



The Granite State Granger

Volume 39

Number 3

2009

September



From the Mountains to the Seashore of NH

There are still a few rooms available for the 136th Annual Session of the NH State Grange on October 29-31.

Room rates are as follows: \$114.47 single, \$124.94 Double, \$157.41 Triple and \$189.88 Quad. All rates include deluxe room, breakfast buffet or standard breakfast and 9% room tax.

Hotel amenities are indoor heated pool, valet parking and free parking, 3 dining rooms and room service.

The banquet on Saturday, October 31, will be Fresh Broiled Haddock or Chicken Cordon Bleu for a cost of \$30 per person. Please call Kathy Yardley at 756-3677 to make your Banquet reservations. Reservations are limited to 90 patrons. The banquet is the only planned meal function. Lunches and Friday dinner are on your own.

When calling the Ashworth by the Sea at 926-6762, please indicate that you are attending the NH State Grange Convention. Any reservations after October 7th will result in paying the full room rate and the breakfast will not be included.

If you should have any questions please call Ken Berry at 772-5364 or e-mail to kenlberry@comcast.net.

It's official!

The 2013 National Grange Convention will be held in Manchester, New Hampshire. Manchester was the site of the 1913 National Convention, and a National Convention has not been held in New Hampshire for the past 100 years.

National Master to Visit State Session

The National Representatives for our State Session in October will be National Master Ed Lutrell and his wife Celia. The Lutrells are no strangers to New Hampshire and are looking forward to their visit. The National Master will be presenting a special workshop at 3 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, and participating in the Patrons' Plunge on October 31.

143rd National Convention

The National Grange Convention will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from November 17-21, hosted by the Midwest Region. Early-bird registration (before October 17) with National Grange will save you five dollars. Details are available at www.nationalgrange.org. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel. See page 9 of this paper for a partial schedule of events.

Take the Patron's Plunge!

As a special fund-raiser, some hardy patrons will be dressing up in Halloween costume and plunging into the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday, October 31, at 4:30 p.m. or at the conclusion of the State Grange afternoon session. Will you gather up sponsor money and be one of them?

If you cannot fathom the idea of taking a dip in the Atlantic in October or are unable to attend in person, perhaps you could sponsor a state officer or director or maybe even the National Master. Checks should be made payable to NH State Grange with a notation of Patron's Plunge and mailed to State Secretary Carolyn Ross, 80 East Road, East Kingston, NH 03827. Proceeds will benefit the NH State Grange and the New Hampshire Dictionary Project.

For a list of those who have volunteered to "plunge" see **page 5**.

Dues Increase Passes

At the Special Session held at Daniel Webster Grange Hall in Webster on August 22, delegates voted to increase the dues paid by Subordinate Grangers to the State Grange by \$9 per year and the Pomona dues paid to the State Grange by \$2.00 per member per year. Seventy-three voting delegates were present. The vote to increase Subordinate dues was one vote over the required two-thirds majority (50 Yes, 23 No) and the vote to increase Pomona dues was 60 Yes and 13 No. Especially heartwarming was the testimony given by the younger adults present about how important Grange is in their lives and how they are willing to make sacrifices to pay their dues and see that Grange continues. Many Granges already have plans to assist needy Grangers in meeting their obligations to the order. Meanwhile, the State Grange is working hard to implement cost-saving measures, as even with the dues increase there isn't quite enough income to balance the budget without using investment principal.

Big E Blueberry Pie Days

It is Big E Blueberry Pie Days time again, and we are looking for help manning the Granite State Dairy Promotion's Blueberry Pie Booth in the NH Building at the Big E. We have two days to work this year, **Friday, September 18, and Friday, October 2**, from 10:00am until 9:00pm. We will need 15 volunteers for each day. Volunteers work in shifts and there is time to enjoy the fair as well as work at the booth. Parking/shuttle passes and admission tickets will be provided. Please call Gwen Yardley at 603-756-3677 (late evening is the best time to call) if you would like to spend a day at the Big E with a bunch of friendly, enthusiastic Grangers. Remember, this is a major fundraiser for the NH State Grange, so please consider lending your support. Thank you!



It's time for the Big "E" again! Whether it's to sell blueberry pie, attend Grange Day, see a show, shop, take in some exhibits, watch a livestock show, serve as an ambassador or store worker in the New England Grange Building, or greet visitors in the New Hampshire room upstairs, I hope I will see you there! Speaking of the NH room, I hope many of you will come and see for yourself the mini makeover that our room has received thanks to the efforts of Jim Tetreault, Matt Clark, and me – your New England Grange Building trustees. If you'd like to receive an admission ticket and a parking pass, contact me to find out what roles need to be filled in exchange for your free admission.

I have attended several State Grange events the last quarter, namely Family Weekend, New England Go to Church Service, Northeast Youth Conference, and Northeast Lecturers' Conference. Congratulations and thanks to Bob Trombi, Matt Clark, Chris Heath, and Marie Hall, the Directors and Officer in charge of organizing these events. New Hampshire's low attendance was the only splotch at these events, with the possible exception of the Youth Conference. Was there a greater NH presence in attendees or was it the high level of participation by those who attended? Either way, I can't express enough the importance to you and your Grange that you attend as many events as you possibly can. It's disheartening for our officers and directors when they put a lot of planning into their events and have just a handful of members come to acknowledge and support their efforts. These gatherings are a great way to see what's happening in the world and in the Grange. Friendship and networking opportunities are unlimited, and the educational aspect continues as one of the founding principles of our organization. Please give consideration to attending a regional conference next year, whether it be Leaders' Conference in January, Youth Conference in July, or Lecturers'

Conference in August. ANY member may attend ANY of these conferences!

Unfortunately, I must report the closing of Moultonborough Grange, upon their request. The Charter was revoked, and the membership has been transferred to Mt. Livermore Grange. On a more positive note, Riverhill Grange has reorganized with an impressive number of new members, fourteen of whom I obligated, and then Marion T. Jones installed their new officers. Most of these new members were drawn to the Grange by the plight of their historic Grange Hall. GRIT teams (Granges Really In Trouble) have been working with Friendship, Wicwas Lake, and Londonderry Granges. All three Granges have a lot of work ahead of them, but commitment by their members to grow their Grange is most encouraging. Peterborough Grange has had six new members join since they were chartered in April 2008. See evidence of more gains in the Membership Development Director's column. If you don't believe the Grange is growing, then your view of the world is far too confined; and you're depriving yourself from reaping the greatest benefits of our organization!

In this paper, you will find a schedule for the State Grange Session coming up on October 29-31 at Hampton Beach. We will be hosting Ed Luttrell, National Grange Master, and his wife, Celia, First Lady of the National Grange. It will be a busy session including a special guest workshop, the conferral of two degrees, deliberations on new policies, the "Patron's Plunge," numerous awards and recognitions, and NH Commissioner of Agriculture, Lorraine Merrill to speak at the Celebration Banquet.

