

WELCOME
to the
One Hundredth Anniversary
Celebration
of
WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Organized January 2, 1888

Celebrated June 5, 1988

at

THE GILBERT SCHOOL
Winsted, Connecticut



ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

June 5, 1988

PRESENTATION OF OFFICERS

PRESENTATION OF FLAGS

Girard Lemieux

James Bement

"STAR SPANGLED BANNER" by all

INVOCATION - Reverend Karl H. Duetzmann

Pastor Winchester Center Congregational Church

GREETINGS - Francis Bement, Master

Ellsworth M. Beecher, General Chairman

RECOGNITION - National and State Officers

Mountain County Officers

RECOGNITION - Officers of Winchester Grange

Special Presentation - Shirley Lemieux

PRESENTATION GOLDEN SHEAFS - Woodrow Tucker

High Priest of Demeter

Ellsworth Beecher

CT State Grange Master

PRESENTATION - Renee Ford, Junior Grange Master

ENTERTAINMENT

Sara Stoughton - Junior Grange

Mary Sullivan - Piano Medley

Winchester Quartet - Francis Bement

Joseph Bement

Donald Fancher

Robert Fancher

ADDRESS - Woodrow W. Tucker, High Priest of Demeter

Candlelight Closing - Barbara English, Lecturer

BENEDICTION - Reverend Ernest L. Bengston, Jr.

Former Pastor Winchester Center Congregational Church

INVITATION to the Dining Room - Francis Bement

AN INFORMAL HISTORY OF WINCHESTER GRANGE #74
on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary
June 5, 1988

The history of any organization can be interesting, or very dull. It can be long, or it can be brief. If we were to cover the one hundred years of Winchester Grange in detail, it would be very long, and undoubtedly very dull, before it was finished. However, I will attempt to make this interesting and not very long...and do hope that you will enjoy this informal history of this Winchester Grange.

One hundred years ago - on January 2, 1888, on a cold and blowy evening, twenty men and eleven women met in the living room of the Tunis Goodenough home in Winchester - now the home (for many years) of John Houlihan and his family. We've heard the tales of little Francis Goodenough and little Corny Johnson hanging over the railing at the top of the stairs, listening to what was going on in the living room...feeling they were much too old to be playing with the "little children" in the bedroom. With the folks in the living room were the more experienced grange members from Hope Grange #20 in West Torrington - Brothers Whiting, Wetmore, and Kimberly, Sister Kimberly, and State Deputy A.F. Miner.

All the charter members were instructed in the four degrees and officers were elected that evening, with Tunis Goodenough the first master. The following month he was elected Master of the newly organized Mountain County Pomona Grange also!

From the beginning the organization was a sturdy, healthy group. Reading the list of names shows that many of the families that organized Winchester Grange have maintained an interest in it through the years, forming a continuing bond of concern in the strength of Winchester Grange. Hanging in the hall at all times, except for today when it is in with the memorabilia items, is a plaque listing the Charter Members, lettered a number of years ago by Past Master Karl Kandler.

The minutes of the third meeting read thus: "The third meeting of Winchester Grange #74 was not held. The blizzard of the 12th of March putting an effectual blockade in the highways and byways of this community."

Throughout the years Winchester Grange has continued to grow steadily - not spectacularly, but steadily. There have been good years and bad years - years with many losses and years with many gains. Primary interest at all times has been to the community which it serves, with a broadening concern for the Pomona, the State, and the National Granges. Many members of Winchester Grange have served in offices on all levels of grange work, and at the present time the Master of the Connecticut State Grange, Ellsworth M. Beecher, continues to serve his own grange as well.

The first meetings of Winchester Grange were in a hall over the store owned by the Bronson Brothers - now the Lamp Museum, owned by George Sherwood. This was rented for the magnificent sum of fifty cents a month! In 1894, learning that the building known as Hurlbut's Store was for sale, a committee was formed to investigate and decide on whether or not to buy. The decision was made and Winchester Grange had its own home - the price was \$600.00. The old Hurlbut Store became the Grange Hall - the scene of many events for many years in Winchester Center - plays, dinners, auctions, dances, card parties, and lots of fun for many young people growing up in the Center. Wedding receptions were held there, minstrels performed, and the famous plays, presented by the Winchester Players drew people from miles around to Winchester Grange Hall.

