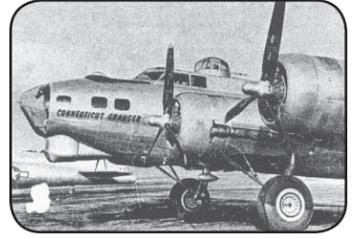




Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

April 2016

State Master



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

Oh welcome springtime on the farm and in the home. Blooms are all around us as nature's beauty awakens from her long sleep of winter. This past winter was way milder than predicted, which is fine by me. I only had two prow-able storms. April is time for Grange Month where it is time for our Granges to shine with open houses, awards nights, plantsales, dinners and Grange awareness activities.

The National Grange has printable material on PDF, by going to the National Grange website and downloading material for you to print up with fliers, posters and handouts. [Editor: Connecticut customized versions of the materials are also available by contacting Terri Fassio]. This is a cost savings option from our National Grange. Check it out!

This week I obtained the leather case used by the First State Master in the 1870's, in the pocket was small book entitled "Patrons Pocket Companion."



The bag originally owned by first State Master Goddard in the 1870s

The little book contains all information, ritual, description, and terms for organizing new Granges. Its first chapter explains the layout of the halls, required offices, and 138 rules for new Grangers to follow as to how a Grange is organized. The 138 rules are enjoyable to read for the requirements at this time were quite strict. The feeling I received is that they were looking for good people to become members, hardworking, loyal, honest, trustworthy, friendly people. These are the same people we seek today. So we have not wandered far from the path of our founding fathers.

On February 28, 2016 we held our meeting at Cheshire Grange to discuss the future of Pomona Granges. I thank all that attended and participated in this meeting. At the end of the day no answer was present, but many suggestions were noted for further discussion. But back to our Patron Pocket Companion- the suggestion for Pomona Granges were that the Masters and Spouses of Subordinate Granges, Past Masters and Spouses of Subordinate Granges and three Subordinate Grangers who would be Masters elected by the Subordinate Granges were the Pomona Grange. How far we have come from this. I feel that there is a need for a Pomona

Governor visits with CT State Grange



Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy poses for a picture with State Grange Legislative Director Alma Graham. State Master Noel Miller is pictured in the background. The Connecticut State Grange participated in Ag Day at the Capitol in Hartford on Wednesday, March 16.

Grange, and hope that a solution can be worked out before it is forced upon the State Executive Committee. We know we have strong and weak Pomonas in Connecticut, but it is up to all Fourth Degree members to take the challenge and join and support your Pomona Grange.

Inspections and Degrees have started so there is no excuse for not witnessing the four degrees, not joining a Pomona Grange, if you plan on taking the Sixth Degree at State Session you need the Fifth Degree, do it now, don't wait until fall as some Pomonas don't confer the degree in

the fall. Do it now... join us... help us.

This year we have lost one Community Grange. North Haven Grange #35 surrendered their Charter after State Session. I have thanked their members for holding on for the roll call at State Session. They have joined Cheshire Grange and I hope they are welcomed and put to work in that Grange. This is a reminder that if a Grange is planning to surrender their Charter there is a path you need to follow, this is spelled out in the Digest, or call the State Master for how it is properly done. One important item is that NO MONEY can be donated

without the permission of the State Grange. All money and property of your Grange will go to the Dorman Grange Fund for seven years. This is in the event that a Grange is re-organized in that community. If there are any questions about property and money, please contact me.

Springtime is that time to look at our halls and clean up and spruce up the grounds and buildings. The State Grange does offer small improvement loans to Granges for repairs or updates, see what we have to offer. To all, Happy Grange Month!

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Inside...
What do the King of Peaches and the CT State Grange have in common?



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

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



Second State Master was #1 in Peaches



Brooklyn, NY. She was the daughter of Harry Stancliffe.

The following children were born to them: Stancliffe, Moseley, Emily, Marian, and Laura Hale.

He was a Protestant and a staunch Republican.

Brother Hale was a Charter member of Glastonbury Grange and held the position of Charter Steward. He held numerous other Subordinate Offices from time to time. He was the second Master of the present State Grange and served in that office from 1885-1889. He was also a regular Deputy and General Deputy at various times. He served as a member of the Executive Committee for 1885 and 1894-1908. During 1887-1889 he served as Assistant Steward of the National Grange and was Priest Herald of the Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange in 1889. Sister Hale served as Priestess Flora during 1889 of the Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange.

Brother Hale's youth, strong executive ability, his broad acquaintances, and his well versed knowledge of the agricultural needs of the State, the ripeness of the hour and his firm and enthusiastic faith in the principles of the purposes and aims of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry combined, resulted in phenomenal Grange growth. Although this growth was rapid it was mostly successfully hardy.

In later life Brother Hale traveled extensively. One Patron from Glastonbury Grange had said, "Brother Hale told me that he had traveled in every country in every State within the Nation."

His worldly labors came to an end on October 12th, 1917, having served the Grange long and faithfully, he passed to his award Above and was buried in the old Church Cemetery at South Glastonbury, Connecticut.

The bulk of this account was re-printed from Lida Ives' "The Grange in Connecticut" with editorial embellishment.



The Magyar Posta (Hungary) commemorated J.H. Hale with this Postage Stamp of a Hale Peach Blossom.

For many of us, attaining just one of the many remarkable achievements J.H. Hale did would be a milestone in our lives. To J.H. Hale every task, every endeavor was an opportunity to do it in a way never done before – creating the J.H. Hale Peach, organizing dozens of Granges, helping to found the University of Connecticut, and more. This month we look at the life of the second Master of the Connecticut State Grange, an overachiever that many of us owe a great deal of thanks for helping found our Granges and providing delicious fruit for generations of people around the world.

John Howard Hale was born on November 2, 1853 in Glastonbury, Connecticut. He was the son of John A. Hale and Henrietta (Moseley) Hale.

He received his education in the local school which he was forced to give up at the age of fourteen due to the death of his father. It could be truly said that he was a self made man, for later in life he was a proficient lecturer and writer of no little note. He had an acquiring mind and readily absorbed everything he saw and read and was considered one of the most able men of his times. He was particularly successful as a fruit farmer. His peach orchards were known throughout the world. He propagated many new varieties of peaches, the famous "Hale Peach" being of superior quality and marketability for shipping was perhaps the best known even to this day. A quick Google search of the J.H. Hale Peach reveals hundreds of entries/references.

He was always interested in fruits of every kind and what climates were the best adapted for their growth. His wife while serving as State Pomona carried on an interesting correspondence with the Subordinate and Pomona Pomonas sending them several kinds of fruit trees and berries and encouraged the raising of more such products upon each farm plot.

On October 31, 1877, he married Addie Stancliff of



An early catalog for J.H. Hale Peaches



Hale's former home at 1420 Main Street in Glastonbury as it appears today. It currently houses medical offices.



A Connecticut Historical Society photo of the J.H. Hale Peach Orchard in Glastonbury early in the 20th Century.

J. H. Hale Peach

Prunus persica

☀ Full Sun

18' Tall & 15' Wide - Unless Pruned

Zone 5 (-20F)

Extra Large, round FREESTONE. Red blushed golden skin. Firm (solid, not stringy) sweet, yellow flesh. Good shipper. A favorite canner.

Standard peaches need well-drained soil.



J.H. Hale

© 2014 Wagon

WAGON

Harvest Sept 15

A current internet listing for J.H. Hale Peaches.

Organized by J.H. Hale:

- Central Pomona #1
- Quinebaug Pomona #2
- Mountain County Pomona #4
- East Hartford Grange #37
- New Canaan Grange #38
- Burritt Grange #39
- Brooklyn Grange #43
- Newington Grange #44
- Bolton Grange #47
- Whigville Grange #48
- Farmington Grange #49
- Westfield Grange #50
- Tolland Grange #51
- Vernon Grange #52
- Poquonock Grange #53
- Plainville Grange #54
- East Haddam Grange #56
- West Hartford Grange #58
- Mansfield Grange #64
- Indian River Grange #73
- Coventry Grange #75
- Andover Grange #76
- Clinton Grange #77

Organized by the Hale Admin.

- East Central Pomona #3
- New Haven County Pomona #5
- New London County Pomona #6
- Stafford Grange #55 (2nd Org.)
- Colebrook Grange #82 (2nd Org.)
- North Haven Grange #35
- Little River Grange #36
- Senexet Grange #40
- Konomoc Grange #41
- Mattabessett Grange #42
- Harwinton Grange #45
- Ellington Grange #46
- Durham Grange #57
- Saybrook Grange #59
- Crystal Lake Grange #60
- Wolf Den Grange #61
- Eureka Grange #62
- Cromwell Grange #67
- Natchaug Grange #68
- Shetucket Grange #69
- Canterbury Grange #70
- Mad River Grange #71
- Plymouth Grange #72
- Winchester Grange #74
- Colchester Grange #78
- Housatonic Grange #80
- Guilford Grange #81
- Colebrook Grange #2
- Totoket Grange #83
- Foxon Grange #84
- Wangumbaug Grange #85
- Webetuck Grange #86
- Hillstown Grange #87
- Still River Grange #88
- Ekonk Grange #89
- Ashford Grange #90
- Seymour Grange #91
- Harmony Grange #92
- Border Grange #93
- East Windsor Grange #94
- Percival Grange #95
- Jewett City Grange #96
- Putnam Grange #97
- Barkhamsted Grange #98
- Hamden Grange #99
- Taghannuck Grange #100
- Mashapaug Lake Grange #101
- Oxford Grange #102
- Beacon Valley Grange #103
- North Guilford Grange #104
- Somers Grange #105
- East Haven Grange #106
- Litchfield Grange #107
- Woodbridge Grange #108
- East Hampton Grange #109
- Preston City Grange #110
- Hebron Grange #111

A pioneer in Peaches

By Nancy Finlay, Connecticut Historical Society

Europeans first introduced peaches to America in the 17th century and the fruit quickly flourished in the Southern and Mid-Atlantic colonies. Although New England farmers sometimes planted peach trees in their orchards, the long harsh winters and the frequent frosts (extending well into the spring) limited the crop's success farther north. Through innovation and perseverance, however, fruit grower John Howard Hale eventually developed a new type of peach capable of thriving in harsher climates.

