



# the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 60, No. 12

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

September 2020

## A very different autumn



**George Russell**  
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169  
president@ctstategrange.org

As we are entering the Fall season, September is a month of fairs and festivals throughout Connecticut. Unfortunately for this year, all fairs have been canceled until 2021. The Big E in West Springfield, MA, where so many of our Grange members work in the New England Grange Building has also been cancelled until 2021. Let's hope next fall we can all get back to normal and our Grange fairs and country fairs will be held.

On Sunday, August 16 we had our second Officers, Delegates and Deputies virtual meeting. This time we invited the delegates to participate in an informational Zoom meeting. There were 28 members that participated in this meeting, which I thought was very good for the first time trying to get together with our delegates for the upcoming State Session. Please see the State Secretary's announcement on this page for changes to the format of the Session. We reviewed the agenda for the day and there was some discussion on the voting for officers and how we are planning to conduct the resolution process. If there are 10 resolutions or less we will bring them to the floor for consideration during the State

Session. If there are more than that, we will have to conduct committee meetings via Zoom prior to Session. All resolutions should be sent to the State Secretary by September 15<sup>th</sup>. All resolutions (other than those submitted by a Session Committee) received after that date will be sent back and they can be re-submitted for next year. One delegate suggested that we set up one or two Grange Halls in each Pomona for the delegates that do not have the means to use Zoom. To do this a Grange must have WiFi capabilities. Michelle DeDominicis offered Hillstown Grange to be one of the sites that delegates could use. All social distancing protocols should be observed at these "gatherings" and they should also not exceed the Governor's Executive Order for capacity. At the time of this writing, we are limited to 25 people indoors. So if you would like to go to Hillstown

## State Session 100% Virtual

*Todd A. Gelineau, State Secretary*

The 2020 Connecticut State Grange Session will be held entirely online via Zoom. There will be no in-person meeting component to the Session as previously planned.

Planning State Session has been a constant concern for me and my fellow Board members throughout this summer. The State of Connecticut has been held steady at 25 people indoors and 100 outdoors for most of this summer and the Governor has indicated

Grange for that day, please contact Michelle DeDominicis. If there are any other Granges that have WiFi accessibility and would like to let delegates use their hall, please let the State Master or Secretary know.

A third Zoom meeting has been scheduled for September 13 at 7 P.M. This will be another informational meeting to get prepared for State Session. If anyone has any questions, please send them in before Sept. 13. We will answer them that night. Questions can be sent to the State Master or State Secretary. I thought we had excellent participation with lots of questions at the meeting. I am looking forward to our next meeting. Thank you all for participating.

Like I mentioned at our meeting, this is all new to us and we are doing the best we can to get through it and have our State Session. So please bear with us and we will get through this together.

that an increase will take more time. While we can work with 25, it does require considerable changes to the physical meeting that would have made the in-person meeting extremely different from what we know as a Grange meeting. A

...Continued on page three

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

**NEXT ISSUE ...  
Articles Due Sept 15**

# 100% Virtual

Continued from page one...

six foot “bubble” would have to be created around each member in attendance to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Masks would have to be worn at all times (other than at lunch). Floor work and other parts of the ritual would have to be modified to, again, adhere to social distancing.

In addition, we were very concerned that delegates attending

on Zoom would have difficulty seeing and hearing much of what would be going on in the meeting hall and those in the meeting hall would have difficulty connecting with the “Zoom-ers”.

In the end, it was decided that the benefits of holding the in-person meeting were heavily outweighed by the drawbacks. By holding the meeting entirely on Zoom, all members will experience the same advantages and disadvantages. We know this decision doesn’t make it any easier for those members who struggle with the technological challenges this presents but it is our best attempt to keep all members safe and to successfully hold State Session within the limitations of COVID-19.

Our Membership Director, Faith Quinlan, is always willing to talk with any member needing help with Zoom. She can be reached by calling 518-698-2785 or by emailing membership@ctstategrange.org. A practice run on Zoom will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2020 beginning at 7:00 P.M. All officers, deputies and delegates will automatically receive an email containing the links to attend this meeting. If you did not receive

one for the August meeting, and would like to attend the upcoming meeting, please let me or Faith know and we’ll get the information to you.

In the coming weeks each delegate and State Officer will receive a packet containing Zoom information, a resolution packet and any other information needed for State Session. If you are a delegate and have not received your packet by Oct. 3, please let me know. Unlike an in-person session, we have to rely on the USPS to deliver them. Digital packets will also be provided to all delegates who provided email addresses on the registration form. All delegates will receive both (when possible).

We have had to make many decisions since March that we never thought we would EVER have to make. We will make some mistakes along the way. With conditions and constraints ever-changing and inconsistent, it is inevitable. However, the Connecticut State Grange Board of Directors is making every attempt to act in the best interest of all Granges and Grangers with each and every decision.

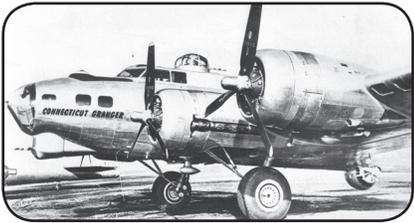
Stay safe and stay well!

## If we can Zoom... so can you!



A very “serious” State Grange Board of Directors holding their August meeting on Zoom, a tool that can help us all get back to good Grange work!

**the Connecticut Granger**  
Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress “Connecticut Granger”

**STAFF**

President/Editor . . . . Todd A. Gelineau  
Vice President . . . . .Terri Fassio  
Treasurer . . . . . Jody Cameron  
Secretary . . . . . Noel Miller

**DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS**  
News is due on the **15th Day** of each month and should be sent to:  
Connecticut State Grange  
100 Newfield Road  
P.O. Box 3  
Winchester Center, CT 06094  
or Todd Gelineau, Editor  
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069  
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

(USPS 563-220)

**the Connecticut Granger**  
is published monthly for \$10.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..  
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 4  
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Periodicals postage paid  
at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to:  
Connecticut Granger,  
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3  
Winchester Center, CT 06094

# Connecticut State Grange

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY, INCORPORATED

August 30, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and doing well! It has been long and difficult as COVID-19 has dragged on for the last six months, shutting down our Grange meetings and activities.

