



# Have a great Grange year



**George Russell**  
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169  
president@ctstategrange.org

Let's have a great Grange year by having a net gain in membership, the lifeblood of our Granges. Last year we had several Granges bring in new members and restarted Redding Grange. Unfortunately, Colchester Grange has turned in its Charter and will be merging with Coventry Grange No. 75.

When Sharon and I attended the National Convention last November, we brought home certificates for the Honor Grange with a net gain in membership. The Granges in Connecticut for 2020 are Beacon Valley #103, Bridgewater #153, Cannon #152, Lyme #147, Norfield #146, Vernon #52 and Winchester #74. Granges receiving certificates for 2021 are Cannon #152, Colchester #78, Hillstown #87, Oxford #194 and Riverton #169. Congratulations to these Granges for their fine work and recruiting new members. I have handed out the certificates to Mountain Laurel Pomona and will be sending the rest of them in the mail. Congratulations again.

The Roberts family from Riverton Grange, was recognized for their membership of five generations. Congratulations to Dave Roberts and Natalie who are the fourth

and fifth generation members at Riverton Grange.

It was so good to see so many Grangers having holiday

celebrations at their Grange Halls! Getting back to potluck dinners, cookie exchanges, public dinners and even visits from Santa.

Let's all work together and move forward in 2022 and have a great year!

## How the Grange influenced...

# Saving the Mark Twain House

by *Todd A. Gelineau*

The Mark Twain House in Hartford has been a crown jewel in Connecticut for generations though it may not have survived without an uprising of support from the public and the Grange in 1922.

Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, built a grand house resembling a Mississippi river boat in the Hartford neighborhood known as Nook Farm which was, "a tightly knit community of intellectuals, political leaders, and reformers who together and individually wielded an outsized influence on the country's intellectual and social development."<sup>1</sup>

Completed in 1874, the Clemens family lived in the home for 17 years, among the most productive of his career writing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), *A Tramp Abroad* (1880), *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), *The Prince and the Pauper* (1881), *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889). His office was on the top floor of the home where he spread manuscripts across a desk and the billiards table.

The possible demolition of the home had its roots in the presidential election of 1884. Twain was a "staunch Hartford Republican"<sup>2</sup> who joined the *Hartford Daily Courant* in a crusade against Senator James G. Blaine of Maine who was believed to have been trading money from railroad companies for legislative favors.

Clemens described the scene around his billiards table in his *Autobiography*. "All these men were Republicans, but they had no affection for Blaine," he wrote. "For two years, the *Hartford Courant* had been holding Blaine up to scorn and contumely." When news arrived that Blaine

*Continued next page...*



# Mark Twain

*Continued from page one ...*

had been chosen, Clemens said, “the butts of the billiard cues came down on the floor with a bump.”<sup>2</sup>

After the election, a large number of Hartford Republicans, along with the Hartford Courant, started backing Blaine. Clemens and a few other friends refused and joined independent Republicans known as the “Mugwumps”, who supported other candidates. Clemens favored Grover Cleveland.

“Having previously reported on



Mark Twain’s Billiards Room where many of his classic books were written.

nearly everything Mark Twain said or did, The Courant didn’t cover the mugwumps’ local activities or Twain’s participation. The whole affair rankled in one Courant editor’s mind and would burst forth nearly four decades later, and it nearly doomed Mark Twain’s home to demolition.”<sup>2</sup>

Clemens earned a great deal of money from his books, writings and lectures but lost much of it due to his poor choices in investments. His largest setback was called the Paige Compositor, a complicated typesetting machine which proved to be imprecise. Clemens declared bankruptcy, closed the Hartford home, and moved to Europe where he and his family could live less expensively while writing and lecturing.

In August 1896, Clemens’ daughter Susy contracted spinal meningitis while visiting friends in Hartford and died in the home. The home that the family had loved so much had become associated with the death of their beloved Susy. They would never live in the home again.

In 1903 Clemens sold the home to the new president of The Hartford insurance company, Richard M. Bissell. The Bissells lived there for many years until leasing it to

the Kingswood School in 1917. The house was again sold in 1920 with a stipulation that the school remain there until 1922 at which time the new owners announced plans to demolish the home for construction of an apartment building.

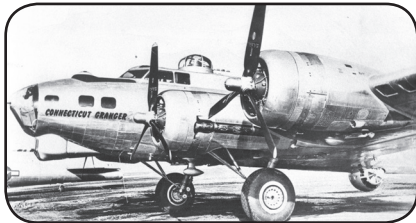
Even though Mark Twain had died in 1910, the hard feelings from the 1884 election persisted. The Hartford Courant was silent when the developer’s plans were announced until Apr. 20, 1920 when the following was printed...

“Every Grange in the United States will be asked to support the movement to preserve as a public memorial the Hartford home of Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain). This was the unanimous vote of Farmington Grange No. 49, at its meeting Wednesday. Arthur J. Birdseye, master of the Grange, said yesterday that a communication requesting such co-operation will be sent to every Grange in the United States. Aid will also be sought when it becomes time to open a financial campaign for funds with which to acquire the historic property on Farmington Avenue, through condemnation proceedings now contemplated by the Connecticut State Park Commission.

The article went on to report on  
*Continued next page...*

## 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



Continued from page two ...

a Hebrew Record editorial on the home... "This cannot be. The State of Connecticut cannot permit itself to be pointed at as one that did not do all in its power to show its full appreciation of the greatness of one of its sons who attained world distinction. Men of Clemens' type are not born every day or in every country. "The Hebrew Record" feeling as it does about this matter is ready to co-operate as far as possible in helping to preserve the homestead of the Connecticut humorist."

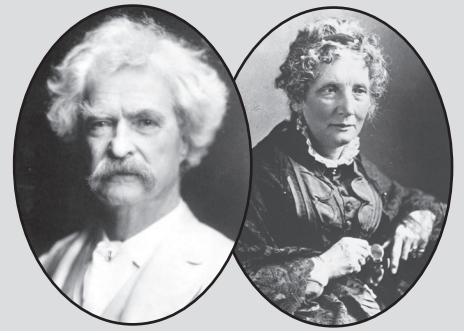
In 1929 the Mark Twain Memorial and Library Commission was able to purchase the property with the ultimate goal of restoring the home to its original appearance. In the meantime, the Hartford Public Library operated a branch on the first floor of the home and the upper floors continued to be rented to tenants while the Memorial Commission worked on restoration plans.