And in 1951 the dear old grange hall burned to the ground - closing one chapter in the history of our grange, but opening another, as members, both brothers and sisters, gathered their time, their strength, and their talents, and under the direction of Sherwood Berger, and the Building Committee, rebuilt the hall. It burned on June 21, 1951, and the new hall was dedicated and ready for use on June 25, 1952 - at which time a dedication ceremony was held, with a wonderful program and service to bind this new grange hall into the community - much as the old hall had served.

None of us will forget the years that followed immediately after the rebuilding of the hall, as we worked to pay off the mortgage on the beautiful new building - but pay it off we did, in a comparatively short time. We paid it off with "blood, sweat, and tears" and by serving FOOD in so many ways! Receptions, dinners, auctions, food sales, antique shows, fairs - you name it and we did it! And we burned that mortgage with much fanfare!

Perhaps it is fortunate that a group must work in order to maintain a building, as well as to pay off the mortgage. If you have nothing for which to work...then why work? With the building that we have, the upkeep which it demands, and the pride which we have in the building, the members of Winchester Grange continue to work in many ways to keep our treasury healthy. Recent renovations have been the installation of new lights throughout the building, and new fans in the upper hall to be installed in the next few weeks. It is a never-ending "project".

We have had many things of which we could be proud in our grange, but probably one of the things of which we are the proudest is our excellent Junior Grange - Winchester Junior Grange #32 - a strong and active group of young people who celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our Junior Grange this past April. Grandchildren and great grandchildren of those first organizers of Winchester Grange are among the present members and we are happy to say that most of the children become members of the subordinate grange when they leave the Junior Grange. It is "expected"! Many of our Junior officers have gone on to become officers in the subordinate grange - they serve our organization well.

For several years during the 1940's, a major 3-day Fair was an event of the summer, but this was finally consolidated into a one-day Fair, when after two years of rainy weather, the third year found a real hurricane barreling into Winchester Center, blowing down the tents, upsetting the animals, and generally creating havoc. Since that time the second Saturday in August is the Grange Fair and Flea Market in Winchester Center, and this has served us well, without as many heartaches and headaches as the 3-day Fair brought.

The well-known Winchester Strawberry Festival was taken over by the Grange a few years ago and continues to be held on Father's Day, the third Sunday in June. The slogan is "Take Dad to Winchester for Strawberry Shortcake", and many do just that, enjoying the delicious berry dessert, as well as the beautiful laurel that lines the roads to Winchester Center. Two years ago a series of Third Sunday Dinners was started and continue to be held successfully from September through April. Many hands help regularly in many ways to make these events successful.

Since its organization in 1948 the Winchester Volunteer Fire Department has been housed in a section of the Grange Hall and a very good relationship is enjoyed by the two organizations.

For a number of years a monthly newsletter was sent to all the members of the grange, but with the increasing membership, the cost of postage, and the time consumed in the project the monthly letter was discontinued. However a "big" letter is mailed out about three times a year to all families, to let them know what has gone on, what is going on, and what will be going on in their grange. A "mini" letter is distributed at every grange meeting to all those attending, and this has become a valuable part of our grange life, letting members know what has happened between meetings, what plans are being made, members who might be sick, or celebrating some special event. We feel this communication is a very good part of our life in Winchester Center.

Time does not permit telling about the many things which the members of Winchester Grange have done over the years - some of great importance and some of importance only to ourselves. Nor would it be interesting to read - except for those members! Suffice it to say that our grange life is interesting, it is fun, it is rewarding, it is gratifying, sometimes it is frustrating - but it is a way of life.

The members of Winchester Grange - that is the important part of the organization - of any organization - those members are the ones who have built this Grange, who have maintained this Grange, and who will continue to love it and to cherish it, and to keep it - the brothers and sisters who have been members for many years, and those who have joined more recently. Today we pay tribute to the members - those who organized our grange one hundred years ago - those who have worked so hard through the years, in good times and bad - and those who will continue to work for Winchester Grange, as we join the other granges in Connecticut who are now in their second century of existence.