I hope I will see some of you at the National Convention to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Let's start taking notes and writing down our ideas now in

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER

This is a free* publication to keep Grange members informed of past and up-coming events.

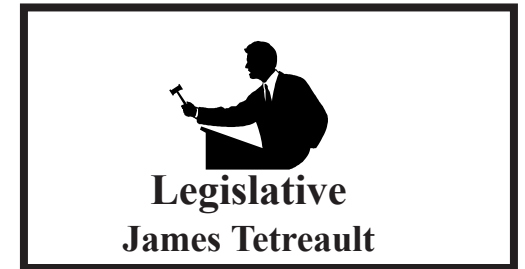
***(However, donations are accepted.)**

This paper is printed quarterly.

Postmaster or anyone else:

**Please send all related correspondence to
Hannah West
3 Depot Road
Chichester, NH 03258**

preparation for the work ahead of us in hosting the 2013 National Grange Convention. Red Sox fans waited 86 years for a World Series win, but it's been a full century since National Grange was last held in our beautiful state!



I hope you all have had a great summer. Even though it has not felt like much of a summer with all the rain, I am sure you all had the ability to get some of your favorite summer activities in. The harvest season is just about upon us, and its time to starting thinking about getting back to some Grange activities.

Be thinking about the resolutions for State Grange the deadline for resolutions to be to the State Secretary is September 1, 2009. If your Grange can't meet that deadline you are welcome to bring them to State Grange with 150 copies.

We have a lot going on in Agriculture right now. The biggest issue is the dairy crises. If your local news paper runs any stories on this issue, please cut the article out and send it to me. I would like to exhibit these at the State Grange session. My address is 35 Keene Road Apt D, Winchester, NH 03470, a slight change from the one listed in the roster. Rep. Bob Haefner of Hudson Grange and Rep. Tara Saad of Walpole Grange, who are both very active on this issue and have become our resident experts on dairy issues, have attended lots of meetings during this summer trying to bring attention to this issue and to come with solutions so we don't loose our dairy industry here in NH. If your Grange would like to perhaps host a forum on dairy issues, please contact one of these individuals or myself.

I hope you all have a nice fall season. I look forward to seeing you around the State and at State Grange in Hampton in October.

**"I think," said the sweet potato,
"therefore, I yam."**



All About Youth
Chris Heath

It's that time of year again when we say good bye to the current Grange year and get ready to welcome the new one.

In June the Youth Team held our Summer Rally. The Youth invited the Juniors to join them for a weekend of work and play in the Bear Hill 4-H Camp at Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown. On Friday, the campers started arriving at the facility and were assigned cabins. A Pizza dinner was served by the kitchen crew, and the Youth and Juniors got to know each other. On Saturday morning the Youth and Juniors performed a community service project for the 4-H Foundation. After four grueling hours the service project was completed, and the campers broke for lunch.

After lunch Spot Light New Hampshire was held at the camp. In Junior Public Speaking we had one entry by Stephanie Lambert. In the Youth Public Speaking Contest, in the 20 to 29 age category, we had one contestant, Lynn Clark. For the 30 plus age category, we had one contestant, George Lambert. In the 20 to 29 year old category for the elevator speech contest we had one contestant, Matt Clark. In the Sign-a-Song contest, we had three entries. Marie Hall and Andrea Lucas were participants in the Individual-Hobbyist category. In the group category we had one group consisting of Allissa Estes and Christopher Heath.

The winners, who represented New Hampshire at the North East Regional Youth Conference, were: Public Speaking Junior 9-12, Stephanie Lambert; Youth 20-29, Lynn Clark; Youth 30+, George Lambert; Elevator Speech 20-29, Matthew Clark; Sign-A-Song Individual Hobbyist- First place Marie Hall, Second Place Andrea Lucas, Group- Allissa Estes and Christopher Heath.

The Winners of the Grange Knowledge Test held at Winter Youth Rally are as follows: 1st place Beth Merrill with a

score of 95, 2nd place Rhoda Davis with a score of 89.5, and 3rd place Hannah West with a score of 88. Please be sure to pick up your test at the next Youth event.

At the conclusion of Spot Light New Hampshire, 39 people enjoyed a meal put on by the kitchen staff. After dinner a "Youth Summit" was run by State Overseer Jim Teterault and State Assistant Steward Arthur Merrill. Many topics were discussed, and a good time was had by all. The Juniors took advantage of the free time and were invited to play with a Nintendo Wii that was available. Sunday morning the Youth had a wrap up session and then were allowed to pack up and head home. Most of those in attendance for part or all of the weekend enjoyed the experience of going to the 4-H camp and would like to see the Youth and Juniors return to hold Summer Rally there again.

The Youth Team would also like to announce that we have received three entries for the National Grange Youth Ambassador contests. Matt and Lynn Clark have submitted the application for Young Couple and Allissa Estes has submitted an application for the Female Youth Ambassador contest. If you see any of these three youth, be sure to congratulate them and wish them the best of luck at National Grange session.

In July, thirteen members formed the New Hampshire delegation to attend North East Regional Youth Conference held in Schenectady, New York, at Union college. Most of the group arrived Friday afternoon and got checked in. On Saturday the contest winners from New Hampshire competed in the Regional competitions. Marie Hall placed first in her Sign-A-Song category and was selected as the Best of Show winner. Allissa Estes and Christopher Heath won the group Sign-A-Song contest. George Lambert, Stephanie Lambert, Matt and Lynn Clark received second place ribbons for their public speaking entries. An afternoon of water Olympics followed the competitions, and an awards banquet was held on Saturday night. On Sunday, the annual drill competition was held. New York was the only state to have a drill team this year so in order to give new youth in the Grange a chance to participate, the Youth directors from all the other states in attendance, put

together a team made up of youth from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire to participate in the drill competition. A big thanks goes to Patrick Bailey, Greg Trombi and Christopher Heath for volunteering to be participants in the last minute drill. Congratulations go to New York for spending many months and long hours working to have a drill team. The Youth from New York did a wonderful job and won first place. Hopefully next year the youth from New Hampshire can get a team together and participate in the drill competition.

Planning for a second Harvest Moon Stomp is in its final stages. Flyers for this event should be to Granges before September 1st. If for some reason your Grange does not report on this event, please check out the Youth page on the New Hampshire State Grange web site at www.nhgrange.org/youth. If you don't have internet access, please notify the Youth Team Leader and he will send you the information.

State Session is quickly approaching and contest deadlines are coming up soon. Please make sure that you get your entries to the State Youth Leader on time. If for some reason you can't, please contact him and let him know.

The Youth Team plans on having the 2009-2010 youth program available for all Granges and other members at their display table at State session. Included with the program will be a list of dates of all the events that are planned throughout the year. The Team asks everyone to please put these dates in your calendar so that when you look at your upcoming events, you will know when the Youth events will be held and where. The Team is going to stick to the schedule and not change any of the dates or times. If for some reason there is a change, notification will be sent to the Granges as fast as possible. Also, any changes will be posted immediately on the State Grange web site and sent on the E-mail Grapevine by Hannah West.

