

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

FEBRUARY 2014

Choose to be successful



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

On Friday January 17, 2014 I had the honor of presenting three 50 Year Certificates at Riverton Grange. As I sat and listened to a snippet of their history it made me think about how many members came before us to build the Grange and how for many of us the Grange's success is a normal occurrence, not too many of us make a conscience decision that today my Grange will succeed. We are active to the best of our abilities for our given situations and we support our Grange in any manner possible. That's

what we do, right?

What about the Grange that consciously decides to not be successful and close their Grange. This is indeed a conscious decision, many times promoted by very few members, sometimes only one. We expect EVERYONE to keep our Grange going but we let a handful decide to disband us. It just doesn't seem right to me. I understand these decisions are not easy ones to make, but where would we be today if our founders called it quits when they hit a rough spot in the road. When they were faced with trials and adversity, they forged forward, telling the story of the Grange louder and louder, making sure they were marketing to the right crowd, telling them how the Grange needs them and how the Grange could benefit their needs professionally and personally. When this great organization was formed across this country our leaders did not take

NO for an answer, they did not make excuses as to why no one would join the Grange. No, they showed these citizens how as a collective voice the Grange could and would make a better manhood and womanhood for everyone. The circumstances are no different today.

Brothers and Sisters, it is time we go back to the basics, therefore we have invited Michael Martin, the National Grange Leadership & Membership Development Director to conduct a Membership Growth Training "Grow your Grange-Impact your Community." This will be held March 22, 2014 times and location to follow. This is open to EVERY member who is interested in the future success of their Grange, because remember, the decision to keep your Grange active and successful needs to be a conscious decision.

Short Session ready to begin



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The 2014 Connecticut General Assembly session will convene at the State Capitol on February 5th. This year is officially the short or 'budget' session and runs from February until May 7th. This is also an election year so the Legislators will be out of session earlier to be able to

start their campaigning and fundraising. Fundraising is not allowed while the legislature is in session. Only bills concerning budget adjustments are supposed to be proposed during the short session. There still will be many bills proposed that are not just budget related though.

Gordon Gibson will again be in Hartford monitoring the General Assembly and watching what bills are presented and which ones we should be concerned about. The State Grange rents a mail box in the Legislative Office Building where we will receive information on bills

as they are being presented. Gordon will be communicating the Connecticut State Granges policies, as directed by your resolutions, which were passed at State Grange sessions to the legislators. Copies of our Legislative Guide Policy Guide will also
...Continued on page 3

Golden Sheaf members of Riverton Grange #169



From left: Fred Richards, Maureen Prelli and F. Philip Prelli pose with Hank the Burro after receiving their Golden Sheaf (50 Year Membership) Awards from State Master Jody Cameron at Riverton's Jan. 17 meeting.

New format for Schools of Instruction

Todd A. Gelineau, General Deputy

We hope to see large crowds of members at the Community Grange Schools of Instruction to be held Saturday, Feb. 8 at Norwich Grange and Sunday, Feb. 9 at Cheshire Grange. In a departure from recent formats, this year's schools will focus on instruction for the Masters, Overseers, Lecturers, Secretaries, Treasurers and Executive Committees of our Granges. While all members are encouraged to attend, these officers will have the opportunity to meet with their State Grange counterparts to ask questions and be given useful tips and information to help them in their Grange work. The School will also feature a leadership presentation by the State Master. Both schools will begin at 1:00 P.M. and refreshments will follow the meetings. The snow dates will be the same dates in March at the same time and locations. Please contact me if you have any questions at GeneralDeputy@CTStateGrange.org or 860-626-0326.

The Pomonas will also have Schools of Instruction at upcoming meetings. The dates are:

Central Pomona #1: Feb. 13 @ Higganum

Quinebaug #2: Feb. 1 @ Ekonk

East Central #3: March 1 @ Good Will

...Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

Central No. 1	2
Quinebaug No. 2	3
East Central No. 3	4
Mountain County No. 4	5
New Haven County No. 5	6
New London County No. 6	7
Excelsior No. 7	8
Fairfield County No. 9	9



Pg. 10

Hank's travelog and new column. Like him on Facebook and look for him at a Grange near you!

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

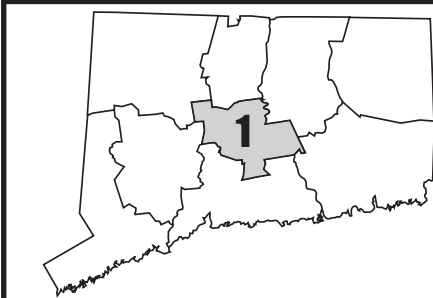


A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



Central Pomona No. 1



Southington No. 25

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: M. Harrison, Lecturer

Feb. 14: You're in the Funny Papers

Mar. 14: What's Cookin? Refreshments should be interesting that night.

Apr. 11: Ritualism Practice

We closed the year with our Christmas party which featured Santa (Larry Harrison) for photos and gift distribution. Our Michael Relyea was the narrator for our Night Before Christmas Game.

Coming this spring, Meriden Grange is looking forward to starting a craft bee with any interested Grangers. Besides getting some craft time, we look forward to learning something new and my hope will be to make a few crafts for the New England Grange Building store at the Big E. I am working on Christmas ornaments.

We meet the second Friday of the month during the winter months, weather permitting. Our snowdates are the fourth Friday of the month. Please join us for

food, fellowship and you may just find out something new from the Lecturer's program.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara R. Smith

Higganum Grange #124 held an open meeting starting with a turkey dinner and all the trimmings in December. With sadness we lost a member Louise Ryan who transferred from the Killingworth Grange to the Higganum Grange, passed away recently. We also want to acknowledge longtime members Audrey Lundgren and Lillian Dudek who are currently in convalescent homes are doing fine. We wish them a Happy New Year along with the rest of our members. Have a safe, healthy, happy new year.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Feb. 14: Alpaca Fiber

Feb. 28: Omit (unless the first meeting of the month is canceled)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

New format for Schools of Instruction

Continued from page one...

Mountain County #4: Feb. 10 @ Eureka (Snow Date- 3/22 @ Riverton)

New London County #6: March 8 @ N. Stonington

Excelsior #7: March. 19 @ Wolcott

Fairfield County #9: March 5 @ Harmony (Snow Date June 4 @ Cannon)

*New Haven County's school was held in January.

These schools will be completely different from the Community Grange Schools and will focus on the purpose of Pomona in today's Grange. To keep the meetings as brief as possible, the Pomona Lecturers have been asked not to have programs on these evenings. Again, please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank You!

Thank you for all of the support, thoughts and prayers we have received during the recent difficult time for our family.

Lisa & Jim Lamoureux

Winners of "The Froggy"



Phil Prelli, Maureen Prelli and granddaughter Addie perform a skit during the Jan. 17 meeting at Riverton Grange. Three skits were performed with an audience vote taken to determine the winner of a "special" trophy we're calling The Froggy (inset). This skit was the audience favorite.

Granger Shout Out



J. Allen Cameron is attending the Miner Institute in Chazy, NY-the second UCONN student to be selected; the first was Ekonk's Jonathan Hermonot!

Jenna Wesa: Ekonk Junior - Chaired the Walk for St. Judes!

A loving thank you to my Sister Grangers; Jean Meehan, Jeanne Vail and Mary Lou Raymond for giving up their precious time to provide transportation and companionship for me to finally take my 7th degree in New Hampshire. It was a memorable and fun occasion, thank you ladies.

Audrey J. Wellner, Oxford Grange #194

Verna Cole: Thanks for heading the Christmas Bazaar & all you do behind the scenes for Ekonk!

To Mary Lou Raymond (Prospect Grange). Thank you for being there when I needed a friend. - Cindy Legg

Cannon Grange recognizes the following members for exceptional work on the kitchen renovation project: John McConnell for supplying all the new cabinets and refrigerator, Don Offinger for making three trips to pick-up the cabinets and refrigerator, and Doug Shepherd for masterminding the design/build/installation.

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Granger@CTStateGrange.org

They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

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

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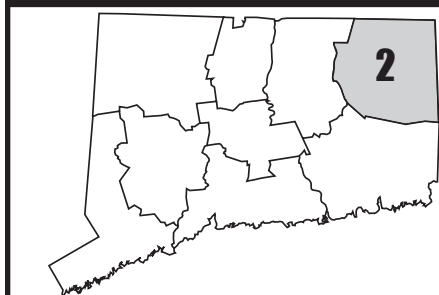
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Secretary Treasurer Edith Schoell

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Feb. 3: Western Night

Feb. 17: Snow Date

Mar. 3: Flirting with Flowers

Mar. 17: Famous Women

Happy New Year to everyone and good health! By the time “you all” get to read of Killingly Grange’s activities past and present it will be the “new year.” Hopefully a better one for not only Killingly Grange #112, but all our Quinebaug Pomona Grangers.