Since the middle of March, we have been unable to meet face-to-face at our Grange Halls. Initially, the Governor limited social gatherings to five people inside. He later increased this number in Phase 2 to 25 people inside and 100 outside where it remains today. At this number it is possible for our smaller Granges to meet face-to-face. You still have the option of meeting on Zoom. Several of our Granges in the state have already started meeting or plan to meet starting in September. I would like to see 100% of our Granges meeting within this next month either face-to-face or virtually.

If your Grange is planning to meet in person you need to take the following precautions:

- 1) Keep social distancing to at least 6 feet apart.
- 2) All members/attendees should wear masks
- 3) Have hand sanitizer available
- 4) Sanitize all surfaces that are touched (i.e. door handles, chairs, tables, etc.)
- 5) For the time being, please do not serve refreshments

I would encourage Granges that wish to continue meeting virtually, to continue doing so. To set-up a Zoom meeting please contact our Membership Director, Faith Quinlan at 518-698-2785 or email her at membership@ctstategrange.org.

Let's work together and see if we can get our Granges meeting and planning for the future.

Fraternally,



George Russell, Master

## Tentative State Session Schedule

### Order of Business

10:00 A.M.  
Opening in the Fourth Degree  
Roll Call of Officers, Deputies  
& Committees  
Roll Call of Granges  
Report of Credential Committee

10:20 A.M.  
Introduction of Business to be referred  
without debate

Set Time Certain for Consideration of  
Budget (2:00 P.M.)

10:40 A.M.  
Address of State Master George Russell  
Response of State Overseer

11:00 A.M.  
Reports:  
Overseer Noel Miller  
Treasurer Jody Cameron  
Secretary Todd A. Gelineau  
Executive Comm./Board of  
Directors, Jeff Barnes, Chair.

5 minute break  
*Reports continue...*  
Lecturer Marge Bernhardt  
Membership Director Faith Quinlan

12:00 P.M.  
Report on Election by Election  
Committee Chair Maureen Prelli

12:30 P.M.  
LUNCH

1:00 P.M.  
Memorial Service by State Chaplain  
Charles Dimmick

1:20 P.M.  
Resolution Work Begins

2:00 P.M.  
Time Certain for Budget Consideration

2:15 P.M.  
Resolution Work Continues  
Installation/Obligation of Officers  
Announcements  
Closing

*\*This schedule is tentative and is subject to change without prior notice*

The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed herein.

# Resolutions for consideration at State Session

*The following are all resolutions received at the State Grange Office as of August 28, 2020. Additional resolutions will continue to be accepted from Granges until September 15, 2020. If a resolution your Grange adopted does not appear here, please contact your Secretary or the State Grange Secretary.*

## **2020-1) RE: STATE COMMITTEES**

**WHEREAS** Article IX Committees of the Connecticut State Grange By-Laws states the committee requirements and lists the standing committees that are to be appointed by the State Grange Master, and

**WHEREAS** Section 5 through Section 11 specify the number of committee members that shall be appointed, and

**WHEREAS** due to changing demographics in the membership, appointment to these committees are at times a challenge to complete, and

**WHEREAS** the Grange has been acutely aware of the need to concentrate on our declining membership.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Article IX COMMITTEES be changed to read:

Section 6. The wording “A Committee of Women’s Activities of five, shall be appointed by the State Master” be changed to read “There shall be a Committee of Family Activities of no more than 5 members appointed by the State Master”; and

The following wording “of five members” in Section 7, Section 8, and Section 10 be changed to read “of no more than 5 members”, and

Section 11 be changed to read: “There shall be a Membership Committee consisting of no more than five members consisting of a minimum of one member from each Pomona Grange to be appointed by the State Master. The director of the

Membership Committee may consist of a paid position to be appointed by the State Master every election year for the term of the State Master and that the Executive Committee along with the State Master approve any employment contract.”

SOURCE: Connecticut State Grange Executive Committee

## **2020-2) RE: EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE POWERS**

**WHEREAS** during the COVID-19 crisis the Emergency Powers Act was granted to the Governor for a period of six months to, in effect, run the total government, and

**WHEREAS** during that period the Connecticut legislature did not meet in regular or special session even though most of the surrounding legislatures and the U.S. Congress did meet, thus not providing a balance of power between those two branches of government that is provided for in the State Constitution, and

**WHEREAS** one of the major functions of the Legislature during that period would be adjustments to the second year of the biennial budget to reduce the expected deficit, and

**WHEREAS** it was thought that this act was to be used for short term emergencies.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Connecticut State Grange, through its Legislative Committee, urge the passage of legislation to modify the Emergency Powers Act to limit the length of time of the act to 3 months unless the Legislature meets again to extend the time after the 3 month period.

SOURCE: Riverton Grange No. 169

## **2020-3) RE: SALE OF GRANGE PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS** the By-Laws of the National Grange, Sec. 4.11.1 (G) limits the amount a Grange may retain after

the sale of property to \$1,000 with the remainder to be kept in trust by the State Grange, and

**WHEREAS** this section has not been updated in several years and value of property has risen dramatically over those years.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the first sentence of Sec. 4.11.1(G) be changed to read:

“When a sale of real property is concluded, the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall account for the net proceeds of the sale received at the time of settlement and shall remit all but the sum of ~~\$1,000~~ \$10,000 of such net proceeds **or the net proceeds whichever is less** to the State Grange having jurisdiction to be held in trust for the said Subordinate or Pomona Grange.”

