

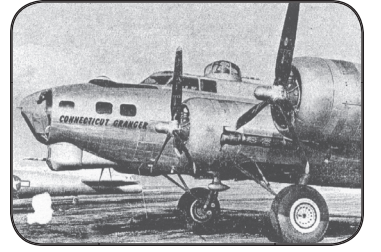


Happy Valentine's Day

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Connecticut Granger



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Vol. 56, No. 5

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

February 2016

State Master



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Let's hope that Mr. Groundhog sees his shadow so we can have an early spring. I am tired of the cold, gusty winds, snow and weather every two minutes in the new forecast. With the weather keeping us inside, now is the time for us all to sit down and write up a

plan to get new members in our Granges. We talk at every meeting about getting new members but we don't have a plan on paper. Let's do this now that old man winter is keeping us indoors.

The New England Leaders' Conference was very informative this year. The new National Master Sister Betsy Huber was there and reported on her goals for the next year.

1) Communications- which includes transparency, and the return of the "New Grange" by email.

2) Financial Stability- we have a one million dollar loan for lawyer's fees that needs to be paid

off.

3) Membership- new members mean more money for National Grange, and less cost to State Granges.

4) Teamwork- this is between the National Grange office staff, committee directors and Grangers.

I wish her well and offered her all the support that Connecticut can give her.

Membership Director Joe Stefanoni was also there and stressed the importance of gaining new membership. We all need a plan and put it to work to increase our members, and remember our State Membership Committee is willing to help, all you need to do is ask.

Brother Leroy Watson, of the National Grange Executive Committee, was there and he presented very interesting things coming from our Trademark litigations and Legal battle with the McFarland Group of the old California Grange.

Trademarks of the Grange name- there is a staff member that monitors the Grange trademark and sends letters of non-compliance, or forwards to legal for further action.

Music copyrights or royalties- If you hire a band for a concert, you must be covered with a policy for the use of copyright music. This also may include playing background music at events (with the exception of playing live radio in the background as stations

take care of the copyright when they broadcast). The National Grange will be sending out requests to a number of Granges using live music, music events, music sponsored events to determine if the National Grange can assist with licensing, bonding or an umbrella policy to protect community Granges. This State Grange is also looking into a policy for this state.

Use of the Grange name- The National Grange is looking into licensing, or charter Granges that use the Grange name. Example: the New England Grange Building, Inc. is a name by itself. No Grange owns it. So it can be viewed as a misuse of the Grange name. National Grange wants to work with these groups to either license or charter them so the Grange name can remain. This is being looked into for all uses of the Grange name. I don't know if the group "Friends of the Grange" falls under this but they should see if they need the permission of the National Grange to retain this name.

The New England Grange Building, Inc. had a great year at the Big E with over \$26,000 in profit on the sale of jams, jellies and sewing goods. Grangers wanting to help in the salesroom, please contact me so we can get a list together.

New paint and new columns made the building stand out and the Big E did a lot of landscaping to

open up the area. We do need to address the lack of handicap access to the main floor and basement. The Trustees will be looking into this in April. We hope to have a plan to get done for this fair season.

Reminder of the Pomona meeting on Feb. 28th at 2:00 P.M. at Cheshire Grange, please discuss this at your Community Granges and bring ideas and opinions as what to do with Pomona Granges. Your input is important to me so please come and attend.

I am pleased to hear that people are collecting "G" dollars for the National Grange assessment. Your support will reduce the burden on our Granges if everyone helps out.

The 2018 National Grange convention will be held somewhere in the Northeast. It was to be in held in Rhode Island. A hotel was found the cost of a location for the Seventh Degree may take it out of an acceptable price range. Vermont may be the final location.

We have been informed that the commitment of each State Grange may be \$4,500 each. So besides t-shirt sales, we need fundraising activities. If you have ideas, please let me know.

I wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day and please take that special person out and enjoy yourselves... and happy Presidents day.

Phil Bergquist



Todd Gelineau, State Secretary

While preparing this issue of the Connecticut Granger for press, we learned of the passing of Treasurer Emeritus Phil Bergquist. All Grange members who ever met Phil know that there aren't many Patrons more dedicated to the Order than he was. In his nearly 80 years as a member, Phil served as Treasurer of Redding Grange #15, Fairfield County Pomona #9, the Connecticut State Grange, the Connecticut State Grange Foundation, the Connecticut Agricultural Fair, Chairman of the State Grange Auditing Committee and likely many others that I am unaware. He also continued to serve as Treasurer of the Association of Connecticut Fairs.

He will be greatly missed.

Please send notes and cards to Kathy Bergquist at 348 North Salem Rd., Ridgefield, CT 06877.

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Pomona Roundtable Discussion



Sunday, February 28 ~ 2:00 P.M.

Cheshire Grange Hall

44 Wallingford Rd., Cheshire 06410

All members are encouraged to attend.

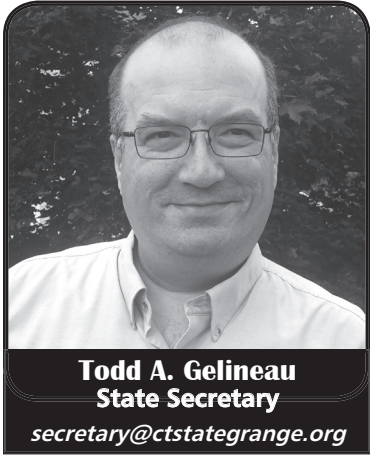


A part of the National Grange

*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!





State Secretary

tricks” variety. I’m sure she will catch on. There are a few Granges that have created their own versions of the old form. Unfortunately I cannot accept those forms. There were several important changes incorporated into the new forms that makes it necessary for all Granges to use the same form. It is also important that all forms be signed by both the Secretary and the Master of the Grange. For this reason, emailed reports will not be accepted. However, the form is available on the State Grange website in a format that will allow you to fill in the form and then print it out. In this way, you will at least be able to type up your form prior to signing and mailing. Please let me know if you have any questions or problems.

BONDING

In early December, notices for the annual Bonding went out to all Granges. Unfortunately the deadline this time around was about a month shorter. We thank all of the Granges who returned their renewals in a timely manner. Unfortunately there are a number of Granges that have yet to respond. It would be greatly appreciated if this could be done soon.

For those Granges we have not received a renewal payment... Your policy has been renewed at the same premium level as last year. Notices have gone out to those Secretaries with the amount now due to the State Grange.

MAILING LISTS

We continue to work on assembling a comprehensive mailing list for the whole State Grange. Again, we thank all of the Secretaries who promptly sent in their lists and continue to send in the update sheets as changes occur. Unfortunately there are a number of Granges who have not sent in their lists. Reminders will be sent out soon, but please send in your list as soon as possible if you haven’t already.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

The new quarterly report forms are now being used by all Granges and I have only heard one negative review and that was of the “old dog, new

On the subject of “archival material” in the Central Office... a major undertaking has begun. As you may know, the Quarterly Report forms from 1885 through 1976 are preserved on microfilm (the latest grouping was scanned to a CD in the 1990s). The files from 1976 through 2014 are now being scanned by me to free up a tremendous amount of space at the office. Once completed, I hope to be able to provide electronic copies (when requested) of individual Grange files to Community and Pomona Grange Secretaries when their own records have been lost or misplaced through the years.

One final note on the Quarterly Reports... as of January 31, all Granges that haven't filed their reports will receive a bill for the \$25 late fee approved by the delegates at the last State Session. This fee will be assessed each quarter 30 days after the close of the quarter.

ARCHIVING HISTORY

While sifting through archival material in the Central Office, I ran across blank copies of the original Quarterly Report Forms used by the CSG in the 1880s. These forms bear a striking resemblance to the forms that were used up until the close of the last quarter. A few changes had been made through the decades but the form was essentially the same. Images of the original form along with an image of the latest version of that form are printed here on this page ... just for your amusement. It served us well but times do change.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

We have not received requests from many Granges for seals and certificates. I would remind all Secretaries to look through your membership records to determine which members are becoming eligible for recognition. It might be helpful to put together a list for the members becoming eligible during the next few years for easy reference. If you are having difficulty determining eligibility due to missing or incomplete records, please let me know. We do have the ability to look up some of the information on microfilm or CD. All members who reach 25 years have a card in our membership files where we track each milestone achieved. Just give me a call or send me an email.

IN MEMORY

To close this column, I would like to acknowledge the passing of a good friend and Granger. Philip Bergquist died on January 23. He served the Connecticut State Grange as Treasurer and other related offices for many years. While I did not work with him directly as State Secretary, I did work with him more extensively at the Connecticut Agricultural Fair and he also worked with us at the Connecticut Granger on financial matters as needed. I know Marion Beecher and later on Edith Schoell both enjoyed working with Phil when they were State Secretaries. Phil will be greatly missed for his humor, friendship and nearly 80 years of dedication to the Grange.

A Quarterly Report Form blank from the 1880s (left) bears a striking resemblance to the Quarterly Report Form used until the last quarter of 2015 (right).