Hale Develops a New Type of Peach

By the 1880s, the Hale farm in South Glastonbury sold a wide variety of fruit plants and trees, including plums, currents, raspberries, blackberries, and grapes, resulting in the sale of bushels of fruits to customers in Hartford. Growing peaches posed a difficult challenge, however, because of the plant's affinity for warmer weather, but Hale discovered a few hardy trees on his grandfather's farm and developed a new type of peach that more capably endured the harsh New England climate and produced large delicious fruit. When Hale first offered his peaches for sale in Hartford, the public hailed them as "a beautiful and rare sight in the state."

In addition to his canny use of advertising, Hale also made use of the latest advances in technology to get his fruit to market. In the 1890s, he used the local trolley line to transport his peaches to Hartford, commissioning three special cars for the purpose. Peaches were notoriously difficult to keep fresh, but Hale discovered that through the use of refrigeration, he actually extended their shelf life. Workers pre-cooled the peaches and then loaded them on to special refrigerator railroad cars containing bunkers filled with ice to keep the fruit cool during transport. By the end of the 19th century, Hale shipped peaches all over the United States, and even to Europe.

The original family farm soon expanded to a huge operation involving 1,200 acres, with orchards in Glastonbury and Seymour, Connecticut, and in Peach County, Georgia. George Hale eventually left Connecticut to run the Georgia orchards, but John Hale remained committed to his home state. Though he had only an elementary school education, he went on to become one of the founders of the University of Connecticut and also served in the Connecticut General Assembly and was second Master of the Connecticut State Grange. He was a member of the Connecticut Public Utilities Commission at the time of his death in 1917.

The peach that Hale developed, known as the J. H. Hale Peach, continues to remain popular, admired for the same qualities that led to Hale's commercial success at the turn of the 20th century. Today peaches are still grown

commercially in orchards in Glastonbury and in other towns throughout Connecticut.

Nancy Finlay grew up in Manchester, Connecticut. She has a BA from Smith College and an MFA and PhD from Princeton University. From 1998 to 2015, she was Curator of Graphics at the CT Historical Society.



An ad for the J.H. Hale Peach



PROCLAMATION April 2016 as Grange Month Building Access for Tomorrow

WHEREAS, the Grange continues to be an active force in thousands of communities across the country by providing an effective voice for rural development, agriculture, and community service; and

WHEREAS, the Grange provides leadership, motivation, and dedication to bring together rural and urban families; and

WHEREAS, the Grange provides for its members the opportunity for individual expression and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, the Grange emphasizes the involvement of people in the legislative process and responsibilities of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Grange strives to enhance the quality of life and economic well-being of its members and friends in an atmosphere of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Grange members take pride in belonging to a highly respected fraternal organization;

THEREFORE, I, Betsy E. Huber, Master of the National Grange, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2016 as Grange Month, and further I do encourage the participation of each Junior, Community, Pomona, and State Grange in this annual celebration of Grange Month by developing programs and activities that will highlight the Grange in their respective communities.
betsy huber signature

Signed: *Betsy E. Huber*
National Master

Budget looms large at State Capitol



The Connecticut State Legislature is in full swing now with its adjournment deadline rapidly approaching. The legislature has until May 4th to complete its duties. As previously reported in this column, the budget is the big issue this year. The Governor is sticking with his plan to reduce the state workforce by layoffs and attrition and by reducing the budgets of state agencies and state services. By now most bills will have been through their public hearings and moved on from their committees to the General Assembly.

The State Grange has so far submitted testimony on four different bills and has expressed support for two more.

Testimony was submitted to the Legislative Agricultural Committee in support of Raised Bill 76, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Farm to School Program. This bill encourages food service

management companies submitting bids or request for proposals (RFP) to local school boards of education for school nutrition programs to include details on how they would purchase food from local farms to be used in their meals. Any proposals that promotes the purchase of local farm products in their proposals would also be given preference in the RFP or bid process. As of this writing this bill has been placed on the Senate calendar for a vote.

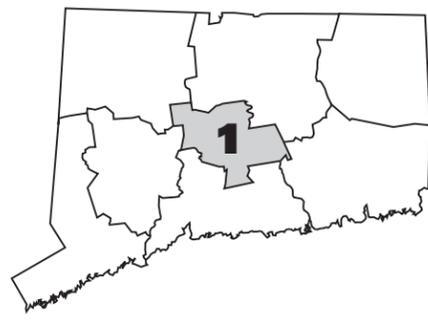
Supporting testimony was also submitted on Raised Bill 5383, An Act Concerning The Farm Viability Matching Grant Program And The Connecticut Farm Link Program. This would create a program within the Department of Agriculture to connect people who have farmland they wish to sell with those who are seeking land for farm operations.

We also submitted testimony on two similar bills which seek to amend the state constitution concerning property held by the state. Senate Joint Resolution 5, A Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution Concerning The Environment And Natural Resources Of The State concerns easements held for conservation purposes. These

lands cannot be used for other purposes or disposed of except by approval of two-thirds of the general assembly. Similarly Senate Joint Resolution 36, A Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The Constitution Of The State To Protect Certain Property Held Or Controlled By The State For Conservation, Recreation, Open Space Or Agricultural Purposes expands SJR 5 a bit to include lands held in easement. This would require a public hearing before the selling or transferring of state property to another person or entity. Then the transfer would have to be approved by the General Assembly by a two thirds vote.

The Grange also expressed support but did send in testimony on, Raised Bill 5150, An Act Concerning Tree Wardens Notices on Trees and Shrubs Prior to Removal. This would require notifications be placed on trees and shrubs prior to removal. Also supported was Raised Bill 5151, An Act Concerning the Authority of Animal Control Officers in Common Interest Communities. This would allow animal control officers with the authority to enter common elements of common interest communities in order to carry out their duties.

Central Pomona No. 1



- Central #1
- Southington #25
- Meriden #29
- Higganum #124
- Hemlock #182



HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 8: Something Flowery

Apr. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Quinebaug #2
- Senexet #40
- Wolf Den #61
- Ekonk Community #89
- Ashford #90
- Putnam #97
- Killingly #112
- Echo #180



SENEKET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Apr. 20: Hans Christian Anderson

Keeping busy at the Grange hall, the 4H Dairy Club that meets monthly at our hall presented the program in February. Each of the members gave a presentation and talk on their projects. This was their dress rehearsal for the county public speaking contest.

We are working on getting the building and kitchen spruced up for the spring events.

Visit us anytime. Joan has great refreshments.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Ekonk Community Grange, 723 Ekonk Hill Road in Sterling, will be entertained by our friends from Richmond Grange in nearby, RI, on April 4th. They always bring a fun program. All are welcome, you do not have to be a Grange member to come

and have fun! 7:30 p.m. meeting time. April 15th, we return the favor and travel to Richmond, bringing them our musical and fun production, with food as the theme--it is amazing how many songs include a food! They also meet at 7:30 p.m. April 16th, the Juniors have a spaghetti supper and program-call Rebecca at 860-564-1139 for reservations/information. April 16th-public square dance at our hall, featuring Joe LoPresti and "The Country Friends", starting time is 7:30 p.m. April 23rd, Sterling Family Day is having a public roast pork supper at our hall, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Adults \$12.00, children 12 and under \$6.00 and preschoolers, free. May 7th, the Juniors are holding their annual Plant and bake sale at the hall from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This year all profits will go to Kaycee Chesters and family. Kaycee is battling cancer, already having lost a leg. Kaycee is a student

at Sterling Community School and well liked by her peers. Anyone wishing

to donate to the Kaycee Chesters fund can contact Rebecca Gervais, Leader of

the Junior Grange at 860-564-1139.

Nursing home expenses can be stressful



Fellow Grange members,

As I come across topics on Medicare, retirement income and Estate Planning that could affect Grange members or their families, I will try and post something interesting and relevant every month. (This is an excerpt from the Smart Planner Blog of Czepiga, Daly and Pope, a law firm that specializes in Elder Care planning).

Connecticut Case Helps Spouse of Nursing Home Residents:

It's hard enough dealing with the emotional impact of a spouse residing in a nursing home. But the financial stress of paying for the cost of long-term care-averaging \$15,000/month in Connecticut – can be devastating.

Many spouses seek Medicaid benefits to cover the cost of nursing home care. In fact, 70% of Connecticut nursing home residents receive Medicaid, and for married couples, there are many ways to protect assets while ensuring financial eligibility.

