



The Granite State Granger

Volume 51

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2021

September



National Rep

Amanda Leigh Brozana-Rios is the Director of Membership, Leadership Development and Communications at the National Grange. She came to the National Grange in March 2011, and has worked across the various departments, and with the Grange Foundation as an Associate. She is the editor of the Grange's quarterly magazine, **Good Day!**

Amanda holds degrees from Wilkes University (B.A. Communication Studies) and the University of Mississippi (M.A. Journalism) and has completed doctoral coursework at the University of Alabama in Communications. She lives in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Victor, their dogs, Wagneto, Magnolia and Austin, and her father, Stanley.

Amanda is the Secretary of the re-organized Jefferson Grange #1384 in her hometown area of Southern Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, and is an active member of Potomac Grange #1 in Washington, D.C. She also served from 2015-16 as National Lecturer.

Amanda has previously worked as Development Manager and Director of Communications for the Army Distaff Foundation in Washington, D.C. and as a reporter and copy editor for the Pottsville Republican-Herald in Pennsylvania, in addition to several other publication. She taught journalism, public relations and speech communications at Bridgewater State College (now University), Stillman College and the University of Alabama.

**2021 New Hampshire State Grange Banquet
Friday, October 22, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

Theme

"America the Beautiful"

Entertainment

Granger of the Year Award

Quilt of Valor presentation

And more!

Buffet Entrees

Oven Roasted Turkey~Carving Station
Hickory Smoked Ham~Carving Station
Mashed Potato Bar~ Shredded Cheddar,

Sour Cream, Chives and Bacon

Butternut Squash, Green Beans

Half pan~Vegetable Primavera

Fresh Garden Salad ~ Creamy Italian
and Golden Italian dressing

Dinner Rolls/butter

Dessert

Homemade Apple Crisp with

Whipped Cream

Cost \$40

Number of tickets is limited

**Reservations and payments are due by
October 15, 2021. Cash or check is fine
(made out to NH State Grange).**

**For reservations, please contact Jane
Trombi, State Ceres**

trombi.jane@gmail.com or

603 762 2922

148th New Hampshire State Grange Session

October 21-24, 2021

Best Western ~ PLUS

401 Winchester Street

Keene, NH 03431

603- 357-3038

Rates:

Thursday, October 21st ~ \$119.99

plus 9% room tax

Friday, October 22nd ~ \$129.99

plus 9% room tax

Saturday, October 23rd - \$139.99

plus 9% room tax

The above prices are for two adults.

**Additional adults will be charged
\$10.00 per person per night.**

**When making your reservation be
sure to inform the staff that you are
with the New Hampshire
State Grange.**

**Theses prices will not be offered after
September 20th.**

**Check in time is 3:00 p. m. and
check out is 11:00 a. m.**

[See schedule on page 4.]

Support the ELF!

**Please send your
Educational Loan Fund**

donations to:

Patrice Lawlor

PO Box 386

Pelham NH 03076




In Memoriam

Steve Chickering Mount Pistareen

Cheryl Wiggett Mount Hope

Richard Chase Pembroke



**From the
Driver's Seat**
Robert Trombi
State Master

Greetings Fellow Grangers!

As society slowly begins to move toward a more normal state, I hope that you have been enjoying your summer, spending time with family and friends, traveling and enjoying outdoor activities. Hopefully you and your Grange have been continuing to be a positive, helpful presence around the state. I know that some Granges have been having virtual meetings, and some have been having live "in person" meetings.

Congratulations to all who are finding ways to adapt, and continue your important work! Hopefully, Community activity (at whatever level you can achieve) has been continuing. Let your community know that the Grange remains an active presence in your neighborhood, by providing assistance however possible! Now that September is here it is time to start getting ready for the kids going back to school (hopefully with a greater sense of "normalcy").

I want to congratulate the Junior and Youth Directors for the fun programs they provided to the members of the State Grange throughout the summer. Attendance was somewhat lighter than usual (possibly due to Covid concerns), but both groups were enthusiastic and energetic.

I also want to congratulate Shawn Scanzani for his successful first coordination of Family Weekend. In addition to our Family Weekend, Jane and I, and an enthusiastic group from NH attended the National Grange "Revival" in Sturgis, South Dakota (highlighted in this issue).