In 1898 Mrs. S.A. Wetmore wrote an essay on Winchester Grange, and she ended it by saying, "Long live Winchester Grange #74!" To that we say, "Amen".

Marion Beecher
Secretary

PAST MASTERS - WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Tunis Goodenough	1888-89, 1901-02
S.A.Wetmore	1890
B.H.Johnson	1891-92
George Weigold	1893-94
Horace Burr	1895-96
George Beach	1897
E.L.Humphrey	1898
W.L.Goodenough	1899
W.L.Wetmore	1900
L.P.Humphrey	1903
O.H.Stanard	1904
Wilbur G.Lee	1905
C.E.Johnson	1906-07
Fred Beecher	1908-09, 1928-29
A.B.Johnson	1910
Grove Johnson	1911
Oscar Hurlbut	1912
Theodore Apley	1913-14
Nelson White	1915-16
Fred Seymour	1917
Albert Dayton	1918-19
Wallace Pendleton	1920-21
Lester Hurlbut	1922-23
Harvey Ford	1924-25
Raymond Goodenough	1926-27
Arthur Johnson	1930-31
Fonrose Bushnell	1932-33
William Porter	1934-35
Kingsley Beecher	1936-37
Harold Beach	1938-39
Frederick Brooks	1940-41
Stuart Bronson	1942, 1946
Donald Marchand	1942-44, 1953-54
Ellsworth Beecher	1945, 1949-50, 1985-86
Karl Kandler	1947-48
Richard Galaise	1951-52
Sherwood Berger	1955-56
David Avery Jr	1957-58
Francis Goodenough	1958
Donald Fancher	1959-61
Joseph Bement	1962-64, 1975-76
George Fratini	1965-67
Domenic Campi	1968-69
Clayton Jewiss	1970-72
Barry Beecher	1973-74
Donald Dewey	1977-78
Girard Lemieux	1979-80
Francis Bement	1981-82, 1987-88
Craig Leifert	1983-84

GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBERS

David Avery Sr
 Betty Beecher
 Donald Beecher
 Ellsworth Beecher
 Alma Brooks
 Edna Cooper
 Edwin Eisenlohr
 Louise Eisenlohr
 Barbara English
 Parks Holcomb Sr
 Lawrence Hurlbut
 Philip Hurlbut
 Winfred Hurlbut
 Roy Johnson
 Katharine Morton
 Andrew Thomen

Edna Monroe
 John Houlihan
 Anthony Nero
 Thomas Roberts
 Doris Woodin

OFFICERS OF WINCHESTER GRANGE

Master	Francis Bement
Overseer	Craig Leifert
Lecturer	Barbara English
Steward	Donald Fancher
A. Steward	Girard Lemieux
L.A. Steward	Sandra Adams
Chaplain	Dorothy Jewiss
Treasurer	Ellsworth Beecher
Secretary	Marion Beecher
Gatekeeper	Matthew Kline
Ceres	Caroline Monroe
Pomona	Anna Campi
Flora	Mary Anne Nash
Pianist	Arline Cote
Executive Committee	Shirley Lemieux
	Donald Dewey
	Maynard Rougeot
Women's Activities	Susan Addison
	Edna Monroe
	Sara Bement
	Dorothy Dewey
Junior Leader	Ellsworth Beecher
Assistant	Marion Beecher

THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS LECTURER (living)

Barbara English
Sara Bement
Dorothy Jewiss
Dorothy Dewey
Angela Mottai Bolus
Alma Brooks

*Katherine Matton
Martha Bronson*

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE: Ellsworth Beecher and all the officers

Special appreciation is expressed to Shirley Lemieux and all those who have helped with the refreshments for the afternoon. The beautiful anniversary cake is the work of Shirley Lemieux.

Many thanks to all those who have assisted in any way to make this 100th anniversary a memorable occasion.

Our appreciation is also expressed to The Gilbert School officials and to Thomas Bonadies, custodian, for his help.