



The Granite State Granger

Volume 50

Number 4

2020

December



Who are these masked individuals? Your newly elected NH State Grange Officers!
Seated (l to r): Ceres Jane Trombi; Chaplain Kathy Yardley, Overseer Tricia Taylor, Flora Kerriann Nightingale, Pomona Crystal Seward, E.C. Beth Yardley; Standing: Gatekeeper Andrew Savage, Lady Assistant Steward Sarah Leclerc, Secretary Gerald Leclerc, Treasurer Daniel Bascom, E.C. Wilber Heath, Master Robert Trombi, E.C. Mark Collins, E.C. Robert Haefner, Pianist Lester Gibbs, Lecturer Matthew Clark, Assistant Steward Norman Brandt, Steward Adam Paquin-Varnum

State Session in a Nutshell

The meeting was held at the Best Western PLUS in Portsmouth.

The meeting began at 9 a.m. and delegates were on their way home at 2:45 p.m.

There were 45 voting delegates present.

The meeting was shared with Grangers via Zoom.

Masks were worn and social distancing observed.

Secretary Gerald Leclerc efficiently arranged for minimal contact at registration and lunch. and provided thoughtful supplies for the delegates. State Master Chris Heath was absent due to a painful leg injury which is probably a pulled hamstring muscle and may require surgery. His Farewell Address is printed on pages 6 and 7 of this paper.

Overseer Bob Trombi conducted the meeting.

In lieu of a Memorial Service, names were displayed on a beautiful poster and the deceased will be honored at next year's session.

There was only one resolution (Pomona Granges, see page 9).

State Officers were elected (pictured above), including Chris Heath to the Executive Committee.

The Budget for 2021 was discussed adopted.

Directors' reports were not delivered in person but will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

The Grange Foundation met with non-Grange members virtually present. The officers were installed by Beth Merrill, Arthur Merrill, and Lynn Clark.

Grange Deputies for 2021

I hope all Granges are trying to meet, either in person or by some other means. The Deputies are here to assist you. Feel free to contact your Deputy or me if you have any questions or concerns.

Arthur Merrill, General Deputy

Here are the Deputies and the Granges they will visit:

Pomona Granges

Jane Trombi - Hillsborough County
Arthur Merrill - Cheshire County, Eastern NH, East Rockingham, Mascoma Valley, Northern NH, Pemigewasset Valley, Suncook Valley.

Subordinate Granges

Beth Merrill- Joe English, Pembroke
James Tetreault - Golden Rod
Matthew Clark - Arlington
Daniel Bascom -Aurora, Lake Shore, Stratford
Sarah Leclerc - Antrim, Londonderry
Andrew Savage - Centennial, Crown Point, Hudson
Ida Hutchins - Dorchester, Lower Intervale, Mt. Livermore, Park
Tricia Taylor - Baker's River, Blow-Me-Down, Harmony, Tuftonborough
Norman Brandt - Chichester, Gilman, Rochester, Rockingham, Watatic
Christopher Heath - Cocheco, Concord, Hampton Falls, Jeremiah Smith, Riverhill, Wingold
Arthur Merrill - Blazing Star, Claremont, Meriden, Mohawk, Mount Hope, Mt. Pistareen, Pine Grove, Walpole, Wicwas Lake

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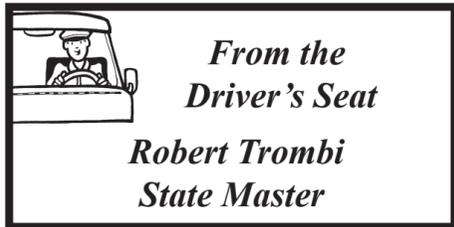
donations to:

Patrice Lawlor

PO Box 386

Pelham NH 03076





*From the
Driver's Seat*

**Robert Trombi
State Master**

Greetings from your newly installed State Master! First, I would like to thank the New Hampshire Delegates for their confidence in me, to step into this position.

The 147th annual session of the New Hampshire State Grange is in the books. And a unique one it was! Shortened to one day, due to Covid 19 concerns, many adjustments were necessary. I am proud of the New Hampshire Delegation for your participation in this adjusted format.

Some states addressed this challenge by going "full remote" (which posed a different set of challenges). A great deal of credit goes to our Session Coordinator/State Secretary for dealing with the details of the needed adjustments. Many thanks to Jerry Leclerc, the hotel staff, Mark Collins, Adam Terrell (Sound and Zoom conference setup), Steward Arthur Merrill and his band of "Elves", and others whose contributions I am not aware for making this an event that went as seamlessly as possible.

Another twist to this unusual session was the incapacitation and absence of our State Master Chris Heath. His Master's farewell address is included in this issue. Many thanks to Chris for his support, and all others who supported my unexpected step into presiding over my first State meeting.

We only had one resolution to act on this year. The resolution regarded last year's decision on Pomona Granges. The result was a reversal of last year's decision. This session also included election of Officers. Congratulations to all of our newly elected officers: Overseer Tricia Taylor, Lecturer Matthew Clark, Steward Adam Paquin-Varnum, Assistant Steward Norman Brandt, Lady Assistant Steward Sarah Leclerc, Chaplain Kathy Yardly, Treasurer Daniel Bascom, Secretary Gerald Leclerc, Gate Keeper Andrew Savage, Ceres Jane Trombi, Pomona Crystal Seward, Flora Kerriann

Nightingale, Executive Committee Christopher Heath & Mark Collins.

Welcome to the holiday season! With travel restrictions and gathering limits, this year's holiday season could have a very different face. We all need to think creatively, to adjust our family traditions to these challenging times. My family is planning holiday "zoom" gatherings. We also need to think creatively to keep to adjust our Grange Family efforts. Finding "Covid safe" ways to remain active in Community Service efforts. Also, consider remote meetings. The State Grange now has a "Zoom" account, that can be made available to Granges who wish to hold remote meetings. Granges wishing to use this account should contact Overseer/Executive Committee Chair Tricia Taylor for scheduling.

Finally, An important award I failed to report at State Session: Our State Historian Richard Patten is the first recipient of the "National Grange Community Service Director's Award" for his many years of dedication to service.

**In Memory of
Rodney M. Huntoon
Oct. 14, 1930 to Nov. 2, 2020
Our Grange Family is saddened by
the passing of Rodney Huntoon, Past
Treasurer of the NH State Grange.
He was a 76-year member of Blazing
Star Grange of Danbury, an associ-
ate member of Concord Grange, and
a member of Suncook Valley Pomona
Grange, the NH State Grange and
the National Grange.
His career in banking extended
over a period of forty-five and one-
half years, making him eminently
qualified to serve as State Grange
Treasurer, a position he held for 20
years,**

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up-coming events.
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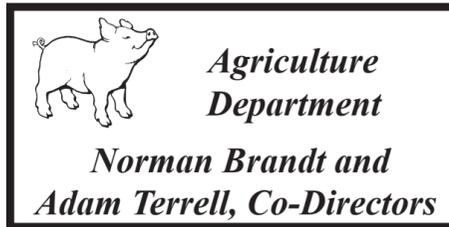


A Special Award

On September 28, 2020, Past State Master Richard Patten was surprised to receive a yellow envelope from Pete Pompper, National Community Service Director. Inside was the beautiful pin pictured above and a letter. The letter read: "Dick, I am pleased to present to you a National Grange Community Service Director's Award pin. This for all you have done and continue to do for our community."