Killingly Grange #112 held its Christmas Party at the Grange with visiting Granges and a potluck supper. As in other years, Killingly Grangers chose to donate gifts and food baskets to a few foster families and we did have three big loads of the above. Everyone was most generous – so we are off to a good start even at the end of the old year.

Upcoming events should be on Facebook, but I will pass the info along this way- Feb. 22, Mar. 29 & Apr. 26- Bluegrass with Nick Anderson- Refreshments- 6pm. Chicken Pot Pie Dinner- 7pm- program on stage.

Upcoming Farmers’ Markets: Sat., Feb. 15, 10-1:30; Sat., Mar. 22, 10-1:30; Last Market will be on Sat., Apr. 19 (Garden Day at the Grange).

These have proven to be quite an attraction and well attended. Refreshments and lunch are also available. The “Great White Elephant” Sale is in the works. Watch for more on that later.

With our new “energetic” Master Bernadette, we older members and some of the newer members of Killingly Grange are having a little difficulty keeping up but that’s a good thing. It’s like a “shot in the arm” for the Grange and hopefully will draw in more new members. Don’t forget to fill in your calendar with all

our ongoing events and see you soon in the new year!

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Feb. 3: Meeting/Program 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 3: Meeting/Program 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 15: Corned beef & cabbage supper 5pm-

Mar. 15: Square Dance 7:30 pm--

Thanks to Katie Molodich for preparing the Winter Grange Newsletter, which was mailed out to all Ekonk members; great job and color pictures included too! Katie has offered to prepare these as often as quarterly--it is great when young people dive right into serving! Congratulations to Sarah Cousens on her engagement to Nate (this young couple works in the kitchen at Grange suppers as well as volunteer at Washington County Fair when Ekonk works with Richmond Grange). The Sterling Girl Scouts continue using our facilities, but have added yet another night to their busy schedule, making room for their expanding numbers; the Cub Scouts have also used our Grange! Joe LoPresti will once again return to Ekonk for a Spring Series of Square Dances: March 15 and April 19 will be the first two!

GRANGERS: IS THERE REALLY A SANTA CLAUS? EKONK HAS THE PROOF! Our Grange received a beautiful Christmas card. Inside was handwritten the following: “To the Ekonk Community Grange--with best wishes throughout the coming year. Thank you for all that you ALL do to make our community-BELIEVE---Passion, Action, Commitment, Support, Options and Opportunity--Clear the Roofs! SANTA (Enclosed was a Western Union Money Order for \$100.00--signed SANTA).

Legislative Session to begin

Continued from page one...

be distributed to all Legislators early in the session. The Connecticut State Grange may also testify on bills we feel we should either support or oppose as they are presented in the different committees during public hearings.

Everyone can also follow the bills being proposed and their action during the legislative session by going to the Connecticut General Assembly web site - <http://www.cga.ct.gov/> and sign up for Bill Tracking. You can follow the bills as they are presented to the committee’s and as they travel the process right through to being voted on by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. I usually follow the bills that are coming

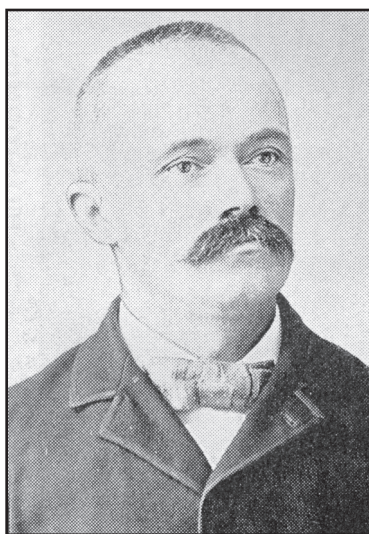
out of the Environmental Committee since many of them concern the rural issues that we are usually interested in. There are also many other bills in other committees that we also try to follow as well when we identify them. Any citizen can also testify on a bill in Committee during public hearings if they wish.

The General Assembly web site will list the committees and committee members as well as their meeting schedules along with the bills they are working on. It also lists the contact information of all of the Senators and Legislators if you wish to contact any of them to express your support, opposition, or concerns on any of these bills.

DEPUTY TEAM

INSPECTIONS RITUAL CODE READING SUPPORT INSTRUCTION

Deputy Charles R. Risley



Charles R. Risley

Todd A. Gelineau, General Deputy

A special reminder and outline of the Schools of Instruction (Pomona and Community Grange) is provided elsewhere in this issue to allow us to do something a little different with this month’s Deputy column.

A Facebook request was sent out by National Grange Communications Director Amanda Brozana in early December asking for volunteers to assist with the digitization of the National Grange records in Washington, D.C. (She would love to have many more volunteers! -- abrozana@nationalgrange.org).

While recording the Charter Applications for many of Connecticut’s earliest Granges, an unfamiliar organizing Deputy’s name popped up – Charles R. Risley.

For those of you not familiar with it, The Connecticut Granges was published in 1900 by the Industrial Publishing Company of New Haven. This volume is a comprehensive listing of all of the Granges in Connecticut to that date in our history. It is beautifully bound and is a precursor to The Grange in Connecticut written by Lida S. Ives in 1953 updating the developments in Connecticut since 1900.

In researching information for the National Grange project, Mr. Risley’s name pops up again in this volume, this time with a photograph and an impressive biographical sketch of this dedicated Patron.

It reads, in part: “Much prestige attaches to the subject of this sketch as a dead-in-earnest, thorough-going Granger

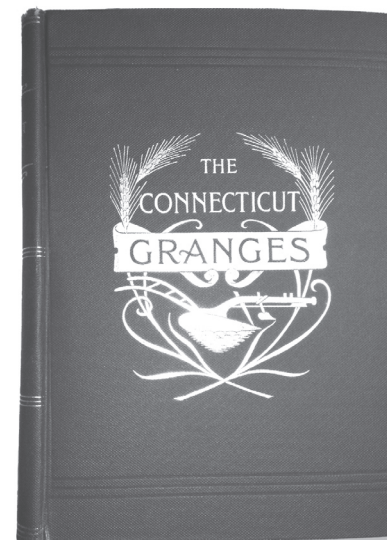
and all-round good citizen. He is the most distinguished of the several capable Masters of East Hartford Grange, where his discriminating judgment, perseverance, application and resolution have wrought much for the advancement of Grange interests. His discharge of his official functions as master for two years, lecturer for four years and secretary for one year was marked by much intelligent zeal and fidelity, and in these, as well as in the able performance of his duties as Deputy under State Master J. H. Hale, his clear-cut individuality left its impress upon all his work.

Charles Richard Risley was born in East Hartford, September 21, 1854. He is the son of Charles Bulkeley and Delia Abigail Risley, both of whom were descendants, in the seventh generation, of Richard Risley of Boston, Lincolnshire, England. The latter came to America in 1633 and settled at Newton in Massachusetts Bay Colony. Two years later he became a member of the famous party which Rev. Thomas Hooker led from Newton to found the colony of Connecticut. He died in 1648 having lived for several years on the east side of the river in the part of town called Hockanum.”

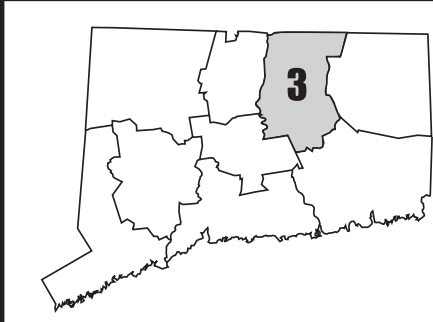
This remarkable Granger is descended from one of Connecticut’s founding families and continued to write his own history by being a Charter member of East Hartford Grange and later as an organizing Deputy for many Granges in Hartford County.

He is the embodiment of the truth that “we write our own history.”

Note: A digital version of “The Connecticut Granges” is available as a free e-book from Google Books.



East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- Granby No. 5
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- Manchester No. 31
- Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151
- Simsbury No. 197

MISSION STATEMENT

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

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Feb. 6: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., "Love is in the air"; Ref. Dan & Ann Posuniak & Jeannine Carini

Feb. 8: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.

Mar. 6: Meeting, 7:30 P.M. The Ides of March, Ref. Jean & Mario Accornero & Tom Breen

Mar. 8: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.

It is January 1st so Happy New Year. All those that attended the Christmas Party had a really nice evening. We were able to collect 72 Childrens' books. They were delivered to the Glastonbury Social Service Department on December

9th. I thank all who donated the books. It helped to make some child's Christmas a little brighter.

The Blue Books have not come out yet, but this years baking contest is "Carmel Rocky Road Bars. That does sound delicious. I will make copies of the recipe for all as soon as I am can. The subordinate judging will be held at our April 3rd meeting. I hope those that do needlework will make something for the contest this year. The State Judging will be in Cheshire in June. That is not that far away. Keep those needles busy.

