in our researches for truth, and in a faithful discharge of the various duties that devolve upon us." It is important to do the tasks assigned to us, but we should not think that our obligations are fulfilled just because we have done what we were told to do. We need to go one step further, look around, and see what else we can do. In the Gospel of Luke we read (ISV) "When you have done everything you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless servants. We have done only what we ought to have done.'"

There is a matter of false pride that we may fall victim to just because we have accomplished the tasks assigned to us. "Look how good I am; I did everything I was asked to do!" Instead we should remember the parable of the talents. When the servant who had been entrusted with five talents returned them to his master he declared 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' [A talent is about 80 pounds of silver, a huge sum of money in those days.] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' But when the servant who had received one talent returned the one talent with which he had been entrusted but returned nothing extra the master raged at him: 'You wicked and slothful servant!', and told the servant that at the very least he should have left the talent with the bankers, so that it could earn interest. Now, not every master is going to become enraged when someone does only what is required and nothing more, nevertheless each of us should strive to go above and beyond the minimal duties expected of us, no matter what our position. In fact, at the close of each Subordinate Grange meeting the Grange Master tells us "whatever we do, strive to do well".

Hillstown Pancake Breakfast

On Saturday, March 7th, the Hillstown Grange will be holding a Pancake Breakfast from 8:30am to 11am. Take a break from the winter blahs and come relax and enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$5; children under 12 just \$3.

This month we are holding a book sale for young and old and everyone in between. All books are just a quarter each or \$5 a bag full.

Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. Located in

the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester since 1888. The Grange is one of the oldest Agricultural and Community Service groups in the United States. For more information on this event, call Helene at 860-568-6268, Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com. For more information on Hillstown Grange, visit the Grange's website at www.HillstownGrange.org. More information on the Granges across Connecticut can be found at www.CTStateGrange.org.