



Spring Arrives!

Tuesday, March 20

Address Service Requested, Periodicals Postage Paid in Winsted, CT 06098



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 52, No. 6

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

MARCH 2012

What's happening



Jody A. Cameron
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

I thought I would use this month's article to let you know about some of the things going on in your State Grange.

It is official; Wolcott Grange was reorganized February 13, 2012. Taking in 10 new members, six from demit and two existing Wolcott members they are off to a great start. They elected a full slate of officers with Hank Ouimet being elected as Master. Please visit them on the 4th Monday of each month and support our newest Grange and its members. We are now focusing our energy in Litchfield.

Your Board of Directors met recently with a financial advisor so we can better position ourselves financially and reap a better return on our investments. After reviewing some of the Executive Committee

Reports from our Community and Pomona Granges I see some of our Granges have significant assets and some of you may benefit from a meeting with the firm the State grange is associated with. If there is any interest, please let me know and a meeting can be arranged for all interested Granges.

A suggestion was made to me to prepare some information about the Grange to be sent home with every child who attends Camp Berger. After discussing this with the Camp Director and Trustees, they too felt this was a great idea. The State Grange Membership Director and I will be working with the Public Relations Department to put this together. Remember, the more people know about us the easier it will be to attract them into membership.

A new Pomona Brochure has been created. This is for use by all Pomonas to inform all members what Pomona is. This is a very impressive brochure, and is a real good tool for all Community Granges. These brochures will be on the State Grange web site for download, or for

a fee you can have them produced through the State Grange. Contact the Public Relations Department if you require printing services.

Schools of Instructions are going very well (from my viewpoint). If you like the format, or dislike the format, please let me know. If the Schools do not meet your needs they are a waste of time, and if we waste your time, shame on us. I am told feedback is a gift, so your feedback is appreciated.

Believe it or not, State Session is not that far off, it is never too early to start looking at the resolution process. The State Grange Legislative Committee is there to assist at any time. I encouraged them in my Presidents Address to consider putting together a workshop on resolution writing, I hope they are looking at that.

I know this is different from my usual rants, but it is important for all members to know what is going on in their State Grange. If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please contact me or any Officer of the State Grange. Remember, we are here to serve YOU!

We need to hear from you

Joanne Cipriano,
Social Connection Director

I have heard from three Pomonas regarding our statewide tag sale to be held on Saturday, April 28th to benefit the American Liver Association. Excelsior Pomona will be at Oxford Grange (a change from our original schedule as the Bethlehem Memorial

hall was not available), Mountain County Pomona at Litchfield Grange and New Haven County at Wallingford Grange. We thank these Patrons for

their support and look forward to hearing from the other Pomonas.

By the time the April issue of the Connecticut

Continued on page 2

Connecticut's Newest Grange



Todd Gelineau Photo

Members of the newly-reorganized Wolcott Grange No. 173 gather for a group photo on Feb. 13.

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Monday, February 13, 2012 is a date that will go down in history for Wolcott Grange. It's the date that began a new chapter in the community as the family-oriented group reorganized. It's the date that the Connecticut State Grange reinstated their Charter.

There was excitement in the air as Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron presented the Charter to Henry Ouimet, who was elected as President of the revitalized Grange.

"This was without a doubt one the most exciting evenings for the Grange," said Cameron. "I want personally thank Mr. Ouimet for all of his hard work in making this reorganization possible. His efforts have guaranteed that Wolcott Grange will be serving the community and all of its citizens for many, many years to come. You can't do anything but celebrate knowing the impact this energetic group is going to have; I can't wait to see what they have in store for the community."

18 new members were recognized and initiated to helm Wolcott Grange during its revitalization. Jeff Barnes, Connecticut State Grange Vice President and Chairman of the Grange Growth Team, performed part of the evening's ceremonies. Over 40 people were in attendance, cheering on the new members as they looked forward to a positive future.

Barnes knew that an infusion of energy was needed to bring Wolcott Grange back to its community service roots, and sees good momentum moving forward. "This is exactly the catalyst we needed. It will inspire all of the Granges in Connecticut to grow," Barnes said.

Wolcott Grange was originally formed March 17,

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Deadline for the APRIL 2012 issue of the Connecticut Granger: MARCH 5.



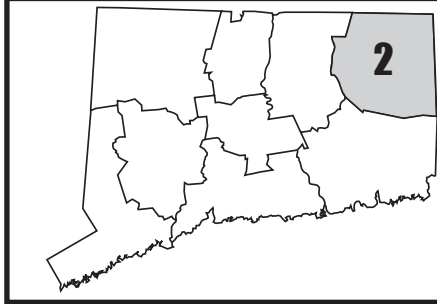
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Hometown Roots*

Scan these QR codes to access our websites:
Connecticut Granger Connecticut State Grange



Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- ✓ Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- ✓ Ashford No. 90
- ✓ Putnam No. 97
- ✓ Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

SENEXET GRANGE #40
Corr: Diane Miller

March 21: Stay Lucky

We are keeping busy. We served as hosts for the annual meeting of the Woodstock Agricultural Society.

We held our regular meetings and have filled and delivered 20 backpacks with pajamas. Toothbrushes and toothpaste along with books and stuffed toys to the local shelter.

We are working with the local schools' third grade classes with the Dictionary Project.

Volunteering at various local programs and keeping the kitchen in order. Our well is in and approved.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61
Corr: Elsie Johnson

March 14: "Green" Ref. Irish Cookies

Apr. 11: CWA Program

Apr. 25: Potluck, 6 P.M.

Trees are tapped for syrup and pussy willows in bloom. Lift up leaves and the daffodils are popping up!

Time to start some seeds. Get some new birdhouses made and up. Be careful on those ladders. Plans are being made for yard sales. Everyone is anxious to get out there.

We recently lost a member and we got in a new member.

Please note there was an error in the Pomona Handbook and the March meeting is on the 14th (not the 7th).

CWA has a lot of projects to work on. Tabs are still coming in. Stay healthy.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89
Corr: Sue Gray

Mar. 5: "Blowing in the Wind" Mtg/Program 7:30 pm

Mar. 17: Corn Beef & Cabbage Supper 5pm

Mar. 17: Square Dance 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 23: Chowder n' Clam cakes 5pm

Mar. 31: Chowder n' clam cakes 5pm

The Youth Drill Team for 2012 officially started rehearsals in February. We will have collection boxes for non-perishable food items at all of our March and April public suppers. We are pleased to be able to help families in need in this way. During Dr. Seuss Week (Feb. 27-Mar. 2) we were pleased to donate Scholastic Books to Voluntown Elementary School as a prize for their reading! We set the date our our FFA Appreciation Supper. This is an event we hold every other year at our Grange with FFA students and alumni invited to a free spaghetti supper. We give them a donation for their Scholarship Fund. This year it will be Thursday, April 26th at 6pm. By the time that you read this, we will have taken an Exchange Program to Richmond Grange in Rhode Island. Our program featured the 1920's, a volatile time in our history. Grange families have been enjoying playing Volleyball in the Sterling Municipal Building Gymnasium every Sunday evening; many times we have 3 teams, which means rotating players!

ASHFORD GRANGE #90
Corr: Joan Gobin

March 11: Plowing and planting

The days are getting longer and the sun warmer. By now you have perused the seed catalogs and are ready to start planting all those new seedlings and seeds and looking forward to those yummy fresh veggies you will have to eat and to share this summer.

On Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m. following a short meeting, we will be hosting an informative program with guest speaker, Agriculture Commissioner

Reviczky, explaining the new Community Farms Preservation program. We hope you will join us.

The meeting will begin at 2:00 with a pot luck at 12:30.

ECHO GRANGE #180
Corr: Gloria John

Mar 13: Agriculture

Mar 27: Omit

We collected items for the No Freeze Shelter in Willimantic at our last meeting. We will continue to collect them at each meeting through the winter.

Several of our members have

been visiting the shut-ins this winter, especially those in nursing homes.

The weather so far has cooperated with us. I don't think we have seen a winter like this in years.

Some of our members are working on their crafts

Connecticut's Newest Grange



(Robert Charbonneau photo)

Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron presents the Charter to the new President of Wolcott Grange, Henry Ouimet.

Continued from page one...

1909. Their Grange Hall was built in the 1920s as part of the Wolcott Green Historic District. Through the years the group presented floats in local parades, hosted pancake breakfasts, supported its agricultural roots, presented dictionaries to local school children, and was well-known for their delicious Dairy Dinners. The organization grew quickly, at one time having more than 200 members. But time took its toll, and despite all of the Grange's community-service work,

members were growing older and tiring.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Ouimet and community members he recruited to become a part of the revitalization core, the new Grangers are now reinvesting in the pride and future of their organization. Membership growth and building partnerships within the community are first on the priority list.

According to Cameron, the new Wolcott Grange is seeking local-minded people who would like to make a difference in their community. "This is a great opportunity for members of the community to be part of a collective voice that betters the community for all citizens," he said.

Wolcott Grange will be meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Grange Hall, located at 313 Bound Line Road, Wolcott. Their next meeting will be held on March 26th, and will be the installation of the new officers. For membership information, please contact Cameron at 860-759-2326 or via e-mail at president@ctstategrange.org.

Information on the nearly 60 Community Granges in Connecticut can be found on the Connecticut State Grange website at <http://www.CTStateGrange.org>.

Pomonas needed for Tag Sale



Continued from page one...