HEADS UP: May 3rd is our Semi-Annual Food and Unique Boutique Sale. Keep this date on your calendar. We do need everyone's assistance. Hope to see you at some of our meetings and at the card parties. Bring a friend or two with you to enjoy a really fun evening with plenty of refreshments. Wishing all a Healthy and Happy New Year.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Feb. 7: In House School of Instruction

Vernon Grange will be

setting up the hall and have an in-house School of Instruction for our new members. January was postponed and we didn't get a chance to host East Central Pomona's special mid-winter get-together, so let's try again in February.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Michelle DeDominicis

Feb. 8: Cabin Fever Pancake Breakfast at Hillstown Grange; Contact Frank Forest, hillstowngrange@aol.com or 860-690-2845.

Feb. 27: Supper and Winter Gardening, 6 P.M.

On February 8, 2014, the Hillstown Grange will be holding a Pancake Breakfast from 8am to noon. Take a break from the winter blahs and come relax and enjoy pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$5; children under 10 just \$3. Special "kid-cakes" will be available with chocolate chips or strawberries. This month we want to talk "Gardening" stop in to read the seed catalogs, talk and dream of spring and summer gardening with our members and quests.

The Hillstown Grange has recently replaced our roof and this is a fundraiser to help us pay off the roof loan so please come to eat or just visit the historic Hillstown Grange Hall. Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. Located in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester since 1888. The Grange is one of the oldest Agricultural and Community Service groups in the United States. Snow date is March 8, 2014. For more information on this event, call Helene at 860-568-6268, Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail: hillstowngrange@aol.com.

The Hillstown Grange is combining supper and winter gardening on Thursday

February 27, 2014 at 6 pm. We are starting off with a salad supper with lettuce grown in East Hartford and Glastonbury at area aquaponic farms.

After supper the founders of FRESH Farm Aquaponics, LLC will talk about aquaponic farming and how home owners can start their own small scale greenhouse farm for year round vegetables.

For more information on Hillstown Grange, visit the Grange's website at www.HillstownGrange.org. More information on the Granges across Connecticut can be found at www.CTStateGrange.org.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Feb. 8: Hawaii Here We Come

Mar. 8: We Travel By...

Our new starting time of 10 A.M. is working out well. Come and join us for an early start to your weekend. Our yearly donation to the day care was gratefully accepted. Thanks to all who made any contribution. Let's start early for next year, by snapping up those after winter sales of hats and mittens.

On "Gossamer Wings" in Simsbury



Your toes will be tapping and hands will be clapping as music fills the air for a special evening at Simsbury Grange Hall. Simsbury Grange is hosting a concert by Gossamer Wings on Saturday, February 22nd at Simsbury Grange Hall, 236 Farms Village Road in West Simsbury. The evening begins at 7:00 PM.

Gossamer Wings is Caroline Jestin on vocals, Mark Shapiro on clarinet, and

Scott Mitchell on guitar. Their music is a "mish-mash of pop, folk, oldies, and Brazil!" Admission is \$10 .00 at the door. Parking is available at the Grange Hall and additional parking is available across the street at the Post Office.

Simsbury Grange #197 was organized on November 5, 1931. Today, the group plays an important role in the community, and is best known for its Agricultural Fair each summer as well as lectures, programs and more.

For more information contact Simsbury Grange President Barbara Friedland at (860) 413-9567 or via e-mail at info@simsburygrange.org. Information on Simsbury Grange can be found at <http://www.SimsburyGrange.org>.

Hillstown hosts pancake breakfast



On January 11, Hillstown Grange held a Pancake Breakfast from 8am to noon. Diners enjoyed pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$5 per person. Special "kid-cakes" were available with chocolate chips or strawberries. We also held game time for young and old and everyone in between. The Hillstown Grange has recently replaced our roof and this was a fundraiser to help us pay off the roof loan.

Hillstown Grange will be holding a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 8, 2014 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Take a break from the winter blahs and come relax and enjoy pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$5.00; extra sausage just 25 cents each; children under 10 just \$3.00. Special "kid-cakes" will be available with chocolate chips.

Along with breakfast, Hillstown Grange will be holding a garden chat and seed exchange to prepare for the start of the 2014 gardening season. If you have any old or extra seeds, seed catalogs, and gardening books, bring them with you to share and add to your garden this year.

Hillstown Grange has recently replaced our roof and this is a fundraiser to help pay off the roof loan, so please come to

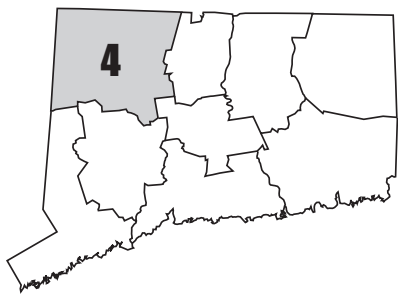
eat or just stop by and visit the historic Hillstown Grange Hall.

Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Connecticut. We have been serving East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester since 1888. The Grange is one of the oldest agricultural and community service organizations in the United States.

If there is snow on the road, the breakfast will be cancelled. For more information on this event, call Helene at 860-568-6268, Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com.

For more information on Hillstown Grange, visit the Grange's website at www.HillstownGrange.org.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- Cawasa No. 34
- Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- Taghannuck No. 100
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- Riverton No. 169
- Cherry Brook No. 210

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MOUNTAIN CTY. POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 11: Wear Your Heart, Eureka Grange Hall

Mountain County gets back into the swing of things in February with a regular meeting on the 11th. It's been a while – our December meeting was canceled due to ice. The program for the evening has been changed slightly. There will be a brief skit prepared by Maggie and Lin followed by a School of Instruction by the State Master and General Deputy. We hope the weather will be a bit “warmer” by then and there will be a full hall for this meeting.

A large mitten and hat tree was constructed at the recent National Grange Convention in Manchester, New Hampshire. This tree was over 12 feet tall and was covered with hundreds of hats and mittens donated

by Granges and Grange members throughout the Northeast Region and the rest of the country. At the close of the convention, the tree was dismantled and the hats and mittens were divided between the seven State Granges in the host region. As a result, Mountain County received a large box of these donations. As the December meeting was canceled, it was felt that these donations should get out as soon as possible. The box was divided between VERY grateful recipients at Forbes School in Torrington, FISH of Torrington and the Open Door of Winsted. The schools was especially thankful as many kids have been going to school with nothing on their heads and hands in this bone chilling weather. We could have donated many, many more to help fill the great need.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 11: Be My Valentine/ Country Store, Ref. Sue Addison

Feb. 25: Cherry Trees and Wooden Teeth, Ref. Meles

Mar. 11; Luck of the Irish

Mar. 25: CWA Program

Mar. 29: Cabin Fever Craft & Bake Sale, 9 to 2

It's been quiet at Winchester Grange for the last month or two but all of that will be changing soon! Officers and members gathered at Secretary Sue Addison's house on Jan. 24 for a Planning Meeting. Thanks to Sue for hosting us and providing the great refreshments.

The productive meeting resulted in a full schedule of events and activities for the

year with something in each month, with the exception of Feb. & July. Among the new activities will be a Grange Month display in Winsted (in the planning stages) and the laying of the groundwork for Winter Farmers' Markets beginning at the end of the year. Fundraising is an especially critical issue for our Grange with a very expensive facility to maintain, insure and operate. Greater emphasis will be placed on hall rentals this year and anyone interested in using the hall should contact Master Todd Gelineau at info@winchestergrange.org or by calling (860) 626-0326 for more information.

The goals and requirements of the State

Grange Honor Grange program and the National Grange Distinguished Grange program were reviewed at this meeting with nearly all of the requirements covered – with the exception of NEW MEMBERS! We have been fortunate to have several new members each of the last several years--- how many will join this year? It's up to all of us!

For those wanting to fill in their new calendars, the tentative dates for several of our recurring events have been set: Cabin Fever Craft & Bake Sale, Mar. 29; Super Prize Party, Apr. 25; Spring Tag Sale, May. 24; and Strawberry Festival, Father's Day, June 15.

Northeast Leader's Conference

Robert Charbonneau, Publ. Rel. Co-Director

It was an inclement Friday in Warwick, Rhode Island, but the bright and energetic leaders from the Northeast State Granges joined there for this year's Northeast Leaders Conference. Rhode Island State Master, Stephen Logan welcomed National Master, Ed Luttrell and Michael Martin, National Membership Director. He ran down the committee breakout rooms, and welcomed the Northeast Leaders attending from the individual states. After the breakout sessions, everyone met at the Hospitality Room for a late snack.

Saturday morning National Membership Director, Michael Martin spoke about successes in the Northeast, especially in New Hampshire. His main part of his speech was “Is There Room For Me in the Team.” Teams “... are about collective goals.” His emphasis was on recognizing team member strength and weaknesses, developing successors to lead the team, and bringing in new team members to improve the team's efforts.