SOURCE: Riverton Grange No. 169

## **2020-4) RE: UTILITY RATE INCREASES**

**WHEREAS** in 2019 the Connecticut General Assembly approved a utility increase for Eversource to purchase energy from Millstone Nuclear Power Plant, and

**WHEREAS** this rate increase has been introduced during the month of July, and

**WHEREAS** this increase represents up to a 90% increase in delivery charges on the Eversource billing.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Connecticut State Grange encourage the Connecticut General Assembly to never pass legislation that allows for an increase in utility charges, either for generation or delivery, that exceeds 10% of the standard cost of living for that given year, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Connecticut State Grange present informational programs educating communities it serves on its options for utilities available to them in Connecticut.

SOURCE: Ekonk Comm. No. 89

# Another Grange year is drawing to a close



**Todd A. Gelineau**  
State Secretary  
Winchester Grange #74  
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

Another year of Grange work is rapidly drawing to a close although it seems like it is ending before it even got started! Unfortunately, we have a long way to go with COVID-19 but we will get through this together.

Planning for State Session never ends, especially this year. Please read my article on page one explaining the changes to State Session adopted at the August Board of Directors meeting. We have agonized over how to safely conduct a statewide meeting while still accomplishing the work necessary to operate our organization.

We remind all Granges the deadline for submission of resolutions will be here on September 15. Any resolutions received after that date will be returned to Granges for re-submission next year. Session committee resolutions will continue to be accepted at Session.

Please read the State Master's letter on page 3. All Granges should be meeting in-person or virtually. It is extremely important that we reconnect with our members and keep our Granges moving forward.

With that said, meetings should still be as safe as possible observing social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

## QUARTERLY REPORTS

It has been a battle over the last year to get all of our Granges filing quarterly reports on time. At one point this summer there were over a dozen Granges that owed at least one quarter and

there were many that were two or more quarters behind even with constant reminders from yours truly.

I thank all of you for catching up. As of this writing we have 100% of our Granges current with their reports. Unfortunately, the next quarter closes at the end of this month.

Going forward all late Granges will receive a notice and \$25 late fee invoice on the 31st day following the close of the quarter. I have tried to be lenient with the late fee but there are just too many Granges reporting late.

The State Grange is required to file its own report within 60 days of the close of the quarter forwarding on the lion's share of the dues collected from our Community Granges during the quarter to National Grange. I am forced to use the most recent report filed by a Grange to complete my report to National when reports are missing. This usually results in overpayments. Multiplying these overpayments by the number of Granges failing to report in any quarter results in a substantial amount of money needlessly lost.

## DUES RECEIPTS

Due to State Session planning,

we are a little off schedule with the Dues Receipts. I hope to have these out to all Granges by the end of the month. I apologize for any inconvenience.

## ELECTIONS

Ballots will soon be going out to each registered delegate to State Session. Please follow the directions carefully. Only original ballots (printed on security paper) and mailed in pre-addressed and stamped envelopes will be accepted as valid ballots. Please do not submit photocopied ballots or submit your votes in any other form than the ballot we provide. Ballots will be accepted up until just before the Session in October. However, with postal service delays always a possibility, please mail them as soon after receiving them as you can.

To ensure ballots are secret, the return envelopes are addressed to the election chairperson Maureen Prelli who will coordinate tabulation of the vote for the day of State Session. Please do not mail ballots to the State Grange Office as they will not be counted.

As with many things this year, we are trying to make the best out of a very difficult situation for all of us. Until next time, stay safe and stay well.

*It's a Moment in Time!*



**Place Your Order Now**  
Stock Expected and  
Ready to Ship  
First Week of September

See the mask and order at <http://bit.ly/grangemask>

Remember to visit our Grange Store™ - [www.promoplace.com/grange](http://www.promoplace.com/grange)

Grange Store™ by Monroe Classic

Order online or call Monroe Classic, Inc. at 1-800-868-2330 or email: [sales@monroeclassic.com](mailto:sales@monroeclassic.com)



**SENEXET GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

We are excited to have a new Master, Amy Monahan. We thank Pat Valys for covering that position after the death of Joan Perry last October. We did have the election of officers and will have the installation this fall if possible.

Diane Miller and Bryn Miller were selected to be our delegates to the state session. We voted to be part of the town wide tag sale and to include other vendors on our property. Since we will not be having our fall fair we are looking forward to some other ways to promote our organization. We are planning our programs for the year and will include the information to our members and the community.

Hopefully we will be able to honor our long term members when it is safe to do so. We have a beautiful hall and want to make good use of it in person. Looking forward to a great year ahead.

**N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy Weissmuller*

**Sept. 11:** No Installation of Officers- all same office - so "A Little Bit of This and a Little Bit of That"

**Sept. 25:** Savor Small Moments

Our July meeting was a joyous one. It was so good to get back to meeting in person and meeting

with old friends we had not seen in months. Steward, Jeff Barnes, had made sure there was a six-foot space between each station and we all wore masks. Even though it seemed a little strange at first, the joy of companionship soon overcame the uneasiness. Sue held a memorial program for lost members and those in the service and we draped our charter in loving memory of our dear Pomona who passed away in May. We look forward to continue meeting in person. The hall may be warm

in these summer months, but the companionship and friendship of the Brothers and Sisters makes it quite bearable.

We sent get well wishes to LAS Flo Mullane, who has had a recent hospital stay and Paul Ames, our faithful electrician, who is happily feeling much less pain in his new hip. And if that dratted hurricane that is putting us in his sights will just head out to sea, next time we will tell you about awesome August.

## Suffragist Fact



Susan B. Anthony's last official public appearance was at the 37th Annual National Grange Convention held in Rochester, New York November 1903

*Source: The National Grange*



PRO TIP

# Grange logo has registered trademark symbol

Grange is a registered trademark, as is our logo. In all instances, the Grange logo should appear with the registered trademark symbol: ® Several versions of the logo are available, including the symbol in white or blue to be used based on the background of the image you choose. Millions of dollars have been spent to uphold our trademark, and your efforts matter a great deal in our ability to continue our claim on the name and image. Correct logos are available at <http://bit.ly/3aynYv7> (link is case sensitive).



