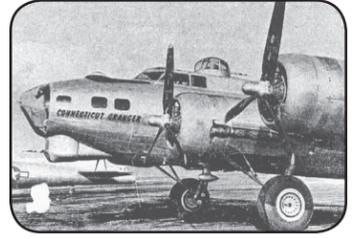




Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

DECEMBER 2018

State President



George Russell
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

The elections are over and we have elected a new Governor and Lieutenant Governor and now they will be putting together the heads of departments. I wonder who will be the next Commissioner of Agriculture in Connecticut. Will the current commissioner, Steven K. Reviczky be re-appointed or will another be appointed? We'll have to wait and see. We as Grangers need to watch and make sure the Department of Agriculture is not put into another agency. We must keep this department its own entity with its own Commissioner. We should also watch that the staff in the Dept. of Agriculture is not cut and we need the livestock and milk inspectors in the field to help the farmers. Our legislative committee will be watching and lobbying against these changes they are proposing.

The new Pomona Granges seem to be well-established and are all planning meetings for December. Try to get out to your Pomona meetings and visit one of the other two Pomona meetings in our state. I have heard the attendance at our Pomona meetings have been good but could always use a few more.

At the state level, the committees seem to be getting together and putting together their plans for the upcoming year. The CWA has already planned their three regional Pomona

meetings for November and I hope they were all well attended. The Legislative Committee has planned to meet on December 10 at the Grange office. They will put together their legislative program. I know the agriculture committee has some new ideas for the coming year. I have added more members to the Youth Committee, they are Melissa Coleman from Riverton Grange and Jaimie Cameron from Ekonk Grange.

We are also working on putting together a program for the Northeast Leadership Conference which will be held in Connecticut in 2019. We are planning on holding the conference on March 29-30 at the Holiday Inn Norwich in Norwich, CT. We will be starting at 7:00 P.M. on Friday evening and on Saturday the time will be announced. On Saturday evening there will be a banquet. We would like to have this conference open to all Grange members to attend so try to keep this date open. There will be more information on this conference in the coming months.

Sharon and I just returned from the National Grange convention held in Stowe, Vermont. Sharon and I were busy working on committees and attending the sessions. Sharon was on the Education and Health Committee and I served on the Conservation Committee working on resolutions that were brought up on the floor during the session. We will have more about the National Convention in next month's issue of the Granger.

Sharon and I would like to wish all our Brothers and Sisters a safe and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year to all our members and friends.

2019 Legislative Priorities



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

At this past National Grange Session our National President, Betsy Huber, presented her Masters Address. She highlighted the National Grange's past accomplishments and presented the top priorities for the coming year.

One is the Farm Bill. There was hopes that this bill would be finished by now but progress has stalled. The Senate and House Agricultural Committees have been working hard compromising between the House and Senate bills but it has not been brought to a vote. We can hope that the lame duck session can pass it before the end of the year.

Another initiative that the Grange is venturing into is the definition of milk. The USDA has defined 'milk' but they have not been enforcing it. The definition of milk was one of our resolutions in the 2016 session that we passed on to National Grange. This also made us think of another area that may need defining. How are they going to define laboratory created meat?

In the dairy area the National Grange is fighting for better dairy prices for farmers. This is especially important in the Northeast area as our

dairy farms cannot produce milk at the same costs as the larger dairy farms in the Midwest.

Healthcare and Medicare is another topic that the National Grange is closely watching. They are concerned about drug pricing, availability of medical services, affordable medical insurance and the closing of rural hospitals. In Connecticut there have been two hospitals that I am aware of that were bought up by a larger medical corporation and the local hospital services have been reduced greatly. Connecticut did pass on a resolution to the National Grange addressing a discovered loophole where Medicare was declining convalescent home care for Medicare patients as they were never "admitted" to the hospitals. Hospitals have been putting these patients in "observation status" which does not meet the requirements for covered continued care after leaving the hospital. This resolution was passed at National Grange with minor revisions.

The National Grange is also monitoring immigration reform. They want to make sure that there are adequate agricultural workers available for the farming community. One recommendation is the reduction of paperwork that the farmers have to prepare to permit them to use immigrant workers.

The most important thing that we as Grangers can do is become more involved with our local communities and in local issues.

You're Invited...

Bethlehem Grange is hosting a reception for State Master George Russell on Sunday, December 9 from 1 to 3 P.M. at Memorial Hall in Bethlehem, 1 The Green, Main Street, Bethlehem, CT. The Subordinate Granges in Mountain Laurel Pomona have been asked to provide the refreshments and Bethlehem will provide the beverages and paper goods.



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

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**NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due Dec. 15**

So. CT Past Masters

The December meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at Beacon Valley Grange on Saturday, December 8th. Social hour at 6:00 and supper time is 6:30 P.M.

The program is in the charge of Vice President Cindy Legg and is entitled "Happy Christmas." Those who would like to participate should bring a \$3.00 grab bag gift.

Robert Buck, President will preside over the meeting which starts as soon as the dishes are done.

As always we will have a country store. Visitors are always welcome.



Never Assume... Plan Ahead and Delegate

Terri Fassio,
Public Rel. Co-Director

When your Grange decides to hold an event, how does the work actually get done? The event doesn't plan or promote itself, so that means that somewhere along the way, members (or in some cases a single member) takes the bull by the horns and makes sure that the work is done and that the event goes off without a hitch.

How many times has your Grange decided to hold an event, waited until the last minute to promote it, and then wondered why it was not in the newspaper and no one from the community was attending? It's easy to get caught up in thinking about the work that needs to be completed today, and not think about what needs to be completed tomorrow and the outcome if those pieces are rushed or forgotten about all together.

Planning is one of the most important functions when promoting your Grange, its events and

projects and yet it remains the single most neglected function in all of public relations.

Take a look at the mission and vision of your Grange. What successes and failures has your Grange experienced historically? Maybe you've had a very successful community concert, but not as successful Neighbor's Night.

Evaluate what has worked in the past and make a list of those successes. Examine the challenges and note what improvements can be made for the future. Was planning done in advance, or was it rushed? Were the promotions prepared from the start, or submitted at the last minute?

Implementation and execution are important. A good place to start once your Grange has decided on an event or project is to establish a timeline, and post it for all involved to follow. Note important dates along the way, and do not miss them.

Never assume.

Remember that members do have jobs, family responsibilities and a life outside of the Grange, and may not be able to devote all of their time to working on Grange events. Be prepared, and be flexible. Delegate specific tasks, so that one or two people, or a small group, are not responsible for all the pieces. Plus, it's never wrong to ask for assistance when the tasks at hand seem overwhelming. Planning ahead saves time and money in the long run. Member burn-out is no longer an issue because you're working smarter when more people are involved. Many hands make lighter work. Remember to communicate your level of success to everyone involved and thank them for their help.