Ann Marie Bouthillette, from Blackbird Farm, spoke about how her family built up their farm for raising pork and black angus for market. They started out small and built it up. There were initial pitfalls. Ann Marie emphasized finding a way to make the farm more profitable by marketing black Angus beef to local chefs. She emphasized all their products are maintained as a “food to fork” business.

National Master, Ed Luttrell's speech was on “Who's Team are you on?” He described the different roles in a team, the team structure or balance; and exemplified the National Grange as supplying leadership, support, and structure. He went down through the different



National Master Ed Luttrell

levels down to Community Granges and their changing types of structure. He emphasized the uniqueness of the Grange having a structure where all levels can cross-communicate, and building better teams.

The New England Grange Building Trustees were presented the Charles M. Gardner award for promoting the Grange at the Big-E. It was presented by National Grange President, Ed Luttrell.

The fun part of the afternoon was with Roxanne Nelson. It was entitled, “What's Your Team Personality?” She broke up the group into four based on their pictorial answers. Each group planned a trip around the world. Each group was told later what their core traits were.

Mike Smith, President of the University of Rhode Island Foundation had a panel discussion with the topic on fund raising, grant writing, etc. This concluded the afternoon workshops.

The evening festivities began with a banquet and aptly ended with energetic entertainment as performed by “The Blues Crew.” This family of six, dressed like the Blues Brothers, sang '50's music with: mother supplying music, father on harmonica, and everyone on vocals. Several of the oldest children led a number of the songs. A thorough package of entertainment enjoyed by all.

The Northeast Leaders Conference ended with devotions led by Rhode Island Chaplain, John Lawson, Jr.; and a business meeting headed by the State Masters.

WINCHESTER GRANGE

CABIN FEVER

Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, March 29th

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Snow Date: Saturday, April 5th

Spring Crafts and Gifts

Delicious Soup & Sandwich Luncheon and More!

Winchester Grange Hall

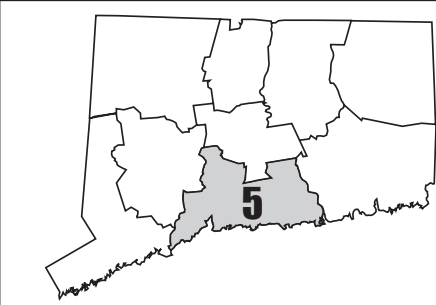
Route 263 and Newfield Rd.

Winchester Center, CT



www.WinchesterGrange.org

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

NEW HAVEN CTY. POMONA #5

Corr: Wesli Dymoke

Mar. 10: Regular Meeting @ Wallingford, Program- Talent & "A Number" Runoffs

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Feb. 5: Valentine Box Supper, 6 P.M. (Open Meeting)

Feb. 19: Landscaping

We are looking forward to the new year. We held our annual legislative program on Jan. 15th which was most informative.

We will have our first meeting at the end of the month and our craft nights will resume making favors for our shut-in members and for the local retirement home. We are planning for two fundraising dinners coming up in March as well as a special corned beef and cabbage dinner to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Feb. 13: President's Day

Feb. 27: Diade la Bandera (A holiday in Mexico)

For our March 27 meeting there will be a change in our program. We are planning to have a local beekeeper talk about beekeeping. There will be more on this next month.

Our original meeting was to be held on Dec. 12th but was postponed to Dec. 19th because of predictions of bitterly cold weather.

On December 19th we finally held our annual Christmas Meeting. We exchanged Christmas cards with one another. We had a short program of Christmas poems, readings and a challenge figuring out the right order of the words to the song "I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus." Now if only I knew all of the words to the song to compete! We started a round-robin of exchange of our grab bag gifts. The round-robin began from a reading where we had to pass the gift to the person to our left every time the word "and" was read. This turned out to

be really fun especially when the word was repeated often in a sentence. Afterwards we had refreshments which my favorite snacks are freshly baked Christmas cookies!

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch

Feb. 14: February Things...

Mar. 28: Meet at the home of our Secretary

The December 13 meeting, which would have been "Our 108th Anniversary," had to be postponed until the 20th of December due to frigid temperatures and black ice. We enjoyed everyone's company over a delicious potluck supper that preceded our meeting on the 20th. A fun Christmas program was enjoyed by everyone. We welcomed Arlie Chapman, GK of New London County Pomona #6. We thanked Sister Amy Winger of Lyme for filling in for the evening.

Feb. 14th will be our last meeting at the Grange Hall. We will be moving to the home of our Worthy Secretary until our Charter is picked up by the Worthy State Master, hopefully near the end of March.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

PR Planning Equals Success

by Terri Fassio,
Public Relations Co-Director

Every Grange member has at least once had this dream — a Grange Hall filled to capacity, the newspaper present and taking photos, and non-members asking questions such as "How can I join?". Your Grange can turn this dream into reality by simply being organized and planning ahead.

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? Planning ahead is one of the most important functions when promoting your Grange events and projects, and yet it remains the single most neglected piece in all of public relations.

It's easy to get caught up in thinking about the work that needs to be completed today - before your event happens - and stressing about all the things you need to do. It's also easy to neglect important pieces and fall into a state of denial that there could be a negative outcome if those pieces are rushed or forgotten about altogether.

Planning ahead starts with the past. 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 low attendance at an Open House or 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 your Grange events. Be prepared, and be flexible. Delegate specific tasks, so that one or two people 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 down the road. Many hands make lighter work. When you delegate responsibilities, member burn-out is no longer an issue because you're working smarter. Remember to communicate your level of success to everyone involved and be sure to thank them for their help.

Deadlines vary from newspaper to newspaper, but the absolute latest to submit news and events should be 14 days prior to the event date. Some publications, such as magazines and certain daily and weekly newspapers, prefer news to be submitted 30 to 45 days before an event.

Posters and flyers are a great way to promote your Grange. Hang them throughout your community in libraries, grocery stores, book stores, laundry mats, on kiosks, etc., but be sure to hang them far enough in advance of your event to give the community time to see them.

You'll find that once your 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 enthusiastic existing members and volunteers - and that's what success is all about.

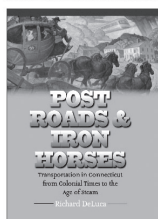
Cheshire Grange's Words for Thirds

CHESHIRE GRANGE CWA NIGHT



"Transportation in Cheshire during the 19th Century"

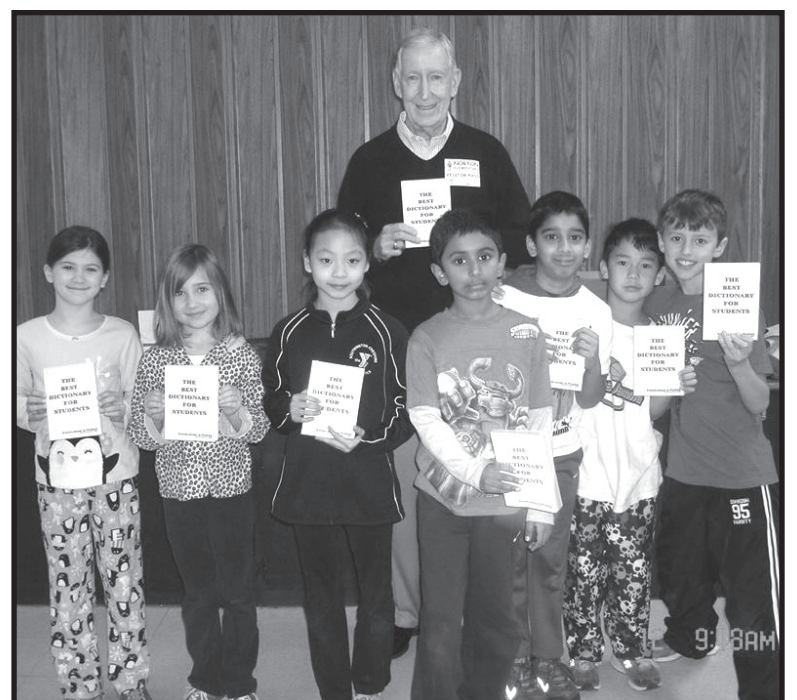
Presentation by
Local Author and Historian
Richard DeLuca



Wednesday, March 5th • 7:30 PM
Cheshire Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Rd., Cheshire, CT

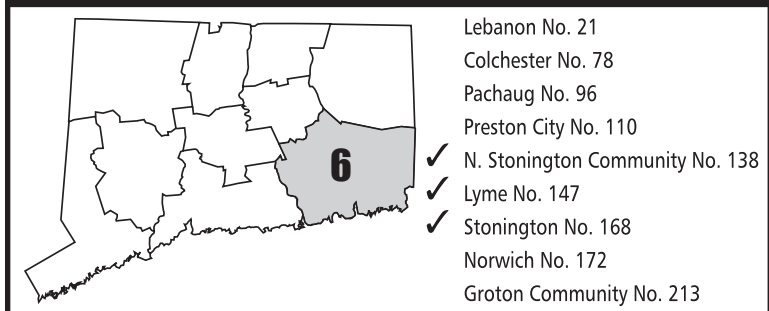
- Public Invited
- Tea Cup Auction
- Refreshments Following

RSVP to Jane Miller - 203-272-8255 - jfirm888@gmail.com



Colby Paul, Aishlinn Parrinetto, Hannah Tao, Anirudh Arunachalam, Anish Mandava, Brian Hersh, and Alwx Paul pose with Grange President Ruel Miller after receiving their new dictionaries. All third graders (360) have now received their dictionaries in our Words for Thirds Project this year.