A recent Connecticut Superior Court case – *Valliere v. Bremby* – now makes it easier for spouses to retain what is, in some circumstances, a significant fixed income (social security, pension, fixed annuity payments, etc.) through a planning technique that can be used in probate court.

How Medicaid works for married couples.

A nursing home resident may not have more than \$1,600 in total assets for Medicaid eligibility.

But in the case of a married couple, the healthy spouse is entitled to retain certain exempt assets—specifically a car and home (of any value) and one-half of all liquid assets, capped at \$119,220.

The healthy spouse is also entitled to receive monthly income of as much as \$2,980 – whether the source is from the ill or healthy spouse. In cases, though, where the ill spouse, let's say the wife, has a very high income, she could never divert more of her own income to her husband than what was necessary for her husband to receive \$2,980/month. She would need to pay the excess to the nursing home as a monthly co-pay.

What the Case says

For starters, the State may appeal the case, so stay tuned!

But this case involved an ill spouse under a conservatorship in the probate court. Her husband sought a spousal support order of her entire monthly fixed income, which the court granted.

The husband applied for Medicaid and the Department of Social Services (DSS) granted the application but ignored the probate court order, directing the husband to pay the nursing home with his wife's monthly fixed income.

The Superior Court disagreed with DSS and ordered the agency to comply with the probate court order, meaning that the husband was permitted to retain his wife's income.

It's important to note that

seeking a spousal support order in probate court requires the appointment of a conservator, but one can do so under what is called a voluntary rather than an involuntary conservatorship, the latter requiring proof of the individual's incapacity. In other words, seeking a spousal support order can be done in a planning context to preserve income-one does not need to prove any cognitive or physical incapacity for the probate court to have jurisdiction.

What does this mean for Medicaid planning?

The potential benefit now, as a result of this case, is that there are now planning options to preserve the institutionalized spouse's income.

This is truly big news and the ramifications are significant. Especially for spouses who receive a very large pension. Now, instead of capping the amount that the healthy spouse receives under the Medicaid regulations, a probate court can order that a higher amount should be ordered.

Please call me with any questions. Next time, new Social Security rules!

Christopher L. Cleland, CFP®

(860) 729-0804 (Cell)
(860) 676-0260 x240 (Office)

At American Senior Benefits we are dedicated to helping America's growing senior population. We start with knowing Medicare inside and out. We work to help seniors get coverage they need to stay healthy and secure. We are proud of what we do and happy to help. We look forward to providing the service and assistance you need.

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!

(USPS 563-220)

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

or

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P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

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President/Editor Todd Gelineau
Vice President
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell



Meriden Grange held a Corned Beef Dinner in March

East Central Pomona No. 3



- East Central #3
- Granby #5
- Glastonbury #26
- Manchester #31
- Vernon #52
- Coventry #75
- Hillstown #87
- Enfield #151
- Simbury #197

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

Apr. 2: Meeting, 5 P.M.; Potluck, 6:30 P.M.; Degrees, 7 P.M.

Host Manchester and Enfield Granges.

Now is the time for Fourth Degree members to take the Fifth Degree. Come join the fellowship of East Central Pomona #3.

Last meeting we had 32 members present. Congratulations to John Hykes and Paula Peterson for tying in the 50 Clothes Pin Decoration Contest. We had seven entries. Thanks to all who made something.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Calendar:

April 7th Meeting 7:30 p.m. CWA Contest – Skit Night - Get Your Garden Ready. Glastonbury meets at the Masonic Hall, So. Glastonbury.

Apr. 9: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, So. Glastonbury

May 5: Memorial Service - Mom - Cards to Service Men

May 7: Foodless, Bakeless Sale

Send your contribution for this sale to the Grange Secretary

Today is March 2nd, and it is feeling like Spring. I sure hope that is so, but I would not be surprised if we get a couple of snow storms before winter leaves for good.

April 7 is the evening when the CWA Contest will be judged. The contest is in charge of our CWA Chairman, Sister Ann Posuniak. The contest is for Blueberry Muffins and you use your own recipe. You submit 3 muffins on a plate and attach your recipe to the entry. I will try another recipe today. I have made the muffins twice so far.

The Skit Contest is in charge of the Lecturer, Sister Ann Gilnack. We look forward to see what Sister Gilnack has put together.

April 9th is the card party. Remember this is open to the public so bring your neighbors and friends with you that evening. It is

a pleasant evening with lots of fun, laughter and plenty of refreshments and door prizes. I look forward to seeing you there. Remember this is a good opportunity for a non-grange member to be introduced to other grange members and they may then like to join the grange. We do need new members.

April 2nd is the Pomona meeting at 5:00 p.m. Pot Luck supper is at 6:00 p.m. and the 5th degree will be conferred at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join Pomona, call me, (Kay Ruff) for an application.

Pomona meetings are also a good way to meet other members from neighboring granges. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting of Glastonbury and at the Pomona meeting.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

Apr. 5: Fishing in the Dark

Apr. 19: Planting a Garden

May 3: CWA Program

In February we held one meeting. Our second meeting was canceled due to bad weather and illness. On April 5 we will be going Fishing in the "Dark" with Sister Paula presenting the program. On April 19 Sister Gail will present a program on "Planting a Garden." We at Manchester Grange are looking forward to spring arriving early.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Apr. 7: April Fools, Refreshments D. Pollansky

Apr. 21: April Flowers, Ref. S. Williams

Note that the dates have changed due to Leap Year. We will be working on the clean up and repairs to the hall this will be the year that the exterior will be painted. We are also working on having a small fair to get the community back into our hall.

We had a successful year working with the local 4H club for meeting in our hall and are working with the Coventry Ag Committee, with their community

garden.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Apr. 9: Blossom Time

May 14: CWA Program

All our favorite cartoon characters were talked

about and enjoyed at our Feb. meeting. Mickey Mouse, Mighty Mouse, Wile E. Coyote and a host of other longtime favorites brought back childhood memories of local movie theaters we went to as kids.

Our morning meetings, followed by lunch are getting quite popular, and we welcomed another new member. We always have a lot of fun and our raffle table is always quite a hit. Come and visit.

E. Central Pomona holds clothespin contest



East Central Pomona held a clothespin contest where members could create items out of clothespins (do you remember them?). There was a tie for first place with Paula Petersen of Manchester Grange and Jon Hykes of Hillstown Grange taking the honors. Above left are some of the entries made for the contest.



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

One of our Community Grange Secretaries commented the other day that she had never received so much mail from the Central Office and that is likely very true! There have been quite a few items that have had to go out to Granges in recent months for their immediate attention.

IRS 990N E-Postcards

Until 2016, the Urban Institute operated the website used to file the 990N E-Postcards with the IRS. At the end of February that contract ended and the IRS took over those operations from UI. Unfortunately, the new system is quite different from the one we have become very familiar with. If you attempted to file your 990 in the first couple weeks of March, you may have had considerable difficulty even logging in. After talking to IRS agents about the problem, I found the problem was with their system and we would have to wait until the problems were ironed out. As of this writing, the system appears to be working and you can now file your 990's with the IRS.

NOTE: You can no longer use the log-in or passwords used with the old website. You must now register as a "New User" and provide all necessary information to create a new account. There were a few Granges who have used the State Grange user name and password to gain access to the old system

State Secretary

because of chronic problems with their own log-ins. We can no longer do this with the new system and ask that you register as a new user.

A mailing was sent out at the end of February notifying Granges that their 990 was filed or that it would need to be done by the individual Grange. If I filed for you, the receipt from the IRS was enclosed.

Music Surveys

The National Grange is evaluating the need for a "blanket" license for the use of copyrighted music. To do this, they need more information about how and when Granges use music in their activities. A survey form was sent out to each Grange with an April 1 deadline. If you have not done so already, please fill out your form and return it to me as soon as possible, regardless of whether or not you think your Grange would need a license. Your responses will be kept confidential.

Resolution #1

In response to the Pomona Roundtable Meeting held at Cheshire Grange in late February, Senexet Grange drafted and adopted a resolution. This resolution calls for the elimination of Pomona, which would be a by-law change. To consider this resolution, it must be provided to each Grange in the state at least 6 months prior to the opening of State Session. There may be additional resolutions coming from other Granges and they will be forwarded to all Granges as they come in (if they affect the by-laws).

National Grange Mutual

In the last issue we told you about National Grange Mutual's decision to end the "Shield" policies that have been provided for decades by NGM. We (the State

Grange) filed a complaint with the State Insurance Commissioner and received a finding from that office. NGM did notify the state of their intention to end the policies due to the small number of policies in force and the amount of premiums they generate. Stated simply, NGM did what was required of them and made a business decision. Please contact your local insurance agent if you have questions about your own Grange coverage.

