

SUBORDINATE/
COMMUNITY GRANGE

MANUAL

OF THE
PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY



ADOPTED AND ISSUED
BY THE NATIONAL GRANGE

Forty-Seventh Edition
2023

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The National Grange of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry

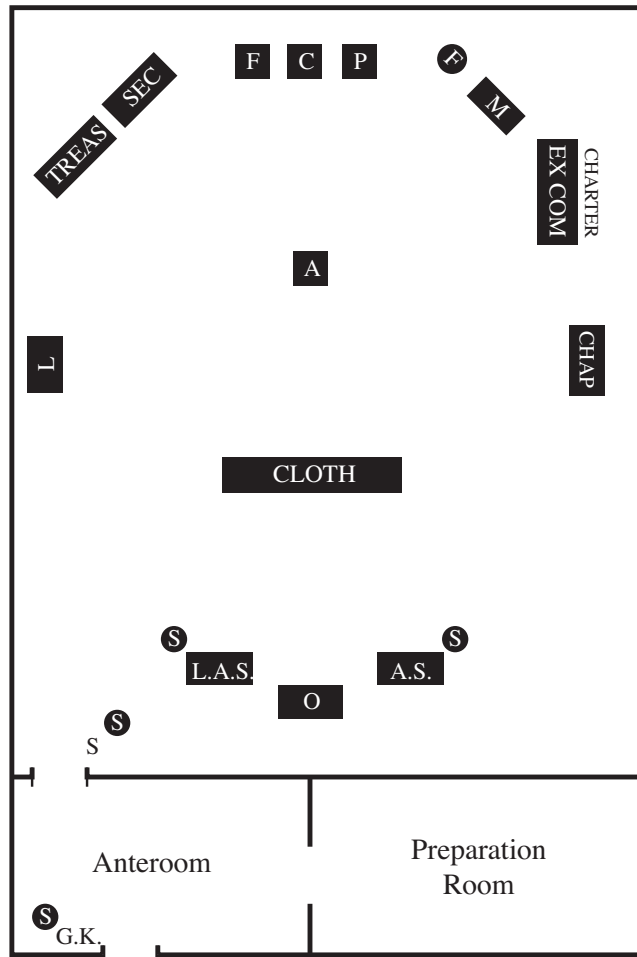
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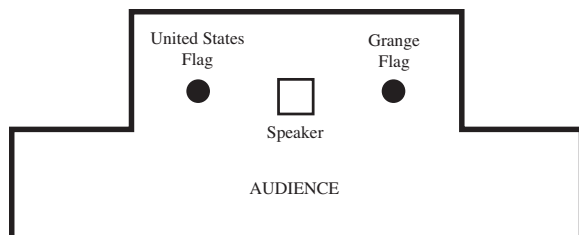
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Meeting Room Diagram of the Subordinate/Community Grange



How to Display the Flag

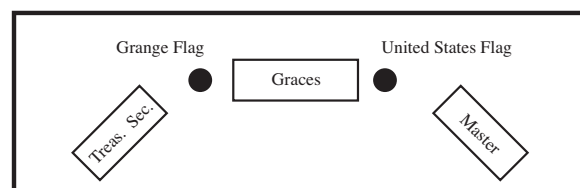


The United States flag may be placed in the position of honor *to the right of the audience* as it faces the speaker, with any other flag to the *audience's left*.

For a Grange meeting, the flags should be placed as indicated in the diagram below.

If placed on the wall, the flag should be directly behind and above the Graces, the stripes in either case pointing towards the Master's station.

If Church, State or other flags are used, they would be placed in line to the left of the Grange flag.



GRANGE MEETING OPENING AND CLOSING RITUAL

OPENING THE GRANGE

M./P.: [Calls to order and stands during the opening ceremony; each officer, as he takes part, should stand while speaking.] The hour of labor has arrived and the work of another day demands our attention. Let each repair to his or her allotted station. Worthy Overseer/Vice President, are all present correct?

O./V.P.: Worthy Steward, you will ascertain.

S.: My Assistants will make examination and report. (*See Instructions on page 50.*)

O./V.P.: Worthy Master/President, We find all present correct.

[*Master/President will call the seated officers to rise and they will remain standing until the close of the opening ceremony.*]

M./P.: Worthy Steward, are the gates properly guarded?

S.: [*Examines and finds Gatekeeper/Greeter at his post.*] They are, Worthy Master/President.

M./P.: Worthy Steward, inform the Gatekeeper/Greeter that we are preparing for work.

S.: [*Opens wide the Inner Gate*] Worthy Gatekeeper/Greeter, the Worthy Master/President directs me to inform you that we are preparing for work.

G.K./G.: [*Closes the Outer Gate*] I therefore close this Outer Gate in Faith, in Hope and Charity, and will guard it with Fidelity.