Dick called Pete Pompper to thank him and found out that his pin was the very first one that has been awarded. Pete had consulted with National Master Betsy Huber who agreed with his choice of recipient.

With the support and encouragement of his late mother, Maxrene Patten, his former wife Debbie, and Tom Cusano, Dick Patten is approaching his 59th year with community awards at the local level in Concord, 49 years with the Christmas Parade, and 48 years coordinating the Christmas Display on the State House Plaza. He has organized many other projects over the years. It makes him happy to see smiles on people's faces who enjoy the events and otherwise might not get to see them.



*Agriculture
Department*

**Norman Brandt and
Adam Terrell, Co-Directors**

Hi Y'all, We missed you at State Session. To start off with I forgot to say in my report (something very important). This year NH State Grange attended every fair that was held live and in person. This was something I had always wished we could do, and last year I had attended 7 or 8 fairs just to see what it would be like. Tiring that is what it is like, but this year not only did I attend all the fairs held in NH, but I also virtually attended one down in RI - A great Pie eating contest to watch.

This coming year I asked the State Master to be sure to give me a Co-chair for the Agriculture Department. I will most likely give an update at an appropriate time on why I wished for this, but this is not the time nor the place to send that information out. When Bob asked if I had any suggestions, only four names came to mind and after much tillage I had decided that Adam Terrell would be a good choice. The Worthy Master agreed and followed up with Adam. For those people that do not know Adam or have not met him I encourage you to try to meet him. His family has a farm in Walpole and other than goat and cows he has been trying to do bees and more. He has been doing things on the Agriculture committee for many years, as well as attending National Grange and many other State and local Grange events. I am happy to have him as a Co-chair and he will bring many great ideas to the team. We have also kept on Scott Burns and Les Avery (assuming Les agrees to continue).

I hope everyone is looking through their seed catalogs or are working on their garden plans. Right now, with Winter upon us and while the ground is asleep is when you can start working on making the plans for the Spring. Back in August I put in my parsnip seeds in one of the raised beds and have them nicely sprouted and growing. In November I put in over sixty cloves of Garlic so that should have

pleasant dreams while the bed is asleep all winter. Therefore, once the ground is thawed and everything starts waking up, I will not have to plant one of my beds and the other one will quickly be ready for harvest and replanting.

My pigs are almost ready for breeding, I am pondering the idea of breeding one to an exotic and one to a Landrace (why a Landrace? Landraces are bred to be long (so much so that they have one extra rib). The longer the body the more bacon, the more loin, the more yum for everyone. For the last one I am going back and forth between an Old Spot or a Tamworth. I will give you an update when it is done. Hope you are all doing well and staying safe.



*Grange
Services*

Dick Patten, Director

We are starting a new Grange year. There has not been any news from National Grange for new benefits. However, although this is not a Grange benefit, how many people are aware of the Good RX Prescription Drug Savings Card. I saw this on television and I currently take two prescriptions which are very expensive. I looked into this and found several pharmacies offered a much cheaper rate. It tells you to download the Free mobile app to compare prices and save money. If you have questions, call the customer service number at 1-855-442-9965 or call me and I will try to guide you to the site on your computer.

I know many Granges are not meeting in person but via Zoom or teleconference call. Please be sure to check on your members who are living alone to see if they need a ride to the doctor's office or go to the hospital. It would be a good idea to see if they need anything at the grocery store. Many members who live at an assisted living facility or nursing home would welcome a greeting card every now and then, especially with Thanksgiving coming up. I know my Grange sends out cards for all holidays, and we get many responses from members saying "thank

you" for remembering them. If you can place a telephone call to say hello and talk for a few minutes, they would welcome this as well. It is so easy to be forgotten especially in a pandemic like this.

Please don't forget to have your Grange send a donation to Patrice Lawlor for the State Grange Educational Loan Fund. This year the donations were way down. We did award two scholarships to two sisters from Wicwas Lake Grange who are going to Plymouth State University. Please contact Patrice or Lois Enman if you have any questions. You can apply for a scholarship in your sophomore, junior, or senior year in college. You can also continue to apply if you are going for your Master's Degree or Ph.D.

I am very pleased to present the awards for the State Police, Fish and Game, local or county law enforcement, and educator this coming year. I will be asking Granges to submit entries from their town. I will be working with new State Lecturer Matt Clark to set up a luncheon in the Grange Month of April. I will be updating the form for you to submit to me. This will be my 50th year honoring these individuals locally. Please contact me for more information.

I am pleased that the same committee members will serve another year. The new roster will be coming out with their contact numbers and email addresses.

I hope you all stay safe and healthy during this upcoming Holiday Season.

Chichester Grange

Since a small active membership makes social distancing easy to achieve. Chichester Grange resumed in-person meetings in our Grange Hall in October. There will be only one meeting per month until further notice.

We recently welcomed Dianne and Michael Hoitt who have joined Chichester Grange by demit upon the closing of Halloween Grange. Our Secretary Mary West received her twenty-five-year membership certificate at our November meeting. We also draped our charter in memory of Louise Flanders, Barbara Gilman, and Norman Bowles who left this Earth while we were unable to hold meetings. We look forward to more activity in the coming months.

Grange Bulletin Board



In Memoriam

Deanna Joslin	Arlington
Judy Barrett	Blazing Star
Clyde Currier	Blazing Star
Rodney Huntoon	Blazing Star
(Past State Treasurer)	
Pat Newhall	Centennial
Richard Jones	Concord
Jane Gordon	Crown Point
Keith Pomeroy	Joe English
Robert W. Ford, Jr.	Mt. Livermore
Charles Durgin	Mt. Livermore
Edward Hancock	Rochester
June Flurey	Stratford
Patricia Chambers	Sunapee Lake
Robert Graves	Walpole
Mary George	Wicwas Lake
Martha Sargent	Wingold

Mohawk Grange #217

Due to the virus, Mohawk Grange couldn't plan to have their usual chicken pie supper. So, they had a pie and baked goods sale on Saturday, September 5th. There was a great turnout of customers, and they took in a thousand plus dollars - thanks to a \$500 donation by an anonymous gentleman who came in and gave his check. The money earned will be given to a local student as a scholarship.