While we do not know how much

# Twain sent his tie instead...

In an April 15, 2007 article, the Boston Globe retold a familiar story recited by docents at the Mark Twain House for generations...

"One afternoon in 1876, Samuel Clemens crossed his yard to visit his neighbor Harriet Beecher Stowe (author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*). When he returned, his wife chided him for having gone out without a cravat.



Clemens

Beecher Stowe

Clemens, known to the world by his pen name, Mark Twain, promptly placed a tie on a tray and had his butler deliver it to Stowe with a note apologizing for his faux pas. Stowe replied immediately, quipping that Clemens had discovered a new principle—right up there with Sir Isaac Newton's law of gravitation – "that a man can call by installments."

money was raised from Grangers for the project, we do know the voices of Grangers throughout the state and nation raised awareness of the building's plight paving the way for its ultimate restoration.

Today the home's Louis Comfort Tiffany interiors are fully restored with many of the furnishings

belonging to the family back in the home they so loved. The Mark Twain House and the Harriet Beecher Stowe home were designated National Historic Landmarks in 1963 ensuring they will never be threatened with demolition again.

<sup>1</sup> *Hartford's Nook Farm*, by Jennifer Frank, Connecticut Historical Society.

<sup>2</sup> *Connecticut Explored*, by Steve Courtney

## Updates on 2022 programs



**Dawn Percoski**  
Family Activities Dir.  
Vernon Grange No. 52  
CWA@cistategrange.org

I just wanted to wish you all Happy New Year! What a year we had. While many are starting to meet back in person, I hope you take the time to contact members who have not been able to come to your Grange meeting. It's hard to get out during the winter months. So please check on those you have not heard from. Consider making a list of members and then divvy them up among yourselves. Agree to send them a small note or card. It's always nice to receive Snail mail and it is an easy way to stay in contact. It can really make the difference to include them with updates on current events. Let

them know what the new contests are as many still don't have computer access. Ask them if they could make your meetings via the telephone. Some may not know it is available.

I have sent out all the information packets to the Chairman and there is also the CT State website for those who are computer savvy. All forms

and patters can be downloaded. If you have not received your packet, please send a note to the CWA email. The New England Needlework Contest has made some significant changes. We heard you and

listened! The new form is also on line. Also included in the packets are several new patterns. There are new baby hats and blankets for the preemie babies in NCIUs. You can also go to the website and download the scrubbies pattern. They are always in need of them at the Grange Building. I look forward to seeing all that you are making. See you next month!



### REMINDER



Grange is a proper noun and a registered trademark. The first G should always be capitalized.

Okay

# Meet your new State Lecturer



**Dave Roberts**  
State Lecturer  
Riverton Grange No. 169  
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

Happy New Year everyone! New Year's brings with it new opportunities for all of us and as your new Connecticut State Grange Lecturer, I wanted to start slowly sharing some thoughts and ideas with all of you.

I must say that no one was as surprised as my family and me when I attended the Connecticut State Grange Convention last year in Norwich as the newly elected President/Master of Riverton Grange (and newly elected Vice President/Overseer of Mountain Laurel Pomona Grange) and received 3 votes on the first ballot for State Lecturer. 13 individuals received votes on the first ballot and after many of these folks declined the position for a variety of reasons, I was elected on the third ballot. After the voting, one member told me that I was the first male State Lecturer in over 5 decades. Wow, breaking those glass ceilings! Another Subordinate Grange lecturer wrote me a note saying "You are very brave taking on State Lecturer after Marge; good luck to you!" HOW TRUE!

So let us begin our new journey together by sharing with you a little about my background. My great grandparents were charter members of Riverton Grange in 1908 and my family (Grandmother, father, me and now our daughter) has belonged continuous to Riverton Grange for five generations. I joined Riverton Grange 45-years ago and served as Assistant Steward, Overseer, and was fortunate to be a fifth, sixth and seventh degree member. I then went off to college and had an extensive a career that started in the Pentagon, saw service

with the U.S. Air Force in Europe, U.S. Congress, private industry, non-profit industry and for the last 12 years I was an elected official in southern California. I retired in 2017 and moved back home to Connecticut where my family has lived since 1629. I am a member of the 13th generation of my family living here in Connecticut.

My spouse Wally and I have six children ages 9 years to 26 years old; four of our six children still live with us at home. Our 26-year old serves in the U.S. Air Force and is stationed with his wife in New Mexico. Our 21-year old graduated from Granby Memorial High School and is employed full-time in Massachusetts. In addition, I serve as a conservator for my 89-year old

Mom, 97-year old uncle and 58-year old cousin. All in all, we are very blessed.

Both Todd Gelineau and Terri Fassio have been working to help me get up to speed as the new State Lecturer. I sure appreciate both of them and their service! New monthly Lecturer reporting forms have been sent to all subordinate Grange lecturers with my contact information.

My hope is to use this column to spotlight some of the great work our local Granges are sponsoring around the state of Connecticut to serve their communities. Please include any information in your reports that I might share to encourage other Granges to consider undertaking.

Here's to a very happy and healthy new year!

## Norfield hosts Paint and Sip



A great time was had by all at the Paint & Sip held at Norfield Grange No. 146 on Dec. 7. Thanks go to Agata Lipnik-Tria, the amazing instructor who made it all so easy and so much FUN! Can't wait for the next one. Stay tuned for an announcement for an upcoming date.





# Evaluate the “health” of your Grange



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

Recently, I participated in a membership training course where we were asked to evaluate the “health” of our membership and our current recruitment and retention programs. Although no one in the workshop had a “healthy” score, I learned that we all had “health” issues.

Things considered “unhealthy” are groups where the average age of the membership and leadership are aged over 65. Although good leadership at any age is not to be dismissed, there is a benefit to a younger leader or adding younger members within the leadership team. This ensures a future where we have the next generation in the “pipeline.”

Another sign of “poor health” in an organizations’ membership is lack of engagement with younger generations, in our meetings or activities. The number one cause of extinction for a group like the

Grange, is that we age out. We age out because the leadership has not ensured younger people. These people must be equipped and prepared to take over these important roles.