New London County Pomona No. 6



MISSION STATEMENT

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

NEWLONDONCTY.POMONA#6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 8: Movie Night at North Stonington Grange

Feb. 15: Snow date for Movie Night

Mar. 8: Talent and A Number at North Stonington Grange

Our December meeting had to be postponed for a week due to inclement weather. Previous commitments of various members caused our numbers to be a bit depleted; but we were warmly welcomed by Lyme Grange. Anne Marie's holiday program was lots of fun and the refreshments were plentiful and delicious. Because Wilma Zemko can no longer attend our meetings, her office has been declared vacant and Amy Winger of Lyme Grange was elected to the office of Flora for the remainder of the term. We miss Wilma very much and wish her the best.

Our February movie night will feature "Hotel for Dogs" and will be preceded by a potluck supper at 6:00. There will be popcorn and candy for the movie.

Start practicing for the talent and A Number night on March 8. Subordinates within a Pomona may join forces for the A Number program. We believe Gardening in Connecticut is the theme again this year. Check with our Lecturer. Anne Marie tells me our School of Instruction will also take place that evening.

It's time for our annual movie,

We're hoping there won't be snow.

So cook up your favorite recipe

And come and enjoy the show.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 14: "To Warm the Cockles of One's Heart"

Feb. 28: "To Lead One Up

the Garden Path"

Our holiday program was a joyous event. The hall was decorated from the sparkly wreaths welcoming everyone on the front doors to the glittering tree on the stage upstairs. Sue's program was a mixture of prose, poetry, music and tableaux, with Andy Rauch accompanying the Christmas carols on the piano. Santa arrived with gifts for young and old from his bag; and the Grange provided crisp apples and a variety of ornaments for all. Downstairs the refreshment table overflowed with delicious food; and there was hot chocolate with whipped cream available.

On the third Friday a "small but mighty" band of Grangers braved the cold to visit members and non-members around town, caroling and delivering baskets of fresh fruit. The evening ended at a local pizza restaurant.

On Feb. 14 Andy Rauch will treat us to a piano concert. We have heard this young man play before and can tell you this is an event not to be missed. On Feb. 28 the Agriculture and Conservation Committee will present the program. This is always a favorite with the members. And if Old Man Winter will just not bare his teeth too badly for the next few months, next time I'll tell you all about jolly January.

LYME GRANGE #147

Feb. 6: Love is in the Air

Mar. 6: In Like a Lamb - CWA in Charge of Program.

Apr. 3: Youth & Young at Heart in Charge of Program.

Apr. 5: We host East Central Pomona at Good Will Grange Hall.

Mother Nature was not kind to us since a snowstorm was predicted on our meeting night, the meeting was postponed

one week. That is possible as we own our hall and can change meetings without a problem.

"Cole" - guess winter has set in with a vengeance. Wonder what interesting items will show up at our snow and tell at January's meeting.

Let's hope 2014 will bring some decent weather and good health to all.

STONINGTON GRANGE #168

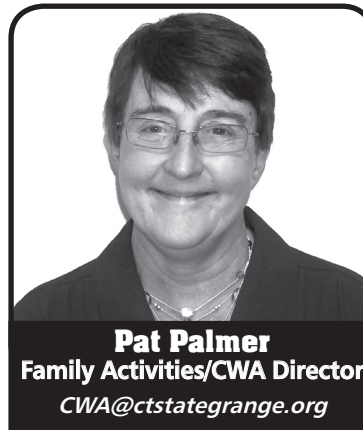
Corr: Lisa Herzig

Feb: "Who's your sweetheart?"

Stonington Grange members gathered around the wood stove on December 7 at Studio Farm in Vountown, home of Dick and Dot Wingate. Dick and Dot invite grange members, family and friends to the farm every year and give lessons on making Christmas wreaths and sprays. The Wingate's gave their time and talents generously; many gorgeous wreaths were made that day. Dot is truly an artist when it comes to making the bows! We enjoyed wonderful refreshments and great conversation while making some new acquaintances. A holiday food and money collection was taken during our wreath making workshop for donation to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center for those in need. Stonington Grange also donated pajamas to the Grammy Jammy.

December's meeting of the Stonington Grange culminated with a program by Lisa Herzig and her daughter, Ceilidh Burdick who traveled extensively in Britain last year. A Roman/British guessing game took place; photographs of artifacts found on a dig at the Roman Wall were passed around and members had to put names to the objects/photos; lots of fun! This was followed by an exhibition on how to pleat and fold a piece of tartan fabric to make an ancient kilt. A crossword puzzle was then presented for members to decipher; for example, what do the British call a _____? Refreshments followed; a 2nd century Roman cheese cake recipe called "Libum" was served as well as a 14th century recipe for a chicken dish called "Little Bird". We also enjoyed traditional scones.

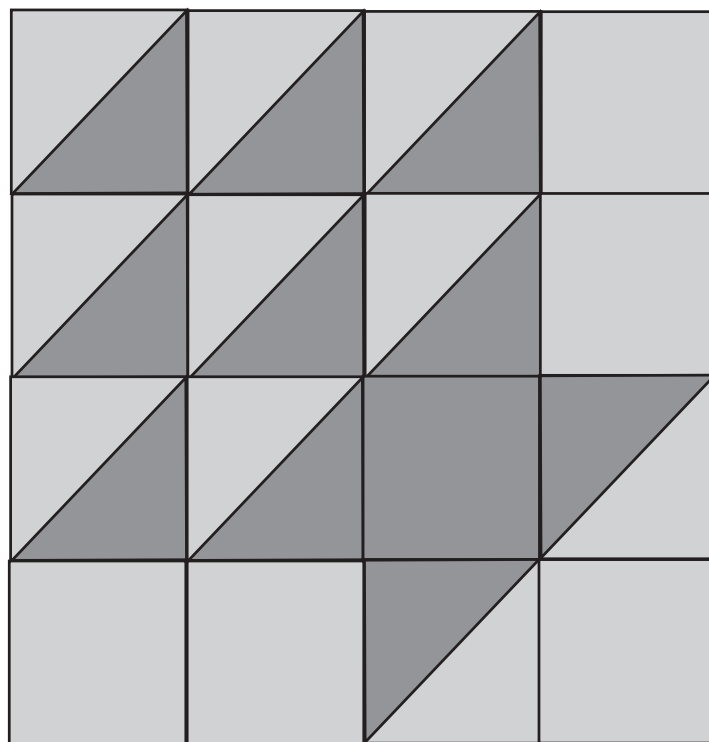
Family Activities



Pat Palmer
Family Activities/CWA Director
CWA@ctstategrange.org

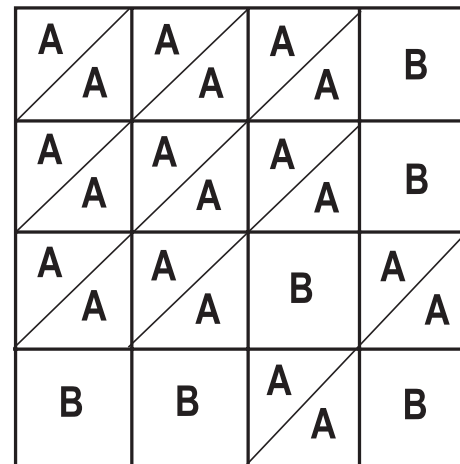
I have been receiving many inquiries regarding the quilt contest and what the pattern for this year will be. Below is the design for 2014 (Flower Basket). The color scheme is pastels representative of spring. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Flower Basket - 12 Inch Block