**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who entered and supported the first Winchester Grange Virtual Fun Fair Scavenger Hunt. The winners are as follows:

**ADULT DIVISION:**

- 1. Carol Buice
- 2. Katie Squire
- 3. Vicki Hester

**CHILDREN'S DIVISION:**

- 1. Rylee Robinson
- 2. Ian LeJeune
- 3. Ryan LeJeune

Winners were awarded gift card prizes. (\$30 1st place; \$20; 2nd place; \$10 third place). Winners were chosen by: (1) Entries with the most number of items entered; and in the case of a tie, (2) Entries with the largest number of Facebook Likes and Comments.

Thanks again to everyone for supporting our event. Please watch our Facebook page for the latest news and information about Winchester Grange!

**TAGHHANUCK GRANGE #100**

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

August turned out to be a very challenging month for Taghhannuck Grange. On August 4th a huge tree fell on our Grange Hall during storm Isaias. It went through the roof into the upper story of the Grange Hall. The inside of the Hall was also damaged as is

the front door. Luckily we had the Grange Hall insured and quickly got help from both Perotti Tree Service (Sharon's tree warden) who brought a crane and crew and got the tree off the roof on Thursday the 7th and Jeff Haydock of Whetstone Builders who was there at the same time with a helper put down 2x4s, plywood and covered the roof with a tarp. A big thank you is due to both of them.

The Town of Sharon, except for a few places such as the Hospital, was out of electric for 7+ days. Most of our members also had no internet and very little phone reception until Mon. the 10th or some even until Tues. the 11th. Only three members attended our regular monthly Zoom meeting on Thurs. the 13th which is understandable.

At this time I want to thank State Master George Russell for his support along with many other Grange members who called or stopped by. I do not know what I

would have done without both Brent Prindle treasurer and building committee chairman who worked tirelessly at the Hall and Debbie Hanlon our secretary who put her cell phone to good advantage talking with the insurance company and taking many pictures of the damage as needed.

**September 10:** We will again have a regular meeting on Zoom. There is no time frame for being able to use our Grange Hall.

**September 24:** Harvest Dinner and Awards has been cancelled.

**BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**

*Corr: Al Maddox*

**Sept. 28:** Meeting, 7:30 P.M. No food will be served.

Hopefully we will meet in person on the 28th of Sept. Wear your mask. As far as I know, hopefully everyone is doing fine. See you in Sept.

# Taghhannuck marked by Isaias



**Taghhannuck Grange #100 in Sharon suffered considerable damage during Storm Isaias which knocked out power to the area for more than 7 days.**



### NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Just to keep you informed, we are waiting and ready to go as soon as things open up. Master Donald Lanoue and Treasurer Marge Bernhardt will be our Delegates to the Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange.

If there is anything you would like me to pass on to the members, just let me know and I will include it in my next column.

Sorry to hear that Cindy Charbonneau has been in the hospital and hope that by now she is on the road to recovery.

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Our meeting schedule is still up in the air at this point. We are considering a September meeting, however, several of our members remain concerned as to group exposure. On July 18th, we sponsored a very successful food drive through for the Cheshire Food Pantry, netting 1155 pounds of food and cash donations of \$255.00. Thirteen of our members, using social distancing, took part in this event which replaced our Cheshire Grange Community Fair this year. Our fingers are crossed for our fair next year, but mainly uncertainties remain at this time. We hope you all enjoyed the summer as best you could.

### HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

My article for this issue of the Granger involves a Granger and a late Granger, Tom and the late Susan Sulier. The following article was published in the July issue of the Lafayette Consistory News section of the Masonic magazine:

*Two years ago this July, Brother Thomas Sulier, MSA, 32°, lost Susan, his wife of 36 years to a hard fought battle with cancer. In the summer of 2019, in the course of healing his loss, Tom decided that it would be a fitting tribute to Susan, to assemble a memorial CD for his family and friends as a musical memorial of Susan.*

*He approached another Valley of Bridgeport brother, Matt Fitzgibbons, 32°, a well known musician and songwriter with the idea and asked him to sing and produce these cover songs. Matt, not being a cover song performer, suggested that he instead craft a tribute to Susan and her nursing profession. The result of the inspired effort was "Angels in White" which was posted on YouTube in February immediately before the height of the pandemic in our jurisdiction.*

*The coincidence with the prevailing COVID-19 crisis and the attention which has been focused on nurses and first responders, made the song even more movingly relevant to a universal audience. The video is now posted on Spotify, Amazon, Apple Music, iTunes, and iHeart Radio and is easily located using a search engine of your choice. Feel free to access the video and post your comments. What a wonderfully artistic brotherly endeavor in the midst of a historically chaotic period.*

Tom is Gatekeeper at Harmony Grange and a thirty second degree Mason. He is a former member of Trumbull Grange and became a

member of Harmony when the two Granges consolidated. Susan was Secretary at Harmony Grange at the time of her death. She was also a former member of Trumbull Grange as Lecturer and became a member of Harmony through consolidation.

Susan graduated in 1969 from St. Vincent School of Nursing in Bridgeport as a LPN. She had also worked at St. Vincent Hospital in Bridgeport.

The song "Angels in White" can be heard in its entirety at several sources including the computer. Using the computer, go to: Matt@PatriotMusic. Scroll to Home-PatriotMusic.com, scroll to Angels in White. (Note: space between @ and Patriot).

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our members are anxious to get back to meeting and we will as soon as it is safe. We are still collecting for our tag and rummage sale which we plan to have as soon as things open up.

Our Grange musical group has been practicing regularly so that they should sound better than ever when we are able to safely open our Open Mics.

Our Grange family continues to grow. Pat Bisson has two new great-grandsons - Joseph and Rown Michael. Linda Morgante has a new grandson Joseph and by the time you read this Cindy and Ray Legg should have welcomed their first grandchild - a granddaughter.

It is with sadness that we report the passing of our Lady Assistant Steward Delores Merancy. Delores, though not a long-time member, has been LAS for 3 years and has been a very faithful member. Our sincere sympathy to her granddaughter Rebeka also a member of Beacon

...Continued next page

Valley.