Member Recognition

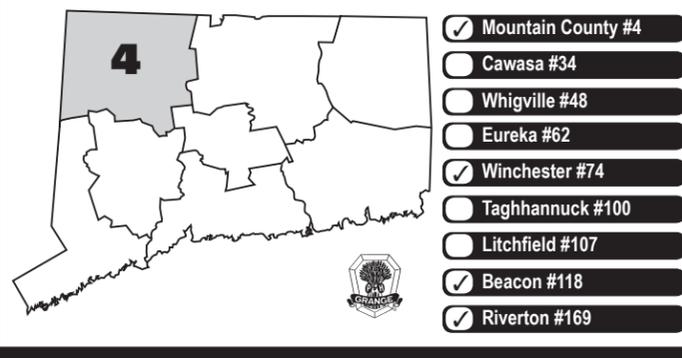
The new certificates and folders to recognize 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 year members are now available from the Central Office. They are very attractive and are provided at no charge to our Granges. Please consider taking advantage of the opportunity to recognize your members in five year increments after receiving their Silver Star Certificates. What a great way to keep members working for the good of the Order. You may use the pink order forms sent to all Granges earlier this year and just indicate the year of recognition required.

Quarterly Reports

I am pleased to report that the Quarterly Reports have been coming in much better with the implementation of the new \$25 fee for late reports. Please remember that your Quarterly Reports are due by the fifth day following the close of each quarter. For the first quarter of this year, your reports are due by April 5. The late fee will be assessed on all Granges that have not reported by April 30.

I hope all had a wonderful Easter and are looking forward to a warm and sunny spring!

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

May 9: 5th Degree at 7:30 P.M., Paid Supper at 6:00, Winchester Grange

It's been since Christmas, but Mountain County Pomona was finally able to meet again- this time on March 19 at Riverton Grange for our Day meeting. This is a meeting we moved to a Saturday two years ago, but haven't been able to hold it until now because of weather cancellations! It was a great afternoon for a meeting, delicious potluck and a great program by Lecturer Lin Ericson.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 9, beginning with a supper prepared by the members of Winchester Grange at 6:00 P.M. followed by the Degree at 7:30 P.M. Please let us know if there are candidates out there waiting to take the degree so we can be better prepared.

It was voted at the Day Meeting to eliminate the regular 5th degree conferral during October in favor of one conferral at the May meeting only. This will be voted on for the second and final time at the May meeting. Notice will be going out to each Grange in the Pomona prior to the vote.

Until next time... enjoy spring!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Apr. 12: CWA Program; Ref. Joan & Dom Campi

Apr. 26: Regular Meeting, Ref. Potluck

May 10: Just for Mom, Ref. Bill & Betty Ahrens

May 21: Tag Sale, 8-2

May 24: A. Day to Remember; Ref. Sue Kline & Bill Latulipe

June 3: Spring Super Prize Party, 6 P.M.

June 18: Iceland Affair Concert

June 19: Strawberry Festival

We can tell it's spring in Winchester Grange not by the temperature or the budding leaves and flowers but by the growing list of events and activities at the Grange.

Due to a lack of candidates

this time around, we have canceled degree conferrals in April in favor of regular meetings. The Apr. 12 meeting will feature a CWA program by chairman Shirley Lemieux.

On May 21 we will have our annual Spring Tag Sale with many items piling up at the hall already. If you would like to make a donation or are interested in maybe having your own table, please let us know- 860-307-1522 or Granger@CTStateGrange.org.

Looking ahead: There will be meetings in June but for now we are skipping over them to highlight two important and eagerly anticipated events. The first will be our Spring Super Prize Party (it's a giant country store or teacup auction) on June 3 beginning with ticket sales at 6 P.M. and the drawing will begin at 7 P.M. Then the Iceland Affair Concert will be held at the hall on the evening of June 18. Organizer Gerri Griswold has revamped the event this year to save some expense but it promises to be just as amazing as it has been the last few years. The lectures an programs that had been held at the Grange hall the last couple of years will be held at White Memorial in Litchfield during that day and then activities move to Winchester Grange for a concert of Icelandic performers that evening. It's a special event that Winchester Grange proudly sponsors each year. It's a unique event that celebrates the unique island country of Iceland.

The following day will be the annual Father's Day Strawberry Festival from 2-5 P.M. at the Grange Hall. Heaping portions of Strawberry Shortcake with homemade biscuits and whipped cream. What better way to top of a great weekend in Winchester Center?

BEACON GRANGE #118

Corr: Chuck Bezio

May 14: Spring Fling Craft Fair, 10 to 3, Crafters Wanted, \$20 per space

June 11: Community Tag Sale, 8-3, Sellers Wanted, \$15 per space

Events are held at Beacon Grange Hall, 670 Northfield Road, Route 254, Northfield, CT 06778. For more info, contact Bea at 860-733-5818.

The monthly meeting scheduled for March 4 was rescheduled to Friday, March 11 due to a scheduling conflict. The next monthly meeting will be held on April 1.

Birthdays: Chris Bezio (March 5). Chris celebrated his birthday with family and friends at Beacon Grange on March 4. Krystal Bezio also celebrated her birthday on March 10.

Get well wishes go out to Donna Krupa, our Chaplain.

We welcomed our newest Granger, Scott Ragalye of Torrington who was unanimously elected Gatekeeper.

Chuck and Jen Bezio – our new candidates are volunteering their knowledge and experience with information technology and marketing. The new candidates will become Beacon Grange's new correspondents. They announced at the next monthly meeting on April 1, they will donate to Beacon a historically valued object recently found among Jen's parents belongings. This object is rare because of its age, beauty, personal emotional connection of this Grange. This object represents a previous era or time period in human society and this Grange.

Upcoming Grange Events: Annual Picnic, Annual September Fair.

Beacon Grange is seeking new candidates to become members. If interested, contact Bea Neri, President at the number listed above. Annual dues are \$25 per year.

We are also seeking volunteers to help with spring clean up and minor maintenance.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Cindy Prelli

Apr. 1: Regular Meeting; Program – Lecturer; Ref. Akke & Dennis Jasmine

May 6: Regular Meeting; Program: CWA; Ref. CWA

Congratulations to Kitty McKee for receiving her 50-year Grange Certificate from brother Phil Prelli at our meeting on March 4. Kitty has always been ready to help when needed for duties at the grange. If you come to our grange and hear a bird singing, look for Kitty—she has quite a

repertoire of bird calls.

We hosted the Pomona meeting on March 19. It was nice to go to the meeting, have a pot-luck supper and a program and get home before dark.

Our grange is again sponsoring Dictionaries for Third Graders. These books will be given by Riverton and Winchester Granges to all the third graders in Barkhamsted, Canaan, Colebrook, Falls Village and Winchester schools. We are grateful for the \$100.00 donation to this project from the Torrington/Winsted Rotary Club. Maureen

Prelli, Rainee Pedersen and Sue Addison will be presenting the dictionaries which includes the name of each student receiving one.

As one of the projects for CWA this year, non-perishable foods will be collected and distributed to the local food bank or soup kitchen. At each meeting, there will be a box so labeled. Please bring something for those who are in need.

I hope all my crafty people are working on projects, because they need to be completed by May.

Cabin Fever in Winchester



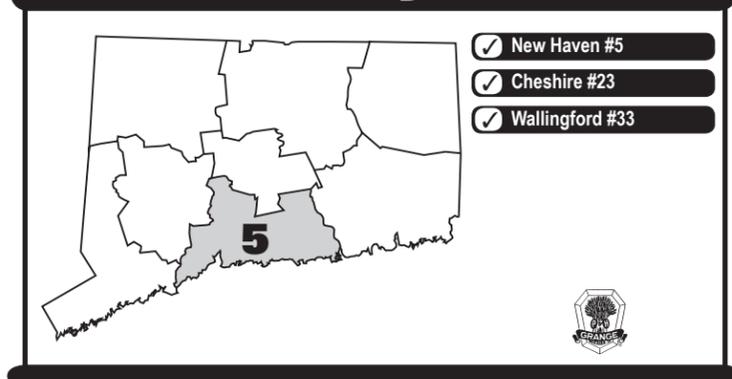
Mim Grustas (left) with Noelle Maus at the March 26 Winchester Grange Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale. Noelle won the Easter themed layer cake decorated by Sister Grustas.

Taghannuck Dictionaries



Taghannuck Grange recently presented dictionaries to students at Cornwall Consolidated School as part of their ongoing "Words for Thirds" project in area schools.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Wesle Dymoke

May 9: Fifth Degree

All meetings of New Haven County Pomona are held at Cheshire Grange Hall beginning at 7:30 P.M.

March 14 was our regular meeting with a program of talent and "A Number" contests.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Apr. 6: Ballroom Fever

Apr. 20: Awards Night

In February we hosted the State Grange Pomona Roundtable. March was a busy month with our annual Corned Beef Dinner, Monday night craft nights, food bank activity, and sending items to our troops who respond most graciously. Plans for our August fair continue, and planning is underway for two fundraising dinners in April for two local hiking clubs. Our treasury will benefit nicely. As I write this evidence of spring is with us at the moment giving us pleasant thoughts for the months ahead and renewed energy in our Grange activities.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Feb 11: Meeting was canceled.

Feb 25: "Leap Year Night" A leap is a year which an extra day is added on to the end of February (which everyone knows). The reason it's added on is because the number of days in a year is not a whole day but a fractional one or 365.242190 days to be precise. If you notice the fractional part is almost

one quarter of a day but it's just shy of one. So it goes there are special rules when applying the correction: adding a day to a leap year to be sure the correction does not get overly applied. So in order to be a leap year the year must be divisible by 100 but not by 400. This scheme also causes the vernal equinox to keep gradually shifting its date between March 19 and March 21 being shifted once every leap year and then abruptly shifted in non-leap centuries. So the year 2000 was a leap year but 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not. This year 2016 was a leap year the next leap years will be 2020 2024, 2028, 2032, 2040, 2044 and 2048. One hears about leap seconds but this not related to a leap year. A leap second is applied in order to make up for the extra time the earth takes as it spins on its axis because it's gradually slowing down. Adding this second of time keeps our time clocks in sync with the earth's spin. Some other interesting things regarding leap year: the chance to be born on a leap year is 1 in 1461. There are approximately 4.1 million people in the world who were born on February 29th.