These next words may feel painful to read, but, I want to share all that I learned. The top complaints made by newer and younger members (people under the age of 40) stated they feel like they don’t fit in at these older organizations. They feel like there is no place for them to support the group in a responsible or professional manner. They feel like they may never get a chance at leadership because of their age or newness plus they are not invited to participate.

To be “healthier” this workshop believes though an influx of new members seems like the right thing to do to grow, that will not succeed if they do not feel like there is a place for them in our community (Grange community).

Do we risk everything to hold onto all the traditions? Do we forego some rigidity to make room for fresh thoughts and opportunities?

I believe our eldest members and

leaders are invaluable to our continued success. Maybe we just start opening opportunities to younger members who want to engage and let them try things in a new way, lets mix them deeper into our community. This means, and I know I am saying something monumental for Connecticut, relaxing the fixated hierarchy and tradition from the State level to the community Grange level.

Our leadership on every level needs to represent the community in which we live. Do you see yourself represented in the leadership? Do you see the people of your family, town, city, state represented? Are we truly representative of our community? Are we truly prioritizing our succession plan? Are we engaging the next generations of members?

In 2022 my team and I will still be here to support membership growth and retention programs but, remembering a discussion about how we engage younger members and offer them opportunities should be equal in our priorities.

eliminated due to cost in the 1960s. In preparing material for the new Grange History Book, we have relied greatly on the Grange reports in pre-1960 Journals to nail down historical timelines. It’s much more difficult in the years following as there is considerably less material to draw from.

So... we are asking all Granges to send a brief summary of your activities during the last Grange year (Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021). These summaries can be as short as a paragraph but can be longer if necessary. We do reserve the right to edit all reports for grammar, content and length. Reports can be sent to the State Grange Office or via email to my address listed in the header in this column.

Until next time, have a Happy New Year!

## Notes from the State Office



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

December was the month of mailings. Just after Christmas a mailing went out with information on the 2022 Bonding Program. Unfortunately this information was very late in getting to me and the deadline from National is months shorter this time around. PLEASE get your bonding payments in to me before February 15. Some Granges asked for increased bonding amounts last year but submitted after the deadline. If you do not have

your bonding request in on time, it will be renewed at the rate from the previous year and your Grange will be billed for the amount. All Granges are required to carry bonding insurance. If your bonding lapses under the National Grange policy, you are ineligible to reapply for TWO years. To avoid this complication, we renew for all Granges and hope to collect later. It’s just so much easier if everyone responds by the deadline!

A separate letter was also sent out regarding the Journal of Proceedings. At State Session, Delegates approved a resolution re-instating the Grange reports printed in the Journal. This was a practice



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

### A little new year housekeeping

*Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director*

It's a new year - and the perfect time for Grange housekeeping. Keep these points in mind as you plan out the months ahead.

- The Virtual Social Hours will continue in 2022! The first one will be held on Thursday, January 20, at 7:00 PM, where we will be discussing the Connecticut State Grange History Book Project. There will be updates on the book content, details of what we are still looking for, and even a sneak peak of what a few of the pages will look like. No Virtual Social Hour will be held in February, but the schedule will pick up again in March. The 2022 schedule will be published in the February CT Granger issue.

- Speaking of the Connecticut State Grange History Book Project, have you submitted your entries for the Book Naming Contest? Entries are due February 1, 2022. Details can be found on the CT State Grange website and in the CT Granger.

- Now is the time to start planning your activities for Grange Month. Grange Month is held annually each April. Need help generating ideas for a project or open house, or with execution? Contact Faith and the Membership Committee as they are waiting to lend a hand. [membership@ctstategrange.org](mailto:membership@ctstategrange.org).

- Need help promoting your upcoming Grange events and activities? Contact the Public Relations Committee for assistance (just be sure to not wait until the last minute - the more time we have, the better we can facilitate the promotions). [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org) and [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org)

- Do you use your Grange's

custom email address? Each Grange has been given a custom email address ([yourgrange@ctstategrange.org](mailto:yourgrange@ctstategrange.org)). If you are not using your email, contact Public Relations Committee for the login/password and access information. Note that these email addresses are out in the public, and are receiving emails. If you haven't checked your account in awhile, perhaps now is the time to see what communications your Grange may be missing?

- Does your Grange have a Facebook Page? When is the last time you posted an update? We know that some Granges have not posted an update in months, and in some cases, even years. It only takes a moment to say hello and announce when your next meeting or event will be. Need help navigating the new Facebook administration tools? We can help!

- Thinking of setting up a Facebook Page for your Grange? Please contact the Public Relations Committee for assistance before you dive in - to make sure that you follow the guidelines of Facebook and the CT State Grange Social Media policy. We prefer to set-up the page for your Grange, and then turn it over to your Grange to manage, to ensure that your page will get the most likes and views.

- Is your Grange interested in expanding its Social Media offerings beyond Facebook? Platforms

like Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat, Pinterest and more can be beneficial tools for promoting Granges. Contact [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org) for all the details.

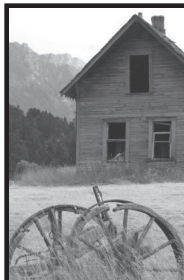
- Looking for signage for your Grange? Give the Public Relations a call! We can work with you to help fulfill your signage needs. We can produce everything from lawn signs to banners of all sizes, to die-bond and metal signs, and much more.

- Looking for a fundraiser for your Grange? Check out the Custom CT Grange Hand Towels! We have partnered with Ann Johnson at Etceteranna to make these gorgeous heavy-duty custom embroidered hand towels for your Grange. Ann will donate \$2 from the sale of each of the towels to the Grange of your choice. Place your order on Etsy at [Etsy.com/shop/etceteranna](https://www.etsy.com/shop/etceteranna)

- Looking for custom T-Shirts for your Grange? This is a great fundraiser! Contact CT State Grange Secretary Todd Gelineau or Public Relations Co-Director Terri Fassio for all the details. Small quantities available. Shirts come in a range of sizes and colors. We will work with you to create a custom design just for your Grange.