To end some confusion, our Grange, Beacon Valley #103 in Naugatuck is not closing. Sorry to say it is Beacon Grange #118 in Northfield (Litchfield).

**GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133**

*Corr: Jim & Lori Golias*

Hope all are staying safe, wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

It's been a very desponding time in our lives and times but we must thank the good Lord for our health.

Hoping your gardens are yielding a full harvest of goodies.

We had our first meeting in July since our last one in February. Surprisingly, we had a good turnout. We picked a date for our 2021 agricultural fair. It will be August 28, 2021 from 10 to 3. We also chose our delegates for the 2020 annual Connecticut state grange session. Geno and Karen.

Two of our younger members Jennifer Damon and Lori Golias are going to try something new: drive-in movie night at the Greenfield Hill Grange. Our first film, weather permitting, will be August 8 at 8:30 PM. A great night out and still able to maintain social distancing, we hope this will be a success and added to our repertoire of fun functions.

We are also hoping to host our end of Summer Lobster Fest, September 12th. Smaller tables distanced apart is in the plan, along with Lobster, Baked Potato, Corn in the Cob and all the fixins.

Stay cool, stay safe, God Bless and Happy Trails.

**LYME GRANGE #147**

*Corr: Lois Evankow*

**Oct. 1:** Meeting

**Nov. 5:** Meeting

It is now the Dog Days of August. Our Grange has not

formally met since March. An emergency meeting was held on July 22 to discuss our Fair and vote delegates to State Session.

The heat is unbearable, what with everyone wearing masks and social distancing, it is difficult. Some can't breathe, some can't hear with muffled voices coming from behind masks.

The wind storm that blew through Connecticut on August 4th has many of us in the dark. Maybe the electric companies will get moving fast and our power will be restored as soon as possible.

I've discovered head lamps. They shine bright LED light. I feel like a coal miner. At least using them, we can catch up on old magazines and books we've been putting off to read later. Now is the time!

I, for one, have been knitting a lot.

Remember, stay strong and maybe someday things will get back to normal.

**HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Sept. 11:** Installation

**Sept. 25:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

**Oct. 9:** TBD

**Oct. 23:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

**OXFORD GRANGE #194**

*Corr: Robert Buck*

**Sept. 2:** Business Meeting

**Sept. 12:** 2020 Chili cook-off with Oxford Selectmen as judges

**Sept. 16:** 2020 Social Meeting-Program-Birding

Oxford Grange is back in form with a series of fundraisers planned for the rest of the year, provided that COVID-19 restrictions don't derail our plans. A chili cook-off is set for September 12 from 4:00-7:00 PM. Tickets are \$12/person, or \$25/family up to four. Plans are being made to prevent overcrowding that could cause viral transmission. Rena has been mowing the grounds containing the lawn and gardens put in by Raye Hodgson. All looks neat and well kept. A musical program is planned for the fall. Keep posted for that. We have a tentative schedule set to raise funds to keep the Grange going and to allow to get ahead with needed work on the hall. Dan Golias and I repaired the split rail fence around the lawns with rails that Rena obtained from a postal customer on her mail route which were retrieved by Glenn and his pick up truck. Glenn, Rena and I removed a maple tree that was impinging on the wires from the road to the hall, and plans are in the works to remove the large and dying evergreen on the front.

**You can now get a digital subscription to Good Day!**

The quarterly magazine of the National Grange is now available as a digital publication.

Annual (4 issue) subscription: \$16  
Single-Issue purchase: \$5 each

Get your subscription or back-issue copies by going to [www.issuu.com/grangegoodday](http://www.issuu.com/grangegoodday)

For questions, email Amanda at [Communications@nationalgrange.org](mailto:Communications@nationalgrange.org)





# Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

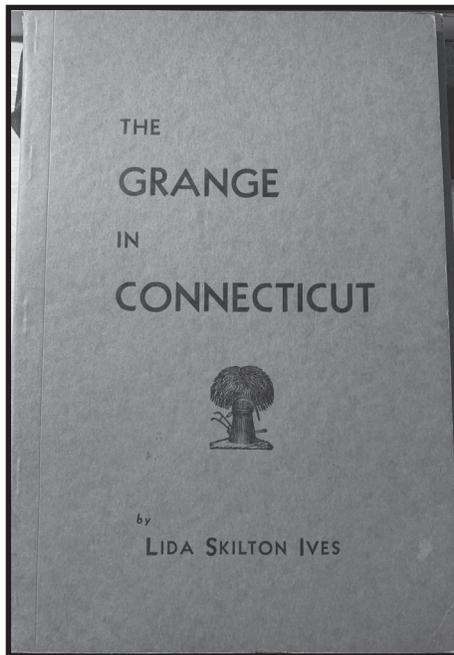
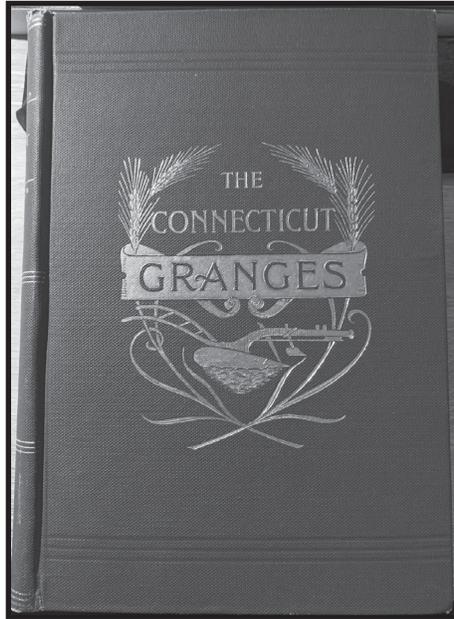
## We need your help!

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

The Public Relations Committee of the CT State Grange, under the guidance of the State Grange Executive Board, is undertaking a new project - and needs your help! We will be compiling a new book about the history of the Connecticut State Grange.