Granger is printed, tickets will be available in each Pomona for our Roast of Phil Prelli. This is being held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday, May 19th. We have some good "roasters" lined up and are still waiting to hear from others. If you would like your name added to the list, please give me a call.



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)

"Connecticut Granger"

is published monthly except combined July-August issue for \$3.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc.,
100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094
(Do not send mail to this address)

Second Class postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Connecticut Granger,
P.O. Box 127, Winsted, CT 06098-0127

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month except July and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033


or

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East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3
Corr: Noel Miller

March 3: Is it Time Host Hillstown Grange#87

This mild winter has raised havat with our Quacker the Duck project, no snowbanks to be buried in, no ice on the Connecticut river to melt from, no rain fall to be measured in a rain gauge, we will find something way to get your money so stand by. Reminder this meeting is our Pomona School of Instructions sa all come to be educated. Remember to gather item for a Tag Sale for the State Grange in April, maybe we can have two area because we are so big of a area Pomona. Think about a Pomona Cook book? if you have some family recipes to give for a cook book that could be sold at the apple fest in October, just thinking. Please remember this is our first meeting in 2012 so come out and meet new friends.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1
Corr: Gail Fisher

December was a busy month with all the extra activities going on. The members of Stafford Grange #1 found it very rewarding to represent our Grange by taking part in Stafford’s Winterfest Parade. Grange members decorated a float and Christmas tree, we sat on bales of hay and waved proudly to all along the parade route. Also walking was Jerry Julian, holding our flag. The two goats with jingle bells was a hit with all. Hot chocolate and snacks were given after the parade, then the tree was taken to our hall and enjoyed by all at the December meeting.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26
Corr: Kay Ruff
March 1: Meeting 7:30 p.m., Open House, Pot Luck Supper 6:00 p.m.
March 10: MontiCarlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 p.m.
April 5: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Skit Night, CWA Baking Contest & Easter Baskets
Glastonbury Grange

voted at our January meeting to hold an Open House and send a few invitations out to some non members to attend. We are hoping that we will be able to secure a few new members.

Invitations have also been sent out to our own members who have not been to a meeting in some time. Hopefully we can have some of them attend to build up our attendance.

We did have a few more folks attend the January card party. We do need increased attendance as the card parties are one of our fund raisers during the year.

April 5th “Skit Night”. If you haven’t been to a meeting recently do try to attend and see what Ann Gilnack, Lecturer, has planned for the skit. It was a good one last year. Don”t miss it.

The State Grange Social Connection Committee has some interesting events planned for 2012. #1 Each Pomona is asked to have a tag sale on Saturday, April 28th. As I am typing this East Central has not met to decide where it will be held in our pomona. Proceeds will be donated to the American Liver Foundation. You will probably receive a call from someone in Glastonbury Grange to help secure items for the sale.

#2. They have two “Fun Time” events planned. In the spring the event will be a “Roast” with Philip Prelli as the “Roastee”. Date to be announced. The Fall event will be a Competitive Night. Date to be announced.

These should be fun evenings, so watch for the date and time and plan on attending.

#3. They are also holding a “Granger of the Year Contest”. Each grange is asked to nominate one of their members who they think qualify to be named the “Granger of the Year”. Applications will be sent to each Grange. If you wish to nominate someone for Granger of the Year let me

know and I will see that you receive an application. Hope to see you, and you, and you at an upcoming meeting.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31
Corr: Diane Small

What a surprise Winter has been so far this season. Mother Nature sure is unpredictable. New England weather never ceases to amaze us. Weather dictates so many parts of our businesses, be it summer, winter or any where in between. Everyone has their preference for a favorite time of year. Do you like chilly winter, it’s a little suspect this year, spring with the beginning of gardens, flowers and etc coming to life. Summer could be your time of year to enjoy all things water related and of course, cooking outdoors. Fall has its speciality too, fairs, raking leaves and the beckoning of colder, snowy weather to come. It becomes a 365 day cycle of many changes.

March brings us daylight savings time. Remember the clocks need to be set ahead for an hour on Saturday the 11th to make sure you make to church on time, a job or any other function that is calling.

Our March 20 meeting is Green Is In. Sounds Irish to me. Wear something green and think of all the foods that suddenly become green for St Patrick’s Day. I do believe there is a touch of Irish in all us.

April 3 is Row by Row - Agricultural. Time to think about gardening and all those beautiful flowers that will be blooming. I know that seed packets are available in the stores. How about trying some windowsill planting. Never know how well this will turn out unless you try it.

A reminder that as you sit and do your favorite craft, make an extra for the Big E. It is amazing what folks look for. One request from last year, were the fingerless gloves. Another group of items, is anything pet related.

A Happy St Patrick’s Day to all the Irish and any who aren’t. Happy Easter to one and all. Did you find an Easter Basket on yoiur doorstep?? Those chocolate bunnies sure taste good. When you think about it,

all the candy tastes better. Enjoy dinner with your families and friends--don’t eat too much.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51
Corr: J. Jordan

March 6: The Panama Canal

Come to Tolland Grange and learn some bits and pieces about the Panama Canal. Our meeting begins at 7:30 at St. Matthew’s Church on the Green.

VERNON GRANGE #52
Corr: Nancy Strong

March 2: Leap Year Special

A special “Surprise” meeting was held in February with the unexpected attendance of our member who is now living in North Dakota, Gretchen Hendrick. A family friend was invited to attend in order that she could be surprised, too. We also honored her mother, our Chaplin Ellen Hendrick on her retirement and had part of the program on retirement and another part on North Dakota (why to live there and why not to live there!). We had a special cake to celebrate at refreshments.

Our next meeting will be right after Leap Day, so a program will be all about the LEAP.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75
Corr: Noel Miller

March 1: Spring Regreshments Dan/ Pat Ridzon

March 15: Spring Continues Refrshments Robert Warner

Coventry Grange has enjoyed the lack of snow this winter as the above normal temperatures has brought less strain on the checkbook for heating oil. The Coventry Farmers market has found agreement with the Hale Homstead to continue the farmers market for 10 years. Coventry Grange will be allowing a local 4-H club to meet in our hall this spring, helping our youth and maybe inspire some new members. Reminder to start collecting for the State Grange Tag Sale in April and Coventry Grange will hold another in May, so start your spring cleaning early.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87
Corr: Rita Schaefer

March 8: “Crafts” (CWA in charge)

March 22: “Spring is Here”

(Agriculture in Charge)
Apr. 12: “What Comes First”

Apr. 26: “Yankee Blue Grass Special” Open Meeting

It doesn’t seem as a month has already gone by. I guess we all are hoping for better weather. We’re not looking for more snow and the warmer weather we’ve been having now. Maybe summer will be a good HOT one.

We are still having our annual Corned Beef Dinner, the date has not yet been set. We had a tag sale and pancake breakfast and it was successful. Now that the weather will be better, more fundraisers will be held. Now is the time for the ladies to start to do needlework, etc. for the Fair in September.

I haven’t heard of any new members on the sick list. Those members in Convalescent Homes are progressing. It would be nice to hear from our members out of state.

The School of Instruction was held for our Pomona and the turnout was great.

Our farmers are enjoying the mild weather as it gives them the time now to try and fix what the two storms have damaged. I don’t think there will be beautiful roadsides as we all took a beating. Trees and flowering shrubs will not be blooming this year.

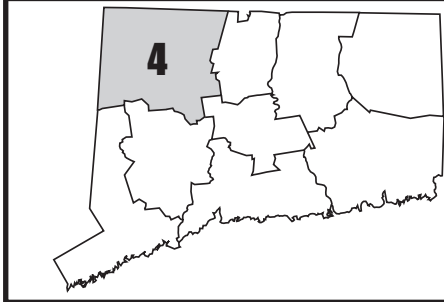
ENFIELD GRANGE #151
Corr: Irene Percoski

April 14: Get Out Your Umbrella

Our February meeting celebrated the 102nd birthday of our past Master Joseph P. Smith Sr. Mickey treated us to a pizza party and Judy provided the birthday cake. Joe proudly wore a shirt which said I AM 102. Joe and his sister Louise Kamay who is 100, are treasures of our Grange. We had a photo contest and found that we have several good photographers in our group. Our cook book is growing slowly, but looks promising. Keep those recipes coming in as we have not yet set a deadline.

Do you have an idea of something that needs to be changed? March is the time to work on a resolution for that change. In April, inspection will also be on the agenda. Committees, get your reports lined up.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- ✓ Cawasa No. 34
- Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- ✓ Taghhannuck No. 100
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- ✓ Riverton No. 169

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4
Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

March 24: (Saturday) School of Instruction (for Pomona & Community Granges), Winchester Grange, 3:00 P.M.

March 28: Day Meeting at Riverton Grange Hall, 11:00 A.M.

Mountain County Pomona will be very busy in the coming months. At the February meeting of the Pomona, Exec. Comm. member Earl Phillips presented his ideas for a new program (a Cooperative) sponsored by the Pomona to work as a new benefit for being a member of Mountain County and its Community Granges. While the details are still being worked out, the plan is to have a large number of businesses lined up who will provide substantial discounts the Grange members who present some sort of card at the time of purchase. Agreements are also being sought for businesses like an area dairy that would take orders and deliver product on the night of Grange meetings and auto repair businesses that could provide discounts for care care needs. Earl is fired up and we hope the members will be as equally excited to provide even greater benefits for Grange membership.