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

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 Todd Gelineau, Editor
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 Granger@CTStateGrange.org
Connecticut Granger Staff
 President/Editor Todd Gelineau
 Vice President
 Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell



Looking back... Sherman Kimberly

the Jeffersonian school but was very independent in his political thinking, not being tied down by the trammels of party lines and never availed himself for public office. He maintained the "Divine right of bolting," when conscience dictated.

When Hope Grange No. 20 was organized his name appeared upon the Charter list and he served that Grange a long and faithful lifetime, several times filling the office of Master and was its Secretary for many years.

He had the honor of dedicating the first Grange Hall in Connecticut which was Lebanon Grange #21.

The first State Past Masters recognition was awarded him in the presentation of a Past Master's Jewel or Badge which was given him at a State Session shortly after he went out of office as Master. This is now a cherished possession of his grandson, Sherman Kimberly Ives (*now on display at the Connecticut State Grange Central Office in Glastonbury*).

Brother Kimberly was the only Connecticut Patron to hold the position of National Grange Deputy. At various times during the early Grange History he was appointed both General Deputy as well as Special Deputy under the State Masters that succeeded him. Upon the resignation of the Master of the first Connecticut State Grange, Brother Harvy Godard of Granby early in 1878, he was elected as Master and thus became the last State Master of the First State Grange. During the years between the first and second State Grange he never failed to keep the vision of a strong and vigorous Grange within the State. To gain this end he traveled all over the State giving lectures on the virtues of the Grange and the need for farmer cooperation by belonging to such an organization. Many times, he drained the family purse in his efforts to again start enough units in order that Connecticut might hold

her place in the National Grange Assembly. After a seemingly herculean task he succeeded in organizing enough Subordinate Granges so that on June 24, 1885 in the small Academy Hall in the village of South Glastonbury, this dream became a reality and the present State Grange grew from the united efforts of this man and the interested Patrons until today, it is one of the most powerful organizations of its kind within the State. He was elected the first State Master of the second State Grange after considerable balloting and discussion. He served until December of that year when the first Annual Session of the State Grange was held.

He personally organized the following Granges: Lebanon #21, Advance #22, Cheshire #23, Berlin #24, Union #25, Glastonbury #26, Suffield #27, Meriden #29, Wapping #30, Manchester #31, N. Cornwall #32, Wallingford #33, and Cawasa #34. He later organized Harwinton #45 under State Master Leonard Healey.

In 1904, he was called to lay down his implements upon earth and passed to that Great Grange Above, mourned by all who knew and loved him. He was laid to rest in the family plot in the Center Cemetery at Goshen, CT. His wife, Sister Lorette Kimberly, was his ever able and loyal Grange helpmate. She served as State Grange Ceres during two different terms.

In 1905, Hope Grange No. 20, passed the following resolution in loving memory of Father Kimberly (as he was known, pretty much throughout the state): "Resolved, That not only was he the first Master of the Grange in Connecticut, but he also organized the State Grange, under the reorganization of the Order in the State, was its first Master, and organized more Granges during the first decade than any other Patron." (*Until Kingsley Beecher many decades later!*)

In his own words...

The following letter, written in longhand, is believed to have been penned during the time between the first and the second Connecticut State Granges. In this letter he shows his dedication to growing the State Grange to the point where it could be seated at National Grange. The letter was recently found among early papers stored at the Central Office.

"If we were to take the number met together here, as compared with those engaged in agricultural pursuits in our state, to show the importance of, or general interest in, the objects of the organization of Patrons of Husbandry, we might well need such energetic perseverance as O.H. Kelley possessed, when he with only six cooperators dubbed themselves the National Grange if we ever hope to accomplish the results they aimed at. What these objects are I think is not generally understood, but I do not believe you will find many intelligent men who will not admit the necessity of improvement in our condition in various ways. I will give you a brief summary of a circular sent out in the second year of Kelley's labors for us. 'There is a well known principle that unity of action is necessary to success & although Agricultural fairs, fruit growers associations, or clubs for mutual instruction and friendly interchange of ideas, have been often organized their existence is comparatively brief, and their influence scarcely felt by the great mass of the people. This unity must be made solid, permanent, and with the grand object of securing general prosperity through the intelligence of the producing classes. The young should be induced to stay on the farm by gratifying their desire for excitement and amusement in a healthy manner, and leading them to appreciate the never ending delight which follows studies relating to the animal, vegetable or mineral kingdom. The cooperation of woman is solicited, for where a man will take wife or sister only purity and truth will be taught. Political and religious discussions are ignored, and intimate social relations secure a better appreciation of our true interests, and will induce us to protect our members against combinations that injuriously affect us. Among advantages that may be derived are, systematic arrangements for procuring & giving information relating to crops, demand & supply, prices, markets, transportation throughout the country, and having depots for the sale of special or general products of the cities; also for the purchase or exchange of stock, seeds, and varieties of plants or trees desired; for procuring help also for testing and ascertaining the merits of newly invented farming implements, and those not in general use; and for protecting by all available means the farming interests from fraud and deception of every kind.' These were the principles that animated the founders of this organization and they are slowly but surely uniting the people of our broad land in a union that knows no sectionalism.

When first introduced among us the most prominent feature presented, was the immediate financial benefit to be derived, and being disappointed in this, many from want of proper instruction and encouragement, never understanding the real purposes of the Grange, or being unable to put them in practice, have lost whatever of interest they may have felt. But this work is only begun, and I believe these are men engaged in it who will never give up. The National Grange for 1880 met at Washington, D.C. Dec. 17, and reports the delegation from the State of NY alone numbering 230 Patrons. The address of the Worthy Master is now in our papers and is full of interest and instruction; allow me to make one extract now; he says, "Useful reading stores the mind with knowledge, and will make wise men, discussions and the practical use of knowledge will make strong men, but the stirring eloquence of the living orator, speaking from the tongue, beaming from the eye, inspiring every feature and urging men onward right to their object is sometimes necessary even in a good cause. This is what we need in our state. Our leading Agriculturalists should all be Patrons, especially the members of our State Board of Agriculture. In Massachusetts I am told the Prof. of the Agricultural College are so, and throughout the country there is a growing feeling that successful Grange work means agricultural progress and general intelligence and prosperity. Can we avoid a feeling of humiliation that our own state should be so far in the rear of this march of improvement as to be without representation at our National annual gatherings of leaders. I recommend that we employ such funds as we may have to instruct and encourage those now interested, and that we resolve anew to use every available means to promote and advance so necessary and so grand a work.

Sherman Kimberly, Master

Most of us know about Oliver Hudson Kelley and the other men and woman (Caroline Hall) who shaped the National Grange and created the Granger Movement that swept across the country.

The stories of the men and women who helped create the Connecticut State Grange are much less known but just as interesting.

In upcoming issues of the *Connecticut Granger* we will look back at some of these men and women (as space permits).

Our first person to be highlighted is Sherman Kimberly, the first Master of the Connecticut State Grange.

The following biography of Brother Kimberly comes from "The Connecticut Granges" from 1901.

Sherman Kimberly was born in Goshen, Connecticut on May 8, 1831. He was the son of Henry Kimberly and Sylvia (Curtis) Kimberly.

He received his education in the local schools of Goshen and attended pre-medical school, planning to become a doctor. He was not able to finish his medical education and returned home where he taught a number of winters in the local schools. He remained the rest of his life upon the place where he was born and farmed, the "Manor," as his home farm was known, with the assistance of his two sons.

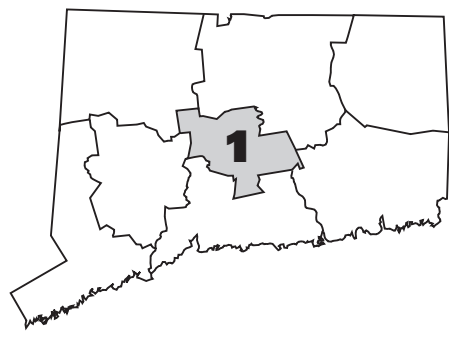
On April 25, 1856, he married Lorette E. Pendleton at Goshen, Connecticut. She was the daughter of Abel Hinckley Pendleton and Zeruah (Egleston Pendleton).

To them were born the following children: Nellie, Ellora, Kerrill and Karmi Kimberly.

The family attended the Congregational Church in West Torrington.

He was a Democrat of

Central Pomona No. 1



- Central #1
- Southington #25
- Meriden #29
- Higganum #124
- Hemlock #182



CENTRAL POMONA #1

Corr: Robert Charbonneau

The next meeting of Central Pomona will be held on March 10th, 2016 at Higganum Grange Hall at 7:30 PM. Co-Host for refreshments will be Southington Grange. Our program will be in charge of the CWA / Youth Committees. Each Grange is asked to bring 3 baked items for our CWA table. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Our meeting on February 12th, 2016 is entitled, "Let's Make Snowmen." If meeting is cancelled due to bad weather, our meeting will

be held on February 26th, 2016 instead.