The Youth Team would like to thank all those who supported them this past year and encourage everyone, especially the youth, to come out to all of our events for the 2009-2010 Grange year.



**Family & Community
Jane & Wilber Heath**

Since our last article, we have been busy trying to visit as many Granges as possible. If we did not make it to yours, we will make attempts to visit when we can. We have received many wonderful needlework entries and by the time you read this, they will have been judged on the state level and the first place winners will go to Eastern States where they will compete with all other Northeast region entries. We have also received State level categories of quilting, sewing, wood work and miscellaneous items and they will have been judged. All entries will be displayed at State Session. It is now time to start thinking of needlework entries for next year and also items for the State level categories.

At State Session we will be collecting brand new linens (any size), bath articles, towels, washcloths, laundry baskets, etc. for the New Hampshire Coalition Against Rape and Domestic Violence. We will also be collecting non perishable food items to be given to the Hampton Food Pantry. We are asking Granges to bring fudge and trail mix to be sold at the State Session. Please cut fudge before bringing it.

Many of you may be wondering why you can not find your report form to fill out and send in. We are following Nancy Bean's recommendation, which is not to send them out until the fall, so that they do not get lost over the summer. Please record items during the year, ready to place into your report when it comes. You will all be getting your report forms soon, or may already have them by the time you read this article.

We have received some entries for the Firefighter, Policeman, and Educator awards. We have not received any Agriculture award nominations: 200 year Farm, Century Farm, and Young Farmer. We would really like to get some of these, as we are an agricultural organization. These nominations should be sent in no later than the date of the report, September 15. If you would also like to nominate for a Community Citizen Award, or Community

Service Award, please contact the State Lecturer.

We are still accepting quilt squares. Remember they have to be 10 1/2" square (this includes the 1/4" seam allowance to sew them together). They should be purple, lavender, lilac or combinations thereof.

Any items that you have made for the Big "E" need to be in our hands by the 15th of September. We are looking for donations of baby articles, Scrubbies, crocheted or knitted dishcloths, potholders, stuffed animals, dolls, Afghans, mittens, scarves, hats, knee warmers, booties, vests, aprons, wall hangings, pillowcases, bureau scarves, crafts, ornaments, etc. All articles should be hand-made. They are sold in the Country Store at the New England Grange Building to support the building and convince public that the Grange is a going concern.

We have received Family & Community Donations from 20 Granges and are still waiting for additional donations. (Make checks payable to Family and Community Committee). We hope you are working on items for Mountain of Mittens. These can be knitted or Polar Fleece, hand made or purchased. If you make donations directly to local schools during the year, please record them on your end of the year report.

Thank you for supporting the Family and Community Department throughout the year. It makes our job easier if we have many hands making articles for us to display, items to donate, and goodies to sell.

Kelley Farm donations can be made at any time. (make check to National Grange and please note that it is for Kelley Farm). Send to National Grange Kelley Farm Fund, 1616 H Street NW, Washington DC 20006-4999.

Support the ELF!
Please send your
Educational Loan Fund
donations to:
Rodney Huntoon
8 Pine Acres Rd., Suite 808
Concord, NH 03301

When a friend is in trouble, don't annoy him by asking if there is anything you can do. Think up something appropriate and do it. ~E.W. Howe



**Grange Services
Connie Carr**

The Grange Services Committee met recently to review and act upon applications for Scholarships. A total of \$5,900 was awarded to four qualified applicants, each of whom exhibited a strong academic record and active participation in Grange activities. The Committee is pleased to be able to support the educational pursuits of these members. ALL members are eligible to apply for Scholarship Grants to assist with post-secondary education. Application deadline is July 1st.

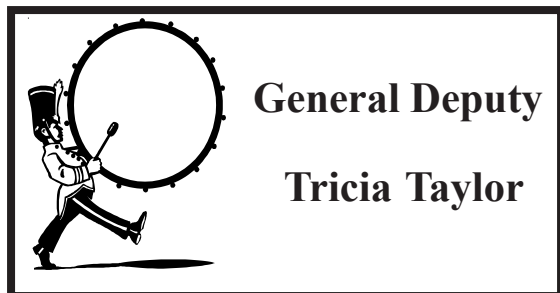
Educational Loans up to \$1,000 in any school year and \$2,000 maximum are available to Grange members and others in families of Grange members. There is no deadline on Loan applications.

Financial assistance is available to members in need through the Grange Trust. Generally funds are available at specific times during the year, but applications can be submitted at any time. Assistance to a maximum of \$500.00 in any calendar year is available to qualified members in Good Standing.

Personal assistance items including wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, bath/shower chairs and an electric hospital bed are available and can be loaned to members.

Guidelines, requirements and Applications for each of the services can be found in the Grange Services section of the State Grange website www.nhgrange.org and can be printed from there; these are also available from members of the Committee.

Members who do not have prescription drug coverage or reimbursement through their health insurance can save significant amounts on prescription drugs through the SCRIPS PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM. This is available to ALL members and their families. Cards can be obtained from any member of the Grange Services Committee.



**General Deputy
Tricia Taylor**

We have had several instances over the past few years where the Constitution and By-laws of the National Grange and the By-Laws of the NH State Grange have not been adhered to. These instances have involved the closing of a Grange as well as disposal of the assets of the Grange without notifying the State Master and the State Executive Committee. This puts all of us in a difficult position.

Our State Master and our State Executive Committee take their duties to the Grange very seriously. Closing a Grange or suspending their Charter or bringing legal action is the very last thing any of them wants to do. The duties of their offices require them to make the hard decisions, but if all Granges abide by the Constitution and By-Laws as we agree to when we take the installation oath there would be fewer instances of confrontation. We would all much prefer to be involved in organizing new Granges, reorganizing Granges, and helping existing Granges get back on their feet.

We have GRIT teams active in the state, and they have been able to help or are helping several Granges right now. GRIT stands for Granges Really In Trouble, and the goal is to help those Granges attract new members and get back on their feet. Any Grange that feels they would like the help has only to make the call to any of us at the State level, and we will send a GRIT team to work with you. Please let us help you.

One of the most important reasons for involving the State Master and the State Executive Committee in any discussion of closing a Grange is to ensure continued membership for those belonging to that Grange. While all members should receive a demit at the closing of a Grange we all know how difficult it is to ensure that each member receives that demit and has the ability to join another Grange. Some of our members are unable to travel any distance,

or at night, or just plain feel like they are out of their comfort zone. Is it fair to our Golden Sheaf members to end their membership in an organization that they have belonged to for so long?

