

THE VICTOR GRANGE (#322) FROM VALENTOWN ONWARD



HISTORIC VALENTOWN MUSEUM GRANGE BOOKLET BOOKLET No. 2 of 6 – The Victor Grange

Sources: Newspaper articles dated Apr. 18, 1923, Newspaper article (undated) of the Mertensia / Victor Grange merger when Harvey Aldridge was Grange Master, page 148 of "100 Year History of the New York State Grange 1873-1973", "Journal of Proceedings of the National Grange of the Patrons ...", Volumes 12-16", maplewoodgrange.org, castategrange.org, input and guidance from Ontario County NY's Grange, and online records available from the Victor NY Historian. Research compiled by Lynne D. Perry.

ORIGINAL GRANGE APPLICATION

382 R Apr. 10 P Apr. 4 X Apr. 13 A

Deputies in ordering blanks will please give the letter of the blank wanted.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

National Grange Incorporated January, 1873.

Deputies representing Granges are requested to send a copy of this sheet to the Secretary of their State Grange at the same time they send the application and fee to Washington.

To O. H. KELLEY, Secretary of National Grange,
Washington, D. C.

The undersigned have organized a Subordinate Grange in the Town of Perinton & Victor Counties of Monroe & Ontario State of New York and most respectfully ask for a Dispensation and all necessary documents, and enclose the fee of fifteen Dollars for the same.

Names of Applicants.

J. Olney A. Benson W. Ford C. Wood C. Vanvechten R. Reeve
N. Phillips M. Pickering H. Boyd P. Pickering S. Pickering
Cynthia Olney Rhoda Benson Abbie Benson Jennie Pickering
Mary Boyd Maggie Reed Letitia Pickering Mary B. Baker
Mollie Baker Bell Pickering Lottie Reed T. Olney
Lea Valentine G. Williams C. Aldridge
F. Manley G. J. Aldridge Emily Phillips
Alice Ford Verna Wood A. Olney E. R. Reed
Mrs E. Manley Bell Hitcham Sarah Benson
Nathan C. Baker Master. Char W. Ford Secretary.

P. O. Address: Egypt Monroe Co. N.Y. P. O. Address: Victor Ontario Co. N.Y.
 Nearest Express Office: Fishers County of Ontario Co. N.Y.
 Name of Grange: Victor 323
 Organized and approved by L. A. Palmer
 Date April 7th 1875 P. O. Address Honeye Falls Monroe Co. N.Y.

Instructions to Deputies.

The Grange organized will receive all necessary documents with their Dispensation, and in the meantime can be appointing their Committees, preparing their Hall, and holding for Candidates. Dispensations will invariably be sent within forty-eight hours after the receipt of the application.

These Granges are represented in the State Grange, and State Grange makes application for Charter, they will work under a Dispensation. The number of Charter members shall not be less than nine men and five women, one man and twenty men and two women.

Property of the Victor Historical Society

Transcribed Charter Applicants: Mr. Nathan A. Baker & Mrs. (Mary), Mr. Alonzo Benson & Mrs. (Rhoda), Mr. Henry Boyd & Mrs. (Mary), Mr. Charles Wm. Ford & Mrs. (Alice), Mr. Fred Manley, Mr. John Olney & Mrs. (T.), Mr. Phineas Pickering & Mrs. (Letitia), Mr. George B. Pickering & Mrs. (Dr. Jennie Pickering), Mr. Willis Pickering & Mrs. (Mary Belle), Mrs. N. Phillips, Mrs. Ernest Reed, Mr. Robert Reeve & Mrs. (Maggie), Rollin Aldrich, Mollie Baker,

Abbie Benson, Sarah Benson, Charles Ford, Belle Ketcham, Ada Olney, Frank Olney, Lanson Valentine, Charles Vanvechten, Verna Wood, Charles Wood and George Williams.