- When is the last time your Grange had a custom brochure? All of the promotional pieces (brochures, posters and flyers) we offer can be personalized for your Grange. Looking for something even more tailored to your Grange? We can make that happen too! Contact the Public Relations Committee for details.

Drop us a line. We're here to help! E-mail: [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org) or [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org).



### THE HATCH ACT

After years of the National Grange pushing for increased agricultural education, in 1887, they helped pass the Hatch Act to fund research at agricultural experiment stations.





**E. CONNECTICUT POMONA #14**

*Corr: Noel Miller*

We had a great Christmas dinner and game meeting at Ekonk Community Grange. The Gift Basket was won by Shelley Racine. Letters are being sent out to Granges for help with a Degree Day to be held on April 2. Send back to President Noel Miller ASAP. Please help if you can. Happy New Year's to all Grangers.

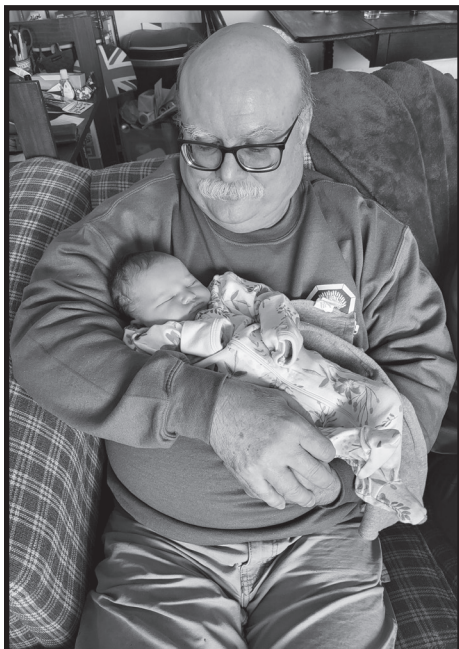
**GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26**

*Corr: Katherine Ruff*

**Jan. 6:** "New Year, New Beginnings: 7:30 p.m. Ref. Doris Monaco & Priscilla Schmartz

**Jan. 15:** Card Party (Maybe)

**Feb 3:** "Be My Valentine" 7:30 p.m. Ref. Dan and Ann Posuniak



Noel Miller spends time with his new granddaughter Eloise Kay Pellitier, born Nov. 30, 2021.

# Ekonk had breakfast with Santa



Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 in Sterling held a special Breakfast with Santa. A pancake breakfast was held on December 12 from 8 to 10 A.M. Raffle baskets were offered and donations of food were accepted for the local food pantry and the families Ekonk Grange helps. We also accepted personal care items, stationery and other items for the Veterans home in Jewett City. Special thanks to Olsen's Christmas Tree Farm again for the tree donation that made our event so festive. Santa and Mrs. Claus loved the tree and another family is now loving it even more!

News:

Glastonbury members are getting some names and address of prospective members together and sending them to the Secretary. She will be putting an "AD: in the Glastonbury Citizen looking for some new members. Following the AD in the paper we will send out a letter to some prospective members and see if we have any luck.

We are also going to put a display in the Historical Society. They are looking for businesses in town who have been in business 100 plus years. We surely fall in that category as we have been in town for 137 years. Hopefully we can reach 150.

Sending best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**SENEXT GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

**Jan. 19:** Resolutions 2022 & Health Screening

We continue to have a busy season. We are holding monthly meetings. We continue to have groups using our hall. A yoga group meets several days each week. A home school session is held regularly in our hall. We also

have a group using the hall for corn hole meets. We would like to have an open house for promoting other local organizations similar to a "job fair".

We held a very successful Thanksgiving pie sale these included pumpkin, blueberry, apple and pork pies. We will have a similar pie sale for Christmas. We are discussing other ideas for the winter months including a cooking session on a weekly basis. We also would like to do a paint night. It was discussed to have potluck dinners on Saturday or Sunday.

We made and distributed Christmas cards to members.

In December we had a very successful craft fair in our hall for many local businesses. This was in conjunction with the annual Woodstock Winter Festival. It was good to see so many buyers visit our hall to purchase items to support local businesses. We also sold refreshments including a delicious minestrone soup. We continue to update our hall and have many displays for the public to see when they use our hall. We continue to

*Continued next page ...*



make our recycled shopping bags for sale. These are popular and sell for \$5.

We hope to see members and visitors at our monthly meetings.

**VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**Jan. 7:** Fairy Tales

**Feb. 4:** Eyes to the Skies

December cold put us back on Zoom with 14 attending. We learned the history of some favorite Carols and had a fun quiz. The program was filled in with a Politically Correct Christmas and a closing prayer. With the expectation of cold weather more Zoom meetings are likely. Stay tuned, we may have a January thaw. Who knows. Everyone was encouraged to keep collecting canceled stamps for community service and think ahead for the next project around Valentine's Day. Cherie always has something for us to do. Visitors are always welcome. Please come. The door is open wide. We wish one and all a very Happy New Year.

**COVENTRY GRANGE #75**

*Corr: Noel Miller*

We welcome members of Colchester Grange No. 78 for merging with Coventry Grange. We are all eager to see you at our next meeting. Noel and Marcia are grandparents with our youngest, Jaykaye, giving birth to a baby girl born November 30, 2021, Eloise Kay Pellitier. Jaykaye is a member of Coventry Grange. Happy New Year.

**N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Jan. 14:** Surprise

**Jan. 28:** Snow Date for January

The Great Grange Above has again benefitted from our loss. Anita Ames, a Golden Sheaf member who, as a member of a trio, won the State Grange Talent Contest back in the 70's has joined the Grange's celestial choir. George Franklin Miner, who ran Maple Dawn Farm in town for many years and made the best maple syrup we have ever tasted and was our Master in 1958-

59 has also passed on. They will be sadly missed.

For some happy news, our Flora, Flo Mullane, has returned home after a lengthy stay in the hospital. We are hoping she will be back with us soon.

Our one meeting in January will be hosted by Cheree Miner and is listed in the book as a "surprise." You will have to come and find

out what it will be; but we have enjoyed the programs Cheree and family have presented when the Ag. Committee was in charge and look forward to an entertaining evening. And if that white stuff is drifting gently from the sky as we write this will just go away and stay away until about March, next time we will tell you all about dandy December.