Many times over the years I have heard members comment about the State Grange taking their money when they have sold their hall, or heard about Granges that have spent all of their money before closing their doors so the State Grange couldn't take it. I find it interesting that so few members realize that it is the charge of the State Grange to hold those monies according to the By-Laws. These monies do not go into the coffers of the State Grange to be spent by them. Money from the sale of a Grange Hall is invested by the State Grange until such time as that Grange chooses to buy or build another hall. That Grange has the use of the yearly interest. At no time does the State Grange have the ability to simply take over that fund and spend it as they wish. Should a Grange close rather than consolidate, their monetary assets go into a defunct Grange account for seven years. If former members or other people in their community choose to reorganize that Grange, the monetary assets are returned. It seems to me that this practice is in the best interests of the Subordinate or Pomona Granges and their future membership. Those who accept offices at the State level make an enormous commitment to the good of the entire order, in addition to the commitment that we all make to our Subordinate and Pomona Granges. We accept these positions because we believe in the Grange and want to see it flourish in New Hampshire. Please help us make progress towards this goal by following the Constitution and By-Laws and letting us concentrate on helping Granges grow. If we all work together we can meet this goal.

Your Grange Master has been sent this information and the pertinent Constitution Articles and By-Laws for the Surrendering or Suspension of a Charter, as well as the Selling of Property by a Grange. Please ask to see the information and take the time to read it, so that if your Grange is in this position at any time you will know the proper procedure and be able to follow it. If you have any questions, please feel free to call, write, or email (preferred).

**List your Grange event
On the NH Grange website.
Contact Mark Collins:
mark-dianecollins@comcast.net**



Support the Patrons' Plunge

Sponsored by their families, friends, co-workers, and Grange supporters, the following list of intrepid Grangers has volunteered to dress up in Halloween costume and rush into the Atlantic Ocean at least waist deep on Saturday, October 31, at 4:30 p.m. Won't you sponsor one or more of them with your donation? Proceeds will benefit the NH State Grange and the NH Dictionary Project. Money may be brought to State Session or mailed to Carolyn Ross, 80 East Road, East Kingston, NH 03827. Please note that your money is for the Patrons' Plunge and name the "Plunger" you wish to sponsor.

**Rick Bailey
Robert Bates
Matthew Clark
Mark Collins
Allissa Estes
Chris Heath
Jerry Leclerc
Sarah Leclerc
National Master Ed Luttrell
Arthur Merrill
Beth Merrill
Donald Ross
Jim Tetreault
Jane Trombi
Hannah West**



**Attendees of Northeast Lecturers' Conference
Left to right: Jane Heath, Marie Hall, Yvonne Crocker, Dorothy Haskins, Mary West, Alice Tuck, Anne Boisvert, Hannah West, Lorna Bates, and Beth Merrill**



**Pumpkin Decorating Contest
NH State Session
October 31, 2009**

**Bring your decorated (not carved)
pumpkin to the Youth Display Area
before 3 p.m.**

**Pumpkins will be judged on creativity,
appearance, and workmanship. There
are no categories.**

**Tuftonboro Grange Sponsors
Coloring Contest**

Tuftonboro Grange #142 sponsored a coloring contest for grades Kindergarten through Grade 3 at the Tuftonboro Central School in honor of the 120th Anniversary of the Tuftonboro Grange. Students were requested to submit a colored picture of the Grange hall (located on Route 109A, Tuftonboro, NH).

There were 106 entries. All participants were given "certificates of participation" for entering their pictures. There were first prize and honorable mention prizes for each grade. The winners received certificates and gift certificates to The Country Bookseller in Wolfeboro, NH.

First prize winners were: Brianna Pickle, Kindergarten; Cherilynn Arion, Grade 1; Madelyn Shannon, Grade 2, and Emma Abraham, Grade 3.

Honorable mention winners were: Brogan Shannon, Kindergarten; Mary Elizabeth McCarthy, Grade 1; Jackson Hipple, Grade 2; and Abby Coulter Grade 3.

Each of the winning pictures was framed and displayed at the Tuftonboro Grange Hall for the 120th Anniversary Celebration on August 15th, 2009.

Deadline

Send copy for the December issue of the Granite State Granger to Hannah West by November 5, 2009. Grange news and personal items will be appreciated.

Winthrop Grange

Winthrop Grange of Shelburne welcomes three new members, Diane and Rich Wood and Rachelle Van Sant. Diane and Rich come to us from Gorham and are former Grangers. Diane is the former Pastor of the Congregational Methodist Church in Berlin. Her husband Rich has agreed to be our pianist, and we are truly blessed with his talent. Rachelle is an 8th grader at the Gorham Middle School and is happy to be joining her sister and parents as a member. Congratulations to our member Gabrielle Van Sant on her induction to the National Honor Society at the Gorham High School.



**A Very Happy 90th Birthday to
Marion T. Jones
on September 21, 2009
Cards may be sent to her at
67 Winnepocket Road
Webster, NH 03303.**

Mount Hope Grange

This article was omitted from the June edition of the GSG.

Members of Mount Hope Grange in Landaff held their sixth annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 20, at the Landaff Town Hall. Joe and Cheryl Wiggett organized the breakfast which was served with sausage, bacon, orange juice, coffee, and hot chocolate. The syrup was donated by Dan Dodge, Jeff Dodge, Kevin and Tom Clement, Richard Bronson, Norman Heath, and Preston Chase. The event received excellent publicity in the Bridge Weekly paper with many fine pictures and much information about the Grange.

Yes, the Clements who donated syrup and helped with the breakfast are descendants of Past State Master George Clement who started sugaring on Jockey Hill Farm in Landaff many years ago. For the past five years his grandsons Tom and Kevin Clement have tapped 200 trees on the property and produce syrup in a sap house made in a portion of George Clement's auction barn.

Grange Bu

Jaffrey Grange

Jaffrey Grange #135 celebrated their 120 year birthday in October, 2008. For the past six years Jaffrey Grange has been presenting dictionaries to all the third grade students in both Rindge Memorial School and the Jaffrey Grade School and receiving excellent newspaper publicity for doing so. (This article was inadvertently omitted from the June GSG.)

Granite Grange Public Suppers

23 Webster Street

Milford, NH

5 to 6:30 p.m.

Adults - \$8.00

Children under 6 - \$4.00

September 12

Pork Loin & Baked Potato.

Apple Crisp

October 10

Food from the Chuck Wagon

Chuck Wagon Stew and Other

Cowboy Favorites

Cowboy Cookies, Apple Pie

November 14

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Salad & Rolls

Italian Ice



**Help Fund the Granite State
Granger**

**Sponsor Editor Hannah West
in the Patron's Plunge.**

**Send donations to Carolyn Ross,
80 East Road,**

**East Kingston, NH 03827
and mention my name.**

**This ad was paid for by Hannah West with a
donation to the GSG.**

Bulletin Board

Hey, Pardners!

Come enjoy a great meal from the chuck wagon at Granite Grange and then relax to country music. Wear your western duds and you may win a prize for being the best dressed cowhand (ladies and gents welcome). Be sure to attend and see Hiram and Elvira cross the lonesome prairie again. You can't miss the cowboy fashion show from around the world! October 10th Chuck Wagon meal served from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact John at 603-487-3116.