You'll find that once you're Grange planning is orderly and organized, you'll wonder how your Grange ever accomplished its goals with the old chaotic approach. Planning ahead pays off with an improved bottom line, new members, and enthused existing members and volunteers - and that's what success is all about.

Love for Lillian



Lillian Sharpe

Todd A. Gelineau, CSG Foundation Secretary

Since the last issue, the Connecticut State Grange Foundation has received many donations to the Love for Lillian Fund. We sincerely thank you! We also thank the members from around the country who donated at the National Grange Convention in Vermont.

We have learned that Lillian has returned home from Boston and travels back each day for treatment.

We received a note from the family saying...

"Thank you so much for your donation to our family to assist with travel and medical expenses to get Lilly through her battle with leukemia. Her Grange family has been so very supportive and we are blessed to have so many people that care for her.

Thank you for the support and prayers ~
Nicholas, Deborah, Lilly and Russell Sharpe"

The Connecticut State Grange Foundation will continue to accept donations to the fund. Please make checks payable to: Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033. On the memo line, please write "Love for Lillian" and we will make sure 100% of the donation will go to the Sharpe family. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law and will be acknowledged with a 501(c)3 letter for tax filing purposes.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION



HOW ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS DOING?

6.9 MILLION RURAL AMERICANS LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

15% OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLE WITH FOOD SECURITY

GRANGE values

This ad was produced by the National Grange as part of our public service announcement series. This ad may be replicated so long as the Grange Values logo appears.

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or Todd Gelineau, Editor
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Granger@CTStateGrange.org

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President/Editor Todd A. Gelineau
Vice President Terri Fassio
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

Quilts of Valor presented in Stowe, Vermont



Twenty members were awarded Quilts of Valor on Wednesday night of National Convention. Among them was Connecticut's F. Philip Prelli (pictured back row, third from right). Lincoln Cooper (from CT) is pictured far left.

2018 Quilts of Valor Recipients

Hiram Allen (VT) Army	1956-58	Alma "Heidi" Heidenreich (NY) Army	1968-92
Harold Bergeron (VT) Army	1943-46	Richard Henry (MA) Army NG	1961-67
Roger Bostwick (KS) Army NG	1979-85	Darrell Huff (ME) Air Force	1966-69
Lincoln Cooper (CT) Coast Guard.	1963-67	Peter Ivers (ME) Army	1967-72
John Cotrell III (RI) Army	1965-67	Stephen Logan (RI) Coast Guard Res.	1965-68
Lester Gibbs (VT) Army	1958-81	James Martin Jr. (MA) Army	1954-62
Douglas Hall (MA) Army	1977-84	William Overstreet III (TX) Coast Guard.	1979-2009
Richard Harriman Jr. (ME) Army.	1966-69	F. Philip Prelli (CT) Army Res.	1970-76
Thomas Hebelsen (NY) Navy Res., Army NG.	1963-76, 1980-2005	Laurence Thompson (VT) Navy	1966-74, 1975-89
		Robert Trombi (NH) Army	1978-99

A paperless convention

by Loretta Nieto, National Communication Fellow

The Grange is facing modern-day challenges from changing paper copies to electronic cloud-based editing.

But many delegates to the 152nd Annual National Convention are up for the challenge.

Last year, delegates passed a resolution that asked the board to investigate going "paperless" at upcoming National Sessions.

The resolution, from New Hampshire, inspired a movement this year with beta testers using a cloud-based system for sharing all resolutions and policy documents throughout the week that will allow delegates participating in the pilot to see final versions immediately without waiting for printed copies of amended resolutions and other items to be handed out.

New Hampshire State Grange Master Christopher Heath said his state sent forward the resolution of going paperless.

"In my opinion, the National leadership needs to make changes that better suit the delegate body," Heath said.

Earlier in 2018, National Grange President Betsy Huber asked delegates and officers to let her know if they were willing to be part of the beta test group and 11 delegates agreed.

"For so many years there had been complaints about how much paper was being used," she said. After 11 delegates agreed via

email to try the paperless resolution nine more delegates agreed to try it as well, Huber said.

Burton Eller, National Legislative Director, said the process will not leave those without computers or "who do not feel comfortable going electronic with these documents" out.

Huber said the move is good for the organization during annual sessions.

"I feel that the delegates who volunteered to try the paperless resolution will find it fairly easy to manage using the electronic version," Huber said.

Eller hopes one day each delegate and officer attending will have access to an electronic device to help them sufficiently get through this process.

Jimmy Taylor who is the longest serving delegate to the convention, having begun service in 1991 when he became Virginia State Grange Master, said he "never thought that we would reach this point in modern times" and feels that using technology is a very smart choice for various reasons.

"Delegates should not be frightened to use the electronic versions because they are fairly simple to work with," Taylor said.

Eller said he hopes this will lead to more smooth workflow and better time management at future conventions.

by Paul Hyland, National Grange Communications Fellow

On Wednesday night, 20 veterans from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, were given a very special award, a Quilt of Valor.

Though these were made just of fabric, they were sewn with love and devotion by Grange members who appreciate the service and sacrifice of those veterans.

This was the second time Grange veterans were recognized in a formal program as part of session with Quilts of Valor, the first happening last year at the 151st Annual Session in Spokane, WA where 10 veterans were honored.

In both years a single female recipient was given a standing ovation by the pack room of attendees, however Harold Bergeron, a 103-year-old World War II veteran stole the show and received special honors as each other Quilt of Valor recipient shook his hand as they came up to receive their award.

Bergeron, a recipient of the French Legion of Honor Medal, proudly looked on as National Lecturer Chris Hamp told the audience of his heroism.

When a torpedo hit Bergeron's ship in 1944, the list of men in his platoon and his amazing memory were the only things that led to the recreation of a roster of those lost in the tragedy in which more than 800 men were lost.

Alma Jean Heidenreich, also known as Heidi, served for three years of active duty, then joined the Reserves, then National guard and served National Guard and served continuously from 1968-92.

When asked why she joined, she joked, "Well when I was in elementary school I always wanted to wear a uniform because wearing the same thing every day was a nice thing."

The Quilts of Valor honor was something National Grange Lecturer Chris Hamp thought was an appropriate addition to programming for our Order after seeing the impact the presentation of a quilt had on her father who was honored at his home.

At that time, Hamp began working with the Quilts of Valor Foundation to forge a partnership between the two very patriotic organizations, and that joint effort is called Under our Wings.