M./P.: Right, Worthy Gatekeeper/Greeter. [*To Chaplain.*] And now, Worthy Chaplain, as Laborers under the Great Master of the Universe, let us bow in prayer. [*Calls up entire Grange.*]

Chap.: Almighty Father, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and Giver of all good, we return our heartfelt thanks that we are permitted again to meet each other here for work in this glorious cause. Endow us with prudence and wisdom in our counsels as a body, that our work may be good and acceptable in Thy sight, and that our labors may be blessed with a liberal harvest; and when we are called to lay down our implements on earth, may we enter the Paradise not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, and receive that welcome plaudit "Well done, good and faithful servants."

We beseech Thee to bless the officers and members of this Grange, and all connected with the Order from the highest to the lowest degree, and grant them prosperity. We ask all in Thy holy name.

All: Amen [*Chaplain may also give optional prayer.*]

[*Opening Song*]

M./P.: Worthy Steward, please close the Inner Gate.

S.: [*Closes the Inner Gate.*] In Faith, in Hope and in Charity, I close this Inner Gate, and will guard it with Fidelity.

[*Grange Salutation*]

M./P.: Patrons, in Faith, in Hope, in Charity and with Fidelity, this Grange is now opened in ample form in the Fourth Degree. [*Master opens Implement Case.*] Worthy Overseer/Vice President, please proclaim it accordingly.

O./V.P.: By command of the Worthy Master/President, I proclaim this Grange opened in ample form for promoting the welfare of our country and of mankind, and for advancing the interests, elevating the characters, and increasing the influence of all Patrons of Husbandry, by properly transacting our business and by exemplifying our principles in Faith, in Hope, in Charity and with Fidelity.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG (*Optional; see instructions on page 55*)

[Master calls down.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening the Grange
2. Roll call of officers
3. Reading records of last meeting
4. Proposals for membership
5. Balloting for candidates.
6. Conferring degrees
7. Reports of standing committees:
 - A. Legislative-Agriculture
 - B. Women's Activities
 - C. Youth
 - D. Junior
 - E. Community Service
 - F. Deaf Activities
 - G. Membership
 - H. Others
8. Report of special committees
9. Report of Grange services
10. Communications
11. Have the reports of the Pomona and State Grange been duly and promptly made?
12. Bills and accounts
13. Unfinished business
14. New business
15. Is any member sick or in distress?
16. Lecturers program
17. Suggestions for the good of the Order
18. Reading and adopting minutes (*Optional. May be read as third order of business at next meeting.*)
19. Closing the Grange

[Note: Whenever a special meeting is held for conferring degrees the Grange must be opened in full form in the Fourth Degree; then closed in the Fourth and opened in the degree to be conferred. When degree work is completed the Grange must be raised to the Fourth Degree and always closed in full form. See Passing to Different Degrees for instruction.]

CLOSING THE GRANGE

M./P.: Worthy Overseer/Vice President, are the labors of the day completed?

O./V.P.: They are, Worthy Master/President.

M./P.: As there is no more work for us today, the Steward will see that the implements are properly secured for the night. *(See Instructions page 54.)*

S.: All is secure, Worthy Master/President.

M./P.: *[Calls up.]* Brothers and Sisters: As we are again to separate, and mingle with the world, let us not forget the precepts of our Order. Let us add dignity to labor, and in our dealings with our fellow men be honest, be just, and fear not.

We must avoid intemperance in eating, drinking and language, also in work and recreation, and whatever we do, strive to do well. Let us be quiet, peaceful citizens, feeding the hungry, helping the fatherless and the widows, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.

[Closing Song]

[Grange Salutation]

[Retire the flag. Optional.]

M./P.: Worthy Overseer/Vice President, please proclaim the Grange closed.

O./V.P.: By command of the Worthy Master/President, I proclaim this Grange duly closed until again lawfully opened, in Faith, in Hope, in Charity, and with Fidelity.

M./P.: So be it.

All repeat: So be it.

Chap.: *[Benediction]* May the Divine Master protect, guide and bless us all, now and evermore.

All: Amen.

M./P.: Worthy Steward, inform the Gatekeeper/Greeter that the labors of the day are closed.

S.: Worthy Gatekeeper/Greeter, the Worthy Master/President directs me to inform you that the labors of the day are closed.

[Master/President closes Grange with one rap of gavel]

SUBORDINATE/COMMUNITY ALTERNATE OPENING & CLOSING

Pres.: [Calls the Grange to order and stands during the opening ceremony; each officer, as he/she takes part should stand while speaking.] The hour of labor has arrived and the work of another day demands our attention. Worthy Vice President, are we ready to begin?

V.P.: Worthy Steward, please prepare for our work.