The February meeting also marked the “re-joining” of Cawasa Grange No. 34 (formerly of Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11) to Mountain County Pomona. Cawasa recently voted to join Mountain County after being given the opportunity by the State Executive Committee to choose their new home. Additional Granges may join the Pomona as decisions are made regarding the remaining former members of Farmington Valley. Cawasa Grange was originally a member

of this Pomona many years ago, prior to the creation of FVP.

The Pomona School of Instruction originally scheduled for this meeting was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. The new date is Saturday, March 24 at 3:00 P.M., Winchester Grange Hall. As there are no Pomona meetings available in the coming months due to the Day Meeting and the Degree meeting in May, it was decided to combine the Pomona School with the School for the Community Granges.

It is hoped that more people will be able to attend a Saturday afternoon meeting without the time restrictions that happen during weeknights.

Each Grange in the Pomona is asked to provide an item for the refreshments following the meeting. The Pomona portion of the program will be the creation of a Mission Statement for the Pomona. The meeting will be opened and closed by a team of officers selected from each of the Granges in the Pomona. Members will be given an opportunity to ask any and all questions about ritual and procedure. We hope to see you there.

The next regular meeting of Mountain County will be on Wednesday (MORNING), March 28 at Riverton Grange. The business meeting will begin at 11:00 A.M. followed by lunch provided by Riverton Grange (\$5.00). The Lecturer will present her program “New World” following lunch.

It has also been decided to hold a Pomona Tag Sale in cooperation with the State Grange on Saturday, April 28. The sale will be held from 8:00-2:00 at Litchfield Grange Hall. Sister Janet Healy will be the chairperson for this event. Please save up your

clean tag sale items. The date for drop-off will be announced very soon.

CAWASA GRANGE #34

Corr: Lin Erickson

Hello All, Cawasa is still going on pretty well. We still meet each month to do our baking/cooking for the local food bank. February we made heart shaped cookies for them.

We all felt sad on our Pomana closing. We all decided to go with our “Kissin’ Cousins,” Mountain County. Stay warm and dry.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

March 13: Daylight Savings/St. Pats, Ref. The Meles

March 24: Mountain County School of Instruction, Winchester Grange, 3 P.M.
March 27: CWA, Ref. The Coopers

Apr. 10: First & Second Degrees

Apr. 24: Third & Fourth Degrees, 6:00 Potluck Harvest Supper

And winter rolls on... with no new developments in the Winchester Grange boiler room! After a few hiccups following its installation, the new equipment is running perfectly and saving the Grange a good deal of money with greater fuel efficiency. Work is now progressing in the kitchen with new plumbing/pumps being installed under the watchful eye of the Torrington Area Health District. We were advised not to install a handwashing sink as our current 4 bay sink is now considered adequate. This will give a great savings to our budget! We continue to look for a commercial refrigerator to replace our relatively new non-commercial models (a requirement of TAHD).

Looking ahead... Winchester will host the Pomona School of Instruction on Saturday, March 24 at 1 P.M.

Also on March 24, Winchester will host its first Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale from 9-2. Vendors spaces are available by calling Sue Addison at 860-379-0210.

In April, Winchester

will be conferring all four degrees on a new member and invite all Granges to bring candidates. Please call the Master at 860-626-0326 if you plan on participating so the additional materials for the degrees can be arranged.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Myrtle Hayden

March 8: Barns

March 22: Ritual

At our January meeting we draped our charter in memory of Marie Peterson and William Newton. At our February meeting we draped our charter in memory of William Conrad.

We have one meeting a month until March at 7:30 P.M. Beginning in March we go back to two at 8 P.M.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore

March 2: Meeting & Program, Ref. Theresa & Matthew Freund

March 16: Potluck Supper, Program Flower Arrangements

At our Jan. 6th meeting, we sadly draped our charter in memory of our brother, William Meeker, who was a Golden Sheaf member. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

On Jan. 20th we celebrated the 104th anniversary of our grange being in existence. We

began with a pot-luck supper in charge of the Past Masters. Four tables were decorated and delicious desserts furnished by Maureen Prelli, Cindy Prelli, Megan Keefe and Raine Pedersen. Following the supper, Brother Philip Prelli presented Grange Certificates to the following members: Robert O’Connor, 55 years; Dorothy Cappabianca, Shirley Moore and Rujo Moore, 60 years each; and Arba Roberts and Gladys Anstett, 65 years each. The following members were not able to attend this event but have been presented certificates at home: Dorothy Day, Betty Baldwin and Albert Yadach, 50 years each, and Edith Pasquariello, 70 years. These figures add up to 585 years of Grange service. WOW! They deserve our thanks and congratulations for “a job well done”.

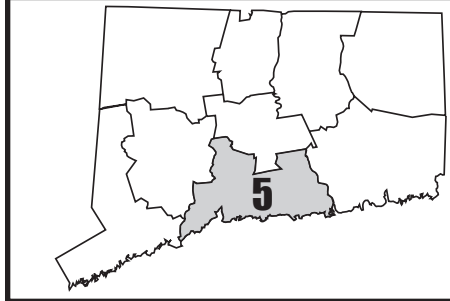
The program was prepared by Past Lecturers Gail Prelli and Cindy Prelli. Included in the program was recognition of all Past Masters and Lecturers who were present, a fun game of GRANGO (Bingo) with winners receiving candy bars, and a history of our Grange. It was a fun program and a delightful evening, and we welcome anyone to join us at our meetings or suppers after which we have a program.

Rujo Moore



Rujo Moore receiving 60 year membership certificate from Philip Prelli (Member of Riverton and Secretary of the National Grange Executive Committee) at the January 20 meeting of Riverton Grange.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- North Haven No. 35
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Don Lanoue

March 12: Regular meeting at Wallingford Grange Hall

Back at our January meeting we had our school of instruction by State Master Jody Cameron and General Deputy Todd Gelineau and we worked on a mission statement. Our next meeting will be our talent and A number night all within the Pomona are encouraged to compete in the contests and help in supporting their fellow grange members. Hope to see you all there.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

March 7: Soaring with CWA-Open Meeting -Tea Cup Auction

March 21: Competitive Night - Country Store

In early January, Town Manager Michael Milone spoke to us on issues facing the town in this new year, including our finances and other upcoming town projects. It was a very interesting presentation and prompted many questions from our audience.

We had good attendance for our Pomona and Subordinate schools of instruction. Our Monday night craft meetings are underway as we begin making items for the local rest home and items, believe it our not, for next Christmas for our shut in members.

We are in the process of planning some fund raising events for this Spring as well as for our annual Cheshire Grange Community fair which we will move up this year to the last weekend in August.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Jan 12: "Happy New Year, Welcome 2012!" We conducted our normal business. Though we are a small group, our

members are quite active in the community. In the past month they just about accumulated 100 hours of service. Our program was about the 50 year celebration of the National Grange building in Washington, DC which was presented via a DVD that the National Grange had provided.

Jan 26 "Old Barns in Connecticut" had to be postponed because of the threat of icing during the hours of our meeting.

Meetings in March will be:

March 8: "St. Patrick's Day" Program: Joan, Open Meeting, Ref: Janet

March 22: "Spring Planting" Program: Dan, Ref: Jim and Lisa

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barb Kulisch

March 9: Complete Program-"When He Was President"

March 23: Lecturer's Exchange - Complete Program "When He Was President"

Old Man Winter was good to us this year and we were able to hold our January 13th's meeting entitled "Welcome To The History of Mickey Mouse!" A fun night was had by all, and yes, we even sang "The Mickey Mouse" theme song!

We welcomed Arlie Chapman, GK of New London County Pomona #6, who filled in for our GK that evening! Thank you Arlie. We will hold our Officers Planning meeting and goals set for the upcoming year, on April 13th, in place of the Lecturer's Program. At this time we will also work on how to get new members into the Grange.

We continue to work on Community Service and are looking into what the Grange can do in the town of Old Lyme.

Remember, our doors are always open!

Kulisch receives Golden Sheaf



Barbara C. Kulisch receives her 50 year Golden Sheaf certificate presented by Russell Gray, Past Voting Delegate to the National Grange. Henry's 50 year pin was put on by their son, Ken, in loving memory of their Dad, Henry O. Kulisch, Jr. Left to Right: Kenneth Kulisch, Barbara, Karl Kulisch and Russell Gray.

New dues rate takes effect



attendance.

If you want to leave footprints in the sands of time, don't drag your feet.

Most of the Secretaries are aware that the new rate for dues to the State Grange goes into effect this quarter. If this information is in your computer, please be sure it is correct (\$5.75).

In past years new members were taken in during March and April. Have you checked to see if any of your members are dues a 25 year, 50 year certificate, or 55 year seals (or greater)? Now is a good time to check on them before the weather changes and daylight savings goes into effect. Have your received the Blue Books? There are many events coming up and I hope to see many of you in

Then or now?

Edith Schoell, Historian

"It seems to me that we should all make a special effort this coming year to build the Grange, because at no time in our history has Grange influence and courage been needed as right now. In recent months we have faced serious problems. Some of these problems have been serious enough to set liberty loving people thinking. ... For some reason or other the trend of the times seems to be moving toward the unreal and the visionary. Millions of people, it seems are beginning to believe that everybody can live off of the government. Ideas presented in many instances are so far from the things we believe in that it has become alarming. The cost of these combined ideas is tremendous and we are

beginning to wonder when the tax burden is going to end. Even more serious than the cost of these programs is the control by government that is bound to go along with them.