**Senexet celebrates the holidays**



Senexet Grange No. 40 (Woodstock) celebrated the holidays with a Grange Christmas party (top left photo) and a Winter Festival.

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.





**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**Jan. 11:** Auld Lang Syne, Ref. Mark & Tracie Dzurnak

**Jan. 25:** Baby, It's Cold Outside, Ref. Marie Steiner

**Feb. 8:** My Funny Valentine, Ref. Sue Addison

**Feb. 22:** CWA Program - Country Store, Ref. Ramona Fassio

Winchester Grange met on Dec. 14 for the annual Christmas Meeting. A \$5 grab bag gift exchange with a "twist" was enjoyed. All members sat in a circle as the Lecturer read a story with "lefts" and "rights" in it that directed members to pass their gift one way or the other. When the story was over, your gift was the last gift passed to you. All seemed to have a good time and was nice to celebrate Christmas in a more "normal" way after so many months of being away from each other last year.

Our schedule of upcoming meetings is listed above. Please feel free to join us. If you would like to receive Zoom information to attend virtually, please email [info@winchestergrange.org](mailto:info@winchestergrange.org).

**TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100**

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

At our December meeting we had a grab bag and our Christmas cookie project. Members make four dozen of the same kind of cookie and we put each kind of cookie in individual baggies. Then we filled 16 decorated gift bags with these cookies. The gift bags went to Town Hall Social Services to give out to shut-ins or people living alone. We then delivered cookie gift bags to 8 of our members plus 1 prospective

*Continued next page...*

# Prelli Memorial Walkway dedicated



Members of the Prelli Family gather for a photo at the dedication of the Peggy & Frank Prelli Memorial Walkway at Riverton Grange Hall in Dec.

*From the Register Citizen (Torrington), Dec. 7, 2021*

Riverton Grange #169 officially dedicated a newly installed handicapped accessible ramp into the 168-year old Grange Hall on Dec. 4.



The event coincided with the date of the founding of the National Grange. Riverton Grange President Dave Roberts served as Master of Ceremonies, and members Phil Prelli and Mark Prelli spoke about the meaning of the ramp and how pleased they were to see it become a reality, according to a statement.

Under the leadership of former Grange president Susan Belle Isle, a committee was formed and led by Roberts, "to investigate how the former Grist Mill turned into Grange Hall could be made accessible to all," he said. The

committee worked with Mike Patterson and Doyle's Medical Supply LLC to design a new entrance ramp, secure \$10,000 in funding, and receive variances from the Town of Barkhamsted to install the ramp.

Roberts thanked the town, First Selectman Don Stein and administrative aide Debbie Brydon for all their help in securing approvals to build the ramp. He thanked Mike Patterson and Doyle's for designing a creative new ramp for the hall. He also thanked Phil Prelli and his family, Mark Prelli and his family, Gail Prelli and her family, the Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Mike Patterson, and an anonymous local business donor for contributing all \$10,000 for the project.

During the ribbon cutting, Roberts stated that "Making our historic Grange hall accessible to all has been a dream in our community for many decades. Today that dream comes true and now all can again come inside to enjoy our well-known Grange hospitality."

The ramp was dedicated as the "Peggy & Frank Prelli Memorial Walkway" in honor the late Past Connecticut State Grange President Frank Prelli and his late wife Peggy who served as the first female President of Riverton Grange. Two of the Prelli's three children helped cut the ribbon with Roberts. A new sign was also unveiled at the top of the ramp.



member. It seemed that the members enjoyed the conversations as much as they appreciated the cookies. We are at the beginning of developing a new community service project for this year that is very exciting and should also lead to new membership for our Grange.

January 13, 2022 (the past year seemed to fly by) program will be Traveling in This Weather. Anyone who has visited our hall will appreciate that the weather on top of the "hill" is always snowier and colder. As usual we will have refreshments at 7 P.M. before the meeting which begins at 7:30 P.M.

By the time you are reading this

we wish all of you a belated Happy New Year.

**BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**

*Corr: Al Maddox*

We draped our charter in memory of Erma Honegger, Dora Honegger and Frances Whitehead.

We had a great time at the Painted Pony for our Christmas Dinner.

Next meeting will be Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 2 P.M.

**RIVERTON GRANGE #169**

*Corr: Dave Roberts*

It is hard to believe our beloved Riverton Grange is turning 114

years old in January 2022. Lecturer Raine will provide an impactful program to help us celebrate this special occasion.

Due to the pandemic, I have decided to offer both in-person and Zoom attendance options for our next meeting on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.

Looking ahead, our next Riverton Grange-hosted Veterans Salute program will be on Sunday, January 16 at 6:00 P.M. at the Barkhamsted Senior Center. These Veterans Salutes have proven to be very popular and very inspirational. We hope you can join us each month (usually) on the first Sunday at 6:00

# Riverton Grange hosts Festival of Trees



Riverton Grange wishes to thank everyone who came out to this year's Tree Festival. We are still adding up the pounds of food brought in but wish to congratulate the Lions Club and Girl Scout 40338 as our winners, bringing in the most food. We raised almost \$1000 for this event that will be given to our local Food bank! The tree that collects the most in pounds of food goods collected, wins a prize.







### **NUTMEG POMONA #16**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Nutmeg Pomona enjoyed a meeting and Christmas Party at Cheshire Grange on December 5th. Fairly good attendance - 27. Would love to have participation from more of the Granges in our Pomona.

Sorry to hear that John Haines is (he could be home by the time you read this) a resident at Shady Knoll Health Center in Seymour. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Our next meeting is March 27th at Cheshire Grange and we will be conferring the Fifth Degree. Rehearsal date is March 21st.

### **CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

**Jan. 5:** Omitted

**Jan. 19:** Agricultural Program and Refreshments

As I write this, after a two year absence, we hope to have our open Christmas meeting with a grab bag, card exchange and refreshments on December 15th. We all are looking forward to this meeting. Our attendance has been good since resuming our two meetings a month schedule. In our new year, we hope to come up with some fund raising activities to enhance our treasury. Let's hope our Connecticut Granges will be able to get back to business in 2022.