Remember Your Donations

The usual and customary donations to Youth funds, Education Loan Fund, State Lecturer's gift, State Grange Building Fund, Kelley Farm, etc. are still being collected this year. If your Grange is not meeting, your Master and Executive Committee may authorize the expenditures. If you have approved a budget, your Grange may make the payments with no vote.

Blazing Star #71

Blazing Star Grange is once again holding their Danbury Winter Farmers Market on the first Saturday of the month, now through April. Held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Grange Hall, 15 North Road in Danbury, the market is available for shopping in person, or online by ordering in advance at harvesttomarket.com/farmers-market/Danbury-winter-market.

The market offers SNAP/EBT benefits with Granite State Market Match. In cooperation with Merrimack County Conservation District, our Grange also shares the cost of offering \$20 to all Veterans that shop at the market. Covid guidelines are strictly followed.

By operating a market in our community, Blazing Star Grange plays a role in strengthening the local economy, helps to increase the security of a local food supply, and aids in sustaining our area farms. For more information, visit blazingstargranger.org or call Donna at 768-5579.

A Request

If Grangers would like to recycle their Christmas cards rather than throwing them away after the holidays, a group of crafty Grangers would happily accept them. They will be made into cards and/or gift tags and donated to the New England Grange Building at the Big E, or gifted to other worthy charities.

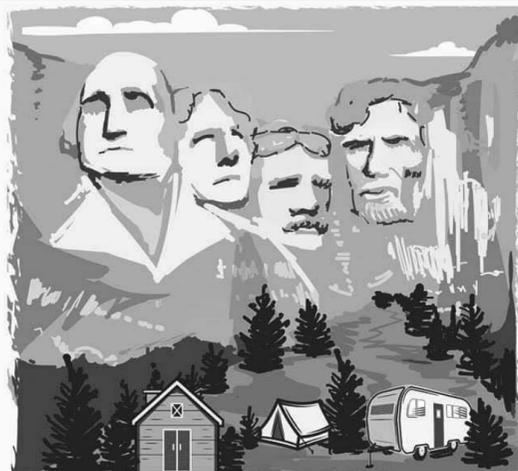
If you have some to donate, please contact:

Jane Trombi (trombi.jane@gmail.com),
Beth Merrill (abmrdm@mcttelecom.com),
or Doris Mitton (albumakr@yahoo.com)
to make arrangements for picking them up. Thanks for helping us help others!

A Hearty Grange Welcome to New Members

Shirley Howard	Concord
Barbara Stevens	Concord
Melanie Sala	Dorchester
Christopher Morgan	Rockingham
(Graduated from Junior Grange)	

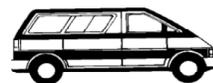
Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!



Save the Date

DAYS END CAMPGROUND
STURGIS, SOUTH DAKOTA
JULY 20-25, 2021

DETAILS & REGISTRATION AT GRANGEREVIVAL.COM
An occasion for all Patrons & Friends



Family & Community
Department
Kathy Yardley - Joyce Martin

Greetings from the Family & Community Department!

Since we were unable to present our report at state session we wanted to give you a report of our year-end judgments of community service reports and booklets and the needlework contests. Here is a condensed version of our report:

We understood that the constraints of the pandemic made it very difficult for Granges to even meet, let alone plan activities and community service projects, so we were very pleased to receive six community service booklets and seventeen completed reports! This year we asked you to report the number of hours of community service your members had given and the total number of hours reported was 12,721.25! WOW! And in the midst of a pandemic! Well done, Grangers.

The report form winners are:

- 1st - Wicwas Lake #292 - 360 points
- 2nd - Joe English #53 - 345 points
- 3rd - Watatic #36 - 330 points
- 4th - Pembroke #111 - 290 points and Antrim #98 - 290 points

The six booklets were judged and the Granges did a wonderful job displaying their community service projects. Each Grange has its own unique brand of community service. Wicwas Lake members renovated the local Baptist church and hosted a community Children's Christmas Party, complete with a visit from Santa.

Concord Grange again presented the Christmas Parade and tree lighting ceremony as well as providing clothes and toys for children in need.

Joe English Grange gave dictionaries to third graders in several schools and made and delivered sleeping bags for the Sleeping Bag Project for the Homeless.

Watatic Grange made blankets and "nests" for animals injured in the Australia

wildfires and for local shelters as well. They also made cards for several resident homes.

Antrim Grange members planted and maintained a community garden in the center of town and presented a community supper.

Hampton Falls Grange collected toys for the local police department and made blankets for the SPCA. Great work, everyone!

The winners of the community service booklets are:

- 1st - Watatic Grange #36
- 2nd - Joe English Grange #53
- 3rd - Concord Grange #322
- 4th - Wicwas Lake Grange #292

For the second year in a row, Watatic Grange's booklet has been sent on for judging at the national level. Congratulations to chairman Cam Twiss, you did a fantastic job!

For those Granges that were fortunate enough to be able to present their local community service awards, thank you and congratulations. We realize that most Granges were not so lucky.

At state session, acting Master Bob Trombi asked the delegates to share the projects or programs they were able to do during the past year.

Walpole Grange found a new way to present their 11th annual Harvest Dinner, which raises money for their agriculture scholarship, by serving the meal as take-out only.

Watatic Grange created an ice cream getaway for their youth members and also sent NH postcards to nursing home residents.

Rochester Grange held a jumpstart event to benefit their local homeless shelter.

Blow-Me-Down presented a curbside ham supper and strawberry dessert.

Blazing Star got creative for their Grange fair and asked residents to create yard displays in lieu of their usual parade.

Antrim Grange held their annual penny sale outdoors and got lots more community participation than usual.

If you would like more information about these projects give these Granges a call.

Even though the Big E was cancelled we did decide to ask members to

submit their needlework entries. While the entries were fewer in quantity, they were not lacking in quality! Winners were:

- Class A - Afghans
- 1st - Beth Merrill - Antrim #98
- 2nd - Carol Hill - Rockingham #193
- Class C - Embroidery
- 1st - Anne-Marie Collins - non-member
- Class G - Adult Garment
- 1st - Beth Merrill - Antrim #98
- Class J - Stuffed Toy
- 1st - Sharon Stickney - Antrim #98
- Class K - Baby Afghan
- 1st - Beth Merrill - Antrim #98
- Class L - Adult Garment Sewn
- 1st - Joyce Martin - Claremont #9

Thank you all for your entries. They were beautiful! Several Granges reported a total of 200 pairs of mittens, 66 hats and 4 scarves which were collected for the Mountain of Mittens project. These items will be or have already been donated locally by the Granges that collected them.

In closing, we would like to thank every Grange that participated in the Family and Community Service program this year. We understand that it was difficult to complete most of the projects within our program and hope that you recognize that your Grange was not alone in this endeavor. We encourage you to remain positive and confident that next year will be a better one for all of our Grange activities.