I firmly believe that it is up to the Grange, both at National and State levels, to speak out in no uncertain terms against any proposal that would tend to lead us away from American ideals and basic fundamentals. That is why I believe everyone of us should use our best endeavor this coming year to build the Grange stronger than we ever have before."

The above was from Henry D. Sherwood's report to the National Grange in 1949. Brother Sherwood was Overseer.

"Wear" Grange with pride

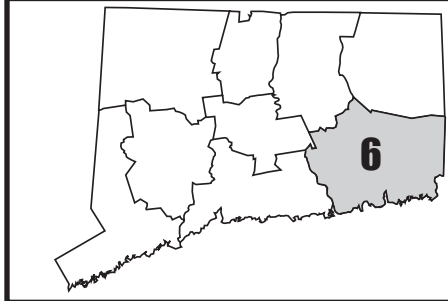
Joan Perry, Membership Director

We have got to publicize the Grange in any way that we can. Please don't just wear Grange jewelry, t-shirts, sweat shirts only to Grange functions. Wear them wherever you go. Maybe someone will have a question and there is your opening to speak about the Grange. Just remember to keep your explanation brief. People advertize sports teams such as the Red Sox and the Yankees all the time. Let's get out there and show people who

we are. Also, please ask as many people as you can to join the Grange. The worst that can happen is that they say no. But, some will say yes. Those are the people we want.

I have a friend who in his younger free bachelor days, would go about asking as many girls as he could for a date. His theory was, by asking many, the odds were in his favor to get a date. Let's get those odds in OUR favor.

New London County Pomona No. 6



✓ Lebanon No. 21

✓ Colchester No. 78

Pachaug No. 96

Preston City No. 110

✓ N. Stonington No. 138

✓ Lyme No. 147

Stonington No. 168

Norwich No. 172

NEW LONDON COUNTY
POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
March 10: New London County Has Talent, N. Stonington
May 12: Fifth Degree, North Stonington

We were honored to welcome our State Master and First Lady, the General Deputy and Pomona Deputy East to our December Pomona meeting. They conducted our Pomona School of Instruction and we had a good discussion about the goals of Pomona. Deb’s Christmas program was great fun, as usual. We learned a lot about holly, its customs, traditions and meaning, and a little about mistletoe. Once we figured out our “rights” from our “lefts” and the packages stopped, two of our guests left with the right prizes.

Hope we will have many Talent and A-Numbers at our March meeting. We know there is talent hiding in our Pomona. Let’s get it out in the open.

We will confer the Fifth Degree on May 12. Please ask all your 4th Degree members to join Pomona. it is a beautiful degree, and our officers do a beautiful job conferring it.

Spring is coming just around the corner.

The daffodils will soon be all in bloom.

Why not attend our next Pomona meeting?

Let’s see if, maybe, we can fill the room.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Joan Toomey & Catherine Russi

Last October Colchester Grange #78 took part in National Make A Difference Day. The program was coordinated by Cathy Russi with children at St. Andrew Church. The goal was to help those in need in Haiti. Many items were collected and the Colchester Grange made a contribution of \$150 to purchase a goat. The goat that is purchased is a

pregnant goat and provides so much help to those in need. A goat provides food in the form of milk and cheese and will also provide protein. The program is a sustainable solution to feeding the hungry, as it provides more than just one meal.

Colchester Grange hopes to spread the word to others to show positive results in a country in need of so much. The group looks forward to next October to hopefully continue with their support to a country in need.

We, here in Connecticut have lucked out this winter so far. We have not plowed or shoveled like last year! Nor have we had to pay for fuel or gas heat. Thanks to warmer winter and cozy wood stoves.

I was happy to pin 65 year pins, visit and deliver fruit baskets to Ann Smyk and Selah Palmer in December. I enjoyed my visits with both outstanding life members. I try to keep homebound members aware of our activities and my reward it so great with their smiles and excellent conversation. We continue to assist our members with outreach and help. Thanks to strong, diverse leadership in our Master Jeff Watson, excellent Secretary Marion Culhane, CWA Chair, Treasurer and fundraiser Cathy Russi. Also Polly Leonard, Walter Pieniadz, Eve O’Connell, Charlotte Locke, Blanche Bass, Jack Faski, Wayne Mohrlein, Diane Leith, Sharon Moroch, Dorothy Mrowka, Bonnie Trecarton and Chris to name a few who work and contribute in so many ways to keep our Grnage strong and growing into such a fine family unit. We are committed to growth! I’m proud to say dive of us attended the Pomona #6 school of instruction in Norwich recently. We saw all State Grangers there too.

We are proud of our State Grange officers and their

commitment to expand, grow and become a much better modern Grange here in Connecticut. It is so apparent to me as I read past Grangers and continue to work with Marge Bernhardt, Todd Gelineau, Jody Cameron, Edith Schoell to name only a few at the state level. It is so encouraging to me as I work at my Subordinate capacity. You all do an oustanding job and I thank you for all your help and dedicated commitment to the Grange. My thanks to all Grangers who visit and are helpful. Kudos to all of you!

N. STONINGTON COMM.
GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
March 9: “T’d Like to Visit... the Open Road”
March 10: We Host N.L.C. Pomona, 7:30
March 23: “T’d Like to Visit... Old Lyme”

It is with deep sorrow that I must report the loss of two of our members, Bave Birkbeck passed away on Jan. 5, and Alice Morgan left us on Jan. 23. They will both be greatly missed.

We enjoyed a trip through Scotland with Sue Latourette at our first meeting in January. Her pictures of scenery, flora and fauna of the country were breathtaking. We were entertained by the North Stonington Congregational Church Bell Choir, directed by Mike Noonan, on January 27th. they are fabulous! Our own Kris Shabunia is one of the ringers. She, like all the others, seemed to be having the time of her life. They certainly do enjoy their “work.” It was good to see Kris’ mom-in-law, Miriam, our long-time Pomona, who has been much missed of late.

Sue will be presenting her Complete Program “When He Was President” on March 9. Last year it was Teddy Roosevelt. Wonder who it will be this year? This is always a really great program. Don’t miss it. We will host Pomona for the Talent and A-Number entries on March 10. On the 23rd we will ahve an exchange program with Old Lyme. Barbara Kulisch, Old Lyme’s Lecturer, is outstanding and we are looking forward to a really special evening. As Old Lyme meets on our

nights we will get to visit with old friends we rarely have a chance to see. And if I can just see one of those snowy owls that have come down to visit us from the snowy north, next time I’ll tell you all about Fabulous February.

LYME GRANGE #147

March 1: A Number & Talent
Apr. 5: Omit for Maundy Thurs.
Apr. 12: (2nd Thurs.) April Showers
May 3: Chaplain and Graces do their thing
May 19: 2nd Annual Plant & Food Sale

Did the groundhog see his shadow on Feb. 2? Who knows?

For Hobby Night we had

“Granger” the Goat



Dr. Jeremiah Lowney and Marilyn Lowney from the Haitian Health Foundation (Norwich) are presenting a goat to a mother of a Haitian family in Haiti through the generosity of the Colchester Grange #78. The goat’s name is “Granger.”

Take a trip with Colchester Grange

Colchester Grange is working on three trips to help supply funding for their annual scholarships to the high school.

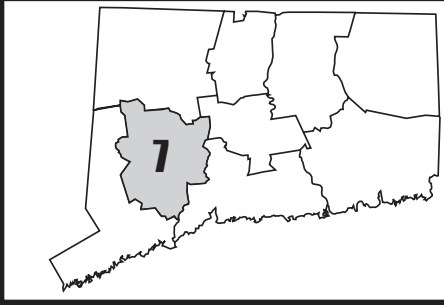
The following are the trips Colchester is working on and invite anyone to sign up for the great adventures. Please sign up early, our trips fill fast.

June 26-28, 2012: Penn Dutch Trip- See the New Show “Jonah” at the Millennium Theatre, Dinner with an Amish Family, visit an Amish farm, visit Longwood Gardens- the renowned du Pont Estate, two night stay at the Heritage Hotel- 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners are included. Cost \$381 per person based on two in a room.

January 13-22, 2013: Eastern Caribbean for a 10 day cruise, on the Explorer of the Seas (Royal Caribbean) from New Jersey. The trip will include transportation to the pier (there will be central pick-ups) and will visit San Juan, St. Thomas, Dominican Republic and Labadee. Inside cabins start at \$759 plus tax. Insurance protection is strongly recommended.

For all trips, please contact Cathy Russi at 860-867-9621. Cathy will be more than happy to discuss the details of any of the trips and/or send a flyer with more information.

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7
Corr: Eloise Osuch
March 21: “Great Acts”
Excelsior Pomona No. 7 will meet on Wed., March 21st at the Bethlehem Memorial hall, 10 The Green, Bethlehem at 7:30 P.M. The program is entitled “Great Acts” and will be our Talent and A-Number Run-Offs. Lecturer Jean Meehan, is hoping for 100% participation by the Subordinate Granges.
Mary Dubay, our correspondent, is recuperating from illness with her family in Florida, we wish Mary well.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103
Corr: Joanne Cipriano
The date of our March meeting is the 9th. Lecturer Cindy Legg will present her program titled “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”. Carole Mancini will be hostess and I’m sure we will be enjoying her Irish Soda bread. “M’m M’m good!”
We were happy to host the Excelsior Pomona Community Grange School of Instructions. I’m sure everyone went home a little bit smarter on Grange Ritual, thanks to our State Master Jody, General Deputy Todd and our Deputy Eloise.