Meetings and Events in April:

April 14: "Guest speaker from the Henry Whitfield Museum: Guilford Stone House". The Stone House in Guilford is New England's oldest house which was built in 1639. Jim is in charge of the program.

April 28: "Baking" Program: Dan. Inspection Night.

Cheshire Competitive Night



It was the Men vs. the Women at Cheshire Grange's Competitive Night held on March 16th. The Women won.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Communications Options Available

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Does your Grange have all of its communication ducks in a row, or are communications structured like a house of cards that can fall at any moment? This is a delicate subject, as most do not find issue with their practices until a situation arises and it is too late and the damage is done.

If Granges want to present a unified, professional presence to the public, the best way to begin is to centralize their communications. This means, that all means of communication are from a Grange perspective, and not from an individual member perspective. There are three main areas -- mailing address, phone number and e-mail.

It is never the best practice to use a Grange member's home address, e-mail address and phone number for official Grange communications. What if something was to happen to said member? How would other members receive phone calls, e-mails, and the USPS mail, such as bills and important letters?

This very thing happened to another organization that I belong to outside of the Grange. The President of the group died unexpectedly (after being President of the group for nearly 20 years), and his family had no care or concern whatsoever about his philanthropic interests. So when his family cleaned out his home, they literally threw out everything having to do with the organization, despite the continued pleas of members from the group. It was a nightmare for this group to have to rebuild from the ground-floor up, losing decades worth of historical information, and also not being able to access bank accounts, write checks and pay bills, access safety deposit boxes and more. This is a worst case scenario. Do not let this happen to your Grange.

This leaves the question, "how does my Grange take the steps to centralize communications without breaking the bank?"

Following are just a few examples of the tools and resources available:

Phone: Google Voice

It is a good idea to have a unique phone number for your Grange instead of using a member's home or cell phone as the primary contact number. Google Voice is the answer - and it's FREE. Yes, Google Voice is a FREE phone service. You sign up for the service and select a phone number, then associate that number with other numbers, such as work, home, mobile, etc. In the case of the Grange, for example, you can associate the number with the Secretary's mobile phone, the Lecturer's work phone and the President's home phone. Then, you set-up rules for how you want to send and receive phone calls. (ie: Calls before 5 PM go to the Secretary, calls after 5 PM go to the President, and calls on the weekend go to the Lecturer.) They call this "intelligent call forwarding." The service also has voice mail, and users can listen to and manage voice messages online, such as filing and archiving them. Voice mails and Text Messages can also be received as e-mails. Users can customize multiple greetings by caller and by group. Users can also dial out from any of their associated phones using a Web interface, and the call recipient sees the Google Voice phone number on their Caller-ID. For more information or to sign-up, visit <http://www.google.com/voice>

Mail: The US Post Office

As with phone numbers, Granges should have a centralized address for official Grange mail. If the Grange has a Hall, does the Hall have a mail receptacle? If not, a P.O. Box is the next best thing. Post Office Boxes keep members home addresses private and confidential, are efficient to separate personal mail from Grange mail avoiding mail loss, and are accessible and secure as the Grange can control who accesses the box. The cost for a P.O. Box varies by size and location, but 6-month fees start as low as \$14. You can even

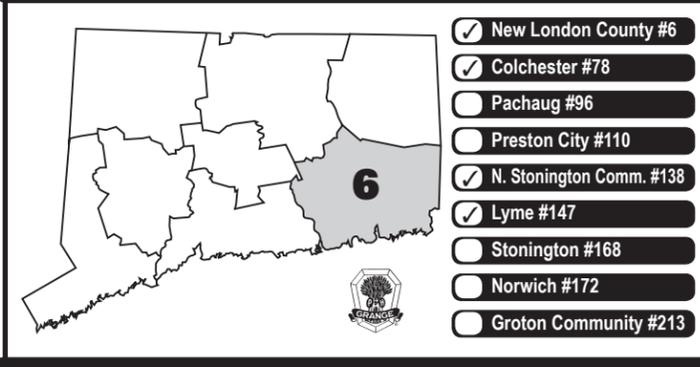
reserve your P.O. Box online by visiting <https://www.usps.com/manage/po-boxes.htm>

E-mail: Grange-specific E-mail Addresses

All CT State Grange Officers, Committees, and Community Granges have been assigned a FREE e-mail address and mailbox (ie: yourgrange@ctstategrange.org). Instructions on how to access these accounts were given to all Granges in their Public Relations Packs. Currently, nearly 100% of Officers and Committees are accessing their Grange e-mail, and approximately 1/2 of the Granges in the state are using these e-mail address periodically, if not regularly. Using a Grange-specific e-mail address supports branding of the Grange in Connecticut while providing a professional "face" to the public, the media, and also to the State Officials and Representatives. When a Grange member sends out a "Grange" e-mail, it will be taken more seriously coming from yourgrange@CTStateGrange.org than it does from hotlips@yahoo.com (I know the yahoo e-mail is an extreme example, but we actually do have some folks who have similar style e-mail addresses and use it for official Grange business.) If you are not already using your Grange e-mail, please contact information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org and we will send you access instructions. The more Granges that use their e-mail addresses, the more efficient we can communicate as a group. Plus, every e-mail sent and received saves printing and mailing a letter - thus saving in postage alone.

One of the biggest advancements available to Granges is communications technology. Specifically, tools and resources available at low or no cost, to enable Granges to centralize communications, and thus better promote themselves as a unified group, and get their name out onto the tips of everyone's tongues.

New London County Pomona No. 6



NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

May 14: Conferral of the Fifth Degree, North Stonington Grange

No meeting in April, but we will confer the Fifth Degree on Saturday, May 14th at North Stonington Grange. This is a beautiful degree. Please encourage your members to take it. And if you have already taken it, come and enjoy the storm again.

Heads up for the needlework contest to be held on June 4 at 1 at Lyme Grange. That evening we will hold election of officers and the Memorial Program.

The winter is over, we made it! We did!

Spring flowers! Warm weather! I feel like a kid!

Now turn off that TV and put down that phone.

And come to Pomona! Don't stay home alone!

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

Colchester Grange welcomed guests Ted Beebe, Master of Norwich Grange, Sste Membership, and Steward of East Central Pomona, and Lois Evankow, Lecturer of Lyme Grange, and Flora of East Central Pomona. As always we thank them for their many contributions to our Grange.

Our Easter Food Basket donations for our Veterans in Jewett City are in the process of being completed in cooperation with the Ladies Auxiliary and will be delivered a few days before Easter. Thank you to all who contributed food items and greeting cards.

We continue to support the food bank in Willimantic with utensil and plastic container donations, and volunteer at Harrington Court and Apple Rehab facilities.

A Mardis Gras Celebration at Harrington Court with Cathy Russi and Eva O'Connell making and serving beignets to the residents. Beautiful masks were given to the residents and beads were tossed out. The party was an opportunity for residents to learn about Mardi Gras feasts and traditions and was very much enjoyed. Thank you to Cathy and Eva for providing a great Mardi Gras party.

Don't forget everyone to save those dollar bills with "G's" for the State Grange to help pay for National Conventions. Also,

decorating a hat, making blueberry muffins with recipe included, and needlework crafts judging are all coming up soon.

Hope all have a nice Easter holiday. Spring is finally here!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Apr. 8: "Seize the Day"

Apr. 22: "Impress Yourself Today"

Our February meeting was held on a chilly night but the brave souls who attended were treated to a game of Musical Family Feud. The two teams found themselves stumped on many of the questions. Then Jason Miner presented a trivia game with a five-second timer that was enjoyed so much it continued downstairs during refreshments.

At our first meeting in April we will hear from Wally Neuberger from First Physical Therapy. He will advise us on ways to improve our balance and prevent falls. As we age we need to keep strong and fit. Our second April meeting will honor long-time members and our Community Citizen. We hope to see a big crowd there. And if I may divert from my usual closing, I would like to thank all who sent cards and prayers during my recent stay in the hospital and rehab. They meant so much.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

May 5: Third & Fourth Degrees, Inspection. Harvest Supper at 6:30 P.M.

May 7: We host East Central Pomona Refreshments

May 21: Sixth Annual Food and Plant Sale, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. - All Help!!

June 2: Memorial Service by the Chaplain. CWA Bake-Off. Our bluebirds of happiness, the Graces, shine tonight.

Between the snow flurries, Lyme had their March meeting. The response to the G Bill Project is going strong. Our bucket is growing by leaps and bounds.

Lyme sponsors the Lyme Cub Scout Troop each year at the blue and gold banquet. A representative from the Grange presents them with a check for \$100. They also use our hall in December to sell wreaths and Christmas trees.

It's a shame our treasurer is having serious

health problems. It's difficult to find a replacement for such an important office. We wish you well, Liz.