### **HARMONY GRANGE #92**

*Corr: George Ward*

Harmony Grange was saddened with the news that Golden Sheaf member, Barbara Standley, had passed away. Barbara was Lady

Assistant Steward for Harmony Grange for many years.

On December 5, Harmony Grange held a very successful Christmas Fair at the hall. Much of the success was due to the efforts of new and seasoned members who worked hard sorting, pricing, cooking, and decorating. Expenses were minimal, so a tidy profit was made.

An abbreviated meeting and Carol singing was being planned but was postponed due to the rising COVID concerns and will be held at a later date when it is safe to meet again. Some entertainment will be planned to reward the worker at the fair.

Harmony Grange wishes good health and success in whatever you do for the New Year.

### **BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

We held our December meeting and Christmas party last night and a good time was had by all. Prior to the meeting, we had a ziti and meatball supper prepared by Pat and Ron Fischer- absolutely delicious. Adding to the supper were Marianne Nielsen, Ron Gunther, Judi Reynolds, Tom Honyotski, Tracey Marsala and Marie (a new member).

Our January meeting is on the 14th. Program and refreshments in charge of Joanne Cipriano. Theme "Strawberries."

We continue to hold our tag sales on the third Saturday of each month. We had a good profit each month. Time 9 to 3.

We also have Open Mic on the third Saturday from 6 to 9. We invite our fellow Grangers to come and enjoy the music or participate. You will enjoy your evening.

### **GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133**

*Corr: Jim and Lori Golias*

Happy New Year. Hoping 2022 will bring health and happiness to you and yours. Praying for an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Our Holiday Pasta dinner was a great success. Food, friends, a few word scramble games. It was nice to have so many gather to ring in the

season.

We will be hosting a Souper Supper on January 29, 2022 - weather dependent. A variety of soups and grilled cheese. and BINGO!

February 12 we will host our Valentine Dinner. Menu to be determined.

March 12, we will celebrate the Luck 'O the Irish - with our popular Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner.

All events weather dependent (and according to whatever coronavirus mandates come our way) Call Jim for reservations. 203.259.8023.

Many thanks to all who donated to the VA. Greenfield Hill Grange helped to stock the Veteran's clothes closet with T-shirts, boxers and socks. Thanks to Nancy Olson for delivering all the donations. also puzzles, puzzle books, games and snacks.

Happy New Year!

### **LYME GRANGE #147**

*Corr: Lois Evankow*

**Jan. 6:** Shall we have snow?

**Feb. 3:** Antiques Road Show

**March 3:** Beware the Ides of March

Due to our furnace acting up and no heat, we postponed our November meeting one week. Our Master appointed his committees for the year. Everyone was very cooperative.

The Hamburg Fair was discussed at great length and we are planning a super-duper fair for August 2022. We shall need all hands on deck to make it work. Volunteers are most welcome.

Voted to have a potluck supper in December. Also to have a furnace professional service our furnace.

Everyone have a happy and healthy new year.

### **HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Jan. 14:** Baby It's Cold Outside

**Jan. 28:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

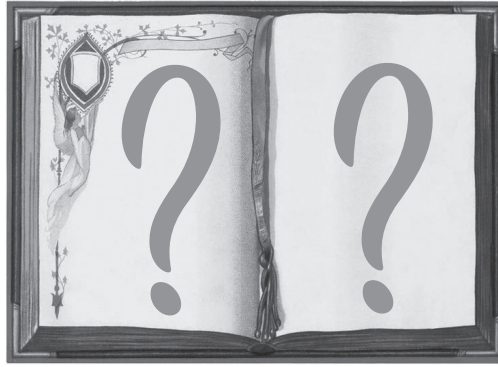
**Feb. 11:** Presidents

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

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

# Help us name the Grange History Book

Help! We have been stumped on what to name the new CT State Grange History Book, so we are asking our Grange members for a little help. To make it fun, we are going to hold a book naming contest! We want your creative and catchy suggestions and ideas! A good title is what draws readers in. It should be unique, descriptive, provide insight into the content, and be memorable.



submissions will be accepted) will begin on March 16, 2022 and run until May 1, 2022. The title with the most votes will win. The winner will be announced on June 24, 2022.

The winner will be acknowledged as such in the book. We will be honoring the winner at the 2025 CT State Grange Session by presenting them with one copy of the book, then the CT State

The book, which will chronicle the history of the CT State Grange and its Granges, as well as contain historical highlights, officer and member spotlights, member memories, photos and more, will be released for the 140th Anniversary of the CT State Grange in 2025.

Grange will provide one additional copy of the book to be donated to the library or historical association/museum of the winner's choice.

The Contest opened to Grange Members for submissions on September 1, 2021. The CT State Grange will accept submissions through February 1, 2022, and will announce the top 5 submissions as selected by the CT State Grange Executive Board on March 15, 2022. Public voting (via online form and paper/USPS mailed submissions only - no email

The entry names submitted may NOT be either "The Grange in Connecticut" or "The Connecticut Granges" as both of these names were used for previous historical Connecticut Grange publications.

Complete contest rules and information were mailed into each Grange last fall, and are currently available on the Connecticut State Grange website.

Let's have some fun, and give this project a name! For more information, send an email to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org).

Greenfield Hill Grange ~ 1878 Hill Side Road ~ Fairfield CT

**FUNDRAISER** Souper Supper Fundraiser  
 Soup, Bingo and Souper Prizes!  
 Socially--Distant table set ups

January 29, 2022  
 Dinner at 6:00  
 Doors open at 5:30

**MENU**  
 Variety of Home Made SOUPS  
 Grilled Cheese  
 Bread and Butter  
 Soda,  
 Coffee & Dessert

**BINGO**

www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange  
 @GHGrangePfd

Call Jim 203.259.8023  
 Or Steve 203.367.4373  
 for reservations and info

**\$ 15.00**  
 per  
 person  
 includes  
 Bingo

This will be a reservation only event ~ Tickets must be purchased in advance

Come One, Come All, INVITE A FRIEND

**CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE**

**A Special Zoom**  
 on the  
**Connecticut State Grange**  
**History Book Project**

**Thursday, Jan. 20th**  
**7:00 PM**

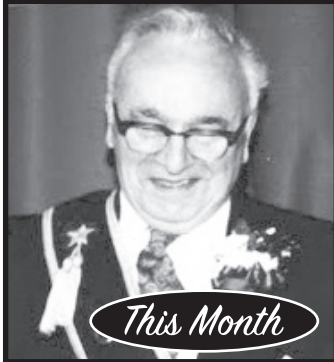
Join us for a discussion on the history of the Connecticut State Grange and learn the details on progress of the History Book Project. Stop by and say Hello!