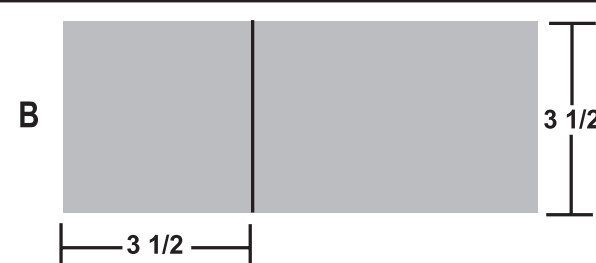
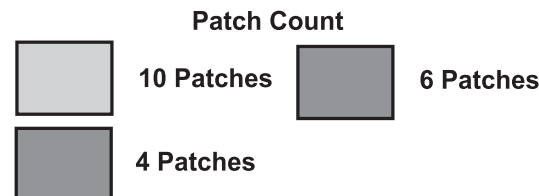
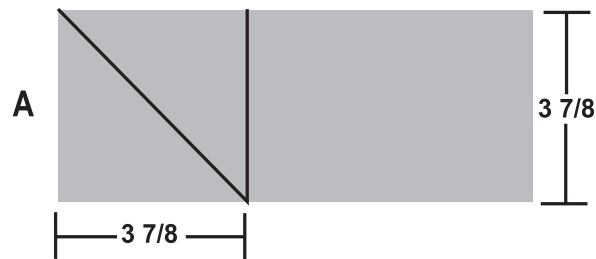


Flower Basket

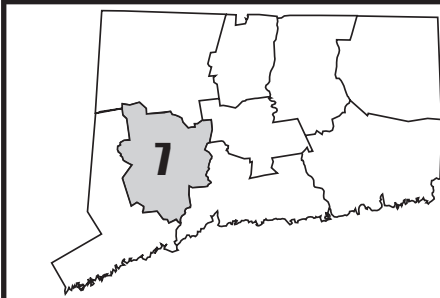
Key Block (1/5 actual size)



Cutting Diagrams



Excelsior Pomona No. 7



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Jean Meehan

Change of program for the March 19 meeting. This meeting will be our School of Instruction at Wolcott Grange.

The A Number and Talent Run-Offs will be at the June 1 meeting at Oxford Grange. We will have a potluck supper and the run-offs on this date.

All Excelsior Pomona Granges are asked to participate in the A Number program theme, "Gardening in CT." We are hoping for some talent entries this year. The meeting will begin at 2 P.M.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

The March meeting of Prospect Grange will be held on March 28 due to a conflict of scheduling for our meeting. This program is entitled Color Me Green. We meet at 7:30 P.M. All our Grange members are in charge of the refreshments.

We are hard at work planning our Grange Month event, which will be announced once the plans are confirmed.

The April 10th meeting will be a Dairy Neighbor's Night with Marcia, Marco and Tisa-Lynn in charge of the refreshments.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

What we've been doing: The Bridgewater Grange remains active in the community. We had a

meeting at the Grange Hall on Oct 9th and prepared for a successful roast beef dinner on Sat Oct 12th. A Hootenanny followed the dinner that night.

In November we had a pot luck dinner followed by a regular meeting. Fruit baskets were delivered to shut ins and people in nursing homes on Tuesday November 26th.

In December we had a pot luck dinner followed by a regular meeting at the Grange Hall on Wed December 4th. On Friday December 6th we watched the Bridgewater Christmas Tree lighting and then served cookies and hot chocolate at our Grange Hall. After that our hall will be closed for the winter.

What we're planning: We will have meetings in the nearby Saint Marks Episcopal Church for the months of January, February and March. All the meeting will be at 2 PM on a Sunday at the church. Jan 12th, Feb 9th and Mar 9th are the dates

Our Grange Hall will reopen in April and we will have a regular meeting on Wednesday April 9th at 7:30 PM. On Tuesday April 15th we will deliver Easter plants to shut ins and people in nursing homes. On Saturday April 19th we will have an Easter egg hunt. It will start at 10 AM at the Bridgewater Town park.

We will keep every one posted on future meetings, activities, roast beef dinners and hootenannies.

Planning for Summer



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

As the winter winds blow outside, it's time to start planning for our summer activities. I just returned from Leaders Conference where details were worked out for the 99th Annual Northeast Grange Lecturers' Conference. This year the conference will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 4, 5, & 6 at Keuka College in Keuka

Park, New York. I'm told this is in the beautiful Finger Lakes section of New York. Once the weather warms up and we can take our camper out, I plan on taking a trip to the area and will get more information on the best routes to get there and things to see along the way. In the meantime, please mark your calendar and plan to join us. Connecticut has always had a great turnout. Let's welcome New York to the Northeast Region by attending and supporting them in this endeavor.

The cost of the conference will remain the same as last year. For the full conference for a double room it will be \$195 per person and for a single room it will be \$205

per person.

Connecticut will present their program on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. Our rehearsal will be at 10:00. The title for our program is "In Simpler Times". The overall conference is titled "Remember When". I will need lots of help with this one. What I picture in my mind is a family sitting on a front porch in rocking chairs relaxing. There have got to be some other ideas out there. I hope to hear from you with suggestions.

For those of you who asked to have the shakers back, they are coming back. We will, however, not do individual state songs. We have someone writing one for the group. Hope to see you there.

Always a warm welcome



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

Bring your questions to the Schools of Instruction!

It may be cold outside but you always find a warm welcome at the Grange meetings. I hope you are planning to visit your neighbors and collect a card for the "Poker Run Contest." (Rules are in the new Blue Book)

I look forward to meeting with the Secretaries at the Schools of Instruction to go over the various forms and the reasons for needing things promptly. Also, I will try to answer any of your questions.

There have been a few requests for Scholarship Applications. It is not too early to be urging your college members to check into applying. The scholarship will certainly help in the cost of books or other needs. Student loans are also available. Contact the Central Office.

It is also time to be thinking of the 990N filing, and check on the date for renewal of incorporation with the Secretary of State.

Ground Hog Day will soon be here!

Food for Thought



We are happy to announce a new program to the Grange "Food for Thought: Eating Well on a Budget" created by Sesame Workshop and material produced with United Healthcare and Merck Company Foundation. We have available to our Granges a packet that includes a CD/DVD, recipe cards, and a mini comic book. All of this material is available in English and Spanish. The booklet and other material is a way to show kids how to eat on a budget but eat nutritiously and getting them to try new foods The DVD has a

presentation on a local farmers market, so kids can understand where food comes from. These packets are available to all Grange members and Granges who would like to distribute these to the communities. This is a great way to get the Grange name out and help people in your community to make the best meals out of the food they have in their kitchen. If you have any questions or would like more do not hesitate to contact Samantha Johnson via email at sjohnson@nationalgrange.org or by phone at 202-628-3507 ext. 109.

POKER RUN RULES CLARIFIED



Last month we told you about the rules for the 2014 CT State Grange Poker Run. There are two rules that need to be clarified. 1) Grange Masters should be in charge of the decks and should shuffle them prior to handing them out to guests. 2) Visiting members are entitled to one card per visit to a Grange.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

FAIRFIELD CTY. POMONA #9

Corr: Bob Sendewicz

Feb: No Meeting

Mar. 5: 6:00 P.M. supper

March meeting at Harmony Grange Hall. A 6:00 P.M. pot luck supper sponsored by Harmony and Greenfield Hill Granges. Business meeting at 7:30 P.M. Program for the evening will be "Our Gang Comedy". The evening will end with a country store. Come join us for a fun filled night.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Feb. 10: Be My Valentine, 6:30 P.M. supper

Feb. 24: Recruiting New Members

Mar. 10: Mardi-Gras

Sorry we were absent for awhile but "Were Back"! Our first meeting in February will start with a pot luck supper at 6:30 P.M. This will be followed by our annual Valentines presentation. I'm sure that candy and cookies will be involved. The evening will close with a country store.

Our second meeting of the month will be dedicated to recruiting new members. Suggestions made by the National Membership Director, at the Northeast Leaders Conference, will be presented along with materials from the National Grange on membership.

The program for the first meeting in March will be Mardi-Gras. Who doesn't like a party. Ours should be a fun filled one, so come and join us.

As similar to warnings on medications, cancellations may take place because of the weather.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

Feb. 14: Regular Meeting, Weather Permitting

The Lecturer's Program will be "Valentine Celebration" since the date will be Valentine's Day. Now that the holidays are behind us, we are looking forward to spring and our annual tag sale in May.

Can spring be not far away as seed catalogs have already arrived in the mail.

According to the calendar, we have reached the time of the year when the days are getting longer. As my Father always said, "As the days begin to lengthen, the cold begins to strengthen." So button up for the next two months.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Feb. 8: Song Bird's Coffee House, 6 P.M.

Feb. 17: Greatest Love Affairs, 7 P.M., Meeting

Our Christmas party in December made for a festive occasion. Great food, fellowship, meeting, and Christmas carols with musical accompaniment marked the night. Our Winter Farmers' Market continues Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

In February and the months ahead, we are involved with planning activities as well as some fun fundraisers. On the agriculture side, we are looking forward to doing more demonstration plots, climbing space-saver garden, and possibly some fruit trees. Lastly there will be our annual Agricultural Fair in August. Call (203) 367-4373 for details and your RSVP regarding our second Saturday event (the 8th).

Looking further ahead, we'll have a St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage salute in early March. Also the Penny Lane Players will be presenting Shakespeare's Henry V on Apr. 4-6 and 11-13.1 More info next month. Come visit us!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Feb. 11: Valentine's Day Celebration – Sweets and Cheers! Wear red or pink.