FOUNDING VICTOR GRANGE OFFICERS

The “Victor Grange” founding members hailed from the town of Victor as well as several neighboring towns. Among the 35 original Victor Grange members, officers chosen were:

- Master** – Nathan Baker (Egypt);
- Overseer** – John Olney (Bushnells Basin);
- Lecturer** – Ernest Reed (Victor);
- Steward** – William Ford (Fairport);
- Assistant Steward** – George Pickering (Egypt);
- Chaplain** – Nathaniel Phillips (Fishers);
- Treasurer** – Alonzo Benson (Fishers);
- Secretary** – Charles W. Ford (Victor);
- Gatekeeper** – Charles VanVechten (Victor);
- Lady Assistant Steward** – Miss Abbie Benson (Fishers);
- Ceres*** - Mrs. H.H. Boyd;
- Pomona*** – Mrs. N. C. Baker;
- Flora*** – Mrs. George Pickering.

**Ceres, Pmona, Flora: The Grange rituals, as founder Oliver Kelley devised them, are arranged along Masonic lines, dedicated to promoting rural life but open to all, in contrast to many other organizations of the time that restricted along gender, religious or racial lines. Memberships consist of seven degrees, first through fourth and then Pomona, Flora and Ceres. Full membership in the Grange comes from completing the fourth degree; those who are only the first degree are known as provisional members. The three higher degrees are named for Roman deities. Pomona- goddess of fruit and gardens, Flora- goddess of flowers, Ceres- goddess of food plants. The higher degrees are given at the county, state, and national level.*

In the 13th session of the National Grange held in 1879 George Pickering received the 6th degree and Mr. & Mrs. Willis Pickering received the 5th degree. Nathan Baker achieved the 6th degree at the 14th session held in Washington DC in 1880.

Membership oath involves promising to obey the laws of state and nation, and the orders of Grange superiors (as long as those do not conflict with law or religious belief). Grange rituals are of Christian derivation, the Grange is open to all religions and makes a point of deferring to an individual’s religious convictions.

VICTOR GRANGE OVERVIEW

The **Victor Grange (#322)** was founded in April 1875 in the little country schoolhouse (District #7). In 1880, after the construction of Valentown Hall was complete, the Hall was hired by the Grange to house the Grange meetings plus a place for stabling horses, and furniture was also bought for the Hall.

The 4-story building, besides containing the Grange meeting room, was also home to a Grange run co-op general store and bakery, community meeting room, harness shop, millinery shop, cobbler's shop, music school, and 3rd floor Grand Ballroom.

For the next 30-plus years, Valentown Hall was headquarters to the Victor Grange, serving as housing for their meetings, and a venue for events and community gatherings organized by the local residents and the Victor Grange.

The last meeting of the Victor Grange that was held in Valentown Hall was Saturday evening, March 7th, 1914. Twenty members attended, which was an excellent showing given the bad conditions of the roads that night.

The Merger of the Victor Grange & Mertensia Grange

The most important announcement that evening was that every obstacle had been overcome and every preliminary step taken necessary for the consolidation of Mertensia Grange with Victor Grange, and that they were moving the meeting place to the village of Victor.

Moving day plans were discussed and it was decided to make the change in time for the holding of the next meeting on Saturday evening, March 21st at the W.B. Gallup block in Victor.

Although at the time the Gallup block had not been leased yet, the Grange held an option on the space there and it was expected it would become the new Grange home. The Gallup Block was also home to the Victor Fire Department at that time.

The **Mertensia Grange (#1191)** was established in 1909, 34 years after the Victor Grange. The First Master was H.H. Collins and Secretary was Roy Olney. Prior to the merge the Mertensia Grange met in the schoolhouse and homes of various members.

Although technically still two separate Granges after they physically merged together, they were *officially* joined as one body in March 1914 as the Victor Grange.

Meetings of the merged Granges were held in W. B. Gallup block until quarters became too small and it was necessary to move into the auditorium of Victor Town Hall.