Send an e-mail to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org) or [membership@ctstategrange.org](mailto:membership@ctstategrange.org) for the Zoom Meeting Access Information



# 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 uncover 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).



We heard from Sue Addison -- "The picture in the December issue shows 4 seated men. The man on the far right is Harry LaBonte from Tolland Grange. He was Master there for many years. Harry and his wife, Elsie, were members of the Gret-Als. Since all 4 men have a flower in their lapel...maybe they are all past Masters of Tolland Grange?"



## Farmhouse Chicken Cornbread Casserole



mixture into prepared baking dish.

In a separate bowl, stir together corn muffin mix, cream style corn, sour cream, egg and melted butter.

Spread evenly over the chicken mixture.

Bake, uncovered, for about 40-45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the topping comes out clean. Tent the casserole loosely with foil if the top starts to get too dark before it's cooked through. Let stand for about 5-10 minutes, then serve!

### TIPS:

**Baking Dish:** You can use either a 2-quart or 3-quart baking dish for this recipe. If you like a thicker cornbread layer on top, I recommend using the smaller dish.

**Check the Topping:** Make sure that the cornbread is completely cooked through before you pull the dish from the oven. You don't want to find uncooked cornbread batter in your casserole, so use a toothpick inserted in the very center of the casserole to determine if the topping is set. If the toothpick comes out clean, then you know that the cornbread is done.

**Tent with Foil:** If your casserole starts to brown too much on top before it's finished cooking, cover it loosely with foil.

**Rotisserie Chicken:** This is a great shortcut! Purchase a large rotisserie chicken (or two small chickens) from the grocery store, shred the meat, and use in the recipe as instructed.

**Leftover Chicken:** If you have leftover grilled or baked chicken from a previous meal, put those extras to good use in this casserole.

**SOURCE:** <https://www.theseasonedmom.com/chicken-cornbread-casserole-2/>

Cold winter weather calls for cozy comfort food! Are you hosting a wintertime Grange Potluck? Here's a recipe for Farmhouse Chicken Cornbread Casserole from The Seasoned Mom that would make a nice addition to the lineup.

### FILLING INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (10.5 oz) can undiluted condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1 (10.5 oz) can undiluted condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 3/4 cup milk
- 4 cups cooked, diced chicken
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese

### CORNBREAD TOPPING:

- 1 (8.5 oz) box corn muffin mix (ex: Jiffy brand)
- 1 (14.75 oz) can cream style corn
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons melted butter

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Spray a 2-quart or 3-quart baking dish with cooking spray. If you use a 2-quart dish, the cornbread topping will be slightly thicker.

In a large bowl, whisk together condensed soups and milk. Stir in cooked chicken and cheese. Pour chicken



## View from the Hill

Burton Eller  
National Grange  
Legislative Dir.

### Manchin Opposes Build Back Better Act

Shortly following the end of the congressional session for 2021, on Saturday December 18, 2021, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), the most conservative Democratic Senator, made the surprising declaration that he would not vote for the Build Back Better Act. The \$1.75 trillion bill, which includes spending on climate and social programs as well as tax increases on corporations and high-income households, had been passed by the House of Representatives in November and had been stalled in the Senate while Democratic Senators negotiated over the specifics of the bill. Up until his announcement, Manchin had indicated that he was interested in passing the bill following negotiations which addressed his concerns over programs like the expanded Child Tax Credit and green energy subsidies. Following Manchin's announcement many Democrats in Congress and the administration issued tersely worded statements expressing their disappointment that the Senator was no longer willing to negotiate, but also hope that they may still be able to find a compromise on some provisions of the bill. As of writing, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has indicated that he still intends to bring a vote on the Build Back Better Act to the floor in January, forcing Manchin to vote on the record in opposition to the proposal. Meanwhile, behind the scenes many Democratic Senators are seeking to work with Manchin on a pared down bill which includes only those provisions that he would be able to support. While this is the most significant headwinds the Build Back Better Act has faced so far, it still remains possible that some key Democratic priorities within the bill will be able to be passed.

### Congress Completes Housekeeping Before Winter Recess

Before officially departing for winter recess, Congress was able to finally come to agreements which allowed key bills and appointments to move forward. In mid-

December Senate Democrats and Republicans agreed to change the rules of the filibuster to allow for a simple majority of the chamber to raise the debt ceiling, which Democrats subsequently did, thereby allowing the government to avoid defaulting on its debt. As part of the deal, the National Defense Authorization Act, the bill which funds the armed forces, was also able to proceed and passed through an overwhelming bipartisan vote. Finally, just before Senators left town for the holidays, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) was able to force Republicans to relent on blocking many key appointments within the Biden administration.

### Food Prices Continue to Surge

Supermarket prices jumped 6.4 percent over the past year, marking the largest increase for a 12-month period since 2008. Grocery price increases are a major reason the Consumer Price Index is up 6.8 percent over the past year, the largest increase since 1982. Food suppliers blame inflation for price hikes, but lawmakers wonder if they're padding the bill. Supermarket sales increased by 11 percent last year over 2019 and that trend has continued into 2021. Labor shortages, shifts and surges in consumer demand, and supply chain snarls have stressed production and distribution channels over the past 18 months. But some lawmakers accuse the food industry of excessive profit-taking during that time. Meat processors, in particular, are coming under scrutiny by the White House which says processors are increasing prices way above costs they are incurring due to inflation.

### House Passes Bipartisan Beef Market Transparency Bills

The House of Representatives has approved two pieces of legislation critical to providing producers greater transparency in the cattle markets. H.R. 5290 passed 418-9 and extends livestock mandatory price reporting through September 2022. The Cattle Contract Library Act tallied a vote of 411-13 and creates a market contract reference data base to assist producers with price discovery. A comprehensive compromise market transparency and price discovery bill in the Senate is cosponsored by Senators Fischer (R-NE), Tester(D-MT), Grassley (R-IA), and Wyden (D-OR) and has the support of the National Grange.