Our State Historian found this poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox in the 1941 Journal of Proceedings.

A Better World

Let me today do something that will take
A little sadness from the world's vast
store

And may I be so favored as to make
Of joy's too scanty sum a little more

However meager be my worldly wealth
Let me give something that shall aid my
kind,

A word of courage or a thought of health
Dropped as I pass for troubled hearts to
find

Let me tonight look back across the span,
Twixt dawn and dark and to my conscience say

Because of some good act to beast or man
"The World is better that I lived today"

State Master Christopher Heath’s “Farewell Address”

[Note: Chris Heath was unable to be at the State Grange Annual Session to deliver this speech in person. We are sharing it with you now in print.]

Good Morning State Officers, Delegates and Patrons all,

All I can say is, “When do we wake up from this nightmare?” When I started this journey six years ago, I never would have guessed that my last year would be the strangest or hardest one of them all. It has been a real struggle for me as an individual losing my job in March, as a Grange member not being able to attend meetings, and as your State Master finding solutions for Granges to be able to meet despite the pandemic regulations and restrictions on individuals and organizations. This past year has been anything but normal and I, for one, am hoping that we can get through this storm that we are in: facing the uncertainties of what is ahead of us and getting back to a sense of normalcy in the very near future.

It has been a time for change not only in how we interact, but how we shop, what we do to entertain ourselves, how we communicate with each other, and more. Also, in how we are allowed to meet, how we feel, how we act, how we treat each other, and how we survive from day to day. If you are one of those people who is afraid of change, then this year must have made you feel anxious, fearful, uncertain, and other emotions that have caused havoc in your life. If you can relate to any of this, just know that you are not alone and that you are in good company, for I, as well as many others, have felt these and other emotions that we may have never felt before. Change is a hard pill to swallow, but if you have faith in yourself and others, the determination to succeed, and a will to carry on, you will be able to survive these changes, trials, and tribulations and be better people in the end.

Most of you might think that after writing a Master’s address for the five previous years, that this one would be a piece of cake, but this one seemed to be the hardest. I really struggled to come up with a message and the proper way to say it to you. The current reality of our world and what is going on in it has caused me to do a lot of thinking and praying over this address. Praying for God to help me to help you see through these dark days and hopefully bring us out of the storm that seems to have fogged our minds and hearts. I am far from an eloquent writer or speaker so bear with me. I tried to choose words that would inspire you, help open your eyes and minds to what is, what has to happen, and what will be if we work hard. I know that some of you already know what I refer to, and some will still not understand, realize, or believe after hearing and listening to the words. So I hope that this message might encourage, renew, enlighten and expose you to some good, bad, and indifferent

ideas of what our future may hold, not only in our personal lives but also in our Grange life.

Change is a six-letter word that we all know and most of us fear. We get too comfortable in our routines and rituals so that we don’t want anything to be different. But we need to fully embrace change and adapt to what is before us or end up dissolving into dust with nothing to show for our efforts. Rest assured that we all are going through this together at the same time and need to rely on each other to overcome these obstacles and survive these difficult tribulations and challenges. Change needs to happen on every level in our lives and in the Grange. Each of us must take a step back, evaluate who we are, how we act, what we say, and decide if the choices or actions that we are going to make are good or bad for our lives. The same goes for our Granges: not only on the Subordinate and Pomona levels but also in the State and National Granges. Unfortunately, some have lost the true meaning of what our organization was founded on, and how the bottom is where our focus should be.

We are a grassroots organization that is now in fear of losing its identity by actions being dictated from the top down. Our founders intended this organization to be led from the bottom through resolutions. Legislation, and the communities where we have a presence; but in just a few short years that mentality has reversed. We are now being told how we will do things and instructions are being dictated to us by our National leaders who have no idea what is going on in our local area. They are trying to make this cookie cutter mold of how they envision the Granges should be. If there is even a sign of going against the grain, we are shot down and told to do what we’re told to do. It is important for individual members to remember that without our Subordinate and Pomona Granges, the State and National Grange do not exist. Even though there are some who would want you to believe otherwise, the truth is, we all have the power to make changes.

There is strength in numbers and the odds are in our favor. This path that we are being directed towards has us headed for disaster. Starting at the local levels, we need to rise to the occasion, change our direction and get back to our foundation or we will no longer exist. I for one do not like the idea of this organization dying and because of that passion that I have, I am going to do all I can to keep it alive. I challenge you to look deep in your hearts and decide if you do as well. It is going to take a huge, concerted effort by all of us, everywhere around the nation to change our direction and keep this organization alive.

I want to commend all the Granges that have been able to adapt to our “new world” and have held their meetings by using the conferencing technologies, like Teams, Meet-Ups and Zoom, that are available today. During this time of social distancing and gathering restrictions it’s important that we find other ways to stay in

touch, conduct our meetings, and do the business that needs to be done. Also, I applaud those Granges who have now started meeting back in their halls. They are the true champions over this time of uncertainty. They have defied the odds and taken up the challenge to continue. We could all learn a lesson or two from these Granges. I feel like we have reached a turning point in our current situation and these are the first steps to recovery from the pandemic shut down. The Granges in New Hampshire, which currently have a large majority of people who fall into the high-risk category for catching this virus, must adapt now. This reality makes things difficult for most Granges to get back to normal meetings, but we need to do this as soon as we can. Some if not all of the members in this age bracket are afraid to even leave their homes, never mind going to a meeting at the Grange Hall. All I can say to these members is we love, care, and want you to stay healthy, safe, and secure until it is safe for you to join us again.

For those Granges that are still not meeting it is important to reach out to each and every one of your members and keep in touch with them. This is one of the reasons most of us have joined this organization and it’s important to keep this fellowship. If your Grange is meeting back in your hall, make sure to take every precaution to provide a clean and sanitized environment. Let your members know what measures have been taken to make the space safe for them. If you think you can meet virtually via Zoom, the State Grange now has an account and can provide your Grange with the ability to use this platform. It will take some training and help from someone who knows how to use the software, but once members learn how to use it, they will see that it is a helpful tool. If your Grange is interested in utilizing this tool, contact the Chairman of the Executive Committee to reserve a time for you to meet.

Let’s embrace this challenge, meet it head on, and work to improve our current situation. We as Grangers need unity more now than ever before. We should be finding new ways to be more active in our communities and providing outreach to our neighbors through physical labor, education, financial assistance as well as many other areas where Grange members have experience and resources. They need us and we need them. It is a symbiotic relationship that will benefit both parties.

