

# THE VICTOR GRANGE

## NOTES FROM 1875-1933



### HISTORIC VALENTOWN MUSEUM GRANGE BOOKLET

#### BOOKLET No. 3 of 5 – VICTOR GRANGE NOTES - 1875-1933

**Source:** Text as transcribed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of an 8/8/1938 newspaper article in the Valentown archives that details some of the activities of the Victor Grange. Research compiled by Lynne D. Perry.

## The Victor Grange (#322)

HISTORY OF NEW YORK STATE GRANGE					
No.	NAME OF GRANGE	FIRST MASTER	SECRETARY	COUNTY	ORG.
321	West Italy Hill	T. M. Sliter	Thos. W. Teel	Yates	1875*
322	Victor	Nathan C. Baker	C. W. Ford	Ontario	1875
323	Cold Spring	E. C. McClaughey	A. W. Cable	Delaware	1875*
324	Big Creek	S. H. Johnson	L. H. VanOrder	Steuben	1875*
325	Stock	J. B. Perrine	H. A. Stright	Livingston	1875*
326	Macedon	H. C. Durfee	Libbie J. Durfee	Wayne	1875
327	Barrington (1101)	Benjamin Freeman	B. M. Crosby	Yates	1875*

Record of Origin – 100 Year History of the New York State Grange

### Victor Grange Bought a Library and a Stove in Ye Olden Days.

*(Second and final installment of Mrs. Anna North's history of Victor Grange, 1875-1933)*

In 1877, Charles Ford was the first delegate elected to the Farmers' Alliance meeting.

The first debate given in the Victor Grange took place at the celebration of the third anniversary, and the subject was: "Resolved – which causes the most misery, pride of intemperance?"

In 1879, \$25 was set aside to purchase books for a library, and Mr. Charles Wood donated a nice bookcase to hold the library. The same year an organ was purchased for \$90, and George Williams was appointed organist.

In 1880, the Grange first hired Valentown Hall and a place for horses, also bought furniture for the hall.

Now follows the lapse of eight years, of which we have no record except what can be gleaned from the treasurer's book. The secretary's book from 1880 to 1888 disappeared years ago.

In 1892, Farmington Grange invited Victor Grange to hold a fair with them in September. A member from each Grange was chosen for each committee. The fair was a success, and our share of the profits was \$10.89.

The first insurance agent was G. Aldrich, appointed in 1892. Pomona Grange met with Victor Grange December 9, 1892 and has done so many times since then. The hall was decorated, and Mr. Longyear was authorized to serve a dinner. Each member of Victor Grange paid for his own dinner, and the Grange footed the bill of \$35.25 for the visitors.



In June 1905, a piano was purchased for \$50, and on July 4<sup>th</sup> of that year the Grange held a celebration, for which they collected \$26 towards expenses.

Imagine buying a gasoline stove, a water pail and dipper for \$9. Well, that is what Worthy Master G. B. Pickering did in 1905 with \$9 left over from the Pomona dinner.

At the first meeting in March 1914, Mertensia Grange was merged in Victor Grange, and the next meeting was held in Victor village. May 2, 1914, the first meeting was held in Victor Town Hall with 56 members present. At this meeting the first and second degrees were conferred on 71 candidates by a degree team from Newark Grange, Newark, N.Y.

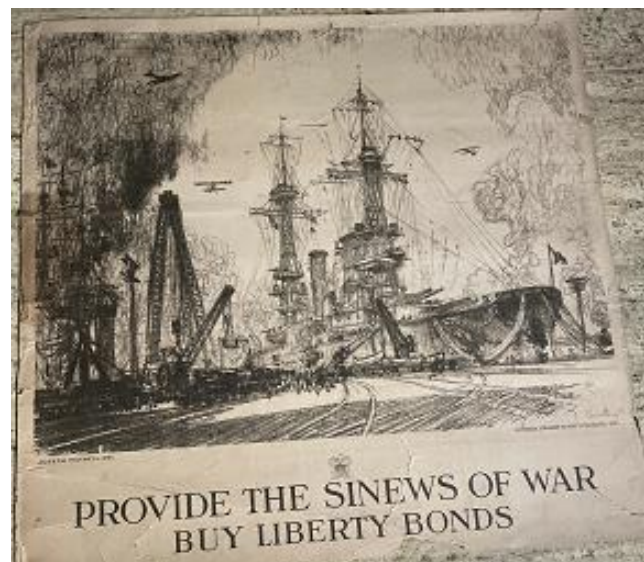
*Researchers Note: The March 13, 1914 issue of the Victor Herald includes an article that opens as follows:*

***“The meeting of Victor Grange, No. 322, held Saturday evening, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at Valentown Hall, was, it is expected, the last meeting held in the old hall, which ha sheltered the organization for over a quarter century.”***

*The article later poignantly notes:*

***“This old hall fairly rings with the echoes of Grange meetings and social gatherings and it will be long before the Grange and Valentown Hall cease to be associated in the public mind.”***

In June 1917, we gave \$50 for Red Cross work and in November, \$50 for Y.M.C.A. army work. In 1918, \$25 was sent to the K. of C. for army work, and the same year the Grange bought a **\$200 Liberty Bond** and also gave \$25 to Red Cross work. And so the good work has gone on from year to year until now we are a strong, happy Grange with a membership of 223 loyal brothers and sisters.