The first Quilt of Valor was presented at Walter Reed Hospital in 2003 to a young soldier who had served in Iraq and had lost a leg.

To date, the Foundation has presented more than 202,000 quilts, growing from a single dream of a mother and has touched millions since its inception.

Today, the Grange is proud to be a partner and honor those in our fraternity for their military service and love of this nation.

After Lynn Carrier, the Vermont State Coordinator for the Quilts of Valor Foundation, was thanked by a Veteran, she said "No, we're thanking you."



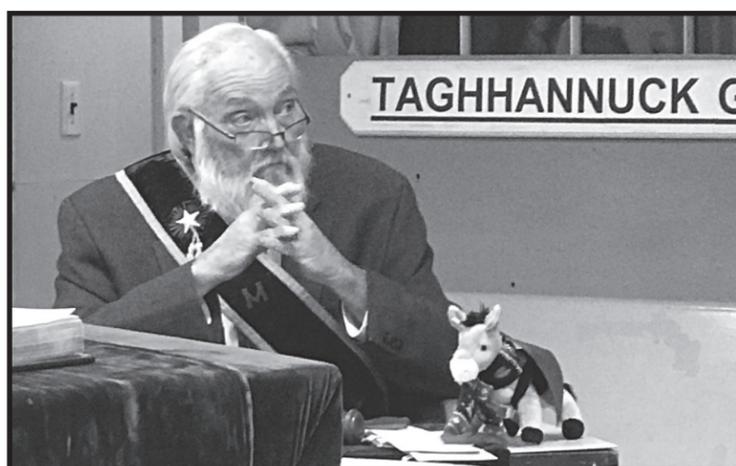
View

Hank the Burro from Connecticut is part of this year's transportation committee. Dressed for the weather, he is a great greeter for Grangers as they arrive in Vermont.

Hello Grange friends!

It was great to see all of my Grange friends and Herd members at National Grange Session in Vermont! I even made the front page of the Patron's Chain - the daily newsletter of the National Session, and there was a spotlight article on me too! My new caretakers - George and Sharon Russell, tell me we'll be going on some fun Grange adventures, and I can't wait.

Please take a minute to follow the link to my Facebook page, and click the "Like" button while you are too, then you can follow us on our Grange adventures through the holidays and into the new year. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



Hank visits with Mountain Laurel Master Peter Keefe at the December Pomona meeting.

Membership Moment



Faith Quinlan
Membership Director
membership@ctstategrange.org

Recently I experienced something with another Grange member that makes me want to share this message with all of you.

Sometimes in an organization there are stronger and more outspoken members. Those members can be very useful in certain scenarios that present themselves within a meeting or event. If you know yourself to be one of these people, I ask that you use that confidence and ability to speak in front of groups to support the quieter members. Some of the most soft spoken members have great ideas or ask questions that are important to the order.

Our society favors extroverts but quiet people have things to say too.

There are studies that have shown that "psychological safety" can make or break a team. People want to feel safe to express their opinions without the fear of being judged by others. This notion applies to any team and these teams must provide a safe space for everyone to speak up. This concept is defined as, "When team members are motivated at work and want to share an idea for improving performance, they frequently do not speak up because they fear that they will be harshly judged. When psychological safety is present, team members think less about the potential negative consequences of expressing a new or different idea than they would otherwise. As a result, they speak up more when they feel psychologically safe and are motivated to improve their team or company." In my opinion this includes making sure you respect when an idea is someone else's and you credit them if you choose to mention any great ideas you have heard as you present them for the good of the order.



State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

I hope this issue finds you and your families enjoying the holiday season. I know it's a busy time of year with many things to do. However, there are also a number of things on my "Christmas Wish List" this year!

First, there are at least 10 Granges that have not responded to my multiple requests for State Directory information. To my knowledge, only one Pomona has produced a program book this year (Nutmeg) so the remainder of the State can only be contacted if we have accurate information printed in the State Directory. Ideally this book would have been out by now but it is in limbo due to the lack of information. Don't worry about filling out the official form, just send me a list of your officers, committee members and the addresses, phone numbers for them and I'll take it from there. My thanks to all of the Granges who have responded. If we do not receive the information I will have no other alternative than to go to print without.

A letter was sent out to all new State Committee Directors requesting Blue Book information for this year. Thank you to all who have sent theirs in. If you have not, please let me know when it can be expected so we can plan for the Blue Book.

There are a number of Granges who have not sent in their dues for the third quarter (ended Sept. 30). We do not hold up our report to National because of outstanding Granges and have no choice but to pay dues based on the last figures provided. This means if you have had a loss in membership, we are paying too much to National. Please send in your dues on time.

We have received the communication of the new 2019 Annual Words. Granges paying their dues for the fourth quarter, will receive the new words with the new form. Please remember the new word should be put into use beginning in February.

The 2019 Dues Receipts were sent in to all Granges (who needed them) in early September. There is a large number who have not remitted their payments. If you have, thank you, if not, please do so soon.

We expect to receive the annual Bonding Notice from National Grange and we will have that out to you as soon as it is received. Please keep in mind that like the dues, we make one lump payment to National Grange regardless if payment has been received from all of our Granges.

I received a lot of questions about the Pomona Incorporations. Unfortunately it is still in the hands of our attorneys in Hartford. They were working on the necessary changes to the by-laws of each Pomona to make them more compliant with the requirements of the IRS and the State of Connecticut. As soon as I know more, we will get that information out to all of you. Thank you for your patience.

Thanks for reading and listening to my concerns. I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Images from around the Grange...



Dick Doolittle of Cheshire Grange (right) receives his 75 year certificate from Grange Master A. Ruel Miller at a recent meeting.



Sharon Center School third graders received dictionaries from Taghannuck Grange No. 100 in Sharon.



Members of Ekonk Community Grange attending National Session in Stowe, Vermont pose for a picture with their well-earned Honor Grange certificate.



Attendees show off their art following a Wolcott Grange Paint Class held this fall.



Whigville Grange Harvest Fest



More art from the Wolcott Grange Paint Class.

New members are going to love it!



Faith Quinlan
Membership Director
membership@ctstategrange.org

My mission is to help grow membership and help current members to increase Grange membership in Connecticut. As we grow our membership it is important that we also consider how do we retain these new friends? and make them feel welcome and excited to be a part of our Grange family?