We are collecting items for the Social Committee’s Tag Sale being held at Oxford Grange on Saturday – April 28th. Any Granger who has tag sale items please save them for us. We will be happy to pick them up.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121
Corr: Linda Coad
March 26: 7:30pm, Resolution Brain Storming; Legislature Committee; Ref: Faith Korpalski
March 21: 7:30pm, Pomona at Bethlehem, Country Store, Ref: Everyone
March 31: 9am-2pm, Annual Indoor Flea

Market
April 23, 7:30pm, Open Meeting, Community, Service Award
March is a busy month. If you would like a table for our Flea Market, contact me for availability. Members are encouraged to bring items for our Tag Sale table.
Don’t forget, we host Pomona this month. If you hadn’t attended a Pomona meeting in awhile, come on out.
We are looking for Crafter’s. Both for the CWA contests and to knit or crochet items to be taken to Eastern States Expo for the sale to help in funding the New England States Grange Building. If you would like to help in this project give me a call.
April 23 we open the doors to Grangers, former Grangers and hopefully Grangers we haven’t met yet. If you have not been to a Subordinate meeting in a while, this is the one to come out to. Visit with old friends and maybe make some new ones.
Any questions on the meetings, contests, Flea Market or anything else, again give me a call.
WATERTOWN GRANGE #122
Corr: Fred Fairchild
March 2: Meeting
March 16: Meeting
Theme: March Winds!
Spring is in the air. All of us miss Sister Mary Dubay who is recuperating in Florida. We wish her a speedy recovery. We hope other members who are snowbirds are in good health. We miss you all.
Reminder to all: we will hold our annual winter Tag Sale on March 10 from 9-2 P.M.
On March 16 our meeting will have the theme “Wearing of the Green.” A tribute to leprechauns and all who claim to be Irish. Green be the color of the day. “Erin go braugh” to

all. We hope to usher in spring with a flourish of green. Visitors and friends are always welcome.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153
Corr: Dean Perry
March 11: Meeting- Sunday, 1:30 P.M. at Chestnut Grove, New Milford
Apr. 11: Regular Meeting, Wed. 7:30, Bridgewater Grange Hall
We had our monthly regular meeting at Dorothy Gustafson’s house on Sunday, Jan. 8.

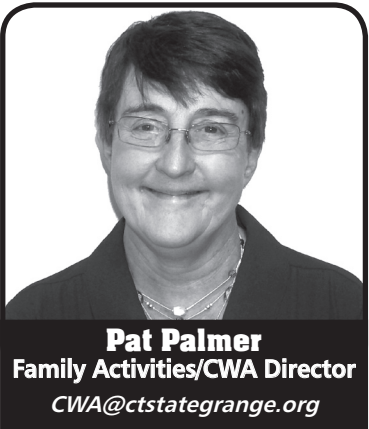
The Bridgewater Grange had a good attendance at the Excelsior Pomona meeting on January 18 and at a special instructional meeting for Grange ceremonies on January 28 at the Beacon Valley Grange.
The Bridgewater Grange Hall will be closed for the winter but we will continue to meet. On March 11 we will meet at a hall in the Chestnut Grove building in New Milford at 1:30 P.M.

OXFORD GRANGE #194
Corr: Phil Rowland
March 2: The Culture of Technology- Neighbors Night
March 16: Pizza Party/ Planning Meeting
Looking at the above calendar, it’s easy to visualize the pizza party; one can easily imagine the delicious aroma as well. Not so easily visualized though, is the presentation revealing the culture of technology. For many folks who are past middle age the latest computerized electronic marvels are as mysterious as life itself. I can’t wait to see what our Lecturer comes up with on this topic!

CWA Chair Loretta has briefed members on the current committee projects and has encouraged participation in the contests. The plate of contest-recipe Sour Cream Banana Bars she brought in at refreshment time was emptied rapidly, indicating their popularity. Hopefully we will see many entries in that category.
In our view, CWA activities potentially can

be helpful in promoting the horizon is presentation of a skit at Pomona community. competition. Should be fun!

Using shoveling time wisely!



Time is fleeting!!! June will be here soon, I hope that all of you are hard at work on your craft and needlework projects. So far, no excuses that you were out shoveling snow and didn’t have time.
Now, in case you haven’t thought of something to make for the contests and

you are a quilter - there’s a new one. National Grange has instituted a Quilt Block Contest. There will be one winner from each state and sent to National. The blocks will be kept and made in to a quilt to be displayed at the 2013 session and the quilt blocks entered the following year will be made into another quilt, until all the quilts are complete and on display for the 150th Anniversary in 2017. For the first four years the theme will be the seasons of the year.

The quilt blocks must be 10.5 inches x 10.5 inches (10” block with 1/4” on each side for piecing together) in a log cabin pattern in fall colors.
Deadline information will be forthcoming, so I can let you know when we will have to judge them (Possibly not until State Session) but I will let you all know.

Off to Redding for the Deputies' Ritual winner

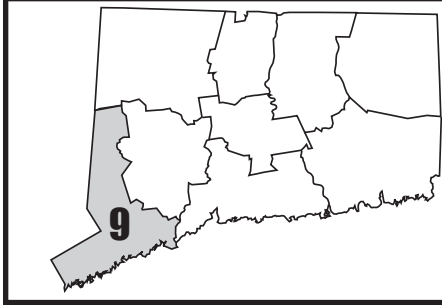


The calendar says it is almost Spring. Let’s hope it is right. I love snow! I have always liked it, but since I retired I just love it. I can sit at home and watch others slip and slide as they go on their way. But, this year I’m looking forward to warmer days and getting outside. With the new spring in our step, let’s spring into action and have some fun with our Brothers and Sisters in the Grange.

We have a new word in Cheshire. It is “voluntold”. Meaning – you are being told you are volunteering. Well last year our State Master voluntold me that I was presenting a program for the Grange that won the Deputies' Ritual Challenge. The winner was Redding Grange. On April 9th I will be presenting that program. This would be an excellent way for you to celebrate the start of Spring. It may also be the one and only time that you can and should boo your State Master, General Deputy, Pomona Deputy West and the Inspecting Subordinate Deputy. They will be in competition. You can cheer for your favorite or the underdog. You can also boo them and there is nothing they can do about it. It is all part of the game. You will learn about your Brother and Sister Grangers, you will hear some jokes, you will hear some very different songs and I’m sure you will have a laugh or two. That’s Monday, April 9th beginning at 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendar now.

Redding is one of only a few Granges that I have trouble finding. I think I go a different way every time I go there. For those of you with GPS their address is 399 Newtown Turnpike, Redding.
Hope to see you in Redding and around the State.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9
Corr: Bob Sendewicz
March 7: Meeting
The meeting will be held at Harmony Grange Hall. A 6 P.M. potluck supper and country store will be held. The program for the evening will be New York, New York.

REDDING GRANGE #15
Corr: Marge Sendewicz
Mar. 12: Saint Patrick’s Day
Mar. 26: Spring Advice
Apr. 9: Easter Program

Our Valentines dinner and meeting was great! The food was delicious and the program was fun. Thanks to Cindy and Ray Legg for bringing their concentration game.

Coming this month we will be wearing the green at our first meeting. Another holiday another fun program. We’ll see how the weather co-operates. Winter just doesn’t seem to want to let go. Although we are not having snow we still have the cold nights.

At our meeting on the 26th. we will be welcoming spring, hopefully, and that will take us into the Easter holiday.

Our other meetings are listed but are subject to change due to inclement weather.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133
Corr: Dennis Rich

March 19: “March Madness”, Meeting, 7 P.M.

In January, we started planning our spring activities. A guest in attendance applied for membership. At our March meeting we will put on the Welcoming Ceremony for those interested in joining our Grange.

The Penny Lane Players will be presenting “As You Like It” the last weekend in March, with 7 P.M. performances Friday and Saturday and 2 P.M. on

Sunday. For information call (203) 375-1093 for the latest details. All of our Grange friends are welcome to our meetings and activities!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146
Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox
March 13: St. Patrick’s and Going Green (Reuse, Renew, Recycle), Planners: Marie and Kevin Parker
Apr. 10: Open House, Neighbor’s Night, 6:30, Planners: Randy Miller and Steve Porter

As you can see from the schedule above, we are now dividing the program responsibilities, which promises to provide an added bounce to our monthly meetings. And pardon us if we was lyrical about two new toilets, two refinished vanities, and a new kitchen faucet. It’s a whole new world here at 12 Goodhill Road! Finally, kudos to Lyn and Chris Anderson and their Publicity Department. They have scored 27 hits in local newspapers since October 1.

Sadly, we draped the Charter at our January meeting for Mary Youngling. But the Grange most definitely goes on. Since October 1 we have brought in nine new members: Britta and Dan Lerner, Cheyenne Scarpelli, Kim Pitcher, Maureen and Dudley Faye, Tish Murray, Jean Loeb, and Dawn Cooper Allen.