Membership continues to be an ongoing issue for some Granges. This challenge is affected by many outside and inside interferences. Negativity, disparaging, bullying, talking down to one another, and other factors are causing or contributing to our decline, reduction, and loss of members in our local Granges. There are still many “cancers or viruses” in our halls that need to be resolved or removed. If you don’t know anyone in your Grange, that fits this label, that person just might be you. You could be the negativity that forces members to not come to meet-

ings, leave the Grange and never come back, or cause them to have outbursts that disrupt the meeting. You may be the bottleneck in the membership recruitment process and need to re-evaluate what you say or do to your fellow members. We all need to remember that it takes all of us to make a Grange work, and just because something hasn’t worked in the past doesn’t mean it won’t work now. We should all be able to agree to disagree, work together for the good of the order, and remain friends despite our differences. Remember that our actions affect not only the person that we are having the issue with but also other members around us. People subconsciously process what is happening and decide whether they want to stick around or get lost.

We are losing younger members at an alarming rate because they have no interest, their ideas are often rejected or there is no mentoring coming from the seasoned members. We need to reverse this action and approach them with an open mind and heart. Try to understand that they were not brought up the same as most of us. Listen to their ideas and help them instead of beating them down. These are the future of our Grange, our Grange leaders of tomorrow, and if we push them out, we will have no future. Welcome them, mentor them, teach them and make them feel important because they truly are important and ultimately our future. They say that sometimes you win some and sometimes you lose some, but right now we are losing pretty badly, and we need to start winning again. It is said that it only takes a little faith to move a mountain, and this is a good thing because a little faith is all we have right now. We need to overcome a large mountain that is in front of us and we need more Do’ers. Let’s all do a better job at being a part of the solution and not a part the problem.

Communication is still an issue in our organization. I personally feel that this year has been better but that is a result of not being able to do much. I think that communication from the State Grange has improved some but the reverse from Subordinate Granges has fallen off some. Granges need to realize that when they have questions about procedure, the bylaws or how they should do something, they need to reach out before they take action. A prime example of this happened this year when two resolutions, that were submitted to State Grange, were publicly retracted through our Grapevine. Individuals should not be making decisions for an entire Grange, and members from other Granges should not interfere or dictate what another Grange should do. All questions should first be directed through the Pomona, then State Grange. We are the leaders of the organization and know the proper way things should be handled. Just because an individual has been a member for a long time doesn’t mean that they know the current and proper way to do something.

Communication is a key to success and keeping the Grange Work within the bylaws of

our order is the responsibility of the State Master. She/He is the officer that makes all rulings on the State level, and if they don’t know how something should be handled, they have the National Master to guide them and make the ultimate decision. Subordinate and Pomona Granges should make the decisions that pertain to their local Grange and, if they have questions, they need to start with their Deputy. When possible, these decisions should be made by the Grange body, not individuals. Our bylaws state that the Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Master of the Grange, makes the decisions of the Grange when the Grange is not in session or between meetings when the need arises. We need to follow this instruction and if they cannot come up with a result, that action should be held over until the next regular meeting or when a special meeting can be held to discuss it.

I want to wish the new Master and other officers of the State Grange the best of luck with their terms and let them know that I will support them in any way that I can. My passion and love of this organization is something that I have always tried to exude/portray in everything I do. When I started as your State Master six years ago, I made a goal to clean up the decaying branches of the order and try to leave the Grange in better shape than when I got it. I personally feel that I have done this, but unfortunately there is still more work to do. I encourage every Grange to “work” on making their Grange stronger so that we don’t have to lose any more of our Granges.

My goal was not to leave a legacy, because it is not just one person’s accomplishments that make an organization succeed. It takes the work of many hands, to ensure that the Grange will be strong and survive. Let us promise each other to rise up and make a difference in this ever changing world because, let’s face it, ultimately it is not what we do personally but the Grange that should matter to all of us. We can rise up from the dust just as our founders did over 150 years ago and again make this organization the powerhouse that it once was.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank some special people who have mentored and helped with the work that has been accomplished over the past six years. Kerriann Nightingale for being a sounding board, remembering tasks that need to be done, making runs to the store to get things I needed or forgot, taking care of lunches for Deputy School, listening to me when I was experiencing frustrations and a countless number of other tasks that I asked of her. Wilber and Jane Heath for bringing me into this world, raising me to be the man that I am, keeping me grounded, helping with the little things that I needed and always being that shoulder to cry on when things were difficult. Beth Merrill, Dan Bascom, and Jim Tetreault for sound advice as past State Masters when I had questions about procedure, how things should be handled, providing suggestions and listening to my ideas of things I wanted to do. Edward

Lutrell, past Master of the National Grange, for being one of the greatest mentors a State Master could ever have. Dick and Debbie Patten, Lois Enman, Linda Phelps, Robert Haefner, Steve Tracy, Norman Brandt, Joann Brandt, Kathy Yardley, Joyce Martin, Jim Tetreault, Gloria Davis, Sarah Leclerc, and Matt Collins for agreeing to help me as directors. Andrew Savage for jumping in with both feet to tackle the role of General Deputy, helping come up with the Grange requirements for Instructions and Inspections and for willing to host me for our meetings. My family members, blood and Grange both with us and those who have passed on, who have supported me throughout my entire Grange life. Past Youth directors Sherrill Bokousky, Jane Trombi, Beth and Arthur Merrill for molding me into the leader I have become and patiently teaching me the valuable Grange knowledge, policies and procedures that I have used throughout my terms as State Master. There is a list of countless others who have supported, challenged and encouraged me throughout these past six years, and I am grateful for everything you all have done.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher E. Heath
NH State Grange Master

**A Useful Lesson
(Posted on an Oregon State University Ag Extension bulletin April 18, 2016 - story attributed to Aaron Avner, a farmer.)**

There was a farmer who grew excellent quality corn. Every year, he won the award for the best grown corn. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. “How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?” the reporter asked.

“Why sir,” said the farmer, “Didn’t you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn.”

So is with our lives...Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all. **(Shared by Neil Savage.)**



Here we are going into the end of 2020. I know everyone is having to think twice to be sure we are safe with family and friends. This year we have many things that everyone will remember for years to come. I am waiting as I write this article to see if there will be results on who will be our President.

This year State Grange was done in one day, and as a result Directors were not able to give reports. I would like to share some of my report here.

“Our State Junior Grange is still going strong. We have currently 26 members on the books and we have 3 that will be graduating this year: Daniel and Ezri Kling of Blazing Star Grange and Bailey Decatur of Wingold Grange. This will leave us with 23 members. Do you have children or grandchildren that would benefit from Junior Grange? Our numbers must keep growing so we can assist our Subordinate Granges. These will be our future Subordinate, Pomona, and State officers if we work with them, and teach them more about the Grange.

My theme for 2021 is “We can do it! -Be a Leader - Wear a mask”. National Junior Theme is “Cultivating Connections”.

As the year went on, I included ideas of activities that parents can do with their children and stay safe when writing my Granite State Granger articles. I hope some tried the clay or gardening. I received photos of Timothy Boisvert with results of planting sprouted potatoes.