When a new member joins a Grange, they often join for a reason that is important to them. One of the quickest ways to be sure you know how to help them and get them off on the right foot is to ask what motivated them to join. Their answer could be about community

or leadership, about making new friends or maybe one of your charity or fundraising events is close to their heart. Too often we try to teach first and then get to know the member later. The good intentions are there but we are postponing getting them to what got them excited to join in the first place. The teaching can be overwhelming and too much in the beginning, some may say frightening depending on the approach. Getting to know the member first and on the path that brought them to join in the first place is a great way to lead new members while keeping them interested in staying a member.

A great mindset to adopt is to be glad that they chose to join your Grange. That may be easy for some and a stretch for others. As we often see, people are not always happy about new comers, maybe we are threatened. Some members may not don't



like people they don't know. But Grangers can find their openness and receive new people with glad hearts. New members are not perfect people, they may be nervous or maybe have strong personalities, or seem too (young, old, wealthy, poor, talkative or shy). Open your mind and give them a chance, rather than asking how these new people will fit in or "pull their own weight" will be answered in time. We may want to cut them some slack for a few meeting and events. We want to have "Do'ers" and Leaders so invite them to participate, early on. Also be generous in your patience and assistance.

A person's first Grange meeting can be stressful because they may not know anyone there and they don't know the written and unwritten rules but they also have

a desire to do well and fit in.

Show them with your words and actions that they're wanted and make their first meetings a nice experience. The first interactions a member has are a crucial time and that is why welcoming new people does actually pay off. Studies show that new members who have undergone a successful orientation process are more likely to still be in the organization after a few years and they reach their full membership potential even faster. The alternative for new members who are not warmly welcomed and guided is a desire not to return. They feel that the organization doesn't meet the expectations created during the recruiting conversations and that will make them less committed, less satisfied and more likely to leave the organization.

I will discuss Mentoring more next month, but

simply put, It is welcoming and important that there is a mentor, someone assigned to guide a new member, to greet new members with a smile and a handshake when they arrive. To introduce the new member formally and informally, here should be time set aside for meeting the other members. The mentor can talk the new member through the meeting and answer questions. When the meeting ends they are able to follow up with the new member and share contact information. Before the next meeting they might contact that member to be sure they are aware there is a meeting and time and again available to answer questions offer assistance and guidance. The time the mentor invests in the new member will pay off when over several months that person may bring in their own family and friends or maybe they just volunteer at events and actively participate.

Family Activities

Cindy Legg, Family Activities/CWA Director

Hello everyone. My name is Cindy Legg, from Beacon Valley Grange. I am the new director of CWA/Family Activities Committee. My committee includes Anne-Marie Knochenhauer of Groton Grange, Claudia Sopstyle, Enfield Grange, and Pat Tarca of Cawasa Grange

Our theme this year is "The Circus" the Needlework Contest is the same, the baking contest is "Peanut Butter Cupcakes with Peanut Butter Frosting". (Recipe to follow in a future article.).

MAKE A CLOWN CONTEST – 2018

Create any object with a Clown theme, using any material. Judging will be on workmanship and creativity. This contest is for Connecticut only and will not go on the Northeast Judging. Clowns will be returned.

CRAFT CONTEST 2018

The craft Contest is "The Circus" You may make any item, medium than has any thing to do with something at the circus. Judging at the State level only. There are 2 categories: Needlework and Other medium The will be Adult and Youth classes in each category.

Craft entries are not returned to exhibitors. They are saved by he Committee to be given away as they choose.

Next year for the Big-E it's Connecticut's turn to donate a Quilt for the quilt raffle. If you know of anyone who is willing to make or donate a quilt please let me know. I believe they will be paid for the materials that are used, but I need to find out more information.

My committee and I hope you hall have a very wonderful Holiday Season.

California State Grange

The Grange of the State of California's Order of Patrons of Husbandry,
Chartered a California Non-Profit Corporation
P.O. Box 907, Fallbrook, CA 92088

Dear Worthy State Masters and members of the

Connecticut State Grange
Maine State Grange
Massachusetts State Grange
New Hampshire State Grange
Rhode Island State Grange
Vermont State Grange,

On behalf of the members of the California State Grange, we wish to express our deepest appreciation for the fund-raising efforts of the New England State Granges at the recent "Big E" Exposition in Massachusetts.

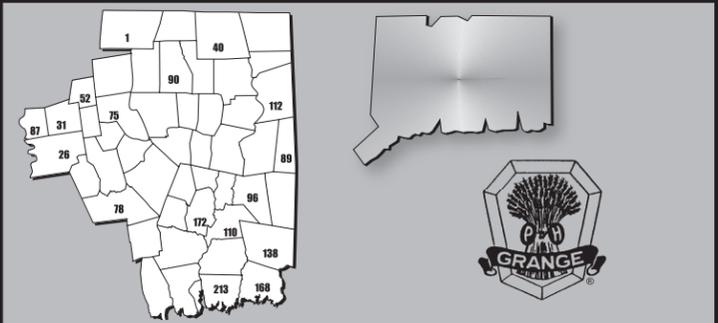
The letter tating the Big E was fund-raising for the fire victims was read on the floor of our State Grange Session and received a standing ovation from all of the members in attendance.

The \$3,261.76 donated from the quilt raffle by the New England State Granges on behalf of California Fire victims validates why we are brothers and sister in the Grange. You have truly exemplified our principles of "nurtures Hope and dispenses Charity." You have accomplished both with this donation.

Thank you again.

Fraternally,
Lillian J. D. Booth
Secretary
California State Grange
www.CAStateGrange.org

E. Connecticut Pomona No. 14



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

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Dec. 7: Christmas Party and Gift Exchange. Writing Cards to Distant Grangers. Refreshments: Amy and John

Jan. 4: New Year, New You. Refreshments: Carol

In November, the Grange Implements were discussed as part of our programs on learning about Grange history and ritual. To honor our veterans, we wrote cards of thanks to the veterans at Rocky Hill VA Home for their service.

Sharing fellowship and fun, we have had successful Craft nights making holiday decorations for two local nursing homes. We welcome visitors, but please call ahead, as we enter the season of winter,

to check on any weather related schedule changes.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

On Oct. 1 at our regular meeting we had 12 members, 1 from Senexet and one guest was present. Several members were absent. Dr. Cranston Briggs, wife Millie were absent, as Mr. Briggs was ill. Meeting was about bluegrass. We had a Ham & Bean Supper in November.

We met in the Dining Room for our Oct. 15 meeting as the hall was being set-up for bluegrass. For new members we have a committee or designated person to call new members and let them know about the time and dates for our meetings.

We draped the charter

Vernon Grange No. 52



Members of Vernon Grange No. 52 recently made ornaments for distribution to two area nursing homes for the holidays.

for Dr. Cranston Briggs who passed away earlier in the week. He was one of our 50 year members.