Resolutions

Hopefully, you have submitted your by-law change resolutions to the State Secretary so that they can be considered by the delegates at the upcoming State Session in Keene. Remember that all other resolutions can be submitted at State Session as long as you have 75 copies for the delegates.



Seated: Bruce Heath, Arthur Merrill, Beth Merrill
Standing, Row 1: Jane Heath, Jane Trombi, Bob Trombi, Alice Tuck, Wilber Heath, Gloria Davis; Row 2: Chris Heath, Mauri Heath, Joe and Joanne Johnston (from NY with NH connections)

Grange Revival 2021

Grange Revival 2021 was held in Sturgis, SD on July 20-25. This second Grange Revival found 135 Grangers from around the country gathered for fun and fellowship. It was great to see old friends and make some new ones. New Hampshire had 13 Grangers and friends in attendance.

The weather was hot, but that did not stop everyone from enjoying the beautiful sites around Sturgis. Many went to Crazy Horse Monument, Devils Tower, the town of Deadwood, Motorcycle Museum, local eateries, a quilt shop hop and much more. The whole group boarded buses on Friday afternoon to head to Mount Rushmore to see the evening program and the lighting of Mount Rushmore. What a beautiful sight! Those

THE GRANITE STATE GRANGER

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

*(However, donations are accepted.)

This paper is printed quarterly.

Postmaster or anyone else:

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

of us that went got to see some of our amazing country along the way there and the way home.

Each evening the Revival committee put on dinner for everyone, and some brought a dish to share as well. The meals were delicious! They did amazing, serving over 100 people each night! One night we had Dutch oven desserts made by several attendees and a Dutch oven breakfast. Another night there was a smorgasbord of homemade ice cream flavors to sample. We had Bingo sponsored by Potomac Grange and a Corn Hole Tournament, of which one of our own NH teams finished in third place.

The next Grange Revival will be in 2023 in Michigan!

Remember Your Donations

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



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

The pigs I wrote about last time are doing well. Someone has spoken for the last batch of my piglets for this year. My brother has a sow due next month for Deerfield Fair. I will be having the vet come this weekend to finish vaccinating all of the exhibit animals for the fair this year.

After much talk about drought and bad growing conditions, I am happy to say we got Rain! And RAin, and RAIn, and RAIN. So much that it has hampered the growing conditions in other ways. The blueberries were nice and large due to the rain, but due to the temperature change and rain they didn't get what they needed to keep producing, making many of the blueberries rot on the plant. The rain did a good job pushing nutrients that crop plants need to produce below levels that the roots can reach them, causing plants in fields to either starve or drown. Much of the hay to be harvested for winter livestock feed either got spoiled or left in the field waiting for good weather to now be a lower grade hay when it is harvested. So far it looks like hay production over all will be way down this year, meaning that people will need to reduce their herd size or bring in expensive hay from away.

Watatic Grange

On Sunday, July 18, State Secretary Jerry Leclerc attended a meeting of Watatic Grange and presented the following awards: (l to r) Sherrill Bokousky, 30 Year Seal, Sandra Marcoux, 25 Year Certificate, State Secretary, Kathe Twiss, 30 Year Seal, Camilie Twiss, 60 Year Seal, George Standley, 55 Year Seal. Unable to attend was Jonathan Standley who received his 30 Year Seal.



On a different note, recent events local to me have been making me take more and more looks at the Grange from an agricultural view. Even though it isn't written in our degree work, if you go back to history and tradition of officers and their rotation (as can be seen every other year at State Grange), it reminds me of how farmers should be rotating our fields and crops. Not having the same thing planted year after year in the same place. As people rotate through the seats in a Grange, the new people taking their office bring in new ideas and take the Grange in new directions. The same way that if you rotate your gardening areas, the new types of plants will condition your soil a little at a time making your garden more productive or at least take the nutrients the former resident left behind.

But wait, that is only one of many forms of Agriculture. Let's look at livestock. Leaving your cows, pigs, chickens, etc. in the same place day in day out means the animals start dropping more nutrients than the ground can hold allowing animal waste run-off like seen in large factory farms of today. Parasites and diseases start increasing, causing the animals' production to drop. The constant toiling of the forage depletes the energy stored in the roots causing the loss of the forage for the animals. This can also be a foreshadow of problems we as Grangers may have. Are we toiling the same soil without any rotation, taking all of the energy from our roots?