In June of 1917 the Grange was found doing its bit among other things by generously giving \$50 to the Red Cross and \$50 to the YMCA for Army work. To put this in perspective, \$50.00 in 1917 would be \$1,100.00 today! A year later they gave \$25 to the Knights of Columbus fraternity in support of their Army work as we entered into WWI , \$5 to the Red Cross and purchased a \$200 Liberty Bond. At that time the Grange had 223 members.

In 1933 Mrs. Leo Wiley of Victor organized the Junior Grange which held business meetings, enjoyed projects, held talent contests, and sent members to Junior Grange Camps.

Also, in 1933 the Town Hall was destroyed by fire, forcing the Grange to temporarily move to rooms over the E.T. Malone store. Then in 1934 they moved to the Masonic Temple (*originally a church built in 1856 and sold to the Masonic Lodge in 1928*). Eventually they were able to move back to the Town Hall, but when it was remodeled, they moved into the Legacy Sr. Living Center where they remained until a few years later when they dissolved the organization.



Victor Grange History of Elected Officials 1876-1940

Year	Master	Secretary
1876	Nathan C. Baker	Charles W. Ford
1877	G. B. Pickering	Charles W. Ford
1879-1880	John Olney	Mrs. J. A. Pickering
1880-1882	Martin Snyder	Wm. Williams
1883-1885	Charles Ford	Abbie Benson
1886-1887	Wm. Ford	C. W. Ford
1888-1889	N. A. Baker	Miss Abbie Benson
1890	Ambrose Ford	Martin Snyder
1891	George Pickering	Martin Snyder
1892-1893	G. B. Pickering	Mrs. J. A. Pickering
1894	A. R. Shilling	Mrs. J. A. Pickering
1895-1896	N. A. Baker	Alfred Shilling
1897-1898	Amos Olney	N. A. Baker
1899	E. G. Shilling	D. C. Barnhart
1901	Oscar Longyear	Wm. Aldrich
1902	N. A. Baker	Wm. Aldrich
1903	W. L. Aldrich	R. C. Aldrich
1904	E. J. Schilling	R. C. Aldrich
1905-1906	G. B. Pickering	Mrs. J. A. Pickering
1907	G. B. Pickering	Charles W. Wood
1908-1909	Michael Hickey	Charles W. Wood
1910	Wm. Aldrich	George W. Miller
1911	Herman W. Gilke	George W. Miller
1912	George E. McCarthy	Ralph W. McCarthy
1913	George E. McCarthy	Fred Miller
1914-1915	George E. McCarthy	J. E. Snyder
1916	John M. Ladd	Harvey C. Aldrich
1917-1918	Charles A. Philips	Arther M. Ketchum
1919	Charles A. Phillips	Homer Rugg
1920-1921	Charles A. Phillips	Edward Phillips
1922	N. Benson Baker	E. B. Phillips
1923-1925	Harvey C. Aldridge	E. B. Phillips
1926-1927	Ellsworth Green	Victor Tischer
1928	Ellsworth Green	Arthur Ketchum
1929	Ellsworth Green	Victor Tischer
1930	Ellsworth Green	Arthur N. Ketchum
1931	John Schrader	Mrs. Eva Cronk
1932	John Shrader	Mrs. Marguerite Wiley
1933	Frank S. McLaughlin	Mrs. Marguerite Wiley
1934	Frank S. McLaughlin	Elsworth Green
1935	Leo P. Wiley	Mrs. Herman Gibke
1936	Leo P. Wiley	Mrs. Herman Gibke
1937	Raymond C. Phillips	Mrs. Herman Gibke
1938	Raymond C. Phillips	Mrs. Maude Gibke
1939	John E. Damaske	Mrs. Maude Gibke
1940	John E. Damaske	Mrs. Maude Gibke

Since 1913, masters of Victor Grange have been: George McCarthy, John M. Ladd, Charles A. Phillips, Benson Baker and Harvey Aldridge. Victor Grange now has 254 members as follows:

Mrs. A. G. Aldridge, Gilbert Aldridge, Carrie Aldridge, Mrs. Amelia Aldridge, Harvey Aldridge, Terry Aldridge, Leslie Aldridge, Charlotte Aldridge, LeRoy Aldridge, Mrs. Bertha Aldridge, Mrs. Olive Aldridge, W. L. Aldrich, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Benson Baker, John Ball, James A. Benson, A. L. Benson, Edna Bell, Mrs. Mary Bell, Harry Bell, Gertrude Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Linus Boughton, Mr. and Mrs. John Boughton, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boughton, Mrs. Myron Boughton, Luella Boughton, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Boughton, Edith Bowerman, Mr. and Mrs. William Bowerman, Brice Bowerman, Verna Bowerman, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bowerman, Mrs. Frank Bonesteele, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Brady, Miss Bertha Burgett, Byron Blazey, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bunn, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bumpus, Mrs. Inez Case, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Case, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Clapper, Albert Croucher, Marie Czadzeck, William Czadzeck, Ernestina Czadzeck, Edward Czadzeck.

Abram Design, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dibble, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Donnelly, Mrs. Nellie Donohue, Mrs. Leonora Stuart Estes, Mrs. George Ewer, Ruth Ewer, A. C. Ford, Charles W. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. George Gallup, Mr. and Mrs. Herman W. Gibke, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Green, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Green, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Green, Frank Guinan, Doris Gregory, Mrs. Alice Gregory, Anna Marie Garlick, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Haney, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Hathaway, Mr. and Mrs. George Hill, Rev. F. W. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Wilms Hill, Mrs. Fred Higinbotham,

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hollingsworth, Mrs. Delos Hopson, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Howland, Mr. and Mrs. George Hulbert, Lucien Humphrey, Frank G. Hawkins, Allen F. Hawkins, Mrs. Lizzie Hughes, Mrs. Asa Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William Kaiser, Fred Kaiser, Emmett Keefe, Mr. and Mrs. George Ketchum, Helen Ketchum, Arthur Ketchum, August Knack, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ladd, Mr. and Mrs.

Louis Laeper, Mr. and Mrs. William Leahy, Mrs. Agnes Levet, Mrs. Nellie Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. John Lehman, Carl Lehman, Dennis Mahaney, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Malone, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Malone, Eileen Malone, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Manley, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Manley, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Marquis, Ruth Marquis, Leo Murray, William Murray, Lauretta Murray, Francis Murphy, Ralph McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Winifred Nelson, Mrs. Harry North, Mr. and Mrs. Frank North, Byron North, Marie North, Elizabeth North.

Amos Olney, Norma Olney, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olney, Mr. and Mrs. William Osborne, Henry Osborne, Miss Cora Osborne, Mrs. John O'Neil, Miss Grace O'Connor, Mabel Peck, Mrs. Stella Peck, Mrs. Frank Pimm, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Phillips, Emily Phillips, Edward Phillips, Cora Phillips, Raymond Phillips, Marian Phillips, Henry Phillips, Mrs. H. Phillips, Mrs. Edward Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Polhemus, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Prosser, Mr. and Mrs. George Peglow, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rose, Dr. C. A. Rowley, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Rugg, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rugg, Homer Rugg, E. J. Ryan, R. F. Roche, Charles Schrader, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Schrader, Lena Schrader, Frank Schrader, William Schrader, E. J. Shilling, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Carl D. Smith, Mrs. Margaret V. V. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Snyder, Ola Snyder, Homer E. Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Steffenhagen, Edward Steffenhagen, William Stern, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Strong, Martin Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. William Sullivan, James Sullivan, James Thompson, Adam Tischer, Victor Tischer, Thomas Tischer, Benjamin Tischer, Mr. and Mrs. William Turner, Mrs. Jennie Ford Vahue, Mrs. Carrie Van Voorhis, Mabel Van Voorhis, Mr. and Mrs. Menzo Van Voorhis.

Mr. and Mrs. William Webster, Fred Weisenberg, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Welch, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight D. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. John Woolston, Mrs. Edward White, Phny White, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilcox, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Years, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Years, Gordon Years, Raymond Years.

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

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