The Agate

The Agate Past Masters' Association met for their August meeting at the Rumney Rest Area, hosted by Bakers River Grange with an attendance of forty members enjoying a wonderful picnic supper. The next meeting will be on Saturday, December 5, at the State Grange Building in Hooksett. There will be a supper at 6:00 p.m. costing \$ 7.00 a person, followed by the meeting and a Christmas program in charge of Marion T. Jones, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a gift and card exchange. For a gift, bring something from home that you can live without but maybe someone else can't. Remember, the gift must be in good condition and have a value of at least \$5.00. If you plan to attend the supper, please notify Secretary Dorothy Haskins either by e-mail dhaskins@tds.net or phone 648-2243.

Also the secretary is still trying to update the membership list. If you are a member and your address has changed since you last attended a meeting or if your e-mail address has changed, please don't hesitate to let the secretary know, so that you can be notified about meetings.

Visit the State Grange Website at www.nhgrange.org

National Grange Essay Contest Winners

In honor of Grange Month 2009, the National Grange offered an Grange Essay Contest that was open to all current Grange members. The subject of the essay was "Why every community needs a Grange TODAY." Sara Beth A.R. Kohut (PA) is the 1st place winner and will receive a plaque and 2 tickets to the Celebration Banquet at the 2009 National Grange Convention in Grand Rapids, MI. Walter Boomsma (ME) came in 2nd Place, and Diane Bassette Nelson (NY) came in 3rd. Mary West (NH) and Hannah West (NH) both received honorable mentions. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place essays were printed in the May/June issue of *The New Grange*.

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 2-7 - Lancaster Fair
- Sept. 3-7 - Hopkinton Fair
- Sept. 10 - Youth Reports due
- Sept. 11-13 - Hillsborough County Fair
- Sept. 12 - Granite Grange Supper 5-6:30 p.m. Milford
- Sept. 18-27 - Rochester Fair
- Sept. 18 - Oct. 4 - Eastern States Exposition West Springfield, MA
- Sept. 18 - Blueberry Pie Day at "Big E"
- Sept. 27 - Grange Day at "Big E"
- Oct. 1 - Lecturer's Contest Entries Due
- Oct. 1-4 - Deerfield Fair
- Oct. 3 - Harvest Moon Festival Merrill Farm, Antrim
- Oct. 4 - Blueberry Pie Day #2 at "Big E"
- Oct. 7 - State Convention Reservations due for Rooms & Banquet
- Oct. 10 - Granite Grange Chuckwagon Supper 5-6:30 p.m. Milford
- Oct. 29-30 - NH State Grange Convention Ashworth by the Sea, Hampton
- Oct. 31 - Patrons' Plunge 4:30 p.m Hampton
- Nov. 17-21 - National Grange Session Grand Rapids, MI
- Dec. 5 - Agate meets at Grange Building, Hooksett, 6 p.m.

A Hearty Grange Welcome to the Following New Members

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Charlotte Brett | Antrim |
| Samantha Huntoon | Blazing Star |
| Brianna Huntoon | Blazing Star |
| Bette Bogdan | Chichester |
| Heidi Earle | Golden Rod |
| Richard Abbott, Jr. | Halestown |
| Jonathan Garland | Henry Wilson |
| Doug Williams | Peterborough |

Suncook Valley Pomona Grange is now the contact for the New Hampshire Dictionary Project.

Orders should be mailed to Hannah West, 3 Depot Road, Chichester, NH 03258.

Checks should be made payable to The New Hampshire Dictionary Project. The cost is \$1.80 per dictionary, and labels will be provided.

Aurora Grange



Here, on the steps of Aurora Grange's hall, are the candidates that took part in the Degree Day on June 27, 2009. From left to right are Amber Peterson, Holly Gray, Hank Brimacombe, Dean Brimacombe, Rachelle Van Sant, Jamie Gray, and Seth Gray.

Pictured below are the Grangers who served as the Degree Team, doing all four degrees on Saturday, June 27, at the Aurora Grange Hall in Pittsburg.



Left to right Ann Leger, Gabrielle Van Sant, Hannah West, Marylin Machia, Stephen Tracy, Rachelle Van Sant, Dorothy Haskins, Ann Gray, Chip Evarts, Jean Abbott, Marty Boisvert, Anne Boisvert

Thank You, David Boynton, and other members of Pemi Valley Pomona for doing the work which has made New Hampshire shine in Dictionary Project circles.



136th ANNUAL CONVENTION

**New Hampshire State Grange
of the Patrons of Husbandry
Ashworth by the Sea
295 Ocean Boulevard
Hampton, NH 03842
800-345-6736**

October 29-31, 2009

Convention Theme: Teamwork

**“Alone we can do so little, together we
can do so much.” Helen Keller**

Special Guests

**Ed Lutrell, Master, and Celia Lutrell,
First Lady, National Grange**

Thursday, October 29

**Registration beginning at 6:00 p.m.
(\$10.00 Registration Fee – each
delegate)**

**(\$5.00 Registration Fee for all other
attendees)**

Opening Session – 7:00 p.m.

Procession of State Officers

Opening in the Sixth Degree

Calling the Roll of Officers

Grange lowered to the Fourth Degree

Introduction of Special Guests

Calling the Roll of Granges

Grange Memorial Service

**NH State Chaplain Matthew Clark
(Gates & Registration will be closed.)**

Conferral of the Third Degree

Directed by Deputy Ralph Russell

Lecturer’s Program

Announcements

Closing the Grange

Hospitality Room open 9:30 to 11 p.m.

Hosted by East Rockingham Pomona

Friday, October 30

Morning Session – 8:30 a.m.

Opening in the Fourth Degree

Introduction of Special Guests

Calling the Roll of Officers

Calling the Roll of Granges

Reading the Minutes from Thursday

**Announcement of Master’s Address,
Credentials, and Resolutions**

Committees

Reading of Resolutions

Reading of Convention Rules

Reports:

Treasurer – Gail Turcotte

Secretary – Carolyn Ross

Executive Committee - Donald Ross

BREAK

Reports:

Lecturer – Marie Hall

Legislative – James Tetreault

Grange Services– Constance Carr

Membership - Stephen Tracy

State Grange Trust - Rodney Huntoon

Fundraising /Operations - Kim Bascom

Publicity/Media – Hannah West

State Master’s Address - 11:30 a.m.

Beth Merrill

Lunch Break

12:00 Noon

Afternoon Session – 1:30 p.m.

Reports:

Historian - Richard Patten

Family & Community –

Wilber & Jane Heath

General Deputy – Tricia Taylor

Eastern States Trustees

Matthew Clark

Special Guest Workshop 3:00 p.m.

**“If You’re Not the Lead Dog, Does the
View Ever Change?” by Ed Lutrell,
National Grange Master**

Closing the Grange - 4:30 p.m.

(or at conclusion of business)

Evening Meal on Your Own

Obligation of 5th Degree 7:15 p.m.

Evening Session – 7:30 p.m.

