

Gaines Grange

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The accompanying photo dating back around eighty years has recently been given to the Orleans County Department of History by Dan Hatch. Here we see officers of the Gaines Grange posed in front of the Gaines Congregational Church in the 1930s.

The women in the picture from left to right include: Elinor Cooper, Sarah Bacon, Octavia Mather (Chaplin), Kate Crowley, Alice Hatch (Secretary), Alma Appleton and Wilhelmina Taylor.

The men in the photo from left to right are: William Grinelle (Trustee), Charles Thompson (Trustee), Fred Derisley, Winton Hatch (Master),

one of the largest Grange Halls in the region.

At one time there were several Granges operating in Orleans County. These Patrons of Husbandry were largely rural organizations oriented to farm life. It was a social and fraternal/sorority organization brought about to stimulate rural people and improve their opportunities. It was in fact a service group that championed property rights and human rights. They sought to raise standards of moral, cultural and social standing always commanding the respect of neighbors.

The Gaines Grange 1147 sold their building in 1977 and dissolved in 1979. The last Grange to close was the one at Barre Center several years ago.

Bethinking of Olde Orleans

Ronald Spinks, Lewis Reed and William Crowley (Treasurer).

The Gaines Grange 1147 was formed on Nov. 30, 1908. In May 1909 forty people were initiated into membership.

In the spring of 1915 they purchased Thurber's Hotel next to the Congregational Church and transformed it into the Grange Hall. The third floor was fixed up for a dance hall with a superb hard floor being installed. This was considered one of the best dance floors around at the time and



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