Walpole Grange Awards Night

courtesy of The Walpole Clarion

The Walpole Grange held its Community Awards night July 20 under the tent at Alyson's Orchard. Nicely attended, Grange Master Adam Terrell emceed the evening. In between award presentations, entertainment was provided by the Radio Follies Refugees (Tara Sad, Joan Ireland, Carolyn Norback, Jan Kobeski, and Ray Boas) reveling the audience with vintage radio commercials, Bob and Ray skits, Kids Say the Darndest Things, and a 54 second rendition of A Christmas Carol.

Terrell explained that the Grange's awards have expanded over the years from a single award - The Community Service award for outstanding service to the community. Serving the Walpole community in many capacities since the 1970s, this year's recipient was Sandy Smith who recently retired as Town Clerk and Tax Collector. A Caring Hands Award was given to Kara Dexter in recognition for her taking the time to pick up trash along the roads in Walpole. In the last year she picked up 4,500 pounds of trash including 4,000 cans and 2,400 bottles. Kara was quick to thank others saying, "I'm not the only one doing this." Also receiving a Caring Hands award was Mary Vittum for making 3,700 masks during the pandemic.

Wyatt Britton was awarded The Young Farmer award. A fourth-generation farmer in town, Wyatt is fourteen. A new award was given to Malachi McGill. Four years old, Malachi received the Little Farmer award. Working hard, occasionally twelve hours a day, often on the tractor with his grandfather at Twin Spruce Farm, young Malachi was told the evening before he was receiving an award as a future farmer. His reply, "But I am already a farmer." Tammy Vittum was recognized as Educator of the Year; and Town Crier Awards went to Lil DeCoste for her eight years posting news and happenings on The Walpolean, and to Ray Boas for publishing the Town's monthly news source - the CLARION.

In concluding, several Grange members were recognized for their long-term service, including Gwen Yardley who received her 70 year seal.

**Official Program
and Order of Business
New Hampshire State Grange
Annual Session**

Special & Invited Guests
Amanda Brozana-Rios - National
Grange Communications Director
George Hansel, Mayor of the
City of Keene

Thursday, October 21, 2021
Opening Session ~ 7:00 p.m.
Procession of State Officers
Opening in the Sixth Degree
Calling the Roll of Officers
Grange lowered to the Fourth Degree
Calling the Roll of Granges
Introduction of Special Guests

Agriculture ReportNorman Brandt
Trustees of Trust Funds...Diane Collins
Eastern States Trustees...Robert Trombi
Closing the Grange

Friday October 22, 2021
Morning Session ~ 8:30 a.m.
Opening in the Fourth Degree
Calling the Roll of Officers
Calling the Roll of Granges
Reading the Minutes from Thursday Ses-
sion

Announcement of Session Committees
Reading New Resolutions & 2021 Con-
vention Rules
Reports:
Family WeekendShawn Scanzani
Session Coordinator...Gerald J Leclerc
Webmaster.....Christopher Heath
State Grange Building Committee
.....Beth Merrill

Grange Memorial Service ~ 11 a. m.
Chaplain, Kathy Yardley
(Gates and Registration will be closed)

Afternoon Session~ 1:30 p.m.
State Master's Address
Robert Trombi
Reports:
Treasurer.....Daniel P. Bascom
Secretary.....Gerald J. Leclerc
Executive Committee...Tricia J. Taylor
General Deputy.....Arthur Merrill
Lecturer.....Matthew Clark
LegislativeLeroy Watson

**The New Hampshire Grange
Foundation ~ 3:00 p.m.**
Annual Meeting by Foundation Directors
and Officers

Evening Session~ 6:00 p.m.
State Grange Banquet
Program
Recognition Awards
Saturday, October 23, 2021
Morning Session~ 8:30 a.m.
Opening in the Fourth Degree
Calling the Roll of State Officers
Calling the Roll of Granges
Reading Minutes from Friday Session
Informational reading of
Convention Rules
Reports:
Youth Director.....Rachel Scanzani
Junior Director.....Joann Brandt
Granite State Granger.....Hannah West
State Grange Building.....Anne Boisvert
Grange Services.....