We discussed our Ham & Bean Supper on November 14th and a breakfast at our Craft Fair on Nov. 10. We also discussed having a fish fry with the Lions Club during Lent. We discussed getting a grant to repair and upkeep of the Grange Building.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Dec. 14: "Air Travel – Reindeer Style" – 7:30 P.M.

Dec. 28: No Meeting. Merry Christmas & Happy

New Year

At our Oct. 12 meeting Legislative Chairman Nick Mullane, gave us a run-down on candidates running in the November election. Oct. October 26 we were invaded by monsters and princesses who enjoyed our annual Halloween party. Costume parades and lots of games were followed by delicious refreshments and our annual cup social ably handled by Jason Miner.

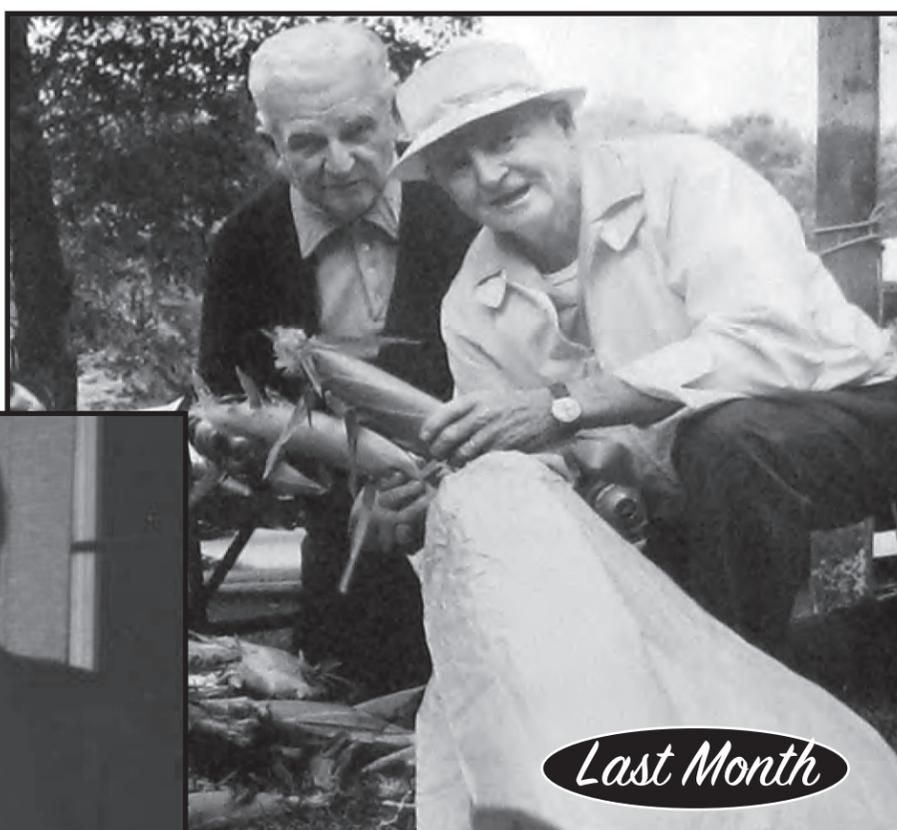
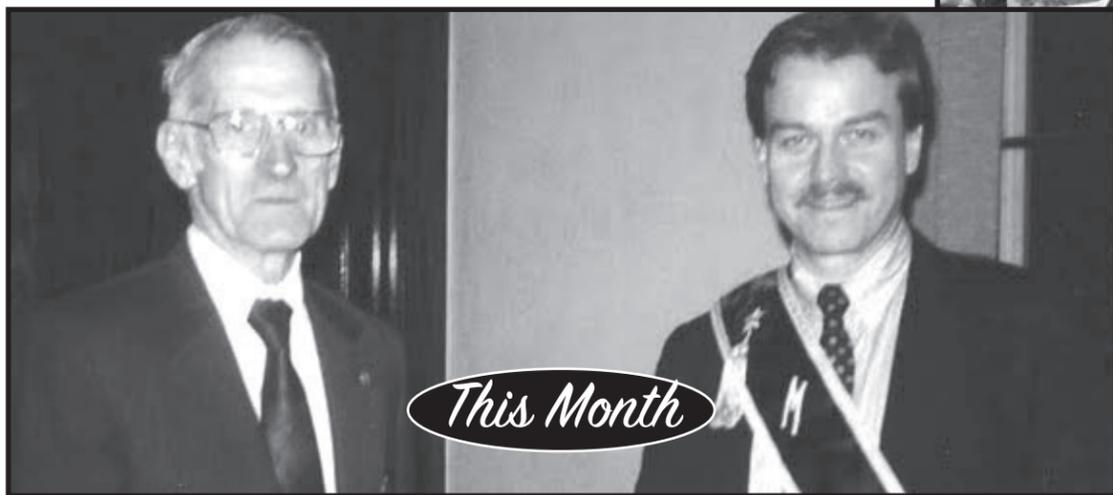
Our Holiday party will be held on December 14. Please bring a wrapped present with the child's name clearly written on it for any children you bring to the party. These will be placed in Santa's bag

and he will present them to the children during the party. There will be a short meeting followed by the party. On December 21, weather permitting, we will carol to members around town.

We have too many members on the DL, as they say in baseball. Get well wishes go out to Flo Mullane, Clyde Myers, Thurlow Coats, Mike Riley, Jr. and Brian Rathbun. Hope I don't miss anyone. And if all this rain will just go somewhere where they need it, next time I'll tell you all about neat November.

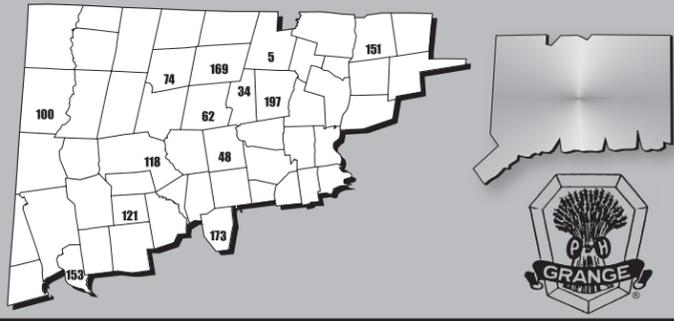
WINDOW TO THE PAST

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.



There were no answers to last month's picture.

Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15



Granby No. 5
Cawasa No. 34
Whiggville No. 48
Eureka No. 62
Winchester No. 74
Taghhannuck No. 100
Beacon No. 118

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

MOUNTAINLAURELPOMONA#15

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Our Congratulations to George Russell of Riverton Grange for becoming Master of the Connecticut State Grange. Thanks to Bethlehem Grange for organizing the reception for George and Sharon at Memorial Hall on December 9 from 1 to 3 P.M.

The December meeting of Mountain Laurel was held on Sunday, Dec. 2 (the day this issue went to press). Taghhannuck Grange Hall was full of members and a nice meeting and program was enjoyed by all. Visiting was State Exec. Comm. Chairman Jody Cameron and Joan Perry, Master of Senexet Grange. Jody attended to deliver the box of toiletries earmarked for Mountain Laurel from the National Grange Convention in Stowe, Vermont. The supplies will be distributed to organizations serving veterans in the ML Pomona area. The Pomona also voted to contribute \$100 to the Love for Lillian Fund set up by the Connecticut State Grange Foundation.

A joyous holiday season to all from Mountain Laurel Pomona #15.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Dec. 11: Noel, Ref. Women, \$5 Grab Bag gift exchange

Dec. 25: No Meeting – Merry Christmas!

Jan. 8: 2019!, Ref. Marie & Jim Steiner

Jan. 22: Brrr! (Country Store), Ref. by Pam Wright & Don Fancher

Winchester Grange held its annual Fall Super Prize Party & Bake Sale in November. We were pleased to have a full house that evening with lots of prizes donated by

our members and friends of the Grange.

T A G H H A N N U C K GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

This past October and November we gave out dictionaries to all 3rd graders in the towns of Sharon, Kent, Cornwall and Warren. We have been taking part in the Dictionary Project for 15 years. Taghhannuck Grange has members from all 4 towns.

Our December 13th meeting is at 7:30pm. It is our Cookie Exchange which is a misnomer. If anyone would like to visit just bring 4 dozen of 1 kind of cookie to take part in the exchange. We make up Christmas plates of cookies for Ella's Pantry in Sharon to give to people in need. We also make up plates for our members who can not get out so they know we are thinking of them. I do think the members enjoy the visits as much as they do the cookies. After all these plates are made the members make up plates for themselves to take home. We also have a gift exchange. It is a fun night.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

The December meeting and dinner are to be announced. Dictionaries have been given to Washington and Bethlehem third graders.

We received first place for our Community Service projects from the State Grange. We also received a Bronze Award for honor Grange along with CWA and Lecturer's Awards.

Congratulations to Rob Buck on being re-elected Steward of the State Grange, Eloise Osuch Lady Assistant Steward

Kent Words for Thirds



Ed Wathley and Andy Olson of Taghhannuck Grange giving out dictionaries to all 3rd graders at Kent Center School.

and Cindy Finch Ceres of the State Grange.

We are now meeting at 2:00 P.M. on Sundays for the winter months- Nov. 25, Jan. 13, Feb. 10 and March 10, weather permitting. Of course, our Flea Market is scheduled for April 6. Save your stuff to sell.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Dec. 8: Christmas Carols – Crazy Sock Exchange.

Jan. 12: Resolutions

We had so much fun with our Crazy sock

exchange last year that we will do it again.

The 2017 -2018 year has gone by faster than I realized. We seemed to be busy all the time. It has paid off with rewards like Lecturer's Appreciation Award, even though we have no Lecturer, A third place Award for Community Service, and ribbons and prizes from CWA, and photo contests even though we are few in number. Thanks for all the hard working Grangers who earned the awards for us.

We are starting New Year's projects by having crafts sessions after our meetings and hope to fill our tables with new items for next summer's Farmer's Markets, and items for our charitable donations.

Reminder: If Winter weather cancels a meeting – we meet the following Saturday.

Congratulations to our newly elected State Master George Russell and all the Officers of the State Grange.

Why you shouldn't warm up your car



from MSN.com

When it's frigid outside and you have to drive to some sort of destination, there's only one solution to fighting the ridiculous cold: Warm up the car. Just start it up a few minutes before hopping in, giving your cabin and your engine time to warm up before hitting the road. Plus, it's supposed to be good for the life of your engine, right?

Wrong! Warming up your car in winter before driving it is actually terrible for your engine. According to *Popular Mechanics*, driving your car right away is the fastest way to warm up your engine, and will actually prolong the life of your engine instead of letting it sit idly before driving. Answering the old question of whether you should warm up your car.

The reasoning has to do with how modern internal combustion engines work. By letting your car sit to warm up, it's actually putting extra fuel into the combustion chamber, which can get into

your cylinder walls. Because gasoline is an excellent solvent, too much on your cylinder walls can dissolve the oil that lubricates your cylinders, leading to shorter life on crucial components.

Of course, hopping into a cold car is never a fun task. Although driving your car will actually warm up your engine faster than idling it still means driving for a period of time in a cold vehicle. And, it also means dealing with the frost on your car windows while they warm up.

Now if warming up your car in winter is actually terrible for your engine, why did people even do this in the first place? *USA Today* says this practice comes from the use of cars with carburetors fuel delivery system that preceded fuel injection that did require warming up beforehand. Some people would have to wait up to 10 minutes before even getting into a car, deeming it safe enough to drive with a warmed up engine. Nevertheless, cars and technology have drastically changed since the 1960's, which means this old practice is no longer required.

Instead, just give it a minute and start with an easy drive. Flooring it right away obviously isn't the solution, but easing yourself into a drive will help to warm your engine faster than you originally thought.



Fudge is one of those sweets that only seems to get made around the holidays. Fudge is easy to make, Delicious, and always makes for a successful homemade gift. It's also a welcome sight on the refreshment line at December Grange meetings! Here's a couple of easy Fudge recipes you may want to add into your holiday baking rotation.

Gingerbread Fudge

from Delish

INGREDIENTS:

12 oz. white chocolate, melted
1 c. sweetened condensed milk
1 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. ground ginger
1/2 tbsp. Red nonpareils
1/2 tbsp. green nonpareils



DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl, mix together melted white chocolate and sweetened condensed milk. Add nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger and stir until combined. Stir in almost all nonpareils (leave some to sprinkle on top) until combined. Using a spatula, transfer fudge into a parchment-lined glass baking dish and smooth over top. Sprinkle with remaining nonpareils and let sit until firm, at least one hour. (Transfer to the fridge to speed up the process.) Cut into squares and enjoy.