S.: My Assistants will open the Bible upon the Altar. (See Instructions on page 50.)

Pres.: And now, Worthy Chaplain, as Laborers under the Great Master of the Universe, let us stand and bow in prayer. [Master calls up]

Chap.: [Gives the usual or an optional prayer]

Almighty Father, maker of Heaven and Earth, and Giver of all good, we return our heartfelt thanks that we are permitted again to meet each other here for work in our glorious cause. Give us patience and wisdom in our counsels as a body, that our work may be good and acceptable in Your sight, and that our labors may be blessed with a liberal harvest, and when we are called to lay down our implements on earth, may we enter that Paradise not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, and receive that welcome greeting, "well done, good and faithful servants."

We beseech You to bless the officers and members of this Grange, and all concerned with the Order from the highest to the lowest degree, and grant them prosperity. We ask all in Your holy name.

All: Amen

Pres.: Worthy Lecturer/Program Director, please announce the opening song.

[Lecturer announces song.]

Pres.: Patrons, I am about to open the Grange. Please assist with the Salutation that signifies that: A good Patron places Faith in God, nurtures Hope, dispenses Charity, and is noted for Fidelity. Patrons, in Faith, in Hope, in Charity, and with Fidelity, this Grange meeting is now opened. Worthy Vice President, please proclaim it accordingly. [President opens Implement Case.]

V.P.: By command of the President, I proclaim this Grange opened for promoting the welfare of our country and of mankind, for advancing the interests, elevating the characters, and increasing the influence of all its members, by properly transacting our business and by exemplifying our principles in Faith, in Hope, in Charity, and with Fidelity.

[Presentation of the flag, optional]

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

[President calls down.]

Pres.: Worthy Greeter, do we have any guests present to be introduced?

[Greeter will respond yes or no, and if yes, will introduce the visitors.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Roll call of officers
2. Reading records of last meeting
3. Proposals for membership
4. Balloting for candidates
5. Obligation, Welcoming, or Conferring of Degrees
6. Reports of standing committees
7. Reports of special committees
8. Report of Grange Services
9. Communications
10. Have reports to Pomona and State Grange been duly and promptly made?
11. Bills and Accounts/ Treasurer's report
12. Unfinished business
13. New business
14. Is any member sick or in distress?
15. Program
16. Suggestions for the Good of the Order
17. Reading and adopting of minutes (*optional, may be adopted at the next meeting*)
18. Closing the Grange

CLOSING THE GRANGE

Pres.: Worthy Vice President, are the labors of the day completed?

V.P.: They are, Worthy President.

Pres.: As there is no more work for us today, the Steward will see that the implements are properly secured for the night, and the Assistant Stewards will close the Bible upon the Altar.
[Calls Grange up.]

Brothers and Sisters, as we are again to separate and mingle with the world, let us not forget the principles of our Order. Let us add dignity to labor, and in our dealings with our fellow men, be honest, be just, and fear not. We must avoid intemperance in eating, drinking, and language, also in work and recreation, and whatever we do, strive to do well. Let us be quiet, peaceful citizens, feeding the hungry, helping the fatherless and the widows, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.

Worthy Lecturer, please announce the closing song.

[Closing song]

Pres.: Patrons, I am about to close the Grange, Please assist with the Salutation, that signifies that: A good Patron places Faith in God, nurtures Hope, dispenses Charity, and is noted for Fidelity.

[Retirement of the flag, optional]

Pres.: Worthy Vice President, please declare the Grange closed.

V.P.: By command of the Worthy President, I proclaim the Grange closed until lawfully opened again in Faith, in Hope, in Charity, and with Fidelity.

Pres.: So be it.

All repeat: *So be it.*

Chap.: May the Divine Master protect, guide, and bless us all, now and evermore.

All: Amen.

Pres.: The labors of the day are closed. [*Gives one rap of the gavel.*]

COMMUNITY GRANGE OPENING AND CLOSING

SIDE-BY-SIDE ENGLISH/SPANISH

This translation is offered as an aid to visitors and members whose native language is Spanish, so that they may better understand and appreciate our ritual work. It is not to be an alternative to the adopted ritual, but instead as a guide that Granges can offer for context and successful navigation of Grange meetings.

OPENING THE GRANGE

President. *[Calls to order and stands during the opening ceremony; each officer, as he takes part, should stand while speaking.]* The hour of labor has arrived and the work of another day demands our attention. Let each repair to his or her allotted station. Worthy Vice President, are all present correct?

Vice President. Worthy Steward, you will ascertain.

Steward. My assistants will make examination and report.

V.P. Worthy President, We find all present correct.

[The President will call the seated officers to rise and they will remain standing until the close of the opening ceremony.]

Pres. Worthy Steward, are the gates properly guarded?