You can always find a friend and a cup of coffee at our open Coffee House mornings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10-12. If you go on Thursdays, you’ll also get The Weston Forum, news hot off the press. And our very popular indoor Winter Farmers’ Market is open every Saturday from 10-2. Think Pemaquid lobster and natural beef and pork.

CANNON GRANGE #152
Corr: Don Offinger
March 1: Business Meeting
March 15: Business Meeting plus “Decorate a Basket”
March 17: Scrabble Night with pizza - 6 PM until midnight
March 24: Evening of Silent Movies - 7:30 PM
April 5: Business Meeting

Now that Spring is in the air, we’re off to frequent and busy activities. As is our custom, we like to kick off Grange Month a little early by hosting our annual evening of Silent Movies. This year, we’ll be entertained on March 24th with a hilarious double feature of Buster Keaton. Plan to come and enjoy these two 1920s era silent movies with live piano accompaniment provided by our own member, John Mucci. You’ll laugh until you ache: guaranteed! Refreshments will be available, and you can purchase a ticket at the door. We’ll be looking for you.

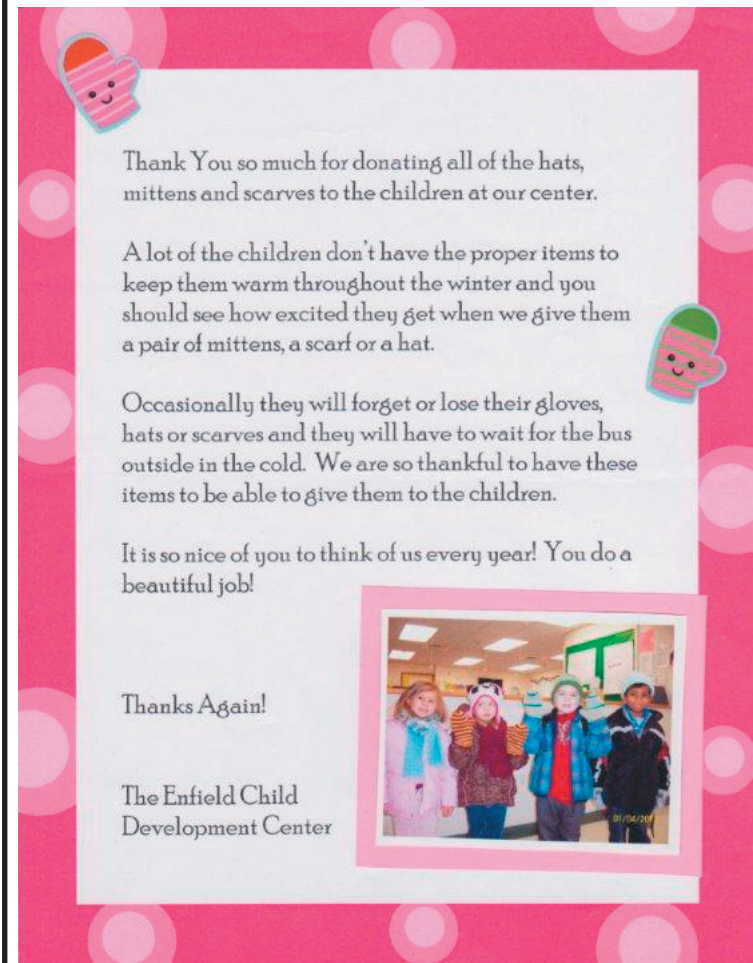
Our monthly scrabble nights continue on the 2nd Saturday of the month. The boards begin at 6 PM with pizza (everyone chips in), and we play until midnight. It’s fun and a nice community event; and if you’d prefer to watch a movie, we have the DVD player showing a classic movie on the big screen. So, it’s fun for everyone.

We’ve begun the planning process for this year’s Agricultural Fair which will be our 80th anniversary fair. Circle the date on your calendar: August 19th.

Please note our meeting and event schedule. Meetings begin at 7 PM and refreshments follow at the final rap of the gavel. Also, please find us on FaceBook and follow us on Twitter.

Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won’t you join us?

Mittens for Enfield Kids



Thank You so much for donating all of the hats, mittens and scarves to the children at our center.


A lot of the children don't have the proper items to keep them warm throughout the winter and you should see how excited they get when we give them a pair of mittens, a scarf or a hat.

Occasionally they will forget or lose their gloves, hats or scarves and they will have to wait for the bus outside in the cold. We are so thankful to have these items to be able to give them to the children.

It is so nice of you to think of us every year! You do a beautiful job!

Thanks Again!

The Enfield Child Development Center



A thank you note from the children in Enfield Day Care thanking Enfield Grange for donations of mittens and scarves. This project was started by the Grange many years ago in an effort to help children from the poorest section of town who do not have a lot and are extremely appreciative of new mittens and scarves to keep them warm.

Stay the weekend at Camp Berger Clean-Up

Linda Coad, Trustees
This year we have set the “Camp Clean Up” later than usual with a few changes. The weekend is June 9 with a rain date of June 10. Anyone who would like to spend the weekend at the camp may do so.

Rich will have a list of things to be cleaned, painted or whatever needs to be done before the date. The dock should be in so if anyone wants to jump in the pond or go fishing they can.

This year the camp is looking for donations or loans of scaffolding so the roofs can be repaired more easily. If you know of a set or two that can be borrowed, please let us know.

Cheshire Card Party



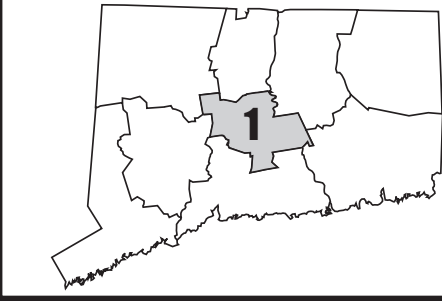
Cheshire Grange will hold a Card Party on March 17, 2012. Bring your favorite card game or board game and enjoy the fellowship of your friends. The cost is \$5 for the evening and this will include coffee and a piece of pie. Please come and join us for a good time.

THANK YOU

My mother and I thank all of the members who sent cards and called to express their sympathy on the passing of my father, Mario Fassio. Your thoughtfulness is so greatly appreciated.

Fraternally, Terri Fassio

Central Pomona No. 1



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

CENTRAL POMONA #1
Corr: Dianne Clark
Apr. 1: Fifth Degree Rehearsal, Meriden, 2 P.M.
Apr. 12: Fifth Degree & Inspection, Meriden, 7:30 P.M.

Sunday, April 1st, the Fifth Degree Rehearsal in Meriden at 2:00 in the afternoon.
Thursday, April 12, Fifth Degree & Inspection in Meriden Grange at 7:30 P.M.
No CWA table.

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25
Corr: Patty Boissonneault
Southington Grange #25 is hosting their Belgian Waffle breakfast, Saturday, March 3rd, 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Breakfast includes freshly made Belgian waffles, assorted toppings,

sausage links, coffee and tea. Tickets are \$6.00 per person, available at the door or from any Grange member. Southington Grange hall is located at 137 Knowles Ave., corner of Summit St., Plantsville.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29
Corr: Dianne Clark
Apr. 13: First & Second Degrees, Inspection
Apr. 27: Youth, CWA
May 11: Mother's Day
We had New Year resolutions in every country in the world and how they celebrate the new year. We had a program on Cupid and Valentine's Day. On March 9 a St. Patrick's Day program.
On March 10 we are having a dinner of Roast Pork, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

On April 13 we will confer the first and second degrees with inspection. On April 27 the program will be Youth with Mary Anne Harrison and CWA with Cindy Charbonneau's program.

On May 11 we are celebrating all mothers and famous mothers.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124
Corr: Barbara Smith
Higganum Grange #124 has been busy painting and sprucing up the grange hall this past month. The grange has donated/prepared 26 valentines filled with items to be given out the the home bound and senior citizens of Haddam and to residents of Shailerville Manor.
Our meetings are held on the 1st Friday of every month and refreshments are served.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182
Corr: Maureen Sanborn
March 9: Beware the Ides
March 23: March Winds
Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

DEPUTY TEAM

INSPECTIONS RITUAL CODE READING SUPPORT INSTRUCTION

Todd A. Gelineau, General Deputy
Email: GeneralDeputy@CTStateGrange.org

Inspection season is just about upon us and the Deputies will be in contact with each Grange to set up their respective schedules. They will be sending out letters to confirm the inspection dates and to remind Granges of what is required on inspection night. It is important to provide all Grange records including minutes book, dues records, checkbooks, passbooks, orders on Treasurer, Treasurer's receipts, etc. for the Deputy to review.

While reports from the various Standing Committees are not required, the Deputies will be paying particular attention to the reports given during the meeting on the night of inspection and will be looking for committee activity in the Grange minutes.

NEW FOR 2012: ALL LECTURERS are asked to provide their records for review on the night of inspection. This can be accomplished by providing copies of the reports filed with the State Lecturer or can also be more comprehensive with more detailed materials from the programs provided during the year.

Secretaries can get a good "jump" on the process by reviewing the inspection reports provided in the center of the new State Grange Blue Books. It will be a great help to the Deputy if answers are already provided for questions in Section C and Additional Information (Community Granges) and Sections E, F and Additional Information (Pomona Granges). The Blue Book copy of the inspection report can be used as a worksheet. This information will be transferred by the Deputy to the official inspection report provided by him/her on the night of inspection. Please remember to have a copy of your Executive Committee Report for 2011 as well. No inspections will be considered complete until it is completed, signed and filed with the General Deputy.