Our new member was given the Obligation Ceremony by Dan Mutchler. She asked if we could collect specific items, a care package, for a service person serving in a war zone, of course, it was voted to so.

Once again, Skip Beebe sang and played his guitar, a special treat.

The Agriculture Committee reported the sudden changes in temperatures is causing many problems with farmers, birds, etc. One day 70s, next

30s- a different winter this year.

It was good to return to Grange, after 18 days in the hospital and 19 in rehabilitation, I feel as if I have been paroled. Thanks to everyone who sent cards and many prayers my way. It was most appreciated. The day I left the rehab. Center I saw a flock of robins out my window. With this weird weather I hope they survived.

Hopefully, by our next meeting spring will be here in full force.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Kate Tefft

Apr. 13: A HUMOROUS TIME

Our April meeting happens to fall on Thomas Jefferson's birthday and in the middle of National Humor Month, National Frog Month, and National Garden Month. We will learn that frogs are the most rapidly disappearing animals on the planet. April 30 is Save the Frog Day.

The May program will feature limericks submitted by our members.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! No member of this Grange likes number 288 - - - it's too gross !!!!



Classic lemon squares are always a popular dessert at teas, luncheons, and showers, so how about at Grange meetings and bake sales too!. As an added bonus, you can make them ahead and freeze for up to one month. Try this Southern Living recipe today!

LUSCIOUS LEMON BARS

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour, divided
 1/2 cup powdered sugar
 1 cup cold butter, cut into pieces
 4 large eggs
 2 cups granulated sugar

1 teaspoon lemon zest
 1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
 Powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. Line bottom and sides of a 13- x 9-inch pan with heavy-duty aluminum foil or parchment paper, allowing 2 to 3 inches to extend over sides; lightly grease foil.

Stir together 2 cups flour and 1/2 cup powdered sugar. Cut in butter using a pastry blender or fork until crumbly. Press mixture onto bottom of prepared pan.

Bake at 350° for 20 to 25 minutes or until lightly browned.

Meanwhile, whisk eggs in a large bowl until smooth; whisk in granulated sugar, lemon zest, and lemon juice. Stir together baking powder and remaining 1/4 cup flour; whisk into egg mixture. Pour mixture over hot baked crust.

Bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until filling is set. Let cool in pan on a wire rack 30 minutes. Lift from pan, using foil sides as handles. Cool completely on a wire rack (about 30 minutes). Remove foil, and cut into bars; sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Source: <http://www.myrecipes.com/recipe/luscious-lemon-bars>



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

I attended the State Grange meeting about Pomona Granges in late February and got to see lots of friends. Then I was in attendance at Ag Day at the Capital. I got to see Governor Malloy when he stopped by the CT State Grange booth, and also greeted many others who took the time to say hello.

Be sure to follow me on Facebook to keep track of all of my adventures. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Say Hello if you see me around the State!

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Excelsior #7
- Beacon Valley #103
- Bethlehem #121
- Prospect #144
- Bridgewater #153
- Wolcott #173
- Oxford #194



BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Cindy Legg

Our April 8 meeting is entitled "Easter Parade." Joanne and JoAnn are in charge of refreshments.

Saturdays in April will be busy for us. On the 2nd we will be having a BINGO at 2:00. On the 9th we will be hosting the S. CT Past Master (Installation of Officers). On the 16th will be a Craft Fair and on the 23rd an Open Mic.

We hope you can join us for any or all of our events.

We are also holding a "Can and Bottle Drive" throughout the spring. If you would like information on any of our events, please call Joanne at (203) 754-5863 or Cindy at (203) 632-5532.

Spring has sprung which means baseball season is finally here. So go out and root for your favorite team and enjoy the warm weather.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Dates: Regular meetings at 7:30 PM or as noted if otherwise.

Apr. 1: Meeting-The chili cook-off has been moved to either the 16th or 23rd, stay posted.

Apr. 11: Open Mic at 7:00, sign in is 6:30 PM for performers.

Apr. 15: Fiscal Follies

Apr. 30: Chili Cook Off, 6 P.M. Tickets can be purchased for \$7.00

It has been an uneventful winter for Oxford Grange,

and we are looking forward to the spring. We have been doing well with the Open Mic program, except where winter weather forced us to cancel. We are gathering up a group of regulars who come to share their talent. Please join us, Grangers and friends, to have a fun evening. There are always pizza and snacks.

Over the winter, we lost a Golden Sheaf member, Florence Fadden. She hadn't attended in a while, but I did have the opportunity to meet her a few years back at one of our social gatherings. She was a wonderful lady.

We are looking forward to participating in the May 20-22 Cultural Arts Committee Festival of Arts, Culture, and Entertainment (FACE). Several of our members hold positions of power and influence on that committee (they run the festival). The opening reception will be 6:00 PM Friday the 22nd at Town Hall. We want to try to put on some kind of skit or small production that will highlight what the Grange is and does on Saturday in the Grange Hall.

Over the winter, some painting and other work has been done in the hall. I want to thank Martin Earley and anyone else involved with this for sprucing the place up!

Oxford Open Mic



Oxford Grange held an Open Mic Night on March 14. Thanks to the photographic efforts of Martin Earley. Playing for us that night we had: Martin, Ray, Ron, Greg, Jack, Marty, and Randy. It was a great show. The next Open Mic is on April 11th.

The Auld Acquaintance Program



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Does your Grange participate in our "Auld Acquaintance" Program. This program was begun back in the late 1960's by Rita Whipple. I can't even imagine how much sunshine we, as Grangers, have brought into the lives of the residents of convalescent, nursing and rest homes during the last 50 plus years that we have held this program. A simple phone call to your local home is

all it takes to get started. Like to have a coffee group or other get-together? Why not make tray or table favors to put a smile on the faces of those who live in one of these homes. Have more time and some talent. Why not put on a program for them or offer to write letters for those who can't do it for themselves. The personnel at your local home can suggest what is most needed by their people.

Does your hall get used by other groups? Why not put out a box to collect items to send to our service men and women who are serving in harms' way. The need is greater than ever. Many people are tired of hearing about Afghanistan and all the problems in the Middle East. With this, private support is

down. Commissaries and Exchanges are not being stocked as well as they were when more troops were overseas. Females are having an especially hard time finding item they need for personal hygiene. Healthy snacks that can be shoved in a pocket when the troops go out on patrol are a favorite. If your Grange needs help in finding someone to send to or you need more information on what is needed, restrictions on what you can send or just help in general, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always glad to help.

Now that warm weather is here I hope to hear about better attendance at your meetings.

See you around the State.



Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director

cwa@ctstategrange.org

Try the Baking Contest

Spring has come early and is more than welcome. Newly budding roses should help inspire you in the craft contest, so keep in mind that roses are the theme this year. Don't forget to get your special blueberry muffin recipe out and try it as part of your Grange meeting refreshments. It makes my mouth water just thinking about it. Hope to see you around the State.



Mardis Gras comes to Colchester



By Catherine Russi, Colchester Grange #78

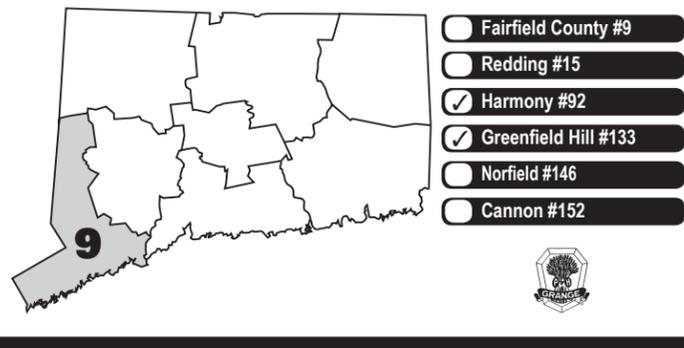
Mardi Gras Party at Harrington Court: Members of Colchester Grange #78 introduced the traditions and history of the celebrated season leading to "Fat Tuesday" Mardi Gras. The room was decorated in the traditional colors of the season. The colors for the season are purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power.

Each year, the Mardi Gras (or Carnival) season starts on January 6th. There are many parades every night starting two Fridays before Mardi Gras. Residents were given mask and encouraged to be vocal and yell out "throw me something Mr." That is the call for beads to be thrown from floats to those calling. Grange member tossed beads to the residents who were very eager to receive them.

The party gave the opportunity for residents to learn about how people feast on Mardi Gras traditions serving wonderful foods such as gumbo, banana foster, chicken etouffee, pralines and king cakes. The group learned how a little plastic baby is hidden in the king cake and the person finding the baby will have to host the next year's party. Grange members cooked and served beignets. Everyone enjoyed the special dough mix fried and covered with confectioners sugar.

Enclosed is a picture of Eva O'Connell (Grange Member) serving beignets to a few members attending. Viola, Bev and Bob enjoyed the special treat that the others also enjoyed. The party served about 20 residents residing at Harrington Court in Colchester.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

Apr. 8: Regular Meeting, Refreshments at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30. Lecturer's program to be announced later.

Our 70 plus years member, Gertrude Wilson was in Bridgeport Hospital for several days last month but I am glad to report she is back in Lord Chamberlain Nursing and Rehab. Center. I am sure get well and/or thinking of you cards would be appreciated. Her address is: Lord Chamberlain Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 7003 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06614. c/o Gertrude Wilson.