Meriden Grange meets on the 2nd Friday during the winter months at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome. Please call Cindy at 2034-237-4617 so we can plan on refreshments.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

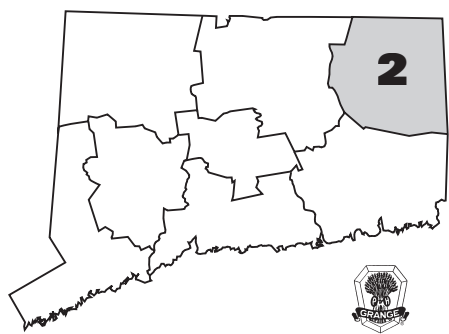
Feb. 12: Hearts and flowers

Feb. 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Mar. 12: Amy Gallatin & Stillwaters, 7:30 P.M., Bluegrass. For tickets, call Maureen at 860-342-0290.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Quinebaug #2
- Senexet #40
- Wolf Den #61
- Ekonk Community #89
- Ashford #90
- Putnam #97
- Killingly #112
- Echo #180



SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Feb. 17: Famous Folks

Winter is upon us. We had a very nice Christmas party meeting with a hot buffet dinner. We enjoyed several games and a gift exchange. We welcomed several visitors and guests.

Our Christmas pie sale was very successful as a fundraiser.

We are still working on keeping the hall in good order for other groups to meet- 4H Club and AARP.

Visit us anytime.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Julie Jussaume

Killingly Grange's meeting

dates for January and February were changed. For February, we will meet on the 27th beginning at 3:00 P.M.

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Feb. 9: Youth

Feb. 23: Omit

Echo won 3rd place in the State Agricultural contest. Alma Graham won first prize in the National Red White and Blue runner contest. We are meeting once a month for the winter on the second Tuesday.

We are wondering what our winter is going to be like this year. We have had a beautiful one so far.

Small Town Issues



Alma Graham
Legislative Director

Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The Connecticut General Assembly convened on February 3rd in Hartford for a budget only short session. This is traditionally for revisions to the budget only and not for general bills. Of course this is not always the case and general items are sometimes added to the agenda. We may remember that the General Assembly had just been called into session in early December for a special budget adjustment session. That was because the state is experiencing a

serious budget deficit. I believe that the number was approximately \$1.3 billion. There were quite a few discussions going on about suggested budget adjustments. Most notable was hospital Medicaid reimbursements. The Governor recommended cutting by half the amount of money that the hospitals would receive for Medicaid reimbursements. Hospital reimbursements were reduced in the final amendment but not as much as requested by Governor Malloy. Human services groups were also concerned about possible cuts. We will see what changes will be presented for this budget session. There have been talks of revisions to state employees and retirees benefits and contracts, but that is brought up every session.

I expect one of our focuses this Legislative session will again be watching the Community Investment Act funds. Last year the Governor tried to redirect all of these funds into the General Fund for other purposes. He did get some if it but much was retained. We also are always watching the funding for the Department of Agriculture and their programs. Rural agricultural land preservation and restoration is also always a priority for us as well.

Gordon Gibson will again be our voice in Hartford at the Capitol. Copies of our Legislative Guides will be given to all members of the General Assembly as well as to the Governor and Lt. Governor. The Granges should have already received their copies. If you did not receive yours or would like another copy either contact the Todd at the State Grange office or Alma Graham.

Social Connection plans event



Now that you have a new date book or calendar, I hope you have entered and will save the date of our next activity on the date of Saturday, May 21st.

The theme is "Teamwork" and it will be a FUN night being held at Cheshire Grange. The menu is homemade soup and overstuffed sandwiches plus dessert all for the low price of \$5.00.

If you have never attended one of our activities I hope you will come to this one. It's nice to get together and enjoy something to eat and just have a fun time with your brother and sister Grangers. Try it- you may like it.

Social Connection's Teamwork Event

Saturday, May 21st, 2016

Mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

We want your "G Notes"

This is a new contest the Board of Directors has created asking all Granges and Grange members to participate. We will be collecting "G" NOTE Dollars to offset the National Grange Assessment for next year which goes towards paying for National Grange conventions. The assessment has been paid for in recent years by money held in reserve from funds raised by our State Grange for hosting the 2008 Convention in Cromwell. This fund is now depleted.

WHAT IS A "G" NOTES DOLLAR? If you look at the front of a one dollar bill, to the left of Washington



is a Seal with a letter in it, or the first letter in the serial number. The letter is also the first letter in the serial number located in two places on the front of the bill. We are looking for a "G", for Grange, that denotes a bill from the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank. Start collecting these bills and the Granges

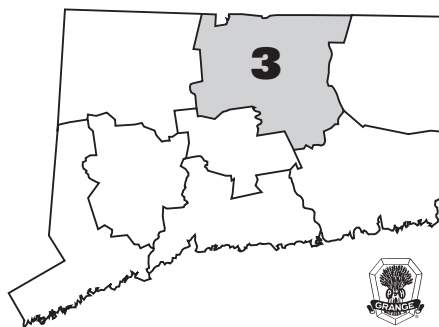
that Donates the most will receive a prize at the 132nd Connecticut State Grange Session.

There will be two winners, Community Grange over 50 members and Community Granges under 50 members.

The contest will start January 1, 2016 and end September 30, 2016. Winners will be announced at the State Grange Celebration Banquet.

This is a team building activity and a chance to avoid billing members for this assessment. So please help and have fun. GO GRANGE NOTES!

East Central Pomona No. 3



- East Central #3
- Granby #5
- Glastonbury #26
- Manchester #31
- Vernon #52
- Coventry #75
- Hillstown #87
- Enfield #151
- Simbury #197

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

Feb. 4: Valentine's Day; Ref. Noel and Marcia

Wishing Alice Williams a belated 102nd birthday on January 18. Wow! I heard you had a great party. We are still getting even in the deep snow and slowing winds, just wish it was warmer. Think spring!

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn E. Ruff

Feb. 4: Words from the Heart, Ref. Dan & Ann Posuniak, Jeannine Carini

Feb. 13: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party at 7:00 P.M.

Mar. 3: Lion or Lamb, Speaker from High School Vo-Ag, Ref. Potluck Desserts

Mar. 12: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party at 7:00 P.M.

Here we are February 2016 already. I hope members are busy making something for the needlework contest. You can also make something for the Grange Building at the Big E. I understand that the "scrubbies" sell really well.

Remember that the Baking Contest this year is Blueberry Muffins. You can use your own recipe, but remember, you must submit your recipe with the muffins when you present them for judging.

I hope some of our members are making something for the Pomona Chaplain's contest. You use 50 clothes pins and create something?? Bring your entry to the March Pomona meeting. You don't know, you perhaps will win. I have not heard what the prize will be.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

Feb. 2: Groundhog Day

Feb. 16: Love Those Sweets

Mar. 7: Visit to the Zoo

On December 15th we welcomed a new member into our grange. Hopefully this is chance for us to begin to build our membership. Our February 2 meeting we will learn about Groundhog day with Sister Edith in charge. On February 15th we will "Love those Sweets" with Sister Maryanne. Join us on March 7 for a visit to the zoo.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Feb. 5: Winter Sports

Vernon Grange is enjoying the programs being put on by our new Lecturer, Cheri Robinson. We are learning, laughing and participating in all the programs. Our January meeting all members brought in their favorite reading materials for the long cold winter nights. Winter sports is the theme of our program and in March we are preparing a program to hobble down to Manchester Grange the next week "On Getting Old!"

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Feb. 4: Valentine's Day; Ref. Noel and Marcia

No meeting until March but everyone should be working on resolutions and items made with 50 clothes pins. Be creative and bring it to Grange. Happy Valentine's Day to all.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Feb. 13: Cartoon Characters

Mar. 12: It's Our Birthday

The donation of hats, mittens and scarves to the Enfield Day Care was very much appreciated. Each December, for the last 7 or 8 years, we have collected and given these items to the children

at this facility who come from low income families. Happy smiles all around!

This correspondent had the best Christmas

present ever when our grandson from Nevada and nephew from Texas surprised us to spend the Holidays with us. There is nothing more important

and wonderful than being surrounded by family, especially when they are so far away and can take the time to travel "back home".



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Writing Basic Press Releases

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Understanding what makes news and how to make the news, is valuable knowledge for any Grange. Favorable media exposure means recognition in the community, acknowledgement of Grange activities, services and accomplishments and a higher profile of your Grange among potential members. The perfect place to start is with a well-written press release.

An engaging press release with an interesting, "hook," or angle is an excellent way to gain exposure for your Grange and can lead to not only publication in newspapers, magazines and on the internet, but media interviews with appearances on television and radio stations as well.

The objective of a press release is to capture the attention of your audience, whether this is within your community or state-wide, and to educate the reader on not only on the activities of your Grange, but on the Grange itself.