### School Lunch Gets \$1.5 Billion for Supply Chain Challenges

USDA is allocating \$1.5 billion to the school lunch program to help operators deal with supply chain

*Continued next page ...*



issues that are driving up costs. This assistance is expected to reach up to 100,000 schools across all 50 states to purchase domestically produced fresh fruit, milk, cheese, frozen vegetables, and ground meat.

### Funds to Address Ag Stress

USDA will distribute \$25 million in grants to 50 state ag departments to support projects aimed to alleviate stress around finances, work, family, and other issues exacerbated by the pandemic. Programs include retreats, resettlement help targeted to Latino, Hispanic, Hmong and African workers, farmer-to-farmer networks, financial counseling and more.

### Fewer Immigrant Workers Slow Economy

Fewer immigrant workers are coming to fill jobs and the U.S. economy suffers. More than a million immigrant workers are missing from the current job market as America struggles with roughly 11 million open positions. Aside from agriculture, industries feeling acute worker shortages include food service, health care, trucking and warehousing.

### Technical Assistance and Cover Crop Incentives

Senate Democrats have dramatically increased funding for farm conservation in their version of the Build Back Better spending package. The legislation authorizes an increase of \$21 billion for farm bill conservation programs and creates a new \$5 billion program to pay farmers to plant cover crops. Their package also extends authorization for the conservation programs through 2031. Under the 2018 farm bill, conservation program authorization is due to expire in 2023 in anticipation of a new farm bill being written.

### Medicare Part D Should Pay for Essential Immunizations

One of the best and most cost-effective ways to protect our nation's

seniors is to ensure they are vaccinated against common infectious diseases. That's the message the National Grange carried to fifty members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House members of the Congressional Rural Caucus in mid-December. Congressmen were urged to cosponsor H.R. 1978, the bipartisan Protecting Seniors Through Immunization Act of 2021. The bill would make vaccines for shingles, pneumonia and several more diseases available at no cost to seniors under Medicare Part D the same as other essential vaccines are covered by Part B. The data tell us that the more seniors must pay, the less likely they are to get vaccinated.

### New Medicines to Treat Rare Diseases

There's good news that nearly 800 new innovative treatments are in the development stage to combat rare diseases. These diseases include rare cancers, genetic disorders, neurological disorders, blood disorders, and

autoimmune issues. Roughly 30 million Americans are living with a rare disease. **Funds Delivery May Slow Broadband Progress**

Rural America may have to wait longer for high-speed broadband. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo says the majority of the \$65 billion for broadband deployment in the recently passed infrastructure package may not be distributed until 2023. Raimondo is waiting for the FCC to update its controversial broadband access maps by the middle of 2022. The Commerce plans to set up a process for states to apply for broadband money by May 2022. Fortunately, some rural broadband funding is already available from the FCC and USDA which will allow ongoing expansion of high-speed rural broadband connectivity in many areas. A high priority for the National Grange next year and the years following will be to ensure the congressional mandate is followed which is to serve the unserved first, the underserved second, then everyone else.

# DID YOU KNOW?



## Grassfed

A USDA term that means the ruminant animal (beef, sheep, bison, or goat) has been fed nothing but grass (forage) from weaning to harvest.

The term doesn't guarantee, however, that the animal wasn't given antibiotics or hormones, and it also doesn't necessarily mean the animal was raised without confinement.

Meat labeled grassfed may be imported from other countries.

To use it as a marketing claim or on a label, the producer only has to submit an affidavit stating how the animal was raised. There are no on-farm inspections.

## AGA-Certified Grassfed

A term that takes the USDA standards to a higher level.

The AGA certification is a third party on farm inspection with strict standards to insure the animal has eaten nothing but grass (forage) from weaning to harvest, has not been confined, and has never been given antibiotics or hormones.

AGA-certified grassfed also means that the meat is produced in the United States from beef cattle and other ruminants born and raised in this country.

100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3  
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Address Service Requested



**Charles W. Dimmick**  
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

## Living Together in Unity

Oh how good and pleasant it is when brethren live together in unity. *Psalm 133:1*

In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity. *Grange motto and also the*

### In Memoriam

**Robert Nordstrom**  
Glastonbury Grange #26

**Barbara Standley, G.S.**  
Harmony Grange #92

**Helen Niski**  
**Joseph Wotjczak**  
Beacon Valley Grange #103

**Emma Honegger**  
**Dora Honegger**  
**Frances Whitehead**  
Bethlehem Grange #121

**Anita Ames, G.S.**  
**G. Franklin Miner, G.S.**  
North Stonington Grange #138

**Akke Jasmine**  
Riverton Grange #169

*"Well done, good and faithful servants."*

### *motto of the Moravian Church*

Our Grange motto was originally coined by an obscure German theologian during the thirty-years' war, back in the 1600s.

And finally, at the Last Supper, our Lord said "A new commandment I give you: that you love one another as I have loved you."

Thus the message is clear. Despite the fact that our fellow brothers and sisters in the Grange come in all colors, flavors and sizes, despite the fact that we have a high diversity of opinions, of backgrounds, of religious and political viewpoints, we are bound together in a single fraternity.

Sometimes we may find ourselves in strident disagreement with one another, sometimes we may be angered or distressed by another Granger's actions or words, but at the end of the day we must put these aside and embrace each other in a spirit of love and brotherhood.

What unites us is stronger than what divides us. In the Grange, as in any large family, we will have likes and dislikes, people we prefer being around compared to others, But we must learn to LOVE even those we do not particularly like, because we ARE all one family, one community of brothers and sisters, with common goals and objectives.



### By Hank the Burro

Happy New Year to my Grange friends! The holidays are now behind us and we are starting a new year. What types of projects and activities are your Grange planning for this year? Now is the time to start thinking about Grange Month coming up in April.

Remember to check with Granges if you are visiting to be sure they are meeting in person or holding their events. With COVID still around, and also as we deal with wintertime weather as well, Granges may be meeting on Zoom or cancelling their meetings and events.

Want to follow my adventures? Please visit my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button to keep in touch. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>