Conferral of the Sixth Degree

**by the Officers of the NH State Grange
(Deputy State Masters responsible for
the gates)**

Introduction of Guests

Remarks by National Master

Ed Luttrell

Announcements

Closing in the Fourth Degree

Dismantle Flora’s Court

Hospitality Room open until 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 31

Morning Session – 8:30 a.m.

Opening in the Fourth Degree

Calling the Roll of Youth Officers

Calling the Roll of State Officers

Calling the Roll of Granges

Reading the Minutes from Friday

Reports:

**Youth & Junior – Chris Heath and
Rhonda Lambert**

Special Committee Reports

501c3 Foundation Directors

Pomona Reports

Election of Officers - 10 a.m.

Two Executive Committee Members

Officer Reports:

(May be interspersed throughout the session.)

Overseer - James Tetreault

Steward - Chris Heath

Assistant Steward - Arthur Merrill

Lady Assistant Steward - Jane Trombi

Chaplain - Matthew Clark

Gatekeeper - Ann Leger

Ceres - Kathy Yardley

Pomona - Rachel Bailey

Flora - Diane Collins

Pianist - Lester Gibbs

Discussion and Action on Resolutions

Lunch Break

12 Noon

Afternoon Session – 1:30 p.m.

Installation of Officers

Report of Master’s Address Committee

Discussion & Action on Resolutions

Unfinished Business

Report of Credentials Committee

Closing the Grange – 4:00 p.m.

(or at conclusion of business)

Patron’s Plunge!

on the beach, 1/2 hour after closing

Evening Session – 6:00 p.m.

State Grange Celebration Dinner

**(By advance October 7th
reservation only! Seating is limited!)**

**\$30.00 – Contact your Grange
Secretary or State Ceres Kathy**

Yardley.

**Chicken Cordon Bleu or
Fresh Broiled Haddock**

Program:

Welcome by State Master

Introduction of Guest Dignitaries

Recognition Awards

State Lecturer’s Talent Winner

Dance & Costume Party 9-11 p.m.

Special Prizes Awarded to

Best “Team” Costumes

Hospitality Room open until 11 p.m.



143rd National Convention

November 16-21, 2009

Hosted by the Midwest Region
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
 187 Monroe Ave., NW
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 Toll-free: 800-253-3590
 Direct: 616-776-6450

Make room reservations directly with
 the hotel.

Download convention registration form
 from www.nationalgrange.org

November 16

Delegate Tour & Host Region Welcome
 Dinner (by invitation only)

November 17

Convention Opens 2:30 p.m.

National Master's Address 3 p.m.

November 18

Salute to Agriculture Breakfast
 Business sessions

November 19

Non-Delegate Tour (includes lunch):
 Van Andel Museum, Frederik Meijer
 Gardens & Sculpture Park, Gerald R.
 Ford Presidential Museum

At the Convention Center:

Election of Officers

Past Delegates Luncheon

Past Delegates Recognition

Memorial Service

November 20

Workshops

Installation of Officers

Grow Club and Youth A.O.L.E. Dinner

Evening of Excellence

November 21

Junior Breakfast

Sixth Degree Conferral

Junior Grange Degree

Seventh Degree Conferral

Grange Celebration Banquet

Visit the National Grange website at
www.nationalgrange.org.



Membership Development
 Coordinator: Stephen Tracy

During all the rain, while you couldn't work in the yard and garden and were feeling cooped up, did you get out and talk Grange and work on membership? It appears you have. At a recent meeting of the State Grange Committee chairs it was discussed that several Granges have taken in new members, and two Granges have taken in many candidates. Great work—"Well done good and faithful servant." Your efforts are paying off. Remember that "many hands make light work" and with more members paying dues we may be able to hold back on future dues increases.

On June 27 several Grangers traveled to the top of the state to do Degrees for a class of candidates from Aurora and Winthrop Granges. We were treated like royalty. Thank you to our Aurora hosts and to all who participated.

Now that the rain has stopped and fair season has arrived it is a good time to promote the Grange. I hope that all Granges in a Pomona will band together and advertise the Grange either by an exhibit, group in a parade, etc. I have made a banner stating, "Grange-Grassroots based Fraternity" with the NH Grange website across the bottom. I would like to see this move around the state for fairs and other public displays. It was hung at Cheshire Fair and will be at Cornish Fair. If you would like to utilize this "mobile advertising tool" contact me.

It is also farmers' market time. I have been visiting some with applications in hand and have been successful. You can be also. In fact the Northwood Farmers' Market has asked for a Grange information booth to be set up at their market. Thank you to the Heaths for covering this for us. We are all good at visiting with friends and neighbors, just slip in a **positive** Grange comment and then offer them an application to join.

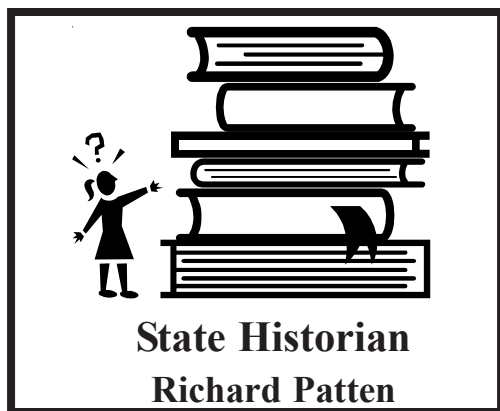
I am constantly talking about the Grange wherever I am. This spring I had someone I have known for years ask why I had never asked him to join. I thought he wasn't interested. Shame on me! He is now the newest member of Grafton Star.

A year or so ago we had Rusty Hunt of the National Grange Membership Development Dept. come to NH to train teams to help Granges. Two of the Granges we have worked with went from sluggish to very active in their communities. If you would like to see the changes and get inspired I suggest you visit Park and Blow-Me-Down Granges and talk to the members. As an example, someone who lived next door to Park Grange for a few years thought it was an abandoned building! He mowed the Grange lawn to help his place look good. Since meeting with the trained team there are many activities there and renewed interest in the Grange in Cornish. Plainfield also has seen renewed interest in their community.

Speaking of mowing the lawn to make the area look better. I have noted that some Granges are opening their halls for public use (not rent). This is good, but since our halls have been closed up due to only one or two meetings a month they get stuffy and dirty. That does not help our public image in the community. Now I realize that most Granges cannot afford an "extreme Grange makeover," but opening the windows, a bucket of hot soapy water and washing the curtains can go a long way. Some Granges do not have the people with the abilities to do that much work, but I'll bet that a group like the Scouts would take on the task if asked. Some Granges have worked with another group in town for fundraising to do the bigger jobs like painting, thus promoting community spirit. When people see people having a good time together they want to get involved, thus the possibility of new members.

Eastern States is coming up and we have an opportunity to shine there. We could have a float or just a group of people marching in the parade with Regalia and the Grange banner on New Hampshire Day or Grange Day. If you are able to help at Eastern States contact State Master Beth Merrill.