There have previously been two books written about the history of the Connecticut State Grange and the Granges throughout our State - "The Connecticut Granges" which was written by a committee of the Connecticut State Grange published in 1900, and "The Grange in Connecticut" written by Lida Skilton Ives and published in 1953. While "The Connecticut Granges" book is more prose, the Ives book is more statistical in nature.

Seeing as it has been 67 years since the Ives book was published, it is time that the CT State Grange put together a new publication about our Grange. This new book would be a compilation of information from both of the earlier books, but then taking it a step further and bringing it up to current day, and also elaborating further including more than just "statistical lists", by adding photos, news clippings, and biographies of Granges, events, activities and important Grange members/leaders throughout our history. This is a long-term project, with a goal of being released for the 140th Anniversary of the CT State Grange in 2025.



**Top: The Connecticut Granges, published in 1900 and below "The Grange in Connecticut" by Lida Ives, published in 1953.**

We have been assembling information for this project for many years, and now it is time to take it to the next step. But

we can't move forward without the help of all of our Connecticut Grange members. Here's a few of the areas where assistance is needed --

– writing biographies and sharing recollections and experiences of influential Connecticut Grange members, activities and moments in our history

– sharing old photos and historical clippings of all Connecticut Granges, but primarily of Granges that are no longer active

– researching particulars about our Grange history through sources such as old Grange minutes and publications, local historical associations, town libraries and online resources like newspapers.com

More information about this project as well as specifics about our needs will be mailed (and emailed) to each Grange in the coming weeks. If you would like to lend a hand, or have information that may help us on our journey, please send an email to [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org) or [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org).

### Save Our Grange

#### Annual Chili Cook Off Competition

Saturday, September 12, 2020  
4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Oxford Grange No. 194  
482 Oxford Road  
Oxford, CT 06478

*Event will be held outside,  
"Rain or Shine" to ensure  
Social Distancing.  
Live Entertainment!!!*

*Also Serving:  
Hot Dogs, Salads,  
Desserts, Soft Drinks*

Suggested Donation: \$12/person or \$25/family



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

Seeing that many Granges still are not meeting in person, I've been good about watching George use Zoom while attending meetings virtually. It is nice to see Grange friends - even if not in person. I'm also getting ready for our virtual State Grange Session in October. I'm hoping that we can see each other in person again soon!

For updates on all my latest adventures, please visit my Facebook page, and click the "Like" button while you are there too. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

## Cheshire Crafts



**COVID hasn't slowed the crafters at Cheshire Grange #23, making TP Roll Santas to be given to nursing home residents during the holidays.**



## Cinnamon Apple Pie Bread



Two of the most popular fall flavors are apple and cinnamon. Seeing that we don't get to see all the wonderful apple pies at the Fairs this year, here's a twist to give you that apple pie taste, without the crust with an easy Cinnamon Apple Pie Bread recipe from Wishes and Dishes!

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1/3 cup light brown sugar (not packed)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup salted butter, softened (or use unsalted and add 1/4 tsp salt)
- 2 eggs
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-3/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 apple, peeled and chopped (Granny Smith is preferred)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 9 x 5-inch loaf pan. Mix brown sugar and cinnamon together in a mixing bowl and set aside. Beat white sugar and butter together in a bowl using an electric mixer until smooth and creamy. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time, until incorporated; add vanilla extract and stir until incorporated. Combine flour and baking powder together in another bowl; stir into creamed butter mixture. Mix milk into batter until smooth.

Pour half the batter into the prepared loaf pan. Next add half the apples and half the brown sugar cinnamon mixture. Lightly pat/push apple mixture into batter. Pour the remaining batter over apple layer; top with remaining apples and add more brown sugar/cinnamon mixture.

Lightly pat/push apples into batter; swirl brown sugar mixture through apples using a finger or spoon (I cleaned my hands and used my finger because it was easier). Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center of the loaf comes out clean, 30 to 40 minutes.

Tip: If you notice it getting too brown on the top, cover it loosely with tin foil and continue baking until the inside is done.

SOURCE: <https://wishesndishes.com/cinnamon-apple-pie-bread/>



**Faith Quinlan**  
Membership Dir.  
Winchester Grange #74  
membership@ctstategrange.org

# As the health crisis continues

In the midst of social distancing, quarantines, and lockdowns, our members are in great need for social connection and community. Some members really need a way to overcome the isolation of physical distancing. Grangers are itching for social contact beyond our family, friends, and supermarket cashiers we see from a 6-foot distance. People want for community right now.

It's a good time for our members to experiment with ways communicating with other members online. It can be intimidating but.. no one has this all figured out. No One! I am happy to schedule an informal gather online for your Grange. Just a test run for you all to see

how it works with no pressure to make decisions, yet.

Members serving in our Community Granges and Pomona Granges may have more time on their hands to learn new technology and communicate with each other. Whatever the hesitancy is about meeting online, via phone or when possible to meet socially distanced outside, the fact is, Grange business cannot be put on hold. Decisions must be made to keep things moving.

Beyond catching up and checking in there are really important decisions that will keep your Grange in operation. There is so much I can do to help but I need to know what you need.

If I get feedback saying people are interested in having a informal "Virtual Meetup" where we can just socialize with friends across the state, try out Zoom, and learn

how it works, and/or if you're daring, what features you might want to try, I would be happy to host the event.

Our membership was struggling before COVID19 closed things down. Not meeting to discuss your Grange business and work out the needs it may have, will only make the situation more difficult.

For the sake of ourselves, our Grange and the Order let us all get a little uncomfortable. Let us try something new. I know our 7 Founders had to get uncomfortable to start such an amazing organization. Let us show that we are able to continue their mission.

I am here as a patient and supportive friend who wants to help in whatever way I can, please contact me and it will be my pleasure to help in whatever way I possible can.