The Deputies' Ritual Challenge is also part of this year's inspection process. Instead of having Granges opt in or out of the program, all Granges are automatically entered! The Deputy will score the opening and closing of the Grange based on the criteria provided in the same inspection report form mentioned above.

Finally, I would like to thank all Granges for working with the State Master, your Deputy and me to ensure the Schools of Instruction were scheduled and went so smoothly throughout the State. We consider these schools a starting point. Granges are encouraged to contact the Deputies or me to get additional instruction or help, if needed. We are more than happy to work with any Grange... all you have to do is ask!

Cheshire Grange to host Hot Air Balloon Program

The public is invited to attend a program at Cheshire Grange featuring a presentation on hot air balloons by Erwin Dressel of Castle View Balloons on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. The program will start



at 7:30 PM at the Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire. It is in conjunction with the Committee on Women's Activities theme "Still Soaring."

This program is family friendly and will be of interest to both adults and children. There is no charge for admission. The presentation will be followed by a Teacup Auction and refreshments.

Erwin Dressel, owner of Castle View Balloons of Cheshire, Connecticut, has been ballooning since 1990. He began piloting in 1995, and received his FAA certification as a Commercial Hot Air Balloon Pilot in 1998. He is a member of the CLAS (Connecticut Lighter than Air Society) and participates annually in a number of local balloon competitions.

According to Castle View Balloons' website www.CastleViewBalloons.com,

"both the balloon and basket are inspected every 100 flight hours or once a year by an FAA certified balloon service representative following a comprehensive checklist authored by the balloon manufacturer and certified by the FAA."

For further information on the program, contact Jane Miller at 203-272-8255.

Cheshire Grange, organized in 1885, is one of nearly 60 Granges across Connecticut, and has been active in the Cheshire community for over 125 years through their service projects, agricultural fair, and numerous family-oriented activities and events. For more information on the organization, please visit their website at www.CheshireGrange.org. For information on the Grange in Connecticut visit www.CtStateGrange.org

Bethlehem Grange Indoor Flea Market



Sat, March 31, 2012 *** 9am-2pm
Memorial Hall, 2 On the Green
Main St. Bethlehem, CT

Information: Linda Coad
BuzzandLinda@aol.com
203-264-8151

Short Session in full swing



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Connecticut sent six resolutions from our annual session to National Grange for action. Two of them were withdrawn as they already were considered National Grange policy. The other four were discussed, with

two of them being adopted by the delegates and are now part of National Grange Policy. One was the resolution concerning setting standards for minimal walk light times, types of visual image and audible sound levels for road crosswalks. The second one was to continue to uphold the State's rights to regulate farmers transporting of equipment and not requiring them to obtain CDL licenses to operate farm equipment. These were resolutions that came from you and went through the Grange

process from local Granges, to Pomona, to State then on to National Grange. Good job everyone!!!

The Legislative Committee is going to put together a resolution writing workshop for anyone interested in writing resolutions. One of the items in the Honor Grange report is to submit a resolution to your Pomona Grange. We are planning on holding at least two workshops in different areas of the state in the spring. This may be something that could be presented at local Granges

as well. Watch the Granger for more information on these workshops.

The Legislative Committee is putting the final touches on the 2012 Legislative Guide. This is the State Granges Legislative policy guide and copies will be sent to all members of the General Assembly and to local Granges.

The 2012 Connecticut General Assembly convened on February 8th for the 'short session'. This off year session is for budget adjustments only. There are other items that somehow seem to be considered budget that are brought up, but the budget is the primary focus. As Russell Gray mentioned in the last Granger, these state monies are important to towns. It is extremely important for towns and agencies that the state budget is passed within a reasonable time frame. As an example, the education systems need to know how

much they are going to receive to set their budgets for student tuitions and programs. Remember, this money is ultimately coming from you, the taxpayers. We all should be aware of our state and town budgets and the process of adopting them. When your town presents its budget to the town's people, review it and ask questions if necessary. Ask a Selectman or representative of the town to your meeting to educate you on the budget.

Gordon Gibson will again be at the Capitol communicating the State Grange's policy on the different topics. He will be monitoring budget recommendations for the Department of Agriculture and many of the Agricultural and Rural programs. We will again be posting his testimonies on the State Grange web site as we go along. The State Grange Legislative Committee also has a Twitter page where we post events.



Content Marketing

Ignite fires with your Grange story

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

What is your Grange story? Every Grange has at least one story to tell. Most Granges have numerous stories to tell - such as community service projects, Grange events, meetings and activities, long-time members, and a vast array of interests.

What is content marketing? It is the creation and distribution of relevant information to your audience.

A recent article published by Nancy E. Schwartz* compares content marketing to a campfire.

"To build a successful campfire, you need to begin with ignitable tinder and gradually add more and more wood until you have a roaring fire. It's the same with content. But before you even start that campfire, you know what your goal is - to build a fire. You'll need to set clear goals for your content marketing program, so you know where you're trying to go with it - and the target audiences you must engage to meet that goal. Most importantly, with so many channels, formats and types of content options it is essential to establish a solid foundation for your content strategy rather than randomly gathering content and hoping it all ignites in the end."

There are a number of sources that you can regularly utilize to reach your target audience of Grange members, potential members, Grange supporters and the general public-at-large. Here's a few ideas:

- Report regularly in the Connecticut Granger newspaper (over 2000 newspapers mailed monthly to both Grange members and Grange supporters. Send your submissions to granger@ctstategrange.org.)

- Send news items, calendar dates and photos to the Connecticut State Grange website (over 4000 website visitors per day. Send your submissions to information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.)

- Write articles and press releases for local newspapers (for example: the Hartford Courant has a circulation of 187,000 daily; Waterbury Republican-American has a circulation of 44,000 daily; New London Day has a circulation of 25,000 daily; and the Connecticut Post has a circulation of 76,000 daily.)

- Develop a Facebook Page and/or a Twitter Page for your Grange (Facebook has more than 800 million active users, adding more than 200 million of those in the last year alone while Twitter has 100 million active users.)

- Hang posters in your local library, church, grocery store, laundry mat and pizza place to promote your upcoming Grange meetings and events.

It is important to produce content that is both engaging and exciting. Content that catches the attention of the reader. Speak from the heart, and always see the human aspect of your content. Think about what you as a reader or viewer likes to see. It could be something as simple as a new recipe, craft or gardening tip to share, or as important as donating dictionaries to the local elementary school and honoring a 50-plus year member.

The most difficult part of Content Marketing with your Grange is finding the time to create a variety of content to keep your marketing active, fresh and current. Having a Facebook Page for your Grange is one thing - but make sure it updated regularly or it will be forgotten about and overlooked by your followers. Work together as a Grange marketing team. Share the responsibilities within your Grange, that way more members are involved and the work load is lighter per person.

Don't let marketing your Grange slip through the cracks. Set clear goals and establish the foundations to tell your Grange stories. Ignite the fire of your Grange through content marketing.

* Source: Nancy E. Schwartz, *GettingAttention.org*, February 2012.

Stafford Grange #1



Members of Stafford Grange No. 1 prepare to march in the Winterfest Parade held in downtown Stafford Springs. The jingle bell wearing goats were a hit of the parade. Below, Jerry Julian proudly represents Stafford Grange as the flag bearer.



Youth & Junior



Lisa Lamoureux
State Youth & Junior Director
youth@ctstategrange.org
juniors@ctstategrange.org

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

March 16: Wearing of the Green

Apr. 20: Spring Break Fun

The Junior Grangers have been kept busy. They worked on several crafts. They made cards to send with the cookies that were sent to the service men and women overseas. They are now waiting for better weather as they are going to help the Garden Club plant flowers around town. I'm sure the Garden Club will appreciate their help. It certainly needs some sprucing up.

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

The girls presented our

program for February. They did an outstanding job! Facts about Valentine's Day, musical hearts, made Valentine cards, cookies to decorate (yum!), and "conversation" heart baggies for all. A lot of fun and sugar!

Also, at our February meeting, Ryan Gamarsh joined. Welcome Ryan! He brought our count up to 17 for that night. In addition to the 15 Honoraries and visitors. What a great bunch of kids!

We voted to purchase a physical and political map that is 10' X 6' for Sterling Community School. It will hang on a wall, for all kids

3-8th to view and use. It is a dry-erase map and can easily be updated as needed.

Bowling is scheduled for Feb. 19th. Will report next month when I know how it went. We also hope to go to a sugar shack.

We will be selling candy and nuts before Easter. Orders will be due soon after this issue comes out.

In March the boys will present the program, and we plan on scheduling a ping pong competition, Ekonk style, and balloon games for the younger ones. Feel free to call and find out what we are doing. Something is always going on on the hill, and friends are ALWAYS welcome!

So. Connecticut Past Masters

The March meeting of the Past Masters will be held at Cheshire Grange on Saturday, March 10th. This will be our annual Election of Officers with a program entitled "Dogs" to be presented by Vice President Charles Dimmick. As usual we will start with a potluck supper at 6:30 followed by a short meeting once the dishes are done, then the program followed by a Country Store.

We invite all Grangers to come and join us.

Promote Your Grange

The National Grange Communications Department has announced that for a limited time, the Grange Store is having a sale on Grange Pop-Up Banners. The banners are similar to the one pictured with this article and is like the one displayed during the last State Session next to the Master's Station.