We cannot stress enough the importance of a well written press release. We constantly come across inaccurate, poorly written or unedited press releases that simply will not be read by the media. They become a waste of time to journalists who are already bogged down with information overload. A poorly written press release will be a very fast turn off for any journalist or editor and will reflect negatively on your Grange's efforts. Although some of the best writers will occasionally miss grammatical errors or typos, by making sure you read, edit and re-edit your press release, you drastically reduce the chance for error.

So our advice? Write a strong, well

written press release and be sure to proof-read and edit before submitting it. The following tips will help you with writing your press release:

- 1.) Make sure the information is newsworthy.
- 2.) Tell the audience that the information is intended for them and why they should continue to read it.
- 3.) Start with a brief description of the news (called the "hook") then distinguish who announced it, and not the other way around.
- 4.) Ask yourself, "How are people going to relate to this and will they be able to connect?"
- 5.) Make sure the first 10 words of your release are effective, as they are the most important.
- 6.) Avoid excessive use of adjectives and fancy language.
- 7.) Deal with the facts.
- 8.) Provide as much contact information as possible: Individual to Contact, address, phone, e-mail, website address.
- 9.) Make sure you wait until you have something with enough substance to issue a release.
- 10.) Make it as easy as possible for media representatives to do their jobs.

In the ever-expanding 24/7 online and traditional media world, reporters and journalists are hungry for authentic original sources and stories. Pitch yours professionally, and you have a chance at media coverage and reaching many more people than you ever thought possible.

If you or your Grange needs help writing press releases, please contact the Public Relations Committee. We're here to help!

Curtains Without Borders



For the last fifteen years, "Curtains Without Borders" has been working with Granges in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to document and restore (whenever possible) the kind of painted stage curtains that generally look like this one in Woodstock, CT. We have now started a national project to locate as many curtains as we can all over the country. Ed Luttrell at the National Grange is our partner in this effort and I have talked to your own State Master about appealing for your help. We are a non-profit group dedicated to documenting and restoring curtains- we don't want to acquire them!

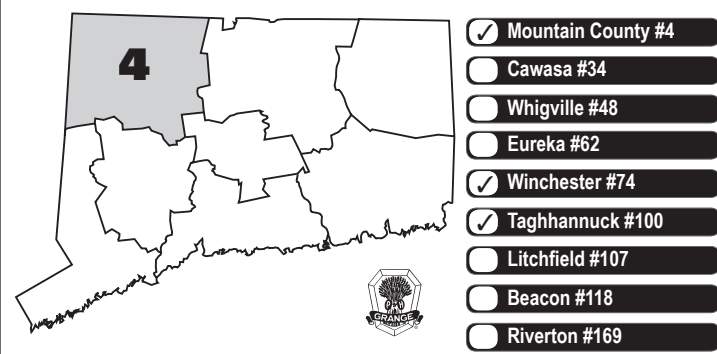
If you have a curtain, whether still on stage or in storage, of if you know where there might still be one in a Grange Hall that has become something else, or if you even *think* you know where a curtain might be, please contact me so I can follow up and add it to the national inventory.

Our website is www.curtainswithoutborders.org if you'd like to see how we're doing so far. Since we started in Vermont and moved on to New Hampshire and Maine, we've found about 500 curtains in town halls Grange Halls and opera houses. I don't expect to find as high a concentration in other parts of the country because we northern Yankees just don't throw anything out, but I do hope to build as complete a list of Grange curtains as possible.

Please call or email me with any information you have. Of course, photos are particularly welcome! Thank you.

Chris Hadsel, Director, Curtains Without Borders, Burlington, VT. 802-863-4938 or chris.hadsel@gmail.com.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 8: Eureka Grange

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona will be held on Monday, Feb. 8 at Eureka Grange Hall beginning at 7:30 P.M. Mountain County has been on vacation since the December meeting so it will be nice to see everyone. We don't know what Lin's program will be but we know it will be entertaining! See you there.

We send our best wishes to Pomona Secretary Shirley Lemieux who had to be hospitalized with pneumonia in January. As of this writing, she is doing better and hope she is able to be with us at the next meeting.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 9: Hearts & Flowers – Country Store, Ref. Ramona Fassio

Feb. 23: Winter, Please Be Over, Ref. by the Men

As of this writing, Winchester was not yet able to meet in January as our first meeting of the month was canceled due to snow making it necessary to move our potluck to the following meeting.

Looking ahead, the Feb. 9 meeting will be "Hearts and Flowers" with a country store to follow the meeting. Feb. 23 will be "Winter, Please Be Over." While this winter has been mild (especially in comparison to last year), I know most of us still want spring to come as quickly as possible. Hopefully

Ramona's program that evening will help that happen—at least in our minds! As always, visitors are always welcome at Winchester Grange!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

On Jan. 23 we hosted an afternoon chance to dance for the whole family. Music was provided by Still, the Homegrown Band with teaching caller Rachel Gall. Our upcoming events are:

Feb. 27: Herd Share Info Forum. Herdshare bill advocate Mary Tracy, will discuss new Connecticut legislation that allows small farms to share milk product with their communities. She'll offer examples of "Herd Share" contracts, and explain how to do it. 11:00-1:00 with a potluck lunch at the Taghannuck Grange Hall, 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon, CT 06069.

Mar. 19: OSLSS BEE-keeping BEE-keeping Workshop. Learn about life in the hive of our friend the honey bee. Buzz over the tools of beekeeping. Fire-up a bee-soothing smoker. Use an empty bee package to role-play the steps of installing the real thing. Hand dip beeswax candles. Share in a honey of a potluck lunch. 10:30 to 1:30 at the Taghannuck Grange Hall, 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon, CT 06069. \$35/family. MUST register in advance with Debra@Motherhouse.us or 860-671-7945.

Apr. 9: OSLSS

Darn It; Mending and Patching Workshop.

From darning socks to patching pants to replacing buttons, learn how to mend your clothes. For those interested in machine mending, we'll have a few of our tried-and-true sewing machines available for use. Start collecting your holey clothes now for a wholly satisfying workshop. Share your own mending tricks over a potluck lunch and go home with a newly repaired wardrobe! 10:30 to 1:30 at the Taghannuck Grange Hall- 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon, CT 06069.

May 14: OSLSS Bat House Building Workshop. For all natural pest control, encourage a bat colony to hang out near your home in our own-made bat house. A single bat can eat from 600 to 1,000 mosquitoes/hour! Discover more about them from bat enthusiast and DEEP wildlife rehabilitator, Linda Bowen. Work together as a family to build a simple wooden bat house and learn how and where best to hang it. See Linda's batty slideshow and continue networking over a potluck lunch. 10:30 to 1:30 at the Taghannuck Grange Hall, 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon, CT 06069. \$35/family. Must register in advance with Debra@Motherhouse.us or 860-671-7945.

These workshops are part of the not-for-profit Motherhouse's Old Style Life-Skills Series, a monthly series of workshops for the whole family devoted to rediscovering rural wisdom.

Our mission in offering these classes and workshops is to foster self-sufficiency, neighborly interdependence, and sustainable lifestyles and agricultural practices.

Decorate those caps!



How many ways can you decorate a baseball cap? What kind of imagination do you have? Fishing, sports, cooking, trains, boats, toys, babies, nature...anything goes! This contest is for Grangers only and you DO get the hat back, so do your best. We would love to have entries from every Grange. A special thank you to Marge Sendewicz for the

two afghans she made especially for "My Sister's Place." They were very much appreciated.

Leaders' Conference 2016



New National Master Betsy Huber talks to the members attending the Northeast Leaders' Conference in Milford, MA.

by Robert Charbonneau, PR Co-Director

On Friday, Jan. 15, Mass. State Grange President, Matt Johnson welcomed all attendees to the 2016 Northeast Leaders' Conference. The conference was held at the Doubletree Hotel located in Milford, MA. Each State Master was introduced who then introduced their attending dignitaries. The keynote speaker for Friday evening was the new National Membership Director, Joe Stefanoni who gave a speech about membership and added that everyone should participate in selling Grange to prospective members.

Saturday morning was set aside for breakout sessions of the various committees (Lecturers, Chaplains, Agriculture, etc.). Results of the breakout sessions were reported at the Sunday morning General Meeting. For those not attending the breakouts, a room was set up for those interested in learning about making "Crafts with Amanda." The afternoon was broken up into three seminars: Grant Writing, NEADS, and National Master Betsy Huber.

The seminar on Grant Writing was presented by Mary Greendale. Her talk covered where to look for grants (ex. <http://www.grants.gov>, what are the pitfalls in writing grant requests (lots and lots of detailed background- goals, dates, etc.) and many of the organizations doling out grants are local in CT.