9:30 a.m.
**Election of State Executive Committee
Member**
Reports:
Membership Directors...James Tetreault
& Gloria Davis
Family & Community Directors.....
Kathy Yardley & Joyce Martin

Afternoon Session~ 1:30 p.m.
Budget 1:30 p.m.
Reports:
Resolutions Committee.....Tara Sad
Master's Address Committee
Credentials Committee.....Emilie Leclerc
Unfinished Business
3:30 p.m. Closing the Grange

Fifth Degree Obligation ~ 7:10 p.m.
Evening Session ~ 7:30 p.m.
Procession of State Officers
Opening in the Sixth Degree
Calling the Roll of Officers
Conferral of the Sixth Degree
Introduction of Guests
Introduction ~ Assembly of Demeter
Members
Parade of Deputies
Closing in the Fourth Degree

**Note: This is the program as it is cur-
rently. Things may be added, removed
or rearranged.**

Support the Granite State Granger
with your donation.

Grange Bulletin Board



Oldest member of Cochecho Grange #81.
Beulah May Eldredge, 97. We all love
our Granges. Must be something to it to
keep this old gal around. Golden Sheaf
member.

Birth Announcement
**Gary and Laura Ward welcome
their newest family member,
granddaughter Che`re Avis Wolfe,
who was born on August 3rd to Mr.
and Mrs. Frank and Hillary Wolfe.**

**How Often Should Your Grange
Post on Facebook**
[Taken from an article by Kennedy Gwin,
National Grange Communications Manager,
in The Patrons Chain Newsletter for August
13, 2021.]

On average your local Grange
should be posting something engaging
3-4 times a week. Engaging means some-
thing your community members can like,
comment on, or reshare. Make sure your
posts are all different and not just the
same few things over and over.

Post on days like Wednesday and
Friday, as those days of the week have
the highest log on rate with the most
people engaged. Avoid the weekends as
those are the lowest days of viewer rates
as most people are busy on the weekends.

Dictionary Price Increase

If your Grange is planning to par-
ticipate in The Dictionary Project this
year, you need to know that the price of
"A Student's Dictionary" (the one that
most NH Granges use) has increased to
\$3.50 per book or \$84.00 for a case of 24
books.

The price has remained steady for
several years, so an increase is not sur-
prising. It is still a very good deal when
one considers the price of paperback
books these days.

Suncook Valley Pomona Grange is
again willing to assist Granges which per-
fer not to order on their own or need par-
tial cases of books. Contact Hannah West
by e-mail gowest@tds.net or phone 603-
798-5783.



**July 4, 2021- New flag pole at
Rockingham Grange Hall.**

Rockingham Grange has voted
not to close and will look into repairing
their Grange Hall as a way to save their
Grange.

Deadline
**The next issue of the Granite State
Granger will be mailed in
December, 2021. Please send items
for the paper to Hannah West on or
before November 5, 2021. Report on
events of September and October.
Look ahead to events of January,
February and March.**

Linda Smith Honored

Linda Smith, a member of Clare-
mont Grange, was chosen as Sullivan
County's 2021 Older Adult Volunteer
by the State Committee on Aging! The
following information is taken from the
Newport Senior News for July, 2021.

Sullivan County Nutrition Services
(SCNS) provides a lifeline to over 500
older adults living in Sullivan County.
This is done through the preparation and
delivery of Meals-on-Wheels, congregate
meals, and, since the onset of COVID-19,
grab-n-go meals.

Salvation of sustenance is achieved
when volunteers like Linda Smith
strengthen the fundamental connections
SCNS has made in the lives of those it
serves. Each morning, whether it is day-
light, darkness, snowing, raining, hot or
freezing temperatures, Linda takes the
route of great importance as she walks
nearly two miles to volunteer for SCNS
Nutrition programs.

Although Linda was struck by a
moving vehicle during one of her walks
to volunteer, volunteering still comes as
a "natural" function to Linda, beginning
at 5:30 a.m. each weekday when she ar-
rives at the kitchen. Linda's passion-
ate actions began in 2008, with the simple
task of pouring coffee during congregate
dining. Linda's volunteer efforts quickly
became key to the function of the kitchen
staff as her expertise expanded beyond
pouring coffee.