We have had some, MANY, wonderful officers among our members. Whole families have lived and worked with us – the Bakers, the Fords, the Pickerings and many others, most of them known to you better than to me. When I found the notice of the passing on of the fourth Pickering thought that the old Grange had indeed lost a faithful name. Mrs. Jennie A. Pickering was secretary for many years and such a faithful one that I felt that I had lost a friend when her records ceased.

Many celebrations instituted in early days have come on down to our time. The anniversary supper has always been a **maple syrup** supper, the installation supper an oyster supper. We have had many famous Fourths of July, and nearly always a Grange picnic with ice cream served by the Grange.

A “jubilee song” for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was written by Mrs. Dorothy L. Boughton and was sung to the tune of “Flow Gently, Sweet Afton.”

*Editor’s Note: In 1932, Mrs. North added to the history written for the Golden Jubilee as follows:*

During the year since the writing of the 50-year history, Victor Grange has been busily making more good history. Neighbor’s’ nights have been observed with the Granges of surround towns. Many tureen suppers have been held as well as our annual picnics and sausage roasts, all of which have redounded to the good of the order. The little card parties and informal dances are responsible for many pleasant hours and good visitors.

Victor Grange gives two English prizes each year at our high school commencement, also subscribes to the Grange’s “Revolving Scholarship Fund” and each year buys a health bond. So, you see, Victor Grange is on the job doing what she can for the good of all – always trying to remember the sick and afflicted, ready with a helping hand or a word of sympathy.

In December 1932, Victor Grange received from the Hemlock Fair committee a check for \$50 as a prize for their exhibit of farm products. December 19<sup>th</sup> that year a golden certificate was presented to Brother Amos Olney in recognition of his 50 years of continuous membership in Victor Grange.

Brother and Sister Herman Gibke and Brother Charles Wood on their memberships of 25 years. Silver star certificates were presented to Brother and Sister Herman Gibke and Brother Charles Wood on their memberships of 25 years.



On November 19, 1933, valuable books and regalia and most of the Grange furniture were saved from a fire which destroyed the Victor Town Hall. Some of the articles were slight scorched.

*Editor's Note: The history of Victor Grange as compiled by Mrs. North closes with 1933.*

**Valentown Ballroom Dances:** With the Victor Grange using Valentown Hall as their headquarters, it's easy to imagine the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor cathedral ceilinged ballroom being the venue for local Grange and community dances as well as the Grange rituals. In the early 1900's the ballrooms large stage would have easily accommodated lively musical bands like the Victor Military Band and the Rhythm Rangers.



AT \_\_\_\_\_

**LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL**  
Dancing - Round and Square with Pop  
and his Rhythm Rangers  
FISHERS, N. Y.

P. O. BOX 83 CHICAGO, N. Y.

# VICTOR GRANGE FAIR

PREMIUM  
LIST

# 1926

Thursday and Friday  
November 11th and 12th

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The Victor Grange is again busy with its arrangements for the Annual Fair in the interests of Agriculture and Home Economics. Many exhibits are being arranged for, with worth-while premiums, and there will be both social interest and entertainment.

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The following committees will indicate something of the expected interest:—

Chairmen of Supper Committee—Mr. and Mrs. Herman Steffenhagen  
Chairmen of Executive Committee—Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Aldridge  
Chairman of Home Economics—Mrs. Raymond Phillips  
Chairmen Fruit Exhibit—Messrs. Ellsworth Green and Edward Gillis  
Chairmen Vegetable Exhibit—Josiah Snyder and Ellis Boughton  
Chairmen Fruit Exhibit—Ellsworth Green and Edward Gillis  
Chairman Junior Project—Mrs. Leahy  
Entertainment—Adair Lauder  
School Exhibit—Mrs. M. V. V. Smith  
Hall Arrangement—Brice Bowerman  
Candy—Elizabeth North  
Ice Cream—Mrs. Josiah Snyder  
Advertising—John Boughton

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### ADMISSION FEES

Admission, afternoon and evening.....	.25c
Season Ticket .....	.35c
Entertainment .....	.35c
Children under 12 years, Season Ticket.....	.15c
Supper .....	.50c

## **Historic Valentown Museum**

The Historic Valentown Museum, owned and operated by the **Victor Historical Society**, promotes, preserves and teaches the history of the **Historic Valentown** site, including the 1879 structure known as Valentown Hall, its collection of related artifacts and the history of the surrounding community.

Using the **Historic Valentown** site, we teach by using exhibits, giving tours and through promoting community. Our goal is to teach the public the concepts and applications of American commerce and the community story, past, present and potential future. Our mission is to create interest and instill appreciation for hometown business and community using our historic collection of documents, our knowledge of the people and generations that came before us, the American made artifacts housed within Valentown Hall, and other settings on the site.

### **Historic Valentown Museum**

**P.O. Box 472**

**267 High St.**

**Victor, New York 14564**

**(585) 924-4170**

<https://HistoricValentownMuseum.org>  
[info@historicvalentownmuseum.org](mailto:info@historicvalentownmuseum.org)

Historic Valentown is owned and operated by the  
Victor Historical Society - a 501-C3 NFP Organization

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