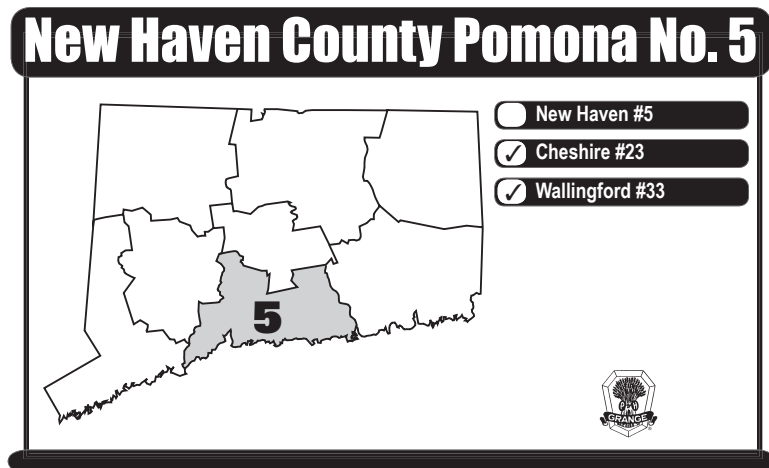
National Education for Assistance Dog Services, or NEADS was described as a service dog organization which helps out individuals with special needs. Rainbow, one of their service dogs, was introduced to us. While her handler talked about the program, Rainbow wandered around the Ballroom introducing herself to everyone in attendance.

National President, Betsy Huber talked with us about her four goals for this year: improve communications, deal with stabilizing finances, improve leadership – with an emphasis in those State Granges who are struggling and improve teamwork. "We all need to work together as a team." She also mentioned restarting the National Grange publication "The New Grange" as an e-publication.

With the assistance of National Executive Committee member, Leroy Watson, a discussion was held about music licensing. In general, the trademark team is starting an effort to put together a blanket license for all Granges that provide non-Grange music (either in the form of live, or recorded music) for special functions which provide monetary income to that Grange.

The Saturday events concluded with awards, a delicious banquet and lively entertainment. The entertainment was from the band, "Friendly Town Sound."

The conference concluded on Sunday morning following a worship service and general meeting.



CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Feb. 3: Box Supper at 6:30, Open Meeting

Feb. 17: Legislative Night

With the new Grange year underway, we are resuming our Monday craft nights at the Bernhardt's making favors for the local retirement home and, would you believe, items for next Christmas. We will host a meeting at our hall on Feb. 28th for a state-wide discussion on our Pomona Granges. We have lined up two fundraising dinners for early April. Owning a hall as many of you know, there is always something that comes up as in our case, some work on our chimney, which was recently completed. Several members of North Haven Grange, that has closed, have joined Cheshire Grange. We recently took in two new members, Helen Ryducha and Lori Martins and welcome them to the fold.

Did you miss attending Cheshire Grange on January 6th? You missed another good time. We learned about the troubles in the Middle East from BU student Jon Hauser and had fantastic refreshments provided by Liz Ryducha. Jonathan Hauser who has a double major in French and International Relations at Boston University presented the program on "Conflict in the Middle East".

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

Feb 11: President Trivia Night. Program by Jim Lamoureux. Ref: Marcia

Feb 25: Leap Year Night. Program by Dan. Ref: Janet.

I have some news to catch up on since I missed

the last issue:

November 12, 2015 : We had our pot luck supper which was well attended plenty of food to go around. I had the honor of presenting Ann Greco with her 50 year certificate of continuous Grange membership. Though Ann hasn't been much for coming to meetings, she has always supported the Grange especially during fair time. Vern under Agriculture says to buy local cider and apples at Blue Hills Farms and they will only be open for two more weeks.

Jim Lamoureux presented a program on Thanksgiving. In 1941 Thanksgiving was officially designated as the fourth Thursday in November. In Canada they celebrate Thanksgiving in the 2nd week in October. As most people know Thanksgiving came about from the English separatists traveling from England on the Mayflower but what people don't know there were actually two ships. The other one was called the Speedwell and it sprung a leak on its way over and had to turn back. The Mayflower was supposed to land in the area of Virginia but was blown further north onto Cape Cod. The native Indians were instrumental in helping the Pilgrims to survive in the New World instructing them how to fish & hunt and the use of native plants for farming. The first Thanksgiving was a 3 day celebration which included a lot of seafood such as lobster, clams, cod and oysters.

Dec. 10 "Christmas Program": Our last meeting of the year. Janet Haller attended the regional CWA meeting. Jim Lamoureux reported on the Association of Ct Fairs meeting which Jim

will now be president. Our fair's premium book took third place in premium book contest. Our fair's Apple Pie contest winner took fourth place. We exchange cards and gifts. After the meeting we enjoyed cookies and snacks everyone had

brought to celebrate.

It is with sadness to report the passing of our Worthy Chaplin, Joan Olschefski, to the great Grange above early Christmas morning. There are so many things to say but I will remember the smile, the

spirit and spunkiness that was our Irish rose. She always was willing to help whether it was to bake refreshments, help out when she could at the fair or contribute to a program or an event. We are really going to miss her.

Cheshire Grange No. 23



Above left: Members enjoy refreshments after the Jan. 6 meeting. Above right: Table favors made by Cheshire Grange for the residents of Marbridge. John Hauser, of Cheshire, a student at Boston University gives a presentation on the conflicts in the Middle East.

My favorite spot in Connecticut

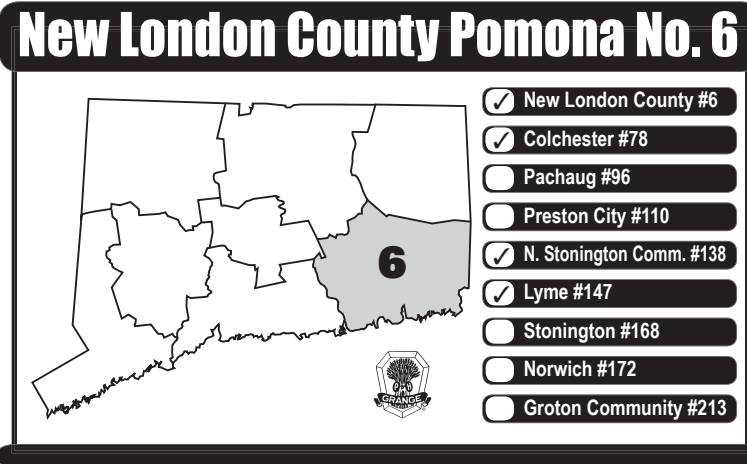
By Philip Rowland, Oxford Grange
3rd Place Winner in our Essay Contest



