

History of Beaver Grange

Beaver Grange was organized on 23 September 1899, in the Town Hall by Baxter Gay of New London, with 28 Charter members:

The first officers were: Master, Ruel Heath; Overseer, Charles Hill; Lecturer, Marcella Hill; Steward, Charles Noyes; Asst. Steward, Mclellan O. Boyce; Champlin Francis George; Secretary, Edith Clough; Treasurer, George H. Morgan; Gatekeeper, George Chase; Pomona, Mary Boyce; Flora, Blanche Brown; Ceres, B. Ann Woodward; Lady Asst. Stewart, Francilla Kinsley.

The first class of candidates was 17 Oct. 1899. It included Charles E. Bailey, George D. Philbrick, Ada Philbrick, Lenore Philbrick and Lucy Severance. At this meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Hill took the obligation as charter members.

Some of the officers have been as follows: Masters: Adah Hill, Charles Hill, Joseph Severance, George D. Philbrick, Carl Philbrick, Guy Cross, Lydia Cross, Pauline Bailey, Evan George, Kenneth Butcher, Marjorie George, Pearl Philbrick, and Francis Beals. Lecturers: Marcella Hill, A.A. Felch, Lydia Cross, Ada Philbrick, Angelia Woodward, George D. Philbrick, Ada Philbrick, Mary Boyce, Lena Patten, Pearl Wheeler, Evan George, Libbie Cass, Yvonne Kezar, Ruby Carpenter, Patsy Heath, and Alice Lorent. Secretaries: Edith Clough, Charles E. Bailey, Marcella Hill, Hilda Peaslee, Ada Philbrick, Hilda Clough, Helen Philbrick, Vera Patten, Marion Currier, Ruby Carpenter, and Mildred Davis.

The officers for 1968 [Bicentennial Year] are as follows: Master, Benjamin H. Kezar; Overseer, Hazel Carpenter, Lecturer, Maly White; Steward, Evan George; Asst. Steward, Arthur Carpenter; Chaplin, Pearl Wheeler; Treasurer, Marjorie George; Secretary, Ruby Carpenter; Gatekeeper, David Carpenter; Ceres, Linda Wheeler; Flora Lillian Delaney,

Over the years the Grange has bought chairs, tables, dishes, piano, the stage curtain for the town hall and helped on many other things. Fiftieth and sixtieth anniversaries were celebrated. There are two original charter members left, Mary Boyce Bragg and Lura Noyes Gordon; and one member of the original class still with us, Lenore Philbrick Paul.

The Grange has had 28 Masters in its sixty-nine years of being. In the year 1948, Beaver Grange had the youngest master in the state and the nation, Benjamin H. Kezar.

*Written by Ruby Carpenter for The Springfield Bicentennial, 1968.
The Beaver Grange has been disbanded for some time.*

[Note: in 1948, Francis Duford was the youngest grange master. There may have been others after that time. Patsy Heath Caswell]