Linda makes no excuses and
sticks to her commitment of prevent-
ing food insecurity at a minimum of 35
hours per week. During this time, Linda
has been known to single-handedly wash
50 pounds of potatoes, package and bag
daily desserts and wrap single servings of
bread products.

Preparing and packaging 500 daily
home-made meals has unexpected chal-
lenges such as staffing issues, equipment
malfunctions and meeting timing dead-
lines. These challenges have been ex-
panded since the pandemic was declared,
but Linda did not let the pandemic stop
her from volunteering.

Staff is now required to sanitize all
common areas every two hours. Linda has
made herself available and ready every

two hours to meet this new requirement
so that staff can continue to prepare nutri-
tious meals, in addition to the responsi-
bilities she already performs.

Linda's execution of this new re-
quirement, without any direction from
staff, has had such a powerful impact on
our daily functions that she has become
our guardian angel. More importantly, it
is meaningful to Linda to know that she is
helping not only those receiving nutrition
services, but the staff that she now calls
friends.

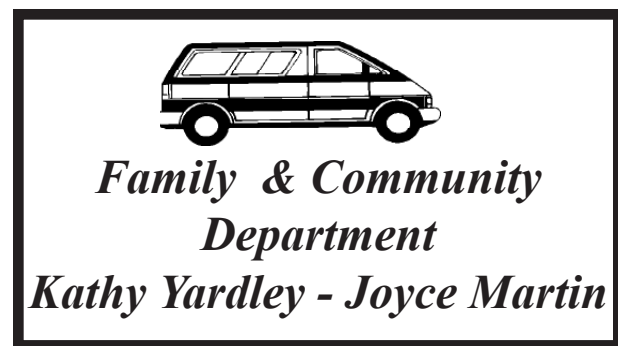
Beyond 35 hours per week with
food preparations, Linda will often ex-
tend her hours to help the Newport Senior
Center create a vital line of access to im-
prove the social well-being and health &
well-being of older adults.

Demonstrating the human capacity
of empathy and understanding the con-
nection between nutrition and physical
importance of others, Linda will clean;
set up and organize space for exercise
programs, fundraisers, health clinics and
other activities that promote socialization
and independence for older adults.

Linda's energy, professionalism,
compassion, dedication, commitment and
strength can be summed up in one word:
Impressive. SCNS and its staff, the New-
port Senior Center and those they serve
are fortunate and proud of the support
Linda brings to their mission and were
honored to be able to nominate her for the
2021 Older Adult Volunteer Award for
Sullivan County.

Aurora Grange
Aurora Grange #235 of Pittsburg
held its annual picnic at the home of Chip
and Eddie Evarts. Members enjoyed
some delicious food, good conversation,
and lots of laughs.

Ann Gray of Aurora Grange re-
ports that she enjoyed a lovely week in
York Beach, Maine with her three daugh-
ters and their families back in July. Their
youngest grandchild, Angelo Spagnuolo,
had his first experience with the sandy
beach and the cold ocean. He had fun with
the sand, but he wasn't too crazy about the
cold ocean water. Ann's husband, Lind-
sey, stayed back in Pittsburg getting some
haying done while she was at the beach.



Wow, has time flown! It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of summer already. Hopefully your Grange has been able to meet regularly and participate in family and community activities. Did your Grange have a community awards night? Hopefully you were able to honor some very deserving people. Each year the National Grange honors a Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter/EMS Officer and an Educator. Do you have nominees in any of these categories that you would like us to send on to National Grange for consideration at the national level? Please send us your nominations by September 1st!

If you have any last-minute items for the New England Grange Building store at the Big E we can deliver them for you. Please contact Kathy Yardley at grayreiner@myfairpoint.net or 603-756-3677 to make arrangements to get them to the Big E. We are especially looking for handmade items such as baby articles, nylon scrubbies, stuffed animals, dolls, pot holders, knitted or crocheted dish cloths, afghans, mittens, scarves, hats knee warmers, booties, vests, aprons, wall hangings, pillow cases, bureau scarves, crafts, etc.