Ah, it's a most congenial spot, our Camelot; not an outstandingly scenic or exciting place but it's nevertheless my favorite spot – and my wife's as well. It is not far from our house but for best appreciation is preferably reached by walking the long way, which usually takes a couple of hours. A pleasant walk it is though, somewhat remindful of our farming days in a way. The walk itself allows reveries regarding past pleasures in the area, such as family and Grange picnics, ball games etc., since we often spent time there in days gone by. So, when my wife and I finish our walk while mowing the lawn we seat ourselves and sip cool soft drinks in our favorite spot – under a shade tree in our own back yard. The birds are chirpin', the lawn looks great, it smells nice, and all's well with the world.

~~~~~  
Reading this on a cold night like tonight, I can picture a summer scene with two very contented people enjoying their own Camelot. What is yours? One of these cold nights why don't you take pen in hand and tell us all about yours. 150 words or less is all that it takes. Once warm weather comes, why not take some pictures of your special place and enter them in our Photo Contest.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! Let's hope for an early Spring.



### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*  
Mar. 12: Talent Show, North Stonington

We enjoyed a festive evening at Colchester Grange on December 14. Although the night was rainy we were thankful it wasn't snow. Eight of us sported antlers and became Santa's reindeer. Joan Toomey passed a mystery gift around the room that we all wished we could keep, and Kathy Tefft told us how to wash our cats (from instructions found in a letter from the dog). All cats beware! The refreshment table groaned under a veritable smorgasbord and all left full and happy.

We hope to have a Talent and A-Number from each Grange at North Stonington on March 12. Check with your Lecturer for instructions and timing.

The days are getting longer, pretty soon it will be spring; So sign up for the Talent cause we're sure that you can sing!

### COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

*Corr: Bonnie Trecarten*

At our January meeting we welcomed Ted Beebe, Steward, East Central Pomona, and Master, Norwich Grange, Arlie Chapman, Gatekeeper Norwich Grange, and New London County Pomona, and Dick Chapman, North Stonington Grange. Thanks to all for your continuing contributions to our Grange meetings.

We are continuing our community service efforts, and currently have a stocked food bank, and will be resuming Bingo for the residents at Apple Rehabilitation Center soon. We supply items for the Willimantic

Soup Kitchen on an ongoing basis and are glad to know our efforts are appreciated by the staff there.

Thank you letters were received from the Colchester Land Trust for our monetary donation, and from the American Legion Veterans Housing Program for our Christmas gifts to the Veterans. Always a pleasure to give to these worthwhile organizations.

Our Lecturer, Joan Toomey presented information received from Ann Marie Knochenhauer, Master of Groton Grange regarding a talent contest to be held at North Stonington Grange on March 12, and winners there will go on Sunday to Cheshire Grange to perform again, and those winners will go on to National. Good Luck to all our talented Grangers!

O u r C W A Representative, Cathy Russi gave information on upcoming Grange contests, including crafts and baking. We will be submitting several entries in these areas as always. We appreciate all of the contributions from our talented Grangers. Please remember any questions about upcoming travel opportunities can be directed to Cathy Russi for information.

We do have some members not well at this time and cards and well wishes were sent to all. We are hoping for speedy recoveries, and we miss you all and hope you're back with us soon.

Everyone stay warm and let's hope for a short Winter.

### N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*  
Feb. 12: "Get Back in the Game"

Feb. 26: Snow date for

Feb. 12

The Grange has been busy this past month. We have delivered dictionaries to the third graders in our town, with oohs and aahs all around from the children. Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gift cards have made the holidays a lot brighter for many local families; and our carolers sang to Grangers and other townspeople, delivering baskets of fresh fruit.

Nearly 50 people packed our hall for our annual Christmas party. The program was a marvelous mixture of the secular and the sacred, with the many children present helping to complete a manger scene created by a very talented Jennifer Watrous. We sang Christmas songs and told of our favorite Christmas foods while learning what foods The Frugal Gourmet thought might have been favorites of those who were present when the star shed its light over Bethlehem. When Santa arrived he was welcomed with hugs (and a few wary glances) from the youngsters. His heavy bag contained presents for all the little ones (and a few big ones) who waited patiently for their names to be called. When his bag was empty Santa headed back to the North Pole repack his sleigh for the big night and we all adjourned downstairs to enjoy the delicious refreshments that waited there.

February Game Night should be lots of fun. If you have a favorite game be sure to bring it; but there will be lots of games there, too; so bring a crowd. And if those four-inch tall daffodils that think spring is here can just last until the real spring arrives, next time we'll tell you all about jolly January.

### LYME GRANGE #147

*Corr: Lois Evankow*

Mar. 3: Kitchen Klankers, Kitchen Band-CWA related subjects

Apr. 7: Tales of a dark and stormy night. Welcome strangers in the

night. Shipwreck party – Neighbor's Night. Come wearing what you were wearing when the ship got wrecked.

Hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and the new year will bring good health and happiness to everyone. Our weather sure was different this year, not only no snow but nice and warm – good for walking.

I'm sure old man winter will visit with a vengeance soon.

Our Steward, Norman Stitham, is collecting information for the next newsletter. It will be sent to all Grange members so they will know what is going on even though they do not attend meetings.

Our Juniors have been busy again. Chole and her sister Violet collected toys and with help from their parents and grandparents, delivered them.

Our Jan. meeting was well attended, despite the cold evening. We welcomed back Ron Purinton after his heart bypass surgery. Music is wonderful. The Overseer Ben took over.

Small antiques and hobby show and tell night is very popular- we saw rings, coins, photos, baby cups, Civil War booklets.

Today being Doris Rand's birthday- the birthday song was sung.

Next month the Juniors shine. Wonder what will

show up.

### STONINGTON GRANGE #168

*Corr: Lisa Herzig*

Discussion on proposed tolls for Connecticut roads and the positive impact of immigrant agriculture workers were discussed at December's Stonington Grange meeting December 10. Our lecturer presented an interesting program and demonstrated how to improve certain household items for double duty! Guest Groton Grange Master Anne-Marie Knockenhauer let members know of a potluck supper at Groton Grange December 17 at 6:30 PM. Also Pomona Meeting will be held December 17th at 7:30 PM. A Christmas party was enjoyed after a meeting.

Stonington Grange contributed \$140 in Christmas donations to Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

CWA projects for 2016 were announced; needlework has 11 classes which will be judged at the state and Pomona only. Craft project theme is "Everything's Coming Up Roses" and item for baking contest is to be blueberry muffins - use your own recipe! Good luck and have fun!

The recipient for 2016 Community Service Award will be chosen at the January meeting.

## Granger Address Changes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grange: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

### OLD ADDRESS:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW ADDRESS:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_


Please clip and mail to:

Connecticut Granger, P.O. Box 1393,  
Glastonbury, CT 06033


or email: [Granger@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Granger@CTStateGrange.org)



### Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Excelsior #7
- Beacon Valley #103
- Bethlehem #121
- Prospect #144
- Bridgewater #153
- Wolcott #173
- Oxford #194



**EXCELSIOR POMONA #7**

We were sad to lose a very long time member of Beacon Valley Grange and long time treasurer of Excelsior Pomona, Olive Greenwood Rathburn. She passed away at the age of 101. She was a very hard working Granger until recent years. Rest in peace, Olive. You will be missed but our memories will go on.

We are sad to have lost Minnie Wolvek as a long time member of our CWA Committee. She passed away just 3 days before her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. She loved the Grange. May she rest in peace.

