

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 (2024, 2029, 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 2024.**

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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Year C

To be used in 2024, 2029, etc.

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

Spring

C.1. (March) – “We proclaim it among our purposes to continue our historical appreciation of the abilities and equality of women.” (*Grange Declaration of Purposes*)

C.2. (April) – “In our fraternity there is work for all and those reap the most abundant harvest of Grange benefits who contribute most liberally of their own time and talent.” (*Official Grange Obligation Ceremony; Secretary*)

C.3. (May) – “For in our fraternity there is work for all, and the idler has no place among Patrons of Husbandry.” (*First Degree; Vice President*)

Summer

C.1 (June) – “Grangers are likened to Shepherds. Our flock is our Grange and our neighbors. We are taught to keep ‘those within the fold, and to reclaim the wandering... Be patient with the wayward, carefully instruct the erring, diligently seek and bring back the straying and those that are cast out.” (*Second Degree; Chaplain*)

C.2 (July) – “Changes and transformations are constantly passing before us.” (*Second Degree; Ceres*)

C.3 (August) – “Wherever you go, whatever your calling, aim to do good. Good deeds are ever fruitful of yet more good.” (*Second Degree; Lecturer*)

Autumn

C.1 (September) – “It is delightful to acquire knowledge, and much more so to diffuse it.” (*Third Degree; Lecturer*)

C.2 (October) – “We desire a proper equality, and fairness; protection for the weak; restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed power. These are American ideals, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of our Republic.” (*Grange Declaration of Purposes*)

C.3 (November) – “That you may enjoy your rewards dispense Charity, the flowers of brotherly love, as freely as Nature spreads her flowery carpet over all the earth. And let your Charity extend to all humanity.” (*Third Degree; Flora*)

Winter

C.1 (December) – “Patrons, carry with you a feeling of compassion for those who strive to make the world a better place.” (*Installation Ceremony; Installation Officer*)

C.2 (January) – “Be cheerful, be united. “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” (*Installation Ceremony; Installation Officer*)

C.3 (February) – “Hope is the heavenly light that gilds our labors. Were we deprived of that source of consolation, life would indeed be dreary.” (*Fourth Degree; Pomona*)