The Junior Department had no Stratham Fair and Deerfield Fair displays this year as all fairs closed. This was where I would gain some premiums to help the Juniors.

This fall I mailed every Junior Granger a packet with word searches and crafts and even some lined paper if they need it for their school work.

In closing, I want to thank our Worthy State Master for all his support with the Junior activities this year. Of course, parents, grandparents and Granges are an important part of our program, as without them we could not travel and attend Junior activities or even grow new Youth and our future.

I hope you go the extra mile and bring in Junior Grangers. You can make a difference today, tomorrow and always.

Junior Grange Contests for 2021

Age groups for the contests will be: 4 ½ - 7 years, 8 - 11 years, and 12 - 14 years of age.

Paper tube craft

Make a craft from a toilet paper, paper towel or any type of tube. No larger than 8” by 11”. Using any of these tubes make something from nothing. Bring to State Grange 2021.

Rock Painting (coloring)

Find a nice rock to paint or color. Size of rock no larger than 3” x 3” x 3”. Bring to State Grange 2021.

Nature Poster

Collect a variety of seeds, flowers, pine cones, pine needles, or other natural material to make a picture of a home, scene or animal using ¼ of a poster board as the backing. This can be made in any way you wish and be for yourself or someone else. Bring to State Grange.

Junior Crafts for Big E 2021 “Something from Summer”

Create a 2D or 3D object or scene. Must include the following objects: Seashell, penny, sand, button, and 1 red item. No glass and no real water. Size not to exceed: 6” x 6” x 6”. 1st and 2nd winner in each age group will be sent to Springfield, Eastern States Expo for Northeast Contest.

Plastic Needle Craft

Make a neat Coaster for a cup to set on.

Beaded Craft

Using colored beads (You can find in the Dollar Store) make a bracelet, animal or any other ideas you may have.

Juniors may also enter Youth Contests, Family and Community Service Contests – See your Grange committee.

Dates to Watch

February 5 & 6, 2021 - Farm & Forest Expo, Center of NH Manchester

February 13, 2021 - Junior Grange attends with Youth Rally, Hooksett

March 14, 2021 - Junior Age children bowling with adults

Mallory Enman’s writing

My Good Experiences Of Covid-19

When school ended in May from online homeschool, I watched youtube and found cake making and decorating videos. That looked so easy. So I asked my mom if she knew how to bake cakes from scratch and decorate them. She said that when she was in grammar school she took a decorating class with her older sister. So we tried it, we made a chocolate cake with white buttercream frosting. Then when my Grandmother came over she showed me how to shave the tops off the cakes. Then when my Nana came I baked a yellow cake and we cut a circle in the middle of the second layer to put sprinkles in the circle then we frosted it and gave it to my friend Paige. It was fun but hard.

Then I made cupcakes for my family that were fun to decorate. After that I made cupcakes for my friend Paige and Charlotte that were neon green and neon pink and they liked them. Then my Grandmother gave me cake decorating tips and we made a cake with flowers. She is very good because she used to make wedding cakes. My fun experience was making a 3 layer cake which I decorated with chocolate pearls and sprinkles. I would like to continue with baking cakes. I also enjoyed making a cake that had colorful flowers, ribbon and roses.

Mallory C. Enman, age 11

We dance for laughter, we dance for tears, we dance for madness, we dance for fears, we dance for hopes, we dance for screams, we are the dancers, we create the dreams.

Albert Einstein, 1879-1955

Lecturer’s Lines Past State Lecturer Jane Trombi



Since we were unable to have the contest in person at our recent State Session, attached is a list of winners. I am hoping to have a slideshow on the State Grange website showing all the entries. Keep on the lookout.

2020 Lecturer’s Department Contest Winners

Photography Contest Spring

- 1st: Beth Merrill, Antrim
- 2nd: Marion Woodworth, Rochester
- 3rd: Peggy Morgan, Rockingham

Events

- 1st: Beth Merrill, Antrim
- 2nd: Stephanie Rowell, Rockingham
- 3rd: Anne Boisvert, Chichester

Sources of Water

- 1st: Marion Woodworth, Rochester
- 2nd: Stephanie Rowell, Rockingham
- 3rd: Peggy Morgan, Rockingham

Give It Your Best Shot

- 1st: Peggy Morgan, Rockingham
- 2nd: Anne Boisvert, Chichester
- 3rd: Marion Woodworth, Rochester

Create a Card Contest:

New Home

(Hand stamped, decorated)

- 1st: Kathy Yardley, Walpole
- 2nd: Marion Woodworth, Rochester
- 3rd: Beth Merrill, Antrim

New Home

(Computer Generated)

- 1st: Sherrill Bokousky, Watatic

New Home

(Recycled)

- 1st: Sherrill Bokousky, Watatic

Thinking of You

(Hand Stamped, decorated)

- 1st: Kathy Yardley, Walpole
- 2nd: Beth Merrill, Antrim
- 3rd: Marion Woodworth, Rochester

Thinking of You

(Computer Generated)

- 1st: Sherrill Bokousky, Watatic

Thinking of You

(Recycled)

- 1st: Dale MacDonald, Lower Intervale
- 2nd: Sherrill Bokousky, Watatic

Lecturer’s Log State Lecturer Matthew Clark



As I sit here entering my first log as your Lecturer I realize some of you may be surprised that I decided to take on this role. I must say I never envisioned myself being the Lecturer for the State Grange. However, I look forward to the journey ahead. I would like to thank Jane Trombi for all the hard work and time she has put in over the last six years.

As I begin my journey as your Lecturer I look back on the teachings that we find in our Grange work. I believe they are just as important today as they were when they were written. The first section I reflect on comes from the installation charge and reads:

“The Order of Patrons of Husbandry is the only association whose teachings accompany its members in their daily pursuits. They form part of our lives. They do not call us from our work to put our mind upon any other subject, but furnish recreation in our daily duties, and, by cheerful instruction, lighten and elevate our labor. These teachings are the loftiest that man can seek. Nor does our Order interfere with our religious or political views, but in morality it seeks the highest standard. Honesty is inculcated, education nurtured, temperance supported, brotherly love cultivated, and charity made an essential characteristic.”

Engagement Card

(Hand Stamped, decorated)

- 1st: Beth Merrill, Antrim
- 2nd: Sherrill Bokousky, Watatic

Engagement

(Computer Generated)

- 1st: Sherrill Bokousky, Watatic

Engagement

(Recycled)

- 1st: Sherrill Bokousky, Watatic

Creative Writing Contest

Book Report

- 1st: Cam Twiss, Sherrill Bokousky and Kathe Wolf, Watatic

Poetry

- 1st: Judy Bailey, Rochester
- 2nd: Ava Twiss, Watatic
- 3rd: Anne Boisvert, Chichester

Many of us have heard these words many times. I wonder how many of us put these words to work in our daily lives? Some of our members may have never heard these words. I would like to encourage everyone to find a manual and read through it and reflect on the lessons that are presented.