We are also sad to receive the resignation of our long time CWA Chairperson Loretta Rowland due to not being able to travel at night and her failing health. Loretta, we will miss you very much.

**BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

*Corr: Cindy Legg*

The members of Beacon Valley Grange were saddened to hear of the passing of long time Golden Sheaf member Olive Rathburn. Olive was past master of not only Beacon Valley, but also Excelsior Pomona, and for many years treasurer of

Beacon Valley. Olive was 102 years old. she will be missed by everyone who knew her.

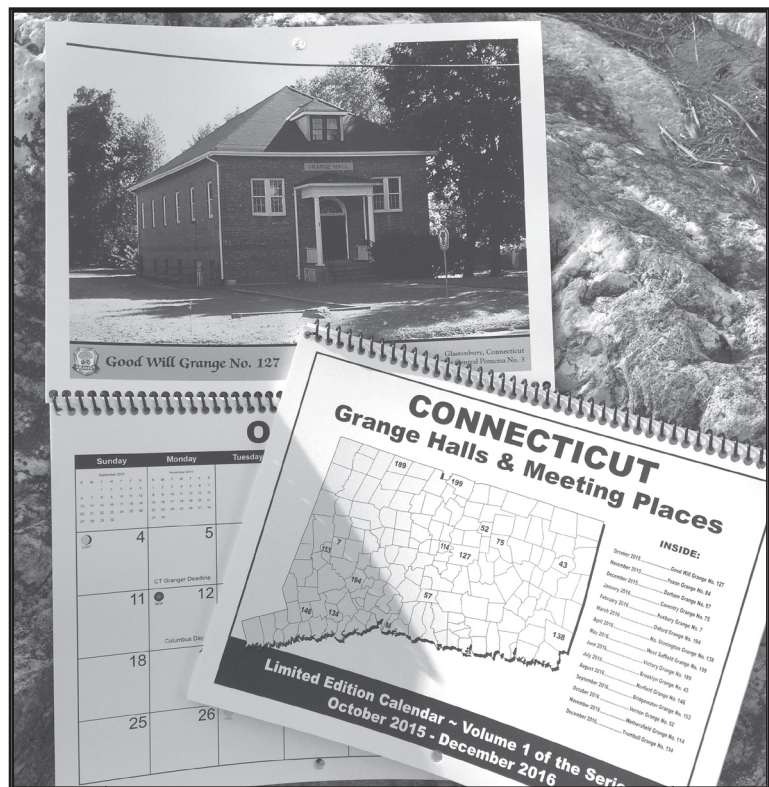
Our February meeting will be on the 12th and is entitled "Love Story" Pat and Ron Fischer are in charge of refreshments. Come and join us. Visitors are always welcome.

This year is leap year so we have an extra day in February, so do something special on the 29th, and enjoy it.

**OXFORD GRANGE #194**

Oxford Grange had a great crowd of about 25 at the OPEN MIC on January 11th. It was a great time. Thanks to Martin, Ray, Ron, Karen, Alex, Jordan, Diana, Dan, Greg, Glenn, Jack, and Lisa. Lisa shared original poetry inspired by life experiences. Everyone else provided wonderful music, some original, others re-interpreted and improvised existing music. Good luck tomorrow on your history test, Jordan. Study hard and do well! See you all in February on the 8th. We have a resolution from the other night's meeting to pass on to State Grange. There are several more ideas for other ones that we will try to develop.

## New year... new calendar



**CONNECTICUT Grange Halls & Meeting Places**

Limited Edition Calendar ~ Volume 1 of the Series ~ October 2015 - December 2016


The 2015 - 2016 Connecticut Grange calendars featuring historic pictures of Grange Halls and meeting places across our state are still available. These collectible calendars are \$13.00. Supplies are limited so get your copy soon!

## Pomona Roundtable Discussion

*Please join us*

Brother James Tetreault, Past Lecturer of the National Grange, will moderate a roundtable discussion about Pomona. All are invited to attend and to contribute to the conversation. While no definitive action will be taken that day, it is important for all of us to discuss:

- Do we still need Pomona Granges?
- How do we encourage Fourth Degree members to attend?
- What should the State Grange do to support Pomonas?
- How do we redistribute Community Granges after a Pomona closes?
- Should we close our Pomona Granges altogether?



**Sunday, February 28, 2016  
2:00 P.M.**

**Cheshire Grange Hall  
44 Wallingford Rd., Cheshire, CT 06410**

# Hank's Hankerings




The easy recipe is the perfect sweet treat for Valentine's Day - or any other time - like a Grange potluck or refreshments.

### Red Velvet Cookie Bars

- 1 roll Pillsbury™ refrigerated chocolate chip cookies
- 1 box red velvet cake mix
- 2/3 cup melted unsalted butter
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- Powdered sugar, if desired

**DIRECTIONS**

Heat oven to 350°F. Spray 8-inch square pan with baking spray with flour. With lightly floured fingers, break up cookie dough into pan; press evenly in bottom of pan to form crust. Bake 15 minutes. Remove pan from oven; cool 10 minutes. Meanwhile, in medium bowl, beat cake mix, melted butter and eggs with whisk until well combined. Spread cake batter evenly over partially baked crust. Return to oven; bake 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely, about 45 minutes. Cut cooled bars into 4 rows by 3 rows; sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Source: <http://www.pillsbury.com/everyday-eats/desserts/cookies-bars/red-velvet-cookie-bars-how-to>



## CSG Student Loans Available

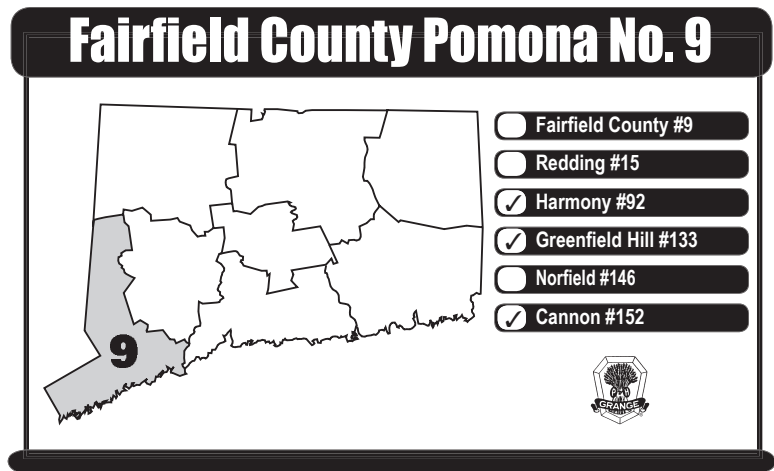
Did you know the Connecticut State Grange offers Student Loans to Grange members? To be eligible, an applicant must be a member in good standing of a Connecticut Community/Subordinate Grange. All applications must be signed by the Secretary and Master of the applicant's Grange, certifying that the applicant is a member in good standing and is worthy of the loan.

Upon approval of the Board of Trustees, a loan, not to exceed \$1,000 may be made to a Freshman after successfully completing the first semester; a loan not to exceed \$2,500 may be made, upon correct application, to a Sophomore, Junior and Senior. A Graduate Student may receive a loan not to exceed \$2,500 a year. Loans of not over \$2,500 may be made to Patrons desiring to enter training for certain professions.

All notes must be endorsed by two financially responsible persons (not husband and wife), who are acceptable to the Board of Trustees. If the borrower is a minor, the note must be co-signed by the parent or guardian.

Interest will not accrue on any loan while the borrower is attending undergraduate school, Upon graduation or leaving school, interest will be charged at a rate of 5% per annum. Payments will begin immediately after graduation to the Secretary of the State Grange.

For more information contact the Central Office at (860) 633-7550 or [Secretary@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Secretary@CTStateGrange.org).



**HARMONY GRANGE #92**

*Corr: George Ward*

**Feb. 12:** Regular meeting, Refreshments at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30. Lecturer's program to be announced later.

Now that the Christmas and New Year Season has passed, we will turn our attention and efforts for the next several months on planning for our 125th anniversary which is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, 2016 at the Grange Hall. A good portion of the planning will be to get the hall ready for the activity which will include painting and new curtains for the lower level.

We intend on holding our winter meetings at the Grange Hall and all are welcome to attend. Please call ahead to be sure the meeting is being held that night as we will cancel or postpone the meeting if the weather is going to be unfavorable.

**GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133**

*Corr: Dennis Rich*

**Feb. 15:** Seed & Garden Planning, Meeting 7:00 P.M.

**Mar. 21:** "Wear'n the Green", Meeting 7:00 P.M.

In December, we had an informal Christmas party with "finger foods." Those in attendance enjoyed the fellowship.

Seed and Garden Planning will be February's theme. Watch your mailbox for the arrival of seed, nursery and garden catalogs. They are already coming in! Please bring them for a "show and tell."

The future Junior Grange will have candy making for February. Contact Cindy Wakeman-D'Andrea at 203-243-1877 or email her at cwak631201@aol.com for

date and details.

We will continue to outline our spring activities as well as long range planning for our Fair, which will be August 27.

All are welcome to our meetings and activities!

**CANNON GRANGE #152**

*Corr: Don Offinger*

**Feb 4:** Presentation by Wilton's new Police Chief

**Feb 18:** Business Meeting

**Mar 3:** Fascinating program on Artificial Intelligence & Robots

**Mar 17:** Raising Backyard Chickens

**Mar 19:** An Evening of Silent Movies with live piano accompaniment

**April 23:** Acoustic Night #2

A line-up of fascinating and enjoyable programs is in the wings for our winter and springtime meetings. These are all part of our program theme of "Healthy Living: taking time to learn something new and to enjoy leisure". We look forward to welcoming members, neighbors and friends to any and all of these events. Robert Frisch will be telling about his work in Artificial Intelligence, and this should be one of the most fascinating programs we've had.

Come hear Bil Mikulewicz speak about his chickens and learn everything you want to know about getting started with this backyard hobby. John Mucci will once again bring Silent Movies to our large silver screen in March, and he will be at the piano providing non-stop music for the films. This is a great evening for young children on through senior adults. Do you sing or play a musical instrument? Plan to be one of the acts at our

Acoustic Night #2 in April.

We were honored and recognized by the US EPA for our work in recycling and waste reduction efforts in 2014. Our recognition award was the top prize, "WasteWise Partner of the Year" in the

non-profit organization category; competing against peers from other small, large and very large organizations across the United States. To our knowledge, our small Grange is the only Grange in the nation that is participating in

the EPA's WasteWise program.

Please note our program and event schedule, all with a start time of 7 PM. Refreshments are served only at the public events. Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- won't you join us?



*By Hank the Burro*

Hello Grange Friends! It was so much fun to go to the NE Leaders Conference in Massachusetts, where I got to see all of my Grange friends, and reunite with members of the Grange Herd. I had a good meal at the Banquet (and some candy too) - and even was watching the raffle (but I lost).

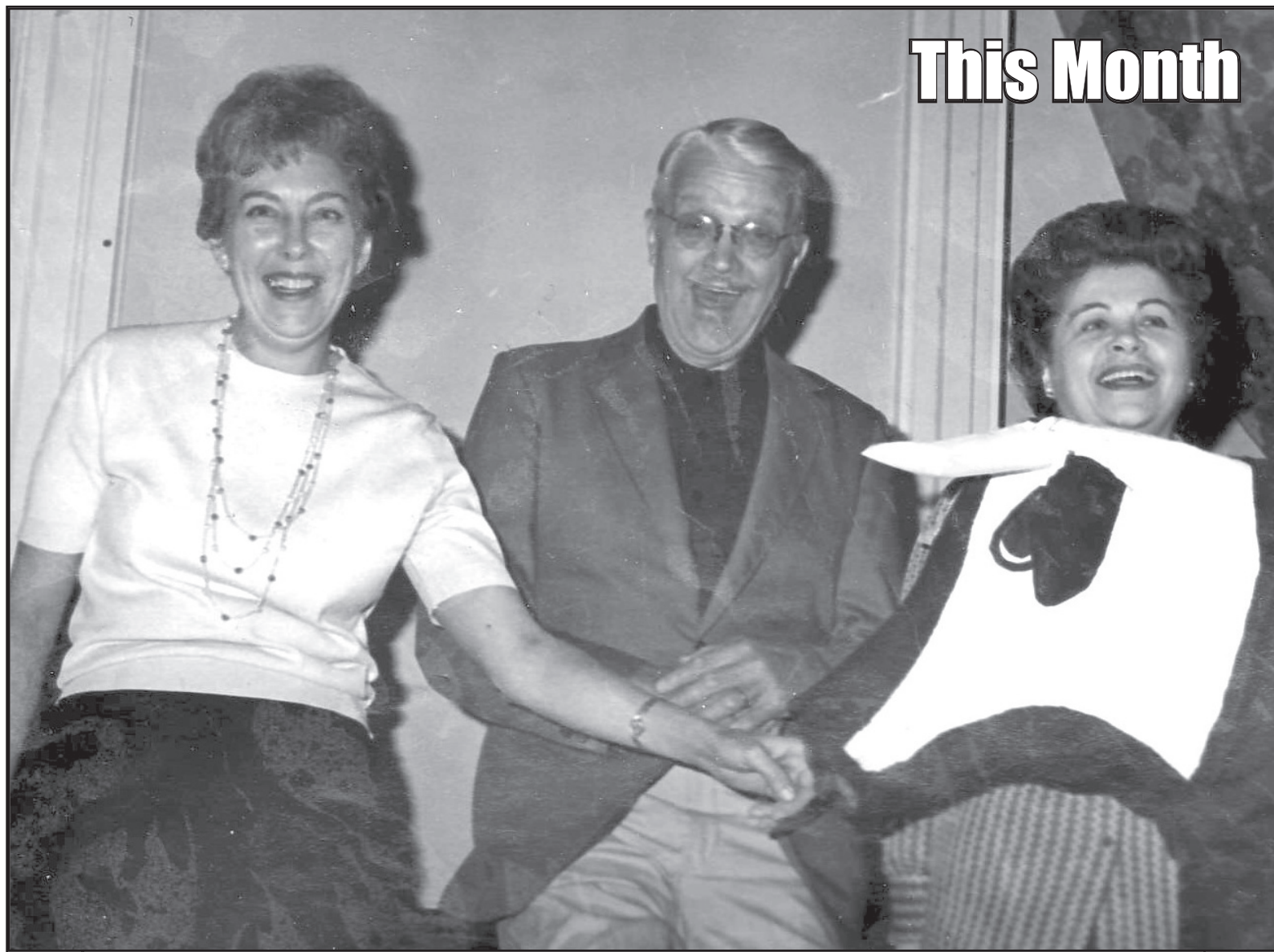