SOURCE: <https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a45064/gingerbread-fudge-recipe/>

3 Ingredient Christmas Swirl Fudge

by Betty Crocker

INGREDIENTS:

1 bag (12 oz) white vanilla baking chips (2 cups)
1 container Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy vanilla frosting
Betty Crocker™ green and red gel food colors

DIRECTIONS:

Line 8-inch square pan with foil, leaving foil overhanging at 2 opposite sides of pan; spray foil with cooking spray. In large microwavable bowl, microwave white chips uncovered on High 1 minute. Spoon frosting over chips. Microwave on High 30 seconds; stir. If necessary, continue to microwave in 15-second increments until mixture can be stirred smooth. Place 3/4 cup fudge mixture into each of 2 small bowls, leaving remaining untinted fudge mixture in bowl. Tint 1 bowl green and 1 bowl red by stirring in each food color to desired color. Drop heaping tablespoons of green, red and white fudge mixture in bottom of pan to create random pattern. Pull table knife through layers for marbled design. Refrigerate uncovered until set, about 1 hour. Remove from pan by lifting foil; peel foil away. Cut into 8 rows by 8 rows. Store covered in refrigerator.

SOURCE: <https://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/3-ingredient-christmas-swirl-fudge/3ef86c5f-12cb-4479-855e-1a86cf482f19>

Past Deputies to Meet

The next meeting of the Past Deputies will be held on Sunday, December 16 at Cheshire Grange. This will also be our Christmas Party. The day starts with a potluck dinner at 2:00 P.M. Barbara Robert and Eloise Osuch will be in charge of the dinner preparation and Santa's Helpers will present the program. For those who would like to participate we will have a \$5.00 grab bag. We will also have a Country Store with the letter "A" as the theme.

President Jody Cameron will preside over the meeting. A report of our recent raffle will be given.

The Association is open to all Past Deputies and their spouses.

Lyme's Skip Beebe given Firefighter honor



Arthur "Skip" Beebe of Lyme Grange No. 147 was awarded The Connecticut State Grange "Firefighter of the Year Award" at the 134th annual State Grange Convention held in Norwich. "Skip" as he is known to many of his friends in the community, serves in the officer's chairs as Chaplain. He is also on the Executive Committee of Lyme Grange and Vice President of The Hamburg Fair.

He joined the Old Lyme Volunteer Department in 1968 and during the past 50 years has served in many positions including Lieutenant, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, Chief and President.

He is a member of the Old Lyme Historical Society and is on their Board of Directors. He has served numerous hours during the past four years renovating the former 134 year Old Lyme Grange building, which was purchased by the Old Lyme Historical Society as their new home. The Connecticut Historical Society honored the Old Lyme Historical Society last year for their preservation of the 134 year building which is in the heart of Old Lyme Historic District.

As a master carpenter he is self-employed in his company, Hudson Sullivan Homes, LLC. He is also a member of St. Mark's Church in Westbrook, where he serves as a Eucharist Minister.

Skip volunteers countless hours in many charitable events, giving back to the community of Old Lyme and Lyme.

In his spare time, he takes care of his bees and garden.

At the regular monthly meeting of Lyme Grange on November 1st, Skip was honored with a surprise reception at the Lyme Grange hall and was presented with his Firefighter Award from State Master George Russell. The State Master was accompanied by his wife Sharon Russell who graced our Grange with her presents.

NUTMEG POMONA No. 16



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

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Dec. 5: Neighbor's Night-Honoring Our Veterans, Tea Cup Auction

Dec. 19: Christmas Party Open Meeting. \$5.00 Grab Bag and Card Exchange

Cheshire Grange was well represented at the State Session in October.

Our Lecturer, Barbara Kulish received the Lecturer's Appreciation Award as well the Honor Lecturer Award. We placed second in the Community Service Contest for Granges with membership of over fifty. We received awards for supporting our troops and for services rendered to local nursing and rest homes. We had a financially successful project with the Cheshire Historical Society called Spirits Alive, a tour of the local cemetery. Our treasury was enhanced with an early November roast beef dinner put on for a local hiking club. We will be ready in early December to pass out Christmas favors, made over this past year, to our shut in members and others.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our schedule for December: December 8th we host the meeting and Christmas party of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters, December 14th- BVG's meeting and Christmas Party- potluck supper at 6:00 followed by

the meeting. Program by Lecturer Judi Reynolds is titled "Winter Christmas – Hanukkah." We will have a \$5 grab bag. December 15th- Open Mic.

On November 3 we had our Craft, Bake and Tag Sale. As Master, I can't thank the members enough for all they did to make it a real success. I now you shouldn't name names but some really did an outstanding job. David Knapp and Ron Fischer with publicity, Cindy Legg selling raffle tickets, Pat Fischer with all she made for the sale and Judi Reynolds and Tracey Marsala for taking care of the Tag Sale. Others who also assisted were: Joann Muscillo, Delores Merancy, Ray Legg and Sharon Finnimore.

Ron Fischer oversees the Open Mic which we have the third Saturday of each month. Good music and snacks.

Our Overseer and Treasurer Ron Fischer was honored on May 3 with the Robert L. Genovese Award for Patriotism. This award was presented at the Naugatuck American Legion by the Naugatuck High School Alumni. Congratulations, Ron.

Zack Koslosky the son of long time Grangers Shirley Koslosky and grandson of Barbara Kirk has been making the headlines in the paper lately for his efforts as a member of the Naugatuck High School football team. Many of us attended the Naugatuck High School

and like to keep track of our high school sports teams especially Grange family members.

Keep up the good work Zack.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Jan. 3: So what do you have to show us? Show & Tell

Feb. 7: CWA Projects announced for this year.

We were honored to have the new State Master, George Russell visit us on November 1 to present Arthur (Skip) Beebe with the firefighter of the year award. It was very touching. Skip was very appreciative. George announced it was his very first official visit since becoming State Master.

One of our new members, Evan St. Louis, was congratulated upon completing all the requirements and earning Eagle Scout status.

Our Sec. Marilyn Stitham, had a cake made to honor Skip, not only was it delicious but of course had a toy fire truck on top.

We collected non-perishable food for social services and two turkeys have been promised for Thanksgiving.

Our gatekeeper Mary Powell-St. Louis' hubby, Tom, won tenth place in the Apple Pie Contest at the Association of Connecticut Fairs. There were 34 entries. Congratulations, Tom!

We will have a roast pork potluck supper and games at our December meeting.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Dec. 14: Poinsettias

Dec. 28: Omitted for Christmas

Jan. 11: January Thaw

Jan. 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Rob Buck

Dec. 7: Grange Ritual Appreciation, 7:30 PM

Dec. 21: Christmas Potluck and party, 7:00 PM

Dec. 28: GOMAD Potluck and Music Night, 7:00 PM

By now, the third Craft Fair held in early November is long past. Work continues on the handicapped ramp with the money received from the Oxford Community

Support grant and hopefully that project will be completed either this year or by spring. This year, the Three Graces Gardens gardens continued to grow and prosper with continued work, but now are going dormant for another winter. Thanks to members Raye Hodgson and husband Randolph Brown for spearheading that project. This coming year, 2019, will be the 90th anniversary year of Oxford Grange.

