

What are Grange Heirlooms?

Grange traditions and values are our heirlooms – inseparable pieces of our Order passed down over generations. These cornerstones of what it is to be a Grange and Grangers tie us to our roots and the vision of our Founders, while preparing us for success in Grange and our own lives.

Yet many never read our Declaration of Purposes and misunderstand or avoid ritual, which they often see as a barrier to entry, unwelcoming or frivolous. As we perform our degrees less, we become more appealing to new members who are unfamiliar with fraternal work, but we risk losing our identity and the thing that bonds us together. **We know nature "never goes backward" and nor can the Grange, but we must find ways to bridge the gap and make sure the next generations are prepared to inherit the great treasure that is Grange membership.**

The Heirloom Program allows us to do just that – move forward, while retaining, celebrating and imparting our most cherished values through monthly readings and reflections. You can pass on the lessons most important to our Order and know you're preparing the soil for a great crop of new Grangers to continue and carry our organization forward.

How this Program Works

Designed for Granges to take just a few moments to read and reflect on a phrase or sentence from our First Four Degrees, the Installation Ceremony and the Declaration of Purposes, this program provides one reading a month. A total of 60 value passages have been identified and put on a five-year schedule. In this brochure, you will find Year B (2023, 2028, etc.) readings. **We encourage you to keep this program going so members new to the Grange over the next few years will learn the lessons you teach in 2023.**

You may offer this program at any time in your meeting, though we suggest during the "Conferring of Degrees" or "Good of the Order" portion as outlined in your manual. **Any Grange member can be assigned to present the reading and offer a reflection connecting it to everyday life.** They can also create or use a fun activity, such as a cryptogram, provided by National Grange as part of the program to further call attention to the lesson.

Consider posting the monthly reading to your Grange's social media and start a discussion with your community about Grange values. They may see their own reflected there and inquire how to join.

Good luck and have fun reconnecting with and imparting on your membership these essential Grange lessons.

Tell us how it worked

Have you tried using the Heirloom Program in your Grange? If so, email or send a letter to let us know how your discussion went, what you learned and if it has helped connect your membership to one another and the Grange.

If you created an activity for the reading, please send a copy to our National Membership and Leadership Development Director so we may offer it to other Granges for their use. We'd love to share your story with other Granges through our Regional Conferences, social media, magazine and newsletter.

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Heirloom Program

Year B

To be used in 2023, 2028, etc.

**A Resource to Impart Knowledge
of Essential Grange Values**

Spring

B.1. (March) – “The first and highest object of our Order is—to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood.” (*First Degree; Lecturer*)

B.2. (April) – “Those we admit into our circle are not chosen by outward appearance, and ... we are not deceived by display in dress. It is to the mind and heart that we look for all good works; therefore, in your intercourse with the world, remember that a noble mind and generous heart are often concealed beneath the garments of poverty.” (*First Degree; Steward*)

B.3. (May) – “The interests, the social relations and the destiny of man and woman are identical. She was intended by our Creator to be the helpmeet, companion, and equal of man—the perfecting half added to his hemisphere—thus completing the fully-globed orb of our common humanity; hence, as one, each shares the glory or the shame of the other.” (*First Degree; Chaplain*)

Summer

B.1 (June) – “Let us remember that no trees bear fruit in Autumn which do not blossom in the early Summertime. That life may be profitable, laden with good fruits, let all endeavor that youth be studious and virtuous, replete with the blossoms of observation and study—the promise of future wisdom and usefulness.” (*Second Degree; Pomona*)

B.2 (July) – “Since God placed man on earth, agriculture has existed. There is no occupation that precedes it. Before literature existed, before governments were known, agriculture was the calling of man. And all the fruits of social progress since then grew from the brown soil.” (*Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer*)

B.3 (August) – “In no other occupation does a man’s daily labor bring him into such close companionship with the Great Creator as in the cultivation of the soil.” (*Second Degree; Chaplain*)



Autumn

B.1 (September) – “Cultivate the habit of looking for better and brighter days, instead of mourning over the past.” (*Third Degree; Vice President*)

B.2 (October) – “Speak good of others, rather than evil. Gather up memories of others' virtues, and pass by their faults in pity.” (*Third Degree, Chaplain*)

B.3 (November) – “We cherish the belief that sectionalism is, and of right should be, dead and buried with the past. Our work is for the present and the future. In our agricultural fraternity we shall recognize no North, no South, no East, no West.” (*Grange Declaration of Purposes*)

Winter

B.1 (December) – “...the welfare of each is bound up in the good of all.” (*Fourth Degree; President*)

B.2 (January) – “Encourage improvement; remember that Nature’s motto is onward; she never goes backward.” (*Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer’s charge to President*)

B.3 (February) – “In old age we enjoy the fruits of a well-spent life, surrounded by friends, and in a happy Home, noted for fidelity.” (*Fourth Degree; Steward*)