As I close out this log I would like to call our attention to the plow: “The Plow is used to break up the ground and prepare it for planting. This should teach us to drive the plowshare of thought diligently through the heavy soil of ignorance, and thus prepare the mind for the growth of knowledge and wisdom.” With everything going on in the world around us I want to encourage everyone to be slow to react. Think about your position on the subject and have the facts to stand firm on. Finally remember to Persevere in all good works and we will get through these times.

Pomona Will Persevere

The vote last year to close existing Pomona Granges and form new ones was rescinded this year by an amended resolution submitted by Eastern NH Pomona which passed 22 yes to 18 no. This decision means that your Pomona Grange will remain open with business as usual until the matter is brought up again at a future State Grange session.

The vote was very close, so the Pomona controversy continues. Some Pomona Grange members are pleased that their Pomona meetings will continue, while others are frustrated to be still dealing with a problem they thought had been solved. Presumably, Pomona Granges which no longer wish to meet could close by going through the proper procedures. Members who wished to continue Pomona membership could demit to a different Pomona Grange and the redistricting process would take care of itself.

The debate about the purpose of a Pomona Grange can continue among those who care to discuss it. Perhaps there is a factual answer, or maybe the answer can be found by observing what is happening in the Pomona Granges which continue to meet.

Support the Granite State Granger with your donation.

State Grange Historian

Richard Patten



We have started a new Grange year with optimism and renewed hope that the pandemic will somehow subside next spring. Unfortunately, 2020 was not a great year for members to meet regularly or do fundraising, and a State Session was held with only delegates and State Officers present. We have a new State Master, and we shall see what history he will create in his new position.

My book that I have been working on for a couple of years is now finished, and I hope to get it printed. This is a book of "My 54 Years of my Grange Journey: People and Events who helped me on this Journey." It was a lot of fun remembering what it used to be like when I joined the Juvenile Grange and then Subordinate Grange, and the people who made a difference in my Grange Life.

Now let's go back to 1941 and see what transpired during that year. One of the first things that happened was that State Secretary John Hammond passed away while enroute to the State Session, which was held December 9, 10, and 11th in Nashua. Brother Hammond had been a very active Grange member, serving as a Deputy, State Lecturer, State Overseer, and State Master. He served as State Secretary for 8 years before his sudden passing. Scott Eastman was elected to become the State Secretary, a position he filled with excellence until his sudden passing in 1971.

It was interesting to see what the Standing Committees of the State Grange were: Education, Agriculture, Taxation, Legislative, Rural Electrification, Home, Community & Welfare, Public Affairs, Constitution & Bylaws, and Good of the Order. The Special Committees were Juvenile, Cooperative Activities, Resolutions, and Master's Address.

The State Master reported in his Master's Address that the membership as of September 30 was 28,325 with 281 Subordinate Granges. This was an increase from the prior year. The New

Hampshire State Grange had the distinction of leading all State Granges in the Nation in membership gain. The New Hampshire State Juvenile Grange was recognized for the 4th year in a row as a Model State Juvenile Grange by the National Grange.

The Pomona Grange membership as of September 30 was 10,436 members compared to 9,776 in 1940. The Juvenile Grange membership showed 3,592 boys and girls in 60 Juvenile Granges. There were seven new Juvenile Granges organized in 1941. The new Juvenile Granges were Bear Hill # 60, Hillsboro # 61, Halloween # 62; Mt. Chocorua #63, Chocorua # 64, Hooksett # 65, and Moultonborough # 66. Juvenile Deputies Marion Atwood, Marjorie Emery, and Dorothy McLain organized these Granges.

The National Grange recognized the New Hampshire State Grange as a Model Grange for the third straight year. It was reported that Paugus Grange # 350 of Lakeport was organized. The State Master praised Special Deputy Lillian Foss Cooper, who was the first lady deputy appointed by the State Master since the days of Past State Master Nahum Batchelder. Her work with Madison Cascade # 324, Ossipee Mountain # 130, Ossipee Lake # 175, and Parade Grange of Barnstead # 318 was important in saving these Granges and helping them through some rough times.

I know many have heard of the 120 Club we now have as a fundraiser, but in 1941, I found there was a 20 Member Club the State Master had formed. This was not a fundraiser but a group of Masters and their spouses who were guests of the State Master at the State Banquet. The invitation was extended to those Masters whose Grange had taken in twenty new members. That year there were 12 Subordinate Granges who had received new members: Bear Hill Grange of Henniker, Danville Grange, Derry Grange, Derryfield Grange of East Manchester, Gate City Grange of Nashua, Jeremiah Smith Grange of Lee, Nashua Grange, Naumkeag Grange of Litchfield, Sullivan Grange of Newport, and Wantastiquet Grange of Hinsdale.

The Highest Degree score in the Subordinate Granges was Derryfield

Grange of East Manchester; 2nd was Wyoming Grange of South Weare. Highest Literary Score was Parker Mountain Grange of Center Strafford; Second Highest were: Granite State Grange of Newton, Mascoma Grange of West Canaan, and Reliance Grange of North Salem. The Subordinate Grange with the highest percentage of attendance was Mt. Chocorua Grange of Ossipee. Bay Grange of Sanbornton was second highest. The Top Four Pomonas in 1941 were: 1st, Hillsborough County, 2nd, East Rockingham, 3rd, Merrimack County, and 4th, Cheshire County.

The Sixth Degree was conferred at 10 p.m. with 36 candidates receiving the lessons of the Degree of Flora. This number may seem small, but there were several special NH State Grange Sessions to confer the Sixth Degree in preparation for the National Grange Session in Worcester, MA. The number of initiates and locations were: Peterborough hosted by Hillsborough County Pomona with 184 candidates; Mascoma Valley Pomona hosted in Lebanon with 123 candidates; Pemigewasset Valley Pomona hosted by Plymouth with 93 candidates; Upper Coos Pomona hosted by Colebrook with 54 candidates; Carroll County Pomona hosted by Conway with 60 candidates; East Rockingham Pomona hosted by Exeter with 138 candidates; Northern NH Pomona hosted by Littleton with 75 members; Merrimack County Pomona hosted by Franklin with 208 candidates; Eastern New Hampshire Pomona hosted by Rochester with 229 candidates; and Union Pomona hosted by Manchester with 259 candidates. In addition, 82 Patrons were obligated in the Sixth Degree at Worcester, MA.

Remember Granges in NH and the Nation lost some of their young men to World War II. Some came home, while others gave their lives for our freedom.

I was reading what Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity meant: Faith is God; Hope for a Better World here and hereafter, Charity means the Brotherhood of Man, and Fidelity that rings true to principles under all conditions.