State Grange Convention

Mountain of Mittens - While it seems way too hot right now to be thinking about mittens, it's the right time to be thinking about them for the Mountain of Mittens project at State Grange Convention. With your help we will build a "mountain" of mittens, hats and scarves that will be given to children around the state. Bring your donations to state session or send them with your Grange's delegates. Let's make it a BIG mountain this year!

Baking Contest - Did your Grange have a baking contest? If you were a winner of the oatmeal cookie baking contest at your Pomona, we invite you to bake

them again and bring them to state session (or send them with your delegates) for judging. Bellows House Bakery has graciously donated a cash prize for the winners of this event. For judging at the state level we ask that you send six cookies on a disposable plate along with a copy of the recipe. Please make sure your entries reach us by 9:00am Saturday morning, October 23rd.

Fudge & Trail Mix donations - We welcome your donations of fudge, trail mix, cookies, brownies, etc. for us to sell at our table. This is a nice fundraiser for our department and provides convention goers with yummy snacks to have during the session.

Santa Remembers Teens At Christmas

You can bring your gift cards for teens to state session also. We will be glad to send them on to Operation Santa Claus, a state organization that will distribute them to teens across NH.

F&C Reports

As things start to get back to a little more normal we hope that you and your Grange are finding ways to participate in the Family & Community program. Some of you have been developing new projects, programs and activities inspired by and/or in spite of the pandemic. We would love to hear about these activities so be sure to include them on your report form when you prepare it. Don't forget, your Subordinate and Pomona report forms and booklets are due September 1st!



Summer is usually a busy time of year for the youth of New Hampshire. In June we had our first in-person gathering for June Youth Rally in over a year! Though it was relatively short notice, we made the decision that we could finally, safely hold an in-person gathering! A small but mighty group of Grangers gathered in Hooksett for an afternoon of activities, a simple dinner, and then some classic Lecturer's program activities. Temperatures well into the 90s that day left many warm and anxious for the air conditioned ride home.

It is hard to believe that the final tasks for the year are approaching, along with the planning for next year. Please remember to submit all reports to your Pomona Chairman by September 20th and to the Youth Director by September 25th. Additionally, all contest entries are due by October 1st to the State Youth Director. Please be in touch to arrange pick-up or drop-off. As we begin planning for the coming year, please pass along any suggestions you may have for events or contests. Your feedback and support are what help to make this a valuable program.



Here we are ready to start school after a hot and rainy summer. I hope families were able to enjoy time together. We had a great Fun Day in June. I know a few other activities had started and I missed those unable to attend. We decorated Ornaments for the Big E, made Foxes out of pinecones, held a Nature hunt around the building, and blew bubbles to see who could make the biggest ones. Everyone brought their lunch, and watermelon and fruit was served to all with drinks provided. Bean Bag toss, and ball toss also were played. We were honored to have our State Master Bob Trombi and State Ceres Jane Trombi as our guests to talk with the Juniors. Also present were Gloria Davis Junior Deputy and Membership co-chair, Tricia Taylor State Overseer, Fran Everard, Aurora Farrell, and Anne Boisvert. Thanks to all for coming and assisting with the Junior Day.

Have you started your Granges up so that the families can attend? I have heard of 3 new applications coming for the Junior Department and hope others will have some coming in as we need to grow for the Junior Department to continue and then become members of your Granges. The Junior program is on the Website and I hope you have seen our activities over the years.

Deerfield Fair is due to be held this year and I hope you have an opportunity to go and see the Grange Building displays along with the Biggest Pumpkin in the same building. I hope you stop by the Grange office in the corner and say hi.

I am working on the coming year's Junior Program and if you have any ideas you would like to share with me, please feel free to contact me.

I visited the Doctor's office today and he had a sign on the door I liked:
 "I wear a mask to keep you safe"
 "You wear a mask to keep me safe"
 "Together we will all be safe."

Hope to see you all at State Grange Session in October.