## 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 answers were received for last month's Window pic.

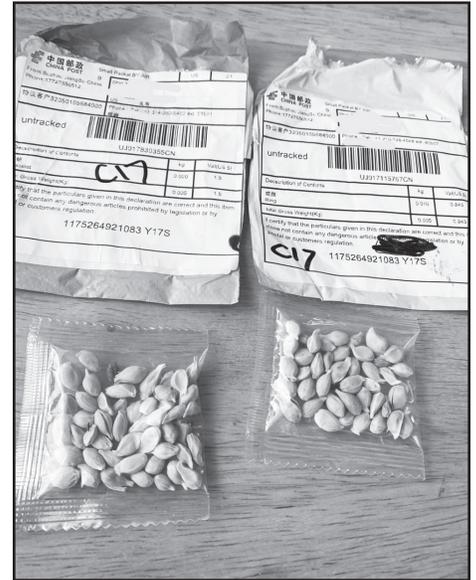
# Beware of unsolicited seeds sent from China

HARTFORD, CT – The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) have been notified that several Connecticut residents have received unsolicited packages containing seeds that appear to have originated from China. The types of seeds in the packages are unknown at this and may be invasive plant species. The packages were sent by mail and may have Chinese writing on them. Unsolicited packages of seeds have been received by people in several other states across the United States over the last several days.

Please do not plant these seeds.

CT DoAg and CAES encourage anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds from China to immediately contact their state plant regulatory officials, Dr. Kirby Stafford at 203-974-8485 (Kirby.Stafford@ct.gov) or Dr. Victoria Smith at 203-974-8474 (Victoria.Smith@ct.gov). Please hold on to the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone contacts you with further instructions.

Invasive species wreak havoc on the environment, displace or destroy native plants and insects and severely damage crops. Taking steps to prevent their introduction is the most effective method of reducing both the risk of invasive



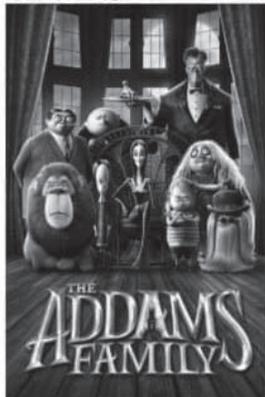
species infestations and the cost to control and mitigate those infestations.

**Greenfield Hill Grange**  
 1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield  
**DRIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT**

**OCTOBER 3, 2020**

**Raindate October 10**

**RESERVATIONS  
 REQUIRED**  
 Parking  
 Limited



7:00 pm arrival, 7:30 show

Concession: Candy, Snacks, Water  
 Soda, Italian Ice available

Admission Donation recommended

<https://www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange/>

## GRANGE BASEBALL SIGN-UP

Interested in playing Grange Baseball?  
 Sign-Up Today!

The virtual event will be held on  
 Sunday, September 20th.  
 6PM EDT/5PM CDT/ 4PM MDT/ 3PM PDT

Sign-up before Wednesday, September 16th  
[bit.ly/VirtualGrangeBaseball](http://bit.ly/VirtualGrangeBaseball)



SIGN-UP IS LIMITED TO JUNIORS ( 5- 13 )  
 YOUTH ( 14- 21 ) AND YOUNG ADULTS ( 22- 35 )



**Hertz**

Members save with Hertz.

Save up to 25% off the base rate\* at participating locations worldwide.

Use CDP# 2151204

\*Taxes & fees excluded. Terms apply.



**10% off weekly & weekend rentals\*\***

PC# 205640  
 3-day minimum  
 Ends 12/31/20

Use your CDP# with your PC# for full discount.

\*\*Discount applies to pay later base rate only. Taxes & fees excluded. Minimum three (3) day rental required. Promotion Code must be provided at time of reservation. This offer is available at participating Hertz locations in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. Age, driver, credit and qualifying rate restrictions for the renting location apply. Twenty-four hour advance reservation required. Valid on midsize car classes and greater except Dream cars. Offer has no cash value, and may not be used with other discounts, promotions or special rates. Offer valid for vehicle pick-up through 12/31/20. Subject to availability, blackout periods and additional restrictions. See terms for complete details.

# National Grange Photo Contest



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer  
Cheshire Grange #23  
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

I can't believe the Grange year is almost over and how much things have changed. By the time you are reading this each Grange Lecturer or other representative should have received a questionnaire regarding Lecturers' activities. If your Grange didn't get one, please let me know. The qualifications for Lecturers' Awards have changed drastically this year because of the virus which has suspended many of our activities. I ask you to please fill the form in and return it to me even if you don't think your Grange qualifies.

I have had several questions



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
Coventry Grange #75  
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

During these unforeseen troubling times, we all have been struggling to maintain some sort of normalcy. So far Connecticut is doing a good job at monitoring the spread of this virus. The state legislative issues so far have been concerning the adjustments that have been required due to the virus. In reality the Governor has been running the state with his Executive orders while trying to maintain the safety of the state without destroying its economy. He has set travel restrictions to assist with controlling the spread. What is good is that the states in the northeast have been working together in many instances keeping this area as stable as it

about the National Grange Photo Contest this year. We cancelled our local judging when the National Lecturer changed the rules due to the Corona Virus. So, here are the new rules from National...

The 2020 National Grange Virtual Photo Contest came about as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic causing massive changes to our annual National and State Grange conventions. This contest allows for a photo contest even without state contests. All photos entered will become the property of the National Grange and may be used in National Grange publications and virtual media.

## RULES ...

A. The National Grange Virtual Photo Contest is open to all Grangers and yet-to-be Grangers.

B. Submitted photos can be

of any subject. [Any photograph deemed inappropriate will not be judged or exhibited in the National Grange Virtual Photo Contest.]

C. All entries must be received electronically as a single (1) file no larger than 1GB via Google Forms at <http://tiny.cc/grange20pubitem> by October 31, 2020.

D. There is one division – come one, come all!

E. Each individual is limited to entering three photos.

F. Entries should be no more than one year old.

G. Any entries received after the October 31, 2020 deadline will not be judged.

PRIZES Monetary prizes will be awarded: 1st - \$50.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$30.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$20.00.