The banners, which normally sell for \$325, are being offered at the affordable price of \$225 to Community and Pomona Granges across Connecticut until March 2. The price does not include shipping costs, but the shipping cost can be saved if the banner is picked up at a local FedEx Office Print & Ship Center (10 locations throughout the state).

The fully-customizable banner is 31 inches wide and 80 inches tall and comes with its own carrying case and stand.

According to the National Grange press release, "this banner is easy to transport and is a perfect product to promote your Grange at events, such as fairs, festivals, open houses for upcoming Grange Month, and more."

For more information, or to purchase a pop-up banner for your Grange, contact Amanda Brozana, National Grange Communications Director, via email at abrozana@nationalgrange.org or via phone at 1-888-4GRANGE, ext. 102. Please note that email contact is preferred.

Join the Grange!

Sign up for Online Membership

Online Members enjoy the following benefits:

- Membership in an organization with family and rural values and a history of achievement
- A national legislative team that advocates for you
- Publications to keep you informed of the Grange, your community, and your nation
- Discounts on car rentals, hotels, prescription drug coverage, and so much more!

Join your Community Grange

In addition to the benefits above, Community Grange Members also enjoy the following:

- Opportunities to make a difference in your community
- Leadership opportunities at the community, state, and national levels
- Voting rights at Grange meetings
- Access to service projects, social activities, and leadership development opportunities

Build your own Community Grange

Don't have a Community Grange? We can help you build one! Contact publicrelations@pagrange.org

Visit www.pagrange.org or call 1-800-552-3865

Chaplain's Message



Amy Whitcomb
State Chaplain
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Marvin Wilbur,
Past State Chaplain

I am writing this article for our Chaplain Amy Whitcomb. She is unable to do it for now. We all wish you a speedy recovery, Amy, and God be with you.

I am writing this on February 1st and the weather is beautiful. We have no snow, the temperature is in the 50's and it feels like spring. I have a robin in my yard since last week; the maple taps are in and running well; and the spring flowers are all coming up. I am looking for pussy willows but have not seen any lately—most of the bushes have been cut around here. Spring is in the air!

Spring for me is the season of change, change from staying in to getting out more. I just filled the birdfeeders again and as I did so I looked around the yard to see what has to be done. I even purchased some flower seeds today—morning glories and sunflowers. Some of us even have to do spring cleaning—throwing out the things we don't need anymore and making room for newer things. Now remember, just don't put the old stuff away because you "might" need it some day. You know you won't.

Perhaps now is the time to look forward to some changes in our habits as well. We can strive to get out and walk more, perhaps even sit on the porch or out in the yard. We can strive to exercise more to keep our body and mind in shape. We can strive to eat more healthy food. As we begin to get ourselves in shape we will feel more like doing other things that we enjoy.

Since March is here the snow should be less and that means we can visit more. Have you been visiting your nearby Granges? You know an unexpected visit brings smiles to the visited Grangers and to you. You notice of everyone gathers around you to greet you and thank you for coming. And the smiles—what a sight—it just warms you through and through. Have you ever noticed how those we visit seem to stand straighter, and look at things in a more positive light?

When you see the smiles, the laughter and the good fellowship when you visit, perhaps that is what it will be like in the Great Grange Above when we get there. Perhaps we should be visiting our shut-ins more to bring smiles and laughter to them. Who knows how long it has been since some one from the Grange has visited. Perhaps we could bring something for them to enjoy as well so they will remember the visit as then enjoy the flowers, or candy or book.

For then we can ask: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirst and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you. The Kind will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:37-40).

Editor's Note: We thank Brother Wilbur for stepping in for Sister Amy and writing this monthly message. We join with him in wishing Sister Amy a return to better health.

John W. Scott

Past Master of the National Grange ~ 1917 - 2012



John Walker Scott, 94, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., passed away Friday, Feb. 10, in the Harrisburg Hospital in the presence of his family. John was born in Robinson Township, Allegheny County on Dec. 8, 1917, the son of Frank Walker Scott and Nellie DeVassie Scott. He was married to Dorothy Irene McCandless Scott from 1939 until her death in 1994, and to Helen Paden Scott from 2001 until her death in 2010.

John grew up on his grandfather's farm in Allegheny County, where he lived with his parents and sisters, Dorothy Scott Neel and Martha Grace Scott. In 1936, the family moved to their farm

in Franklin Township, Butler County, where John lived until 1963, when the Commonwealth acquired the farm through eminent domain to become part of Moraine State Park. When the Scotts arrived in Butler County, their new farm adjoined the farm of B.H. and Phoebe McCandless, whose eldest daughter Dorothy was away at Slippery Rock State Teachers College. The next year Dorothy received her teaching certificate and returned home to be the teacher at the one-room Island Independent School, which was located just north of the Scott farm. That winter, John shoveled the path to the school and fired the pot-bellied stove so the building would be warm when Dorothy arrived. They were married on August 25, 1939, and moved into the house they built on the farm in the spring of 1940.

In 1960, John was named the "Butler County Man of the Year." In 1937, John joined the Grange as a member of Unionville Grange, No. 1971. The Grange would become the focus of much of his adult life. He held every office in the local and Pomona

(county) Grange and served on the State Executive Committee. When the farm was acquired by the State, John was elected Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, and the family relocated to Mechanicsburg. During John's tenure as State Master the Grange was instrumental in a major reform of the state's eminent domain law. The "Eminent Domain Code of 1964" greatly expanded the protection of landowner rights, ensuring for the first time that property owners would receive 80 percent payment within 60 days of the condemnation, without prejudice to their right to seek fair compensation thereafter in court. John was also directly involved in the adoption of the Susquehanna River Compact which led to the creation of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

In 1968, John was elected Master of the National Grange, headquartered in Washington, D.C. For the next 12 years he led the Grange at the national level, crisscrossing the country with Dorothy to build membership and programs, traveling abroad as an ambassador for American Agriculture, and providing counsel to Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter. While John was the

National Master a commemorative postage stamp honoring the Grange was issued, and the Grange satisfied the mortgage on its national headquarters building at 1616 H Street, N.W., the only privately owned structure in the "Federal Square" sector of Washington D.C.

In 1980, John returned to his home in Mechanicsburg. Shortly thereafter he was employed by the Pa. Dept. of Agriculture as the Chief of the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Division. He retired from the state in 1990. After his retirement, John volunteered at the Harrisburg Hospital,

accumulating over 10,000 hours of volunteer service. Although John had to leave high school as a teenager because of family farm responsibilities, education was always important to him. He earned his high school diploma from Cumberland Valley High School in 1986, as a member of its adult degree program in time to attend the 50th reunion of his original high school class.

John is survived by three sons and three daughters-in-law. He is also survived by six grandchildren. Additionally, he is survived by ten great-grandchildren.

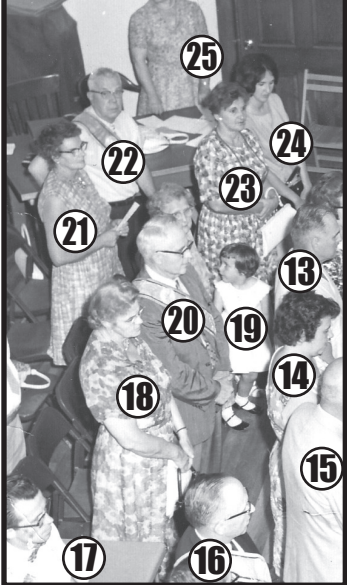
In Memoriam

Eleanor Wilcox, G.S.	Tolland #51
Florence Streeter, G.S.	Wolf Den #61
William Conrad	Taghannuck #100
William F. Schnell, G.S.	Taghannuck #100
David Birkbeck	N. Stonington #138
Alice B. Morgan	N. Stonington #138
Elizabeth D. Ogle, G.S.	Old Lyme #162
William Meeker, G.S.	Riverton #169
Ralph Hedus	Riverton #169

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

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Montville Picture



We had an e-mail from an unnamed Grange member identifying more people in the Montville photo (portion of that photo is at left) -- No. 18 is Helen Weeks and No. 20 is Ellsworth Weeks, and that No. 21 Mrs. Covell's first name is Christine. Sue Gray also sent a note stating that her mother Marion Emmons identified No. 18 Helen Weeks and No. 20 Ellsworth Weeks as well.

Thank you to everyone who has been helping us identify the Window photos each month. Your assistance is appreciated!!

Answers to February Picture:

We heard from Virginia LaPutz, Marie Noyes, and Sue Gray

Front row left to right: Virginia Laputz, Glenna Stenhouse, Marie Ellsworth, Laurie Laputz. Back row left to right: Stephen Laputz, Vern Patridge, Dan LaVangie, Roberta Patridge, Leslie Laputz.

Virginia says that the photo was taken after a Junior Grange installation.

Marie adds: "Those people that have been identified in this picture belonged to Ledyard Grange #167 (with the exception of Dan LeVangie. I am not sure if he ever joined Ledyard. He originally was member of Preston City Grange). I don't know what the occasion might have been; however, it must have been taken when I was not active with the Grange. The picture has to date prior to 1993 because Marie Ellsworth (my sister-in-law) died in February 1993 and it looks as if this picture was taken a few years before. Maybe in the 1980's."

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the 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.

This month's picture...



This photo is marked New Haven County Pomona Officers 1988.

Last month's picture...