Our Lecturer resigned and was elected Secretary. Until we elect a Lecturer, we will attempt to have guest speakers for our programs. For our February meeting, we had as our speaker, Marge Bernhardt, Lecturer for the Connecticut State Grange. She spoke on the duties and who can be a Lecturer and the type of programs we need at our meetings.

As reported last month, we have postponed our 125th anniversary from April to this fall, probably in the month of September. Although we are continuing our planning for the anniversary, we are also planning for our Spring Tag and Antique Sale in May and our Agricultural Fair, scheduled for August 13. More to be forthcoming in issues of the Granger.

Harmony Grange hosted Fairfield County Pomona Grange #92 on March 2. I

attended the special Pomona meeting at Cheshire Grange Hall on February 28.

We are glad the weather is more like Spring than Winter. For this part of the State, we have had a mild winter so far.

We welcome all to our hall and to our meetings. We suggest you call ahead to be sure the meeting is being held.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Apr. 16: From the Attic and More; Sale 10 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Apr. 18: Earth Day & Arbor Day – Planting a Tree, Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Apr. 23: Hungarian Dinner, 6 P.M. Dinner, Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.

May 16: Connecticut Preservation Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

As Spring approaches, two sweeteners come into focus, honey and maple sugaring. In our area there are active beekeepers and who are involved in small scale tapping of sugar maple trees. Among these are our own community Grange and Pomona members!

Contact Steve Golias at 203-367-4373 for space at the April 16th sale. Meanwhile Cindy Wakeman-D'Andrea has details and is taking reservations for the Hungarian Dinner. She may be contacted at 203-243-1887. She also coordinates the future Junior Grange.

Our annual Fair is scheduled for Aug. 27th; all are welcome to meetings and activities.

Norfield Cider Event



Our MarchFest event was held on March 11, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Norfield Grange. Master crafter and cider enthusiast Mike Zegers of Weston shared his personal hard cider recipe and insights, and walked the group through all the steps of making hard cider. The group enjoyed appetizers, cider cheer, and tunes, and received a souvenir glass.

The gang's all here!



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

"Hail! Hail! The gang's all here." That will be our song as we enjoy our spring social event. But we can't sing if you don't come.

The title of our theme is "Teamwork." Don't worry about the teams. We will take care of that.

The evening will start with a typical Saturday evening supper – soup, sandwich and dessert. The one thing different is that we will be enjoying it with our Brother and Sister Grangers. Supper will be served at 6:00 for the low price of \$5.00. tickets can be obtained from: Cindy Charbonneau of Central Pomona; Jody Cameron of Quinebaug Pomona, Edith Schoell of East Central Pomona; Todd Gelineau of Mountain County Pomona; Marge Bernhardt of New Haven

County Pomona; Debbie Barnes of New London County Pomona; Barbara Robert of Excelsior Pomona and Marge Sendewicz of New London County Pomona or you can just call me.

We will also have a Country Store to help defray the cost of the evening.

Any donations to our supper or Country Store will be appreciated.

I almost forgot – this will be held at Cheshire Grange and the date is Saturday, May 21, 2016.

Past Deputies to Meet

The spring meeting of the Past Deputies' Association of the Connecticut State Grange will be held on Sunday, April 17 beginning with a social hour at 2:00 P.M., followed by a 3:00 P.M. meeting at Cheshire Grange Hall.

S. CT Past Masters Assoc.

The April meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at Beacon Valley Grange on April 9th. The evening starts with a potluck supper served promptly at 6:30 P.M. The meeting starts following supper and the doing of the dishes.

This will be our annual Installation of Officers. Come and enjoy the evening. Everyone is welcome.

April is Grange Month

It's here! That most wonderful month, April – Grange Month! Time for us to celebrate the greatest organization, The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. We have a proud history of supporting, educating, advocating, and sometimes fighting for rural Americans.

This year we are recognizing 149 years of the Grange's working for access for rural citizens. Our history is all about access—to markets, to electricity, to telephone, to mail delivery service, to land grant research, and today to broadband service.

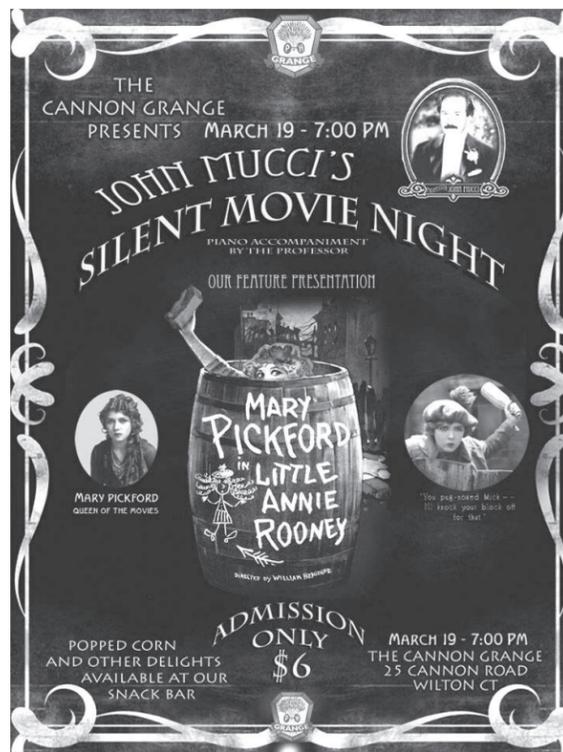
We are promoting a big effort this year to expand broadband to all areas of the U.S. so rural residents can have equal access to business opportunity, medical care, and education. When you plan your Grange Month Open House, consider inviting a speaker on broadband and inviting the public to learn about the possibilities it would open up for your region. Speakers may be found from local government, emergency services, cable/internet providers, teachers, medical professionals, etc. If broadband service is lacking in your area, provide a petition that attendees can sign to indicate their interest in bringing the service to them. This issue may be one that will attract new members to your Grange to join the effort.

The Grange has always been an advocate for access for rural America. Let's continue the fight this year and bring 21st century communication to all our citizens!

Fraternally,

Betsy E. Huber, Master, The National Grange

Mary Pickford comes to Cannon



Wilton's Cannon Grange hosted a Special Silent Movie Night on March 19th.

LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY

It was a treat to show a terrific comedy/action drama from Mary Pickford, with plenty of your favorite Irish melodies that accompanied it!

Little Annie Rooney, based on the 19th century music-hall song, was one of Mary Pickford's most successful films. She wrote it herself, knowing that her audience wanted to see her as a feisty young woman who could fight with the best of them and win the day, overcoming any obstacle.

The climax of the film is funny and heartbreaking at once, and you can see why Mary was deemed America's Sweetheart, as she brings the story back to a comedy again in the end.

John Mucci accompanied the film, and helped to make it as entertaining and exciting as possible. For this special St. Patrick's Day showing, he also played a whole host of Irish songs as a sing-a-long.

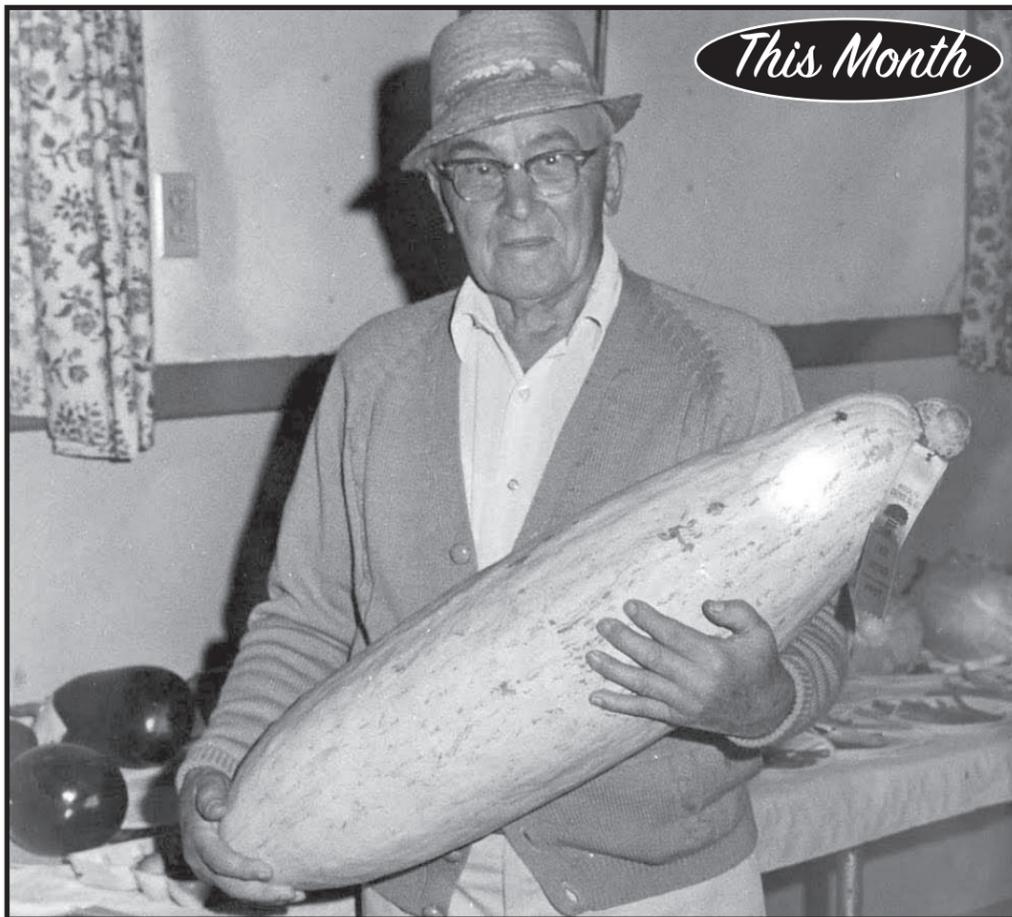
WINDOW TO THE PAST

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 heard from Janet Haller with the answer to the March Window photo. She located the photo from the October 1977 issue of the CT Granger. The caption for the original photo was "Smith Brothers - Charles C and Arthur E, Metichewan 190, Pomona 10." There was also an article in the issue written by Alice Smith that spoke of the numerous awards that were presented that same day. Charles presented Arthur with his Golden Sheaf. There were 6 additional 25 year certificates presented, as well as acknowledging two Golden Sheaf members not present - Marian Richardson and Wric Carlson.