Plant Seeds for the Future

Consider leaving a planned gift for the Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc.* The size of your gift does not matter. What matters is that we all participate and support the future of the Grange!

Please contact us if you need assistance.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION



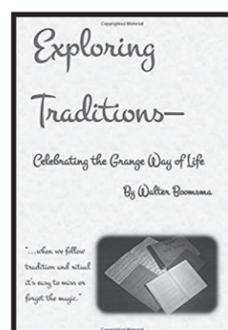
43 Naubuc Ave., P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Tel. 860-633-7550 • Email: info@CTStateGrangeFoundation.org
www.CTStateGrangeFoundation.org

*The Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Exploring Traditions

These essays by Walter Boomsma unpack the teachings of the Grange and relate them to today's world and our everyday lives," writes National Master Betsy Huber. Many people, including Grange members themselves seem to be wondering about the relevance of this 150 year old organization in modern society. They may find some answers in Exploring Traditions—Celebrating the Grange Way of Life, a series of essays encouraging readers to understand the basis of Grange ritual and tradition. This is not a "guide to the Grange," it truly is an exploration of some of the words and actions found in the Grange ritual and tradition. Included are the Grange Mission Statement and Declaration of purposes, allowing readers to take away from the book a new and deeper understanding of the Grange—not merely as an historical organization, but also an organization that teaches a way of life that aligns us with nature and creates community.

The book is \$14.95 plus shipping & handling and is available by visiting NationalGrange.org and clicking on the Grange Store section of the website.



My Favorite Food...



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Merry Christmas to all! Lots of Granges have open meetings complete with Santa Claus each Christmas. I hope you get to your Granges Christmas celebration. And, I would appreciate it if you could put in a good word for me with that jolly old fellow dressed in red.

My thanks and congratulations to all who told us about their favorite food. To follow is the first place winner.

MY FAVORITE FOOD

by Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange #147

My favorite food is my Apple Pie. My kids bought me an apple peeler. They rebelled about peeling apples for me. This gadget peels, cores and slices apples. They come out like a slinky. You just pull apart and fill a pie plate lined with pastry. I fill it full.

My Grandmother said “you want apple pie or spice pie?” So following in her footsteps I use butter and brown sugar only. Also, I only use Granny Smith apples!

So, for many, many years I have made lots and lots of my famous “APPLE” pie.

In Memoriam

RoseAnna Smith
Granby Grange #5

Carlton Platt, G.S.
Cheshire Grange #23

Evelyn Bolt
Barbara Beckwith
Natalie Yasensky
Wallingford Grange #33

Shirley Wilbur, G.S.
Senexet Grange #40

Olive “Cassie” Lattimer
Taghannuck Grange #100

Cranston Briggs, G.S.
Killingly Grange #112

Jeanne Swanson, G.S.
Bethlehem #121

God's Greatest Gifts



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Set your heart on the higher gifts, on the things that come from your Maker in heaven. These three gifts are all that remain: -- Faith, hope and love, and the greatest is love. (Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13:13)

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.
(Christina Rossetti)

Sometimes I find it difficult to improve on either scripture or poetry. This is one of those times. The word “love” in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is a translation of the Greek word *agape*, the love that is unselfish and freely given, with no demand of anything in return. This is the love that God gives us, the love that is part of the essence of God, the love epitomized in the incarnation of Jesus, wholly God and wholly man, Immanuel, God with us.

In saying that God does not demand anything in return for God’s love, it does not mean that God does not desire anything in return. Even among us humans when we present a gift to someone we are greatly pleased when we get something in return, even if we don’t demand something in return. A hug from a grateful grandchild or even a “thank-you” is often enough. Similarly there is no way we could ever repay God for the gifts he has given us in any form that would even come close in value to that which we have received by his hand.

So, what should we give God in grateful thanks for the love he has given us?

What then can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
What then can I give him, I will give my heart.
(Christina Rossetti)

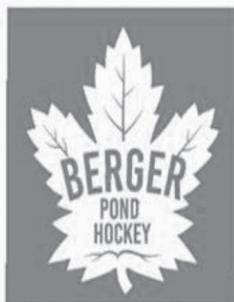


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JANUARY 26, 2019

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**IT’S IN YOUR POWER.
HELP REDUCE FOOD WASTE.**

May you never be too grown up to



search the skies on Christmas Eve.

**The Russell Family
Wishes all a
Happy Holiday!**

**Many thanks for your
hospitality in October.
Best Wishes for a
Wonderful Holiday
Season.**

Brozana Rios Family

Happy Holidays
from
Eastern Conn. Pomona #14

**Merry Christmas
& Good Health in
2019**

Joanne Cipriano

**May your Christmas
be the merriest
of Christmas' and
your New Year
more joyous
than the last**

Jody & Jodi L. Cameron

**Merry Christmas
from
*Higganum
Grange #124***

Season's Greetings
from
Groton Comm. Grange #218

Happy Holidays
from
Coventry Grange #75

Happiest of Holidays
from

Donald & Denise (Prospect #144)

**Have a great
anniversary
Grandma
*Love, Noelle***

**Special Greetings
to all our Grange
Friends**

Lois Soankow & Family

**Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!**

Marge Bernhardt

**Merry Christmas to
all and a Happy and
Healthy New Year!**

Kay Ruff

**Taghannuck
Grange wishes you
a Merry Christmas
and a Healthy,
Happy New Year**

Happy Holidays!
Alma & Bruce Graham

A very Merry Christmas
to All

The Percoski Family

Merry Christmas
from
Bethlehem Grange #121

**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
to Killingly Grange**

Pat V. & Anne D.

**We Wish All
a Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year**

*Dan & Ann Posuniak
(Glastonbury Grange)*

**Merry
Christmas and a
Healthy New Year
to all our Grange
Friends**

Jane & Ruel Miller

Best Wishes
from
Bob & Marge Sendewicz

**Joyous Noel
to all new
Connecticut Granger
readers!**

Nutmeg Pomona

May the Blessings of the
Season Be With You
Gordon Gibson

Merry Christmas
from
*Todd, Faith,
Noelle & Quinlan*

Happy Holidays
from
Meriden Grange #29

**Holiday
Greetings**
*Noel & Marcia Miller
(State Overseer)*