Whoever enjoys his life is doing the Creator's will.-- Jewish Proverb

Rochester Grange News Membership Awards Night

Grange members and guests gathered on October 17, 2020 for our membership awards night. Past State Master Beth Merrill and State Deputy Arthur Merrill were honored guests.

Jennifer Bailey escorted her Mother Grace Leone to the altar. Sister Beth Merrill had the honor to present Grace with her 75th continuous years award from National Grange, and Brother Daniel P. Bascom presented Jennifer with her 35th year membership certificate from the State Grange. Gracie's other three daughters were in the hall.

Brother Dan Bascom escorted his wife Kimber L. Bascom to the altar where Sister Beth Merrill presented her a 50- year Golden Sheaf award from the National Grange. Jean Cameron was escorted to the altar by her daughters along with their Aunt Aloha Cameron. Jean and Aloha both received a 55- year seal from State Grange.

Lois L. Enman was escorted to the altar by her Sister to receive her 60-year award from the State Grange. All recipients made a few remarks about their memories of events or people in their Grange years.

In June of this year Sister Pat Currier presented an 80-year continuous membership letter from National Grange Master Betsy Huber, to Priscilla Kimball at her home in Union, NH.

The secretary read a note from Ann Stearns who was unable to attend and was getting her 60-year award, Karen Clarke called the secretary to say she was unable to attend. She was also getting her 60-year award. The secretary has mailed a National Grange 50-year Golden Sheaf award to Wendy Chadbourne and 45-year certificates to Michael and Richard Hayes, Frank and Virginia Hayes' sons. The combined total of membership years is 665.

Lecturer Judy Bailey led a light program centered around the year 1945, when the portable typewriter was the thing. Gas was .21 cents a gallon and a 1st class stamp was .03 cents.

There were 18 members and five guests for a total of 23 people present.



Pictured left to right: Homeless Shelter Director Tracy Hardekopf, Annette Lemieux, Jim Jacobs, Lois Enman, & Marion Woodworth. Each year Rochester Grange holds a "jump start" collection of supplies for the Homeless Shelter of Strafford County. This year's event was held outdoors. This was our 10 year of collecting. The event was started by Wayne Turcotte.

Thoughts on Charles Gardner's Book The Grange - Friend of the Farmer by Cam Twiss,

In 1950 the National Grange published Charles Gardner's book, **The Grange-Friend of the Farmer**. It is a large volume that tells of our beginnings and growth in the 80 years of the Grange's existence and our progress along that timeline. It speaks extensively to legislative matters such as rural mail delivery, social security, state police, pure food and drugs, better highways, and inflation. The book addresses our stand on family and community. Surprisingly, we are reminded of numerous social aspects that are still pertinent issues today.

One innovative step was the inclusion and importance of women in the order which is credited to Caroline Hall, niece of Oliver Hudson Kelley. There was much comment and controversy about this move, some saying a fraternity that admitted women would never survive.

Our founders also honored women by drawing three officers' names from Greek mythology: Ceres, Pomona and Flora, whose station are filled exclusively by women. As early as 1885 the Grange

"hailed with delight" (pg. 198) the suffrage movement and consistently voted in favor of it.

Recognition of the diminishing agricultural land and increasing population of the United States were also addressed as far back as the 1940s. Another section of the book clarifies the Grange's position on packing of the Supreme Court. Do these issues sound familiar today?

Everyone's situation and experiences have been trying throughout this unusual year. We have all been challenged in many ways, but we will survive just as our Grange has survived during its many years.

If you read the book, see "A Prophecy" by National Master Albert Goss. If you can't get the book at least take time to refer to the Grange Declaration of Purposes with special attention to the present attitude of the day. That is the paragraph which reads, "We acknowledge the broad principle that difference of opinion is no crime, and hold that 'progress toward truth is made by differences of opinion' while 'the fault lies in bitterness of controversy.'"

More Grange Memories

by Camilie Twiss, Watatic Grange

The story continues, moving along several years until I was about age thirteen. My friend and I looked forward to becoming true subordinate members. In April of 1956 my application along with those of several other young people was submitted, balloted on and accepted. One of the other candidates was a young man named Leonard Twiss. Although he lived in the same town as my family, I didn't know him. He was very quiet and I was very shy but we were in the youth group and we all interacted with one another.

At that time Youth Nights were fun and very well attended. It was usual to have 30 or 40 visitors there. We sent out invitations, decorated the hall, planned refreshments and decided who we would ask to take the various offices. It was most important to invite a member of the State Youth Department. We played silly games, had team relays and danced to 33 RPM records. We got to know other young people from all around.

One Youth night in Lyndeborough was well attended by several state officers, the Princess, and the State Youth Chairman. After the meeting the record player was brought out and many started dancing. Suddenly one of the older women crossed the hall and pulled the cord right out of the outlet. "There will be no dancing in this hall while our charter is draped!" she announced. That brought everyone to an uneasy silence.

Fortunately some one of the members quickly offered Cora a ride home and as soon as they were out the door, guess what? The dancing continued.

Soon after I joined I was elected Ceres and studied diligently to memorize my part-so diligently that I can recite it from memory today, "My tribute is the seed corn. Have faith. Faith in the spring of the year and the springtime of life." Almost all the officers memorized their parts and took pride in presenting them flawlessly.

At that time the State Youth Committee was very active. Each year there was a drill team competition consisting entirely of youth members. Raymon Willard organized and directed some of these teams. One tradition was for all participants to wear a "uniform". Many times it was a dark skirt or pants, white blouse or shirt and some sort of tie at the neck. Usually each team had their own pianist-no recorded music back then. If I remember correctly, many of the Pomona Granges sponsored a team. Excitement was high on the day when the teams competed.

Raymon also had an installing suite and over the years he did many installations all over the state. My mother and stepfather usually acted as Marshall and Chaplain, and early on I acted as flower girl. Some of the installations were double or triple which took a little more planning and execution but they were all happy times for the Granges.

Raymon's family lived on a working farm in Temple. His grandfather, Herbert O. Hadley was State Master from 1903 to 1909. Raymon and his whole extended family were active members of Miller Grange and were well known in the community.

In 1960 I was elected Master of Grand Monadnock Pomona Grange. There were about ten active Granges in that district. The fifth degree was always presented in the fall. The stage would be decorated with vegetables, fruit and flowers. Pomona's chair was on a little dais, white mini fences and columns among hemlock boughs completed the scene. And I knew my part!

Since I was in college/nursing school, I didn't attend many other Granges during the next four years. And after I graduated I lived in Boston and worked at Children's Hospital so it was difficult to coordinate my days off with the meetings at Watatic. I drove up when I could. Next time I will tell about a Grange Christmas party that changed my life.

Deadline

The next issue of the Granite State Granger will be mailed in March 2021. Please send items for the paper to Hannah West on or before Feb. 8, 2021. Report on events of December and January. Look ahead to events of March, April, and May.

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