Be sure to wear some Grange emblem, a smile, and carry a pen with applications wherever you go. They are the best tools for increasing Grange membership. Challenge us to having more Degree Days across the state!



Let's travel back for a few minutes to 1929. The 56th annual session was held in Manchester at the Masonic Temple on December 10. As I was reading the Journal of Proceedings you would never know the country was going through a difficult time. The country was on the verge of a major depression. Now 70 years later, our country is undergoing another major difficulty. Some say it is not a depression. However, it is a time with people losing their jobs, businesses closing their doors, and families making difficult decisions as to how they can make ends meet. The beat goes on and on. However, the members of the New Hampshire State Grange in 1929 refused to acknowledge that a depression was on the horizon.

State Secretary George Drake reported a Pomona membership of 11,541 with a net gain of 216. Northern New Hampshire reported a net gain of 125 members. The Subordinate Grange reported a loss of 263 members. The following Granges were organized: Mt. Chocorua #336 of Chocorua with 40 charter members; Laurel Grange # 337 of Wilton with 23 members; and Twin Mountain #338 of Carroll with 55 charter members.

State Juvenile Superintendent Mrs. Lillian Foss Cooper reported 290 boys and girls in four juvenile units. This was the first report of the State Junior Superintendent, who had been appointed at the 1928 session. The State Executive Committee members decided the juvenile superintendent be selected and paid 3 cents per mile for travel expenses and \$3.00 for each visit.

It was voted by the Executive Committee to observe Grange Day in May.

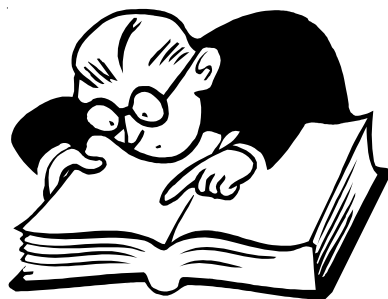
It is interesting to note that at the fall conference for the State Home and Community Welfare Committee, a member of Capital Grange asked, "If it was time to have a brother on the committee?" No action

was taken. It was also suggested that Subordinate Granges do not appoint new members to this committee. Another suggestion was that possibly committee members be appointed to staggered terms much like the Executive Committee.

A resolution was presented at this session regarding the erection of a New Hampshire State building on the grounds at Eastern States Exposition in Springfield Mass. It was further recommended that the State Grange solicit from each Subordinate and Pomona Grange \$2.50 each to reach the goal of \$500.00 from the New Hampshire State Grange.

I could go on and on as usual, however I will continue this at another time. How many Granges have a written history of their organization? I know that when a Grange celebrates a special milestone, we look for a special written history that was read at an earlier celebration. I would be happy to assist any Grange that is trying to write their history. I am in the process of writing two histories. I also have been pleased to receive communications from readers who are looking for information about Granges in the past who may have been organized in their area.

I hope everyone enjoys the remainder of summer and look forward to the cooler days of Autumn. I know I will for one.



Dictionary Project Changes Hands

by David Boynton

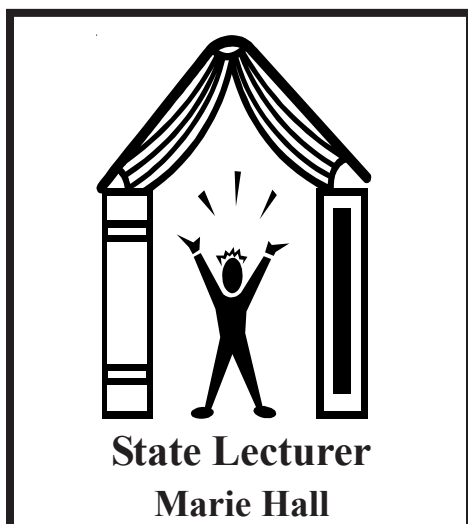
In 2002, Pemigewasset Valley Pomona Grange initiated The Dictionary Project-NH, with the intent of providing dictionaries to the 3rd grade students in the seven towns within the Pomona jurisdiction. Good intention gone wild! Within weeks, other Granges had heard about the project and joined with us. Our first order was for 1,500 dictionaries (thanks Ida Hutchins and Jean Farnham for being "dock workers of the day"). We thought we had achieved success...we were SO wrong.

Fast forward seven years. Granges throughout the state have participated in the project with unmatched enthusiasm, distributing 50,000 dictionaries in schools big and small, and achieving a level of Grange participation unequalled anywhere in the country.

Pemigewasset Valley Pomona has provided coordination for the project statewide, with a singular focus on making participation in the project as convenient as possible for every Grange; securing financial support to allow some finance-challenged Granges to participate; and providing other Granges to purchase and receive less than full cases for those schools with very small enrollments. These efforts, minimal as they are, have helped generate the level of support from the Granges. We would not and could not have done it if we did not believe that it was worthwhile and of benefit to the Granges, and to the project. Personally, I have felt far more positive about the Grange involvement with this project than for any other Grange-focused project in the last half-lifetime. There is a great personal satisfaction that, "By God, this time we have done something right!"

Times change, people change...or are sometimes changed, and adjustments must be made. Personal and health issues demand, no-dictate...now is the time that I MUST step away from doing what I have thoroughly enjoyed doing. Within Pemi Valley Pomona, there is no member willing to assume the tasks which need to be done to continue the project as now operated. Therefore, Pemi Valley Pomona will no longer provide the statewide coordination for The Dictionary Project.

Suncook Valley Pomona Grange has volunteered to continue to provide support to Granges that might not be able or willing to do it all themselves. They have been provided lots of operational information and records from 2002 to present, resource information for mail order bargain-priced printing supplies and blank labels, and the small amount of "carry-over" funds now remaining in the account. Dictionary orders should now be mailed to **Hannah West, 3 Depot Road, Chichester, NH 03258** and checks should be made payable to **The New Hampshire Dictionary Project.**



A big thank you to all who traveled to Bridgewater, MA, to take part in the New Hampshire program and other events at the Northeast Lecturers' Conference in August. There weren't a lot of us, but we made up for it with our enthusiasm and willingness to participate. We had a great time with our program "Let's Celebrate New Year's," and made plenty of noise on Northeast Night. New Hampshire's song for that night was written by Jerry Leclerc.

Mary West, our NH talent winner, sang for the NH program at the NE Lecturers' Conference and also participated in the regional Talent Show. I am hoping that she will be able to perform at the Night of Excellence at National Grange on November 20, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Your Talent Fund contributions help with the cost of sending her to Michigan. If your Grange has not sent a donation, it is not too late to mail it to the State Lecturer.

I hope you have all been working on your Art, Photo, Create-a-card, and Essay contest entries. They are due to me for judging on October 3, 2009. I am hoping that your Pomona Lecturers will collect these different items from you, and that we can meet together and not have to worry about any items becoming lost in the mail. If you are unable to give them to your Pomona Lecturer you may still mail them to me. Your Pomona Lecturer also has labels for your use to put on your contest entries.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our State Session. We will have the "What Is It?" and "Where Is It?" photos available again this year for you to enter your guesses.