Hopefully this clarifies the contest for you. If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Take care. Stay safe.

# Where is the General Assembly?

could be.

I have had one person mention to me: where is the legislature in all this? Why have they not been involved with monitoring this crisis and addressing issues to maintain the stability of the state? The Legislature never did go back to a special session to address the 2020 adjustments to the budget. The legislators were called into session by the Governor to approve changes in absentee voting, pricing of insulin and issues concerning the unrest happening at the time. My local representative has been sending out daily emails with COVID statuses to keep us informed on how the state is doing. We need to remember that if we have concerns or need assistance on any State issue, we should be contacting our local Senators or Representatives

to express our concerns.

We are only a few weeks away from the elections so many legislators will now be focusing on their reelections. This campaign season has been fairly quiet, sitting in the background for the last few months. Now campaigning has become more active with the two parties finishing their conventions to choose their final Presidential candidates. We also will be electing our National Representatives as well as all of the State Senators and Representatives. Campaigning will be quite different from past years. I don't expect that you will see the large gatherings that usually occurred. Regardless of how the campaigning goes, we still must remember that it is important to vote for whichever candidate that you support.

# Action and Information on USPS

By Betsy Huber National Master

The United States Postal Service is part of our public trust – an essential resource for individuals and businesses, and a piece of the American fabric that has long made our nation great. The current crisis involving USPS and its solvency is not new in 2020, though the pandemic has exacerbated the problem, as it has with so many other facets of American life.

Since its earliest days in the late 1800s, the Grange has known the importance of a robust and solvent postal service and advocated for such. Specifically, the work of our members in the latter part of the 19th century to secure rural free delivery helped to elevate life in some of our nation's most remote corners and level the playing field for social connection and business.

For more than two centuries the USPS was an official department within the U.S. government and as such had a budget that helped subsidize shortfalls in revenue, meaning its operations came with a little help from its friends – the U.S. taxpayers. In 1970, as part of an overall shift toward a smaller federal government, the Postal Reorganization Act was passed, a milestone in the evolution of USPS from federal department to self-determining agency. Over the next several years, \$9 billion tax dollars were used as part of that move towards independence, and in 1982, the now-independent agency took its last no-strings-attached taxpayer dollars. Loans to the agency are still available through the federal government, but must be paid back in full.

From 1983 to 2006, under its own management with little federal interference, the agency ran a deficit budget only four

times. Then in 2006, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act - that required it to fully fund the pension of employees 75 years out - was signed and pushed the financially solvent agency into the freefall we have seen since.

Not once since 2006 has the agency turned a profit or even come close to breaking even. Their best year since the unfunded liability mandate was 2017 when they lost just over \$2.5 billion. Five years before, in 2012, the agency had its worst year on record when expenses were more than \$15.7 billion over revenue and they missed making payments into the pension plan – a failure repeated year after year since. To date, the agency – which cannot set its own rates and as such does not determine its own destiny – has paid \$278 billion into the fund, but owes more than \$120 billion.

The act also mandated specific service goals for the USPS, weakened the provisions in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 that protected rural and remote post offices, and created a postal rate cap that has been beneficial to consumers but undermines the agency's ability to raise the funds necessary for the mandated pension payments.

In 2016, then Postmaster General Megan Brennan told Congress the agency would run out of funds by 2024. By May 2020, COVID-19 shifted the timeline dramatically with Brennan's deadline changing to first September 2020, then April 2021 as some momentum picked back up in the economy and as consumers rallied around the beloved agency, purchasing stamps and sending letters.

Americans rely on the Postal Service to deliver not only correspondence, but income



**Betsy Huber**

checks, tax documents, and other sensitive materials daily. In 2019, the USPS handled more than 140 billion items, down from its peak of 213 billion in 2006.

The USPS is also the essential connection for many rural Americans who have been left behind in the great buildout of the internet age. Millions of Americans have no high-speed internet at home – about 30 million according to the FCC, or upwards of 41.2 million individuals as reported by a study conducted by BroadbandNow which has highlighted the inaccurate methods used to produce broadband maps.

The move by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to have Congress return and the emergency hearing with recently-appointed Postmaster General Louis DeJoy slated for Friday, August 20 is necessary. However, plans for legislation to restrict the USPS's options to make its way out of the financial quicksand is equally short-sighted if it does not include an effort on the part of both the House and Senate to somehow repeal or reform this pension mandate.

The USPS Fairness Act, which would undo the pension pre-funding requirement, passed the House in 2017 and again just before the pandemic began this year, but has never been acted upon by the Senate.

# Thorns and Weeds



**Charles W. Dimmick**  
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

*“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.*

*Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”*

(Matthew 13:4-8)

*(...) The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.*

(Matthew 13: 22)

The parable of the sower and the seed is familiar to most of us, and thousands of sermons have been preached on this parable. I

## In Memoriam

Delores Merncy  
Beacon Valley #103

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”



Illustration of “Weeds and Thorns” by Gerald Fenwick Metcalf, published in 1907

want to focus on one small part, the seed that fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Jesus’ explanation of this is given in verse 22, quoted above.

Jesus lists two different distractions that keep us from properly responding to God’s word. First are the worries of this life. I suspect that for most of us this is the main problem. We become so distracted by not only distress and trouble but also the need to make decisions [or more precisely our feeling that we need to make

decisions], that we focus almost entirely on this world, forgetting almost entirely about heavenly things and those things which God wants us to do. We forget to love God with all our heart; we forget to love our neighbor as ourselves. We even forget to pray.

As for the “deceitfulness of wealth”, I believe it is not the wealth itself which is the problem, but what we do with it, especially our possessions. We are far too much distracted by our cell phones, our television, our computers, our cars. If we have a large house and yard, we are distracted by keeping up the house and tending the yard. All this contributes to forgetting the Lord and his commandments. Remember when Jesus told the rich young man “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.” When the young man heard this, he went away in sorrow, because he had many possessions.



Ekonk Comm. Grange promotes its new “Little Free Library” (far right sign)