Mar. 11: Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, 6:30, \$5 Donation

Apr. 8: "Grange Green Program" by Amie Guyette Hall Baking Contest

We at Norfield Grange can say with great pride that

we are indeed a Grange for the wider community. In December we hosted three gingerbread house decorating parties, deftly commandeered by Ewa Ojarovska, that drew in over 45 attendees! We held a holiday tree raffle, thanks to a generous tree donation by Deb Gilbertie Gianelli, owner of Weston Gardens, the winners being Andrew Fezza and daughter Marisa. And on Saturday, Jan. 25, we shared a Gourmet Potluck and Square Dance with the community, featuring caller Bill Fischer from Massachusetts and hosted by Friends of Wakeman Town Farm in Westport and Norfield Grange. Our proud hall has been busy week after week!

Maggie Converse has been leading Yoga classes every Monday, Wednesdays and Friday in our Hall, and of course, there is the continuing success of our Winter Farmers' Market, which has been running every Saturday through May 5 at 9:00 and 10:30.

There's a community tag sale coming up, too... but that's a future story.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Feb. 6: Business Meeting and Program- "Nutrition 101"

Feb. 20: Business Meeting and Program "Book Reports-Tell Us What You Have Been Reading"

Mar. 6: Business Meeting & Program "Let's Make the CWA Craft Project" – Group Effort

Mar. 20: Business Meeting & Agriculture Program.

Due to the kitchen renovations, we have decided to postpone the Silent Movie Night to a date in March or April. Watch our website and the Granger for an announcement of a new date.

We were able to reap the benefit of several Holiday Parties held at our Grange Hall during November and December, all of which helps with the cost of fuel oil and maintenance. Our rental program will commence later in February and March once our kitchen renovation project is complete. With great thanks and appreciation, the kitchen project is being managed by Doug Shepard who is skilled in this work. We are also grateful to John McConnell who donated all the kitchen cabinets and the refrigerator. Both fellows are terrific Grange members.

Who is interested in learning about healthy eating habits and weight

loss strategies? Come to our program on Feb. 6th to learn about Nutrition 101. This aligns with our values on combating Adult Childhood Obesity. Join us and help solve this problem. Book reports will be the featured program on Feb. 20th. Tells us what you've been reading

in paperback or hard cover, or what you're reading on your Kindle or Nook, or what you're listening to from Books on Tape. Remember, Reading is Fundamental!

Please note our calendar of events. Visiting Patrons are always welcome – won't you join us?

Norfield raffle



Holiday Tree Raffle at Norfield Grange: (l to r) Lyn Kimberly, Norfield Grange; Deb Gianelli, owner of Weston Gardens; Marissa Fezza, winner of the tree. Back- Andrew Fezza (Marissa's father and co-winner).

WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



Some in this month's picture might be easy to identify but there's one that might be more difficult!





Greetings Grange Friends!

My first Christmas and New Years celebrations with my family were so much fun! I'm very lucky to be part of a family of great cooks! Christmas Dinner was yummy! I even got to meet Santa Claus when he visited Ekonk Community Grange. He has quite the laugh and wears a very colorful suit. I celebrated the New Year with festive hats and noise makers. I did manage to stay awake until midnight - but just barely.

The weather has been snowy and cold. On one evening, I got to play cards with J Allen. He was helping me prepare for the Connecticut State Grange Poker Run. Playing cards will be distributed at the upcoming Schools of Instruction in February, so Granges across the State can give them to visitors at their meetings. Prizes will be awarded to the member(s) with the best Poker hand at the 2014 State Grange Session.

On a cold weekend in January, I attended the Northeast Leaders Conference in Rhode Island. It was great to catch up with my Grange Herd friends - especially my BFF Allie the Llama. I met a lot of new friends at the conference, including New Hampshire State Grange Lecturer Hannah West. She's such a nice lady and dedicated Granger. I learned a lot about membership growth, and how to be a Grange leader. Glad I brushed up on all my Grange lessons before the conference.

On January 17th, I made the trek to Riverton Grange and helped present Fred Richards, and Phil and Maureen Prelli their Golden Sheaf Certificates for 50 years of Grange membership. Congratulations! I met a lot of new friends that evening, including two sweet young ladies who gave a fantastic performance in the skit.

I had the pleasure of attending a meeting at Killingly Grange on January 20th. Their President, Bernadette Schuster, is so nice, and has a lot of good ideas to grow their Grange.

While at Killingly Grange, I got to see them take in four new members. Way to go, keep up the good work. Welcome to Tina Shaw, Nancy Arena, Rita Levola, & Kimberly Pokropowicz.

Congratulations to Shelley St. Jean from Ekonk Community Grange! She's recently became my 250th friend!! I am now anxiously awaiting to see who will be my 300th friend! I'm so excited!!

If you have a special event, please send me an invitation through my e-mail HanktheBurro@ctstategrange.org with the details, and hopefully I can attend!

Please take a moment and visit my Facebook Page at www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro. While you're there, be sure to click the "Like" button so that you can follow all of my adventures.

10 Questions with Hank

We recently had the opportunity to sit down with Hank the Burro, the official Mascot of the Connecticut State Grange, and ask him a few questions to help us get to know him better.

Q: What are your favorite foods?

HANK: Burros has a tough digestive system. We get most of our energy from carbohydrates. I prefer barley straw to make sure I get all the energy, protein, fat and vitamins I need to be a hard worker. But since moving in with my Grange family, I've been sampling a lot of new types of food.

Q: Who is your favorite actor?

HANK: It's a tie — Donkey from "Shrek" and Eeyore from "Winnie the Pooh." How can you choose between the two? They are both brilliant performers.

Q: Do you have a favorite book?

HANK: I just love George Orwell's "Animal Farm." The character of Benjamin the donkey is so resilient and loyal. And of course "Winnie the Pooh" as well.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

HANK: I'd have to say the 1940 Disney film "Fantasia." The donkey character seems like a fun animal. I'm also a big fan of "Nestor, the Long Eared Christmas Donkey." It's a holiday classic!

Q: Do you have a favorite play?

HANK: That's a tough one, but I'd have to say Cervantes' Don Quixote. It shows such a positive slant on the donkey as the steady and loyal companions that we are.

Q: What is your favorite song?

HANK: I like all types of music, but I'm partial to "Dominick the Italian Christmas Donkey" and "Old MacDonald's Farm."

Q: Do you have any community service projects that you recommend?

HANK: Yes! I strongly believe in donating to local food shelters and food banks. This should be done year-round, not just during the holidays. I also have been developing a special program that will be announced soon, and the proceeds will benefit an equine rescue group here in Connecticut.

Q: What is your favorite part of the Grange so far?

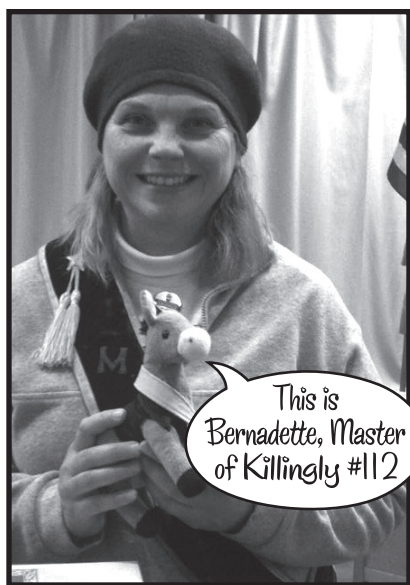
HANK: I'd have to say meeting new friends. I've met so many great friends from visiting Granges across the state and in other states too, and look forward to meeting many, many more friends in the days ahead.

Q: What advice do you have for Granges to succeed?

HANK: I am learning and observing as I visit Granges across Connecticut. I see a lot of differences between individual Granges, but they all have similar goals, such as growing their membership and helping the community. My advice would be for each Grange to find their purpose, and then to work towards fulfilling that purpose.

Q: Do you have any closing words?

HANK: When you do good things for your community, you are also focusing on the positive attributes of yourself. Making an impact gives a new perspective, and helps us to understand what really matters in our daily lives. The Grange is a vehicle for each of us to make a difference, to contribute, to communicate, to create, to network, to learn and to grow, and to inspire. Let's all ask at least one person to join us on our Grange journey!



Do You Remember?