What new adventures will the next month hold? Follow me on Facebook to keep track of all of my adventures. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Be sure to say Hello if you see me around the State!



# WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: [submissions@ctstategrange.org](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



No, we didn't print a photo from a previous issue by mistake. This photo was printed in April of 2014 with no responses - It's a great photo and the expressions on their faces just want to tell you a story... maybe you have a piece of the puzzle that will unlock the mystery. Please don't wait to see if someone else contacts us - if you think you have some information, please drop us a line or give Terri a call. She would love to hear from you.

We heard from John Ray Osuch who confirmed the January photo was from Bethlehem Grange #121: "Holding the R, Evelyn Slason; the A, Clara Osuch, the N, Al Goodson, the G, Elizabeth Barton, the E, Dains Barton and the woman to his left, Kay Holden. Sorry can't place the G!" Then we heard from Al Maddox and Eloise Osuch who confirmed the same names as John Ray did. The first "G" is still a mystery!



## Cannon re-schedules presentation

Cannon Grange's presentation by Wilton, CT Police Department Chief Crosby has been rescheduled to Thursday, February 4th at 7 pm. Chief Crosby will share his vision for the department in addition to discussing the department's many local outreach programs. The public is cordially invited to attend and bring questions to ask. Refreshments will be provided. Please spread the word and let us know if you have any questions. Presidents day.

## ZOOM replaces TeamSpeak for National Grange online meetings



The National Grange is pleased to present ZOOM as its new online meeting platform. ZOOM will take the place of TeamSpeak which is no longer in use.

This easy-to-use platform unifies cloud video conferencing, simple online meetings, and group messaging all in one and can be accessible from your PC, Mac, tablet or mobile device.

For more information, please visit the National Grange website: [www.NationalGrange.org](http://www.NationalGrange.org).

# The Grange, UConn and the "Little Stone House"



The 'Little Stone House' on North Eagleville Road, across from Swan Lake. The house is built with stones collected from all 50 states. (Peter Morenus/UConn Photo)

house.

But then Marsh began to think that the stones were too fine to put into a wall and instead he donated his collection to the Connecticut State Grange, of which he was an active member.

The Grange, a national organization of farmers, decided to use the stones for a tribute to agriculture, by building a memorial on the campus of Connecticut State College. The Grange had been active in supporting the creation of the college when it began in 1881 as Storrs Agricultural School, and had continued to support the institution as it fought off various proposals to limit its enrollment, move it elsewhere, or shut it down.

On May 16, 1937, nearly 3,000 members of the Grange came to the college for the dedication of what has been referred to over the years as "the stone shelter," "the stone pavilion," and – in recent years – "the little stone house."

The occasion was the ninth annual Grange Sunday, and the guest speaker was Louis I. Taber of Columbus, Ohio, master of the National Grange.

Following a church service in nearby Storrs Congregational Church, and while Grangers ate their basket lunches on the lawn, Taber said the stone building was "to commemorate the service of Connecticut agriculture to the state and the nation."

Albert N. Jorgensen, just two years into his 27-year tenure as president, responded on behalf of the college. He said the building was also dedicated to Connecticut youth, adding his hope that "this building will be used by the good sons and daughters of Good Grangers."

A bronze tablet identifies the stones from the 48 states. Name plates were added in the 1960s, when stones from Alaska and Hawaii were incorporated into the structure.

Now mostly hidden by trees – including an elm planted by the Class of 1905 – the little stone house stands on a rocky rise along North Eagleville Road, in front of the Congregational Church's Community House and across from Swan Lake.

Sources: The Connecticut Campus, "Grange Gives College Unique Stone Shelter," "Memorial Dedication Feature Attraction," May 18, 1937; unpublished manuscript, Evan Hill, 1980.

## The passion of Miss Bilger

Meriden city officials longed repeatedly to buy the 128-acre Bilger Farm. Because of its proximity to Hunter Golf Club and city-owned Giuffrida Park, the farm has been a desirable target for various possible projects over the years such as residential housing, an industrial park, and a magnet middle school.

"It has been on the radar for a long time... it's one of the largest tracts we have," said onetime Mayor Michael S. Rohde.

The city has been interested in the farm for economic development since Meriden has few relatively large sites remaining to develop its tax base.

Then there were the developers. The Bilger family had been presented with numerous multi-million dollar offers to sell the farm.

Bilger Farm had been a dairy farm since the 1930's when George and Emma Bilger bought the farm from her parents. During its prime, the Bilger brothers – Allan and David – milked 60 cows twice a day. Allan died in 1995 and David sold his last pail of milk in 1997 when operation costs outstripped milk prices. The farm switched to beef cows and replacement heifers before turning to hay and horse boarding. Tragically, David was killed in a tractor accident at the age of 82 in 2010. And he died without a will.

Allan once said, "What are you going to do with \$5 million dollars?" And David had repeatedly let it be known he wanted

the farm to stay as is. Their Sister Lucille Bilger knew what she had to do. She would fiercely honor the wishes of her brothers and the memory of her parents and make sure the farm remained a farm forever.

First, Miss Bilger divided off 52 acres of woods and wetlands and donated it to the Meriden Land Trust. Then she sold the development rights of the remaining 76 acres to the CT Dept. of Ag. and Connecticut Farmland Trust. The voluntary land agreement prohibits housing subdivisions and other development and ensures the land remains open and free to be farmed.

"Bilger Farm is one of the last farms in Meriden and a very desirable location," said Elizabeth Moore, CFT Executive Director. "If it weren't for the passion of Lucille Bilger and her family to protect it, it would most certainly have been developed."

No doubt her parents and brothers would say, "you done good, Lucille."

*Reprinted from the CFT News*

Bilger Farm, Meriden, CT



## In Memoriam

Philip E. Bergquist, G.S. Redding #15  
Robert Winnie, G.S. Meriden #29  
Olive Rathburn, G.S. Beacon Valley #103  
Minnie Wolvek Prospect #144  
Edith Pasquariello Riverton #169

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

## State Chaplain Be Doers of the Word

By Charles Dimmick

In the Letter of James we read "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only". The admonition was given originally because there were people in the early Church who felt that they were saved because they had heard the gospel preached and believed what they heard. James is warning them that they were fooling themselves if they thought their belief was enough to save them. In the sixth chapter of Luke, Jesus says "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord', and not do what I say?" In the Epistle to the Romans Paul says "For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but is those who do what the law demands who will be declared righteous."

Going back to the Letter of James, he says "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Note that we are told to be doers of the word, meaning that we should go beyond the occasional good deed and should transform our very nature into someone who is a doer of good deeds. We need to work at it until it becomes second nature to us. A corollary to this is that we should make it easier for others to become "doers of the word", including especially our own children. Do you remember the Overseer's charge in the fourth degree: "What a child sees makes the most lasting impression." The more our children and friends observe us living our faith in doing good, the more they are impelled to imitate us.

I have a friend, Jim Bradley, who writes a blog entitled "Under the Castor Oil Tree". In it he has written that what we "be" is much more important than what we "believe". He says "Instead of 'being Christian' because of what we 'believe', why don't we 'be Christians' by how we 'BE' in the world?"

"Compassion, welcome, love, hope, generosity, openness, engagement, trust, healing, feeding, comforting-those are the way to 'be' in the world that would qualify as 'being a Christian'." he declared.

## Do you have yours?



These new Past Master and Lecturer pins are \$10.00 each plus shipping and handling (if applicable). Please call (860) 633-7550 or (860) 307-1522 or email: [Secretary@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Secretary@CTStateGrange.org) for more information.