We also heard from Forrest Smith from Bridgewater Grange who is now living in San Diego, California, with answers to the March photo. He said that Charles Smith (M) was a very active and dedicated member along with his wife, while Arthur (Ted) Smith held various offices. He also confirmed that they both were members of Metichewan Grange.

Then we heard from Patti Ricketts with a guess on the February Window photo. Patti said that she thinks the photo was a skit from one of the Lecturer's Conferences held in the 1970s. She thinks the man in the middle belonged to Cheshire Grange, but she does not remember his name. She said that both ladies look familiar, but could not give us any names.



Mangia! Mangia!



Mangia! Mangia! Love and PASTA were "in the air" at the Greenfield Hill Grange #133 on Valentine's Day. The room was filled as many people came out to support the Grange and enjoy friendship and food. The featured menu was spaghetti, meatballs, and sausage, complete with delicious Antipasto.

National Visa Program to End



UMB Bank will be terminating the National Grange Visa Platinum credit card program effective May 1, 2016.

What does this mean to Grange cardholders?

Cardholders will continue to be serviced in the same way that they always have been. This spring, around the program termination date, each cardholder will receive a letter notifying them the card program that they are currently participating in is ending and they are being transferred to a UMB branded card. The letter will outline any changes to their program and rewards program. Cardholders are directed to contact the call center with any questions. Of course they will also have the option to close their account with the call center directly or using traditional channels should they choose to do so.

Thank you,
National Grange

There's A Tool...

By Maggie Buck, State Membership Comm.

There is a tool in the grange. It is scattered about the State. Many meetings are held in support of the tool. There is much talk about the tool, the use for it, the rules around it and the need for the tool. In the meetings there is a fair amount of fun for some. There are those who see friends, play some games, make some plans and have a bite to eat. For others the meetings are not so fun. There are rules to abide by, requirements to fulfill and duties that are often unable to be completed. But one thing neither group does is use the tool. No, the tool sits idly by on a shelf as though it needs to be preserved for another day or another time. Should one suggest that the tool be taken down and used according to its purpose, there emits a loud howling and knashing of the teeth. Who, but who would be available to do the work? We all have so much other work to do, so many other tools to keep. We want to give the tool away. Yet others say but no, no, we must keep the tool, we must, we must. We have always had the tool, someone, someone should just make someone else use the tool. I keep the tool, I keep it polished, I maintain the tool, someone, someone else should use the tool. That tool, is the Pomona Granges in Connecticut.

Lifeline program changes of great concern to Rural America

Betsy Huber, National Grange President

Major portions of rural America have no access to broadband. Fewer than one in five Americans (17 percent) can't access what the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines as broadband, but that level is three times higher - a whopping 53% - when it comes to rural America. And what about those parts of rural America with broadband access? According to the 2015 State of the Internet Report, the average connection speed in many rural areas is slower than those in Estonia, Uruguay, and Thailand.

That's why the millions of us who live in rural America can muster no more than two cheers for the Lifeline Reform plan recently drafted by the FCC that shifts the focus of the federal Lifeline program to broadband. It's a good move that makes sense in the long term, but it doesn't have to be done with such haste that it severs the wireless Lifeline now helping millions of low-income residents in rural America.

The problem is that the FCC timetable for shifting Lifeline from a wireless focus to "broadband only" is out of sync with the reality of the availability of adequate broadband in rural America. The FCC wants to start a phase out of wireless Lifeline almost immediately and then hang up on it altogether in 2019. After that, Lifeline would only subsidize broadband and landline phone service.

That's the wrong timetable for rural America. The FCC's own data show that as many as 22 million rural Americans lack access to connections to broadband at download speeds of 25 megabits per second (mbps). The Commission also has reported that one in five rural Americans lacks access at the even slower speeds of 4 mbps. The access gap is even worse for people living on Native American tribal lands, where the lack of access surges to 63 percent.

While there is much to admire in the FCC's plan for a \$9.25-a-month subsidy focused over time on broadband, the truth is that it probably won't result in one new mile of broadband cabling in rural America. All signs are that our communities of non-urban areas will lag for decades when it comes to access to essential broadband. The

FCC knows this and so the unfortunate appearance is that the Commission's current Lifeline reform plan is a calculated slight to rural concerns.

In less than 45 months the current wireless Lifeline service will vanish. For rural Americans who have no way to use a broadband subsidy, the demise of Lifeline by 2019 will mean that they are effectively cut out of the program. Their only sin: living in rural America.

To make matters even worse for those living in rural America, the FCC wants to impose minimum standards on wireless Lifeline that almost certainly would force a co-pay arrangement for subscribers. This would make participation in the program burdensome, if not completely unaffordable, for many low-income rural

dwellers. Many of the poorest people with the least access to help live in rural America, these are not consumers who will be able to continue using Lifeline if they have to pony up cash that they just don't have.

By phasing out wireless Lifeline and offering only a broadband program they can't access, rural Americans will not be helped by Lifeline reform. Instead, will we rural Americans become the first and perhaps largest group of disconnected victims of the reforms? I ask the FCC: What good is Lifeline reform in rural America if broadband is not available now and you are killing wireless service?

Let us know if you've personally experienced difficulties with access to internet broadband and high speed connectivity.

Lifeline explained...

Since 1985, the Lifeline program has provided a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that phone service brings.

The Lifeline discount on monthly telephone service is currently \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers. Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a discount on both services at the same time. Federal rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household.

Use the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at www.lifelinesupport.org to find out if you are eligible.

The FCC is considering a proposal from Chairman Tom Wheeler and Commissioner Mignon Clyburn to modernize the Lifeline program to provide affordable broadband for low-income Americans.

This article was re-printed from the FCC website and was last updated on March 14, 2016.

Prospect Grange



Prospect Grange members delivering Irish crafts, Easter favors and Birthday cards and visiting with the patients at the Paradigm Health Center.

In Memoriam

George W. Bloom
Irving Armstrong

Ekonk Comm. #89
Bethlehem #121

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

Fifty Days of Easter

Charles W. Dimmick, State Chaplain



It has occurred to me that some of us are cheating ourselves by taking only one day out of the year to celebrate Easter. After all, we take several weeks to celebrate Christmas, and from a spiritual standpoint Easter is considerably more important than Christmas. Jesus' rising from the dead on Easter morning is the defining essence of Christianity. It may be argued that every Sunday is a little Easter in that it is a celebration of the resurrection, but how many of us remember that. From about the

third century until 1647 Easter was a season, not just a single day. The Easter Season went from sunset the day before Easter until the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter Day. But in 1647 the English Parliament, newly re-established after the victory of Cromwell's Puritans in the English Civil War, abolished both Christmas and Easter, declaring them to be based on pagan festivals and not part of true Christianity. Several other groups, most notably the Calvinists [later to become Presbyterians], the Quakers, and the Anabaptists [now represented by Amish and the Mennonites], also rejected Easter about this same time. But gradually celebration of Easter crept back into most of those groups. New England Congregationalists are the heirs of the Puritans, and they certainly celebrate Easter, as do modern Presbyterians. Even the Amish and Mennonites now celebrate Easter, although they don't make a big fuss over it. Through all of these changes the Orthodox churches, the Roman Catholics, the Anglicans [including the Episcopal Church] and the Lutheran churches continued to recognize both Easter Day and the fifty days of Eastertide.

My own personal opinion [and I most certainly don't want to force my opinions on anyone else] is that, firstly, every day is a day of the Lord and should be dedicated to His worship, and secondly, that it is fitting to focus attention at different times of the year on various aspects of Jesus' life and ministry and on various wondrous acts of God. Thus, it is appropriate to take time for fifty days out of the year to reflect on Jesus' death and resurrection and on our own baptism into the faith, as well as to explore the "mysteries" of our faith. Remember that by Jesus' death and resurrection we are assured of salvation from death for each of us. Remember also Jesus' promise to the disciples: "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." Surely we should take more than just one day of the year to meditate on such a promise.

Granger Address Changes

Name: _____

Grange: _____ No. _____

OLD ADDRESS:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

NEW ADDRESS:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please clip and mail to:

**Connecticut Granger, P.O. Box 1393,
Glastonbury, CT 06033**

or email: Granger@CTStateGrange.org