Frank and Peggy Prelli



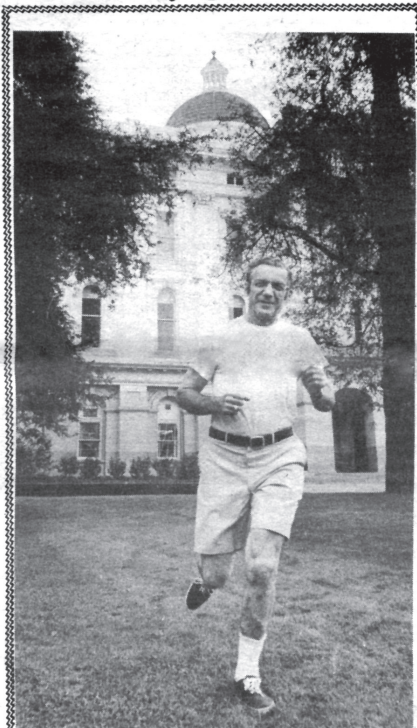
Peggy & Frank's 50th Anniversary



Performing a skit at a Mountain County Choristers Concert

Sacramento Bee and Winsted Evening Citizen note:

Frank Prelli logs 3,000 miles as jogger



At the State Capitol in Sacramento, CA



Young Ford visits Grange

MERIDEN — Although the Grange is traditionally non-political, Mike Ford, son of President Gerald R. Ford, was welcomed as a guest at the Saturday afternoon session of the Connecticut State Grange in Meriden. He was greeted by State Grange Master Frank Prelli and Mrs. Prelli of Winsted and Bertha Guay, state superintendent of the Junior Grange.



Mountain County Pomona Masters - Past, Present, Future - Shown at installation are Past Masters Frank Prelli, assisted by Philip Prelli, who installed Mark Prelli as present Master and Gail Prelli, Gatekeeper.

2002



Frank with National Master John Scott and Sister Dorothy Scott during the CSG Bicentennial Celebration at People's State Forest in 1976.

by Betty Jane Gardiner

When we presented this column last July on the subject of the Grange Bicentennial Quilt we told you of the outstanding efforts by then State Master Frank Prelli and his wife, Gertrude to that project as well as other celebration features. In addition to the quilt they carried on a program to capture small flags around the state but we're keeping details of that for another column in the future on the subject of attendance projects.

We also mentioned that Frank and Peggy, as she was known by everyone, would be a subject of this article soon. So now is the time! When Frank and Peg married they belonged to Granges in Mountain County Pomona. Frank belonged to Victory Grange No. 189 and Peggy belonged to Riverton Grange No. 169. They remained in their Granges so I guess it can be said that over the years they did double duty as each served in offices in both Granges. For a period of time Frank was Selectman in the City of Winsted and during those years he was appointed by National Master Herschel Newsom as Special Assistant to the National Master. That meant he had an office in the Grange Building in D.C. so the family lived just outside of the Nation's capital in Virginia.

It couldn't have been easy doing the new job and keeping up the town and Grange work in Connecticut.... but it was done. Peg was an excellent Grange secretary among other offices. Her homemaking skills were the best so she spent much of her time in the Grange kitchen working on the dinners for Grange, Church and Pomona, and of course, the big dinner in conjunction with the Riverton Fair.

Her recipes were famous. For example, everyone wanted her cole slaw! The Prelli Insurance office was well known in town and at one time Peggy even had a little dress shop in Winsted. There are so many things to be said about this very busy couple, for instance how long they both worked as staff members of the Connecticut Granger or the many years he was on the State Grange Executive Committee. There just isn't enough time or space to cover it all but there is an episode many years ago at a Grange banquet where a member from Fairfield County area choked and was given the Heimlich maneuver by Frank. He was quick to give him aid and saved the man's life.

It should be mentioned, but many of you know, that the three Prelli "kids", Phil, Gail and Mark (and their families) are carrying on the Grange duties today. How proud Peg and Frank would have been.

When doing this column we like to tell a few little tales about the individuals that are being featured. So now it's Peg and Frank's turn. Peg was Master of the Third Degree at Riverton Grange and Phil Prelli and my Bill were Deputies and exchanged inspections of each other's Granges and we had the pleasure of seeing the Degree work at Riverton many times. Her degree work was "letter perfect." One particular evening will always be remembered. She was in the middle of the Secret Work instructing a good class of candidates when one of them, a tall lady, who had been very attentive to all of the charges stopped the degree by saying, "Excuse me, what was that word?" (Peg's facial expression was priceless). Peg repeated the word and started to continue with the degree when the candidate spoke again, "Would you please spell it?" Peg drew herself to her full height and loudly and clearly spelled the word and then continued the instructions. It didn't throw Peg at all. We had never seen anything like that before or since in the middle of the degree. Being a Third Degree Master myself, I never let Peggy forget it and we had many a laugh over our inside joke.

One year when the Lecturer's Conference was held in New Hampshire the Banquet was on the closing evening, about the hottest night I ever remembered. It was unbearable! We thought the evening would never end. It finally did, and our little group headed out of the hall into the heat of the night. If I remember correctly, it was Frank who suggested we get the car and drive the short distance from Durham to the New Hampshire coast. Our little group with Marion and Bud Beecher, Peg and Frank, and Bill and Me. Away we went. It was a bit cooler on the shore and the sound of the surf was very inviting. I'm not sure who went first (we were all wearing our Sunday best!) but before you knew it the fellas had taken off their shoes and socks and had rolled up their trouser legs and were enjoying the cool water. We gals wanted to join them, but those were the days of nylon stockings and garter belts and ladies couldn't remove those on a public beach. We just took off our shoes, lifted our skirts as best we could with nylons and all we danced into the foamy water with Peggy leading the parade. Thank goodness nobody was around with a camera. That's a special memory I have of the Prelli's. I guess you can say it was a time when we learned the meaning of the phrase "to frolic!"

Hope you have a special memory of Peg and Frank too!



Michelle DeDominicis
State Junior Grange Director
juniors@ctstategrange.org

Junior Grange

125 years! A ceremony was held on Sunday, November 10th 2013. East Hartford Mayor, Marcia LeClerc presented the Grange with a proclamation. Many state officers were in attendance and State Master Jody Cameron sent his congratulations.

Members provided insight found from meeting minutes taken in the 1890's of current events of the time. Our Junior Grangers provided a musical showcase of their talents. Recognized



were our members that have been a member for 25 or more years, especially Mary Jacobs that will be recognized as a 70 year member this coming year!

To give back to the community that supports us, Socks, undergarments and sweatshirts were donated to the East Hartford Men's Shelter.

Hillstown Grange will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, January 8th from 8:30 to noon. And stay tuned for details on the monthly Garden programs to be held at our hall, contact Frank Forrest for more details or check out our website!

The Hillstown Junior Grangers will be preparing their Sign a Song and speeches for the Northeast Regional Youth conference - They will be holding several fund raisers so that more Junior Grangers from Hillstown will be able to attend. Any one that is looking to sponsor a Junior Granger - please feel free to Contact Michelle DeDominicis.

Angelina DeDominicis and Kayla Michaud were able to participate in the 14th National Grange Convention. Visiting the New Hampshire State House and the SEE Science Center to name a few activities offered.

They also were able to have a sleep over with Hank the Burro - thankfully he is potty trained!

As we celebrate 125 years of Junior Grange along with the rest of our nation, we look to learn more about our heritage! Happy 2014!

EKONK JUNIOR #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

December was a busy month, we held our musical, A Bear-y Merry Holiday. The kids did wonderful! Kayla Bonin, Lillian Sharpe, and Jenna Wesa all played piano/recorder for us. Great job, girls! Santa came and made sure all of the kids had gifts. Great night, overall!

We, and the subordinates "adopted" a Sterling family, and a few other kids for Christmas. We also gave the family a \$50.00 gift card to Big Y. It is a wonderful feeling to give to others.

The subordinates filled a basket with goodies for a past Junior member, who is now serving in the Air Force in Montana, for Christmas. We paid the shipping, and hope he enjoys it with the goodwill in which was sent. We appreciate the men and women who are serving our country.

Our meeting in January was postponed due to weather. What crazy weather we've been having! You are always welcome to come over and enjoy the warmth of our fellowship. We wish for you all a happy and healthy 2014!

In Memoriam

Louise Ryan
Higganum Grange #124

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

Chaplain's Message



Barbara C. Kulisch
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org



God is Love

1 John 4: 7; 16b; 19 (GNB)

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. God is love, and those who live in love live in union with God and God lives in union with them. We love because God first loved us.

The Magic of Love

Love is like magic and it always will be, for love still remains life's sweet mystery! Love works in ways that are wondrous and strange and there's nothing in life that love cannot change! Love can transform the most commonplace into beauty and splendor and sweetness and grace! Love is unselfish, understanding and kind, for it sees with its heart and not with its mind! Love is the answer that everyone seeks-Love is the language that every heart speaks- Love can't be bought, it is priceless and free, Love like pure magic is a sweet mystery!

Helen Steiner Rice

Lord, I love You with all my heart
and all my soul and all my mind.
When I do, all other expressions of love
become more meaningful
and less wearisome. *Amen.*

Ekonk Comm. Junior Grange



Members of Ekonk Community Junior Grange performing their Christmas play in December.

HILLSTOWN JUNIOR #87

Corr: Michelle DeDominicis

This past November, Hillstown Grange celebrated