As I write this entry we are looking at the end of one Grange year and getting ready to start another. I hope many of you have been busy working on entries for the contests in the Lecturer's Department. Those contests are: Create a Card, Creative Writing, Photography, and Art Contest. Please remember that the Create a Card, Creative Writing, and Photography contest entries are due to me by October 1, 2021. The Art contest entries are due by 9:00 a.m. on the Friday of State Grange Convention. If you need more information or have questions, please reach

Suncook Valley Pomona

Suncook Valley Pomona held a cook-in-the-barn-and-eat-in-the-house picnic on July 8 at the home of Hannah West. The July weather did not work well for outdoor events this year! It felt good to share a meal, since we have not included pot-lucks in our meetings for the past year. We were unable to hold a meeting during the second quarter of 2021, but thanks to a budget we were able to make donations and pay bills.

On the Dictionary Project front we were able to assist several Granges with ordering books and provided them with labels. We also were able to drop

out to your local Grange Lecturer or myself.

I am also looking for nominations for Granger of the Year. In the program these were due by April 1 so the award could be given at the Grange Month Celebration. However, that event was not held so I am going to be giving the award at the State Grange Banquet. I would like to have the nominations by October 1, 2021.

Lastly, as I begin to work on the program for next year I would love to hear from the members any ideas of contests that you would like to see. I would like any feedback about the program from any member. Also, please don't forget about the contests that are part of other departments' programs. I look forward to seeing all the work that Grangers have been doing.

off dictionaries to the Bow and Gilman-ton elementary schools, giving books to this year's third graders and to the fourth graders that we were unable to reach last year. We plan to exhibit at the Hopkinton and Deerfield Fairs this fall.

Our next meeting will be on October 14 at the State Grange Building. We will judge the Baking Contest at that meeting and attempt to plan for 2022.

Do something good and your neighbor will never know, do something bad and they will hear about it a hundred miles away.
Chinese Proverb

Grange Songs

Almost every Granger has held our songbook, "The Patron," in their hands. Some of us were lucky enough in the past to have had a pianist in the halland were able to sing and march to music. More recently, some Granges not fortunate enough to have a live player have used recordings in place of a pianist.

The preface of the 1925 edition of "The Patron" states, "The need of music in Grange Ritualism became apparent a half century ago and under the authorship of Mr. Orr and with the National Grange approval, "Grange Melodies" made its appearance." The "Grange Melodies" book contained several songs written by Caroline Hall, which had been published in 1872 and was amended to make the more complete collection several years later. (1875 +/-)

This edition of "The Patron" begins with the "Star Spangled Banner", "America", "America the Beautiful" and "Hymn of The Republic" followed by "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean" and "Old Glory".

The next selection is the "Greeting Song", of German origin, adapted by

James Orr. Its words urge Patrons and Matrons to come together in Faith and Love. "Hither Come" follows with soft words that refer to "peaceful victories" then renounce the former practice of "serfs and vassals" being confined to ceaseless work, and lack of knowledge. The words then look forward to freedom, strength, shielding the weak and attaining rights. Further songs encourage us to "Work for the Night Is Coming" when darkness indicates our work for the day is done.

There are songs that accompany the symbols of our four degrees: "Laborer" and "Maid", "Cultivator" and "Shepherdess", "Harvester" and "Gleaner", and finally, "Husbandman" and "Matron". Companion songs accompany each degree.

One such song refers to planting but carries an additional deeper message. It tells a person to sift the seeds before planting to keep only the best. The message continues, telling us to "sift" (remove the unwanted, retain the good) the books we read, get rid of envy, hate and strife but keep virtue, love and truth. In the language of yesterday, "sift out the pure gold" from "dross and pelf". The

song ends with the challenge of, after all this sifting, to "always sift yourself".

The songs in "The Patron" give great thanks for the harvest and hint at the hard work needed to achieve that. They welcome new members and assure them of a chain of support and belonging tempered with love, hope, fidelity, charity and truth. There are songs for welcome, opening and closing meetings, praise, dedication, installation and a fun song concerning Rufus Brown.

When you get a chance, look through our Grange songbook and read some of the lovely lyrics. Perhaps reading a verse or two would make a meaningful addition to a Lecturers program for your Grange, virtual or in-person. One line that deserves quoting was written by Mr. James Orr (who wrote at least 27 of the songs) and reads, "The pathway you have left is rough with obstacles unseen, but persevere, for oft rough stones have diamonds hid between."

Stay safe and let me know if you discover what Rufus did!

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