You can shear a sheep many times
but you can skin him only once.—

Vermont Proverb

Why Should We Care about NH Agriculture?

by Bob Haefner

Let's discuss why we all should care about agriculture here in New Hampshire. Farms are small business, and we New Hampshire folks care about our small businesses. They pay business profits tax (BPT) when they make a profit, and they pay the Business Enterprise tax, even if they lose money. Additionally, these small businesses pay unemployment tax, and real estate taxes. Our farmers hire employees. Some farm workers are seasonal staff here on a work visa, but many are local. I was at a farm stand in Litchfield today. All four employees there were locals.

Our farms are not islands unto themselves. They buy seed, fertilizer, pesticides, pay veterinarians, buy tractors and large equipment like plows, harrows, spreaders. They get them serviced and use lots of fuel, all bought locally. They pay employees who spend their earnings locally. There is a large multiplier effect to the local economy. It is estimated that every cow in New Hampshire brings \$14,000 to the local economy. Food trucked in does not add anything to the local economy, especially in the form of a multiplier effect.

Agriculture, including agro tourism, is a \$950 million industry in our state. It is the second largest industry in NH after tourism. We should all care about any industry that adds that much to our local economy. Agriculture brings tourists from out of state with their money to spend in NH. Attractions like farm stays and our several wine and cheese trails bring tourists who also may spend the night in a local inn, buy a couple of meals and then buy tobacco products, alcohol and gas before they leave.

Farms represent open space. Open space protects our air and water quality and rural character. Our 130 dairy farms account for thousands of acres of open space. Each cow needs one to one-and-a-half acres of crops. Our vegetable farms have land that is kept open. What about the apple orchards? If these folks stop farming, the next crop will be houses. Say goodbye to open space. Farm land is free open space. Your town does not have to buy land to keep it open, the farmer does that. Farmers often

allow use of the land for hunting, snowmobiling and walking.

Agriculture is a significant part of our culture and history. Most conservatives care about history and our long-standing rural culture and do not want to lose it. None of us want to lose New Hampshire's rural character, and our farms are much of that character.

Lastly, NH farms provide us with safe, ripe, good-tasting, fresh, wholesome local food. There have been salmonella outbreaks around the country in the last couple of years. None of it, though, is originating in our state. If there is ever a terrorist attack on our food supply, we had better have local food. Local strawberries picked ripe are far better than California berries, picked two weeks before they are ripe. Local cheese beats anything coming out of the west. Do you really want milk dehydrated in Idaho and shipped across the country, reconstituted and sold as fresh milk? I don't.

Buy local this season. Visit the farmers' market and our local farm stands, buy local cheese. Go pick your own berries and apples.

Dairy Farmers are losing money and we are at risk of losing 25% of our dairy farms in NH this year. I often hear suggestions that if we let a couple of farms fail, the free market will take care of the rest. I also hear that our farmers can negotiate with their customers (processors). The USDA sets the price a farmer gets for his/her milk. It is a broken system for setting the farm price based on cheese prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Cheese prices are often manipulated. The milk processors are dominated by very few large processors. Folks, there is **no** free market for milk. Unless a farmer processes their own milk (very high capital investment and only niche markets), they must sell to the one or two processors available to them and expect to be paid the USDA set price based on a broken system.

Agriculture is an important asset to our state. Support New Hampshire farms and buy local this season.

[Ed. note: In addition to being a Granger in Hudson, Bob Haefner is also the Ranking Minority Member of the Environment and Agriculture Committee in the NH House of Representatives.]

The Grange and The Art of Farm Succession

by Chas Daloz, Peterborough Grange

By way of background, I inherited a non-functioning farm in Hancock. The core area is 38 acres—8 arable, the rest in woodland and marsh—with a farmhouse, barn, outbuildings, and a water-powered wood-working mill.

My time here has brought the property to an economic “take-off” point, with a functioning 80 member CSA, a listed historic woodworking hydro site, increased plantings, and an agricultural education/labor component with numerous intern students.

But, I’m aging out of productivity—my fingers and body parts don’t work as well as they did before, and I need to “cash out” and pass the farm to the next generation. That transition turns out to be more complex than I had anticipated, and I am hoping both that the Graingers can help and that this transition can be sort of a case study of how to pass farms in our region without losing their heritage.

How do we maintain, and build upon, the capital of sweat equity, increased fertility, the infrastructure and equipment, and the intimate knowledge of the land which has been accumulated over the aging farmer’s life? I don’t want a Wal-Mart site or gas station or housing development to take over this site—this is a farm—active,

sustainable, ecologically tuned agriculture for, and within, the local community. It has a history, an increased fertility and biodiversity, an established presence, and a wealth of crop, pest, marketing, and micro-climate information which must not be lost if we are to farm our landscapes well.

Transfer of a farm is difficult even when within a family, which is preferred, with at least three generations together—but many farm transfers occur without family continuity. Most such transfers also probably lose vast amounts of specific ecological and social information on which a viable agriculture depends. If each new farm generation must start learning the land when it arrives, at mid-life or early adulthood, we will not farm very well.

A Grange question is then, how do we pass on, and build on, the knowledge and capital improvements of the farm when the farmer passes on? How can we, as a community, preserve the intimate knowledge of soil, micro-climate, animal husbandry, crops, markets, etc. and build upon it in each successive generation? Are there examples in NH where this has been done successfully? Can the Grange be a repository, clearinghouse, and advocate for rational, orderly, land-enhancing, farm succession?

An additional question arises also when we choose to pass farms on responsibly. How do we value the farm?

There is the land, the buildings, equipment and infrastructure, the development value, the prospective agricultural income value under various managements, sweat equity, and doubtless many other considerations, but I need coverage of old-age expenses, off the farm, something of inheritance to pass on to children, and a “good will” value, which is a combination of business success, past efforts, knowledge equity, and other intangibles. Yet we do not want to value out good intentional, replacement farmers and farm families.



In Memoriam

Gerald Merrill	GS	Aurora
Anbarth Andersen	GS, PM,	Baker’s River
	Past Deputy	
Ruth Decatur		Blackwater
Kathryn Flaherty		Blackwater
Everett Heath	GS	Blazing Star
Helen Coutts	GS	Golden Rod
Frank Dodier	GS	Lake Shore
Elwin Grace		Mont Calm
Pauline Preston	GS	Ocean Side
John Goff		Pembroke
Hazel Drown		Pineconia
Earl Corson	GS	Rochester
Catherine MacLeod		Sunapee Lake
Irma Gross		West Thornton
Marjorie Knott	GS	Wicwas Lake
Robert Kachranian	GS	Wingold
Lawrence Stevens	GS	Wingold

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER

Official Publication of the
New Hampshire State Grange
Patrons of Husbandry
Managing Editor - Hannah West
3 Depot Road
Chichester, NH 03258
Tel. (603) 798-5783

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