Steward. *[Examines and finds Greeter at his post.]* They are, Worthy President.

Pres. Worthy Steward, inform the Greeter that we are preparing for work.

Steward. *[Opens wide the inner gate.]* Worthy Greeter, the Worthy President di-

APERTURA DE LA GRANGE

Presidente. *[Llamadas a la orden y se coloca durante la ceremonia de apertura; cada oficial , ya que toma parte , debe ponerse de pie mientras habla.]* La hora de trabajo ha llegado y el trabajo de otro día exige nuestra atención. Dejar que cada reparación a su estación asignada. Digno Vicepresidente, son correctos todos los presentes?

Vicepresidente. Digno Mayordomo, se va a verificar.

Mayordomo. Mis asistentes harán examen e informe.

V.P. Digno Presidente, nos encontramos con todos los presentes correcta.

[El Presidente llamará a los oficiales sentados a subir y permanecerán de pie hasta el final de la ceremonia de apertura.]

Pres. Digno Mayordomo, están las puertas vigiladas adecuadamente?

Mayordomo. *[Examina e encuentra Saludador en su puesto.]* Lo son, Digno Presidente.

Pres. Digno Mayordomo, informar el Saludador de acceso que nos estamos preparando para el trabajo.

Mayordomo. *[Abre la amplia puerta interior]* Digno Saludador, el Digno Presidente

rects me to inform you that we are preparing for work.

Greeter. [*Closes the Outer Gate.*] I therefore close this Outer Gate in Faith, in Hope and Charity and will guard it with Fidelity.

Pres. Right, Worthy Greeter. [*To Chaplain.*] And now, Worthy Chaplain, as Laborers under the Great Master of the Universe, let us bow in prayer. [*Calls up entire Grange.*]

Chaplain. Almighty Father, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and Giver of all good, we return our heartfelt thanks that we are permitted again to meet each other here for work in this glorious cause. Endow us with prudence and wisdom in our counsels as a body, that our work may be good and acceptable in Thy sight, and that our labors may be blessed with a Liberal harvest; and when we are called to lay down our implements on earth, may we enter the Paradise not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, and receive that welcome plaudit “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

We beseech Thee to bless the officers and members of this Grange, and all connected with the Order from the highest to the lowest degree, and grant them prosperity. We ask all in Thy holy name.

All. Amen [*Chaplain may also give optional prayer.*]

[*Opening Song*]

Pres. Worthy Steward, please close the Inner Gate.

Steward. [*Closes the inner gate*] In Faith,

me dirige para informarle de que nos estamos preparando para el trabajo.

Saludador. [*Cierra puerta exterior marea*] Yo por tanto, cierro esta puerta exterior en la fe, en la esperanza y la caridad, y guardaré con fidelidad.

Pres. Correcto, Digno Saludador. [*Para Capellán.*] Y ahora, Digno Capellán, como mano de obra en el marco del Gran Maestro del Universo, inclinemos en la oración. [*Se accede a la totalidad de Grange.*]

Capellán. Padre Todopoderoso, Creador del cielo y la tierra, y dador de todo bien, nos devuelven nuestro agradecimiento de corazón que se nos permite de nuevo para cumplir con los demás aquí por trabajo en esta gloriosa causa. Dótanos con prudencia y sabiduría en nuestros consejos como un cuerpo, que nuestro trabajo puede ser bueno y agradable delante de ti, y que nuestros esfuerzos sean bendecidos con una cosecha liberal; y cuando estamos llamados a poner nuestras implementos en la tierra, que podamos entrar en el paraíso no hecha de manos, eterna, en los cielos, y recibir esa bienvenida plaudit “Bien hecho, buen y fieles servidores.”

Te rogamos que bendiga a los funcionarios y miembros de esta Grange, y todos conectados con la orden de mayor a menor grado, y les conceda prosperidad. Pedimos a todos en tu santo nombre.

Todas. Amén [*Capellán también puede dar la oración opcional.*]

[*Canción de apertura*]

Pres. Digno Mayordomo, por favor cerrar la puerta interior.

Mayordomo. [*Cierra la puerta interior*] En

in Hope and in Charity, I close this Inner Gate, and will guard it with Fidelity.

[Grange Salutation]

Pres. Patrons, in Faith, in Hope, in Charity and with Fidelity, this Grange is now opened in ample form in the Fourth Degree. *[President opens Implement Case.]* Worthy Vice President, please proclaim it accordingly.

V.P. By command of the Worthy President, I proclaim this Grange opened in ample form for promoting the welfare of our country and of mankind, and for advancing the interests, elevating the characters, and increasing the influence of all Patrons of Husbandry by properly transacting our business and by exemplifying our principles in Faith, in Hope, in Charity and with Fidelity.

CLOSING THE GRANGE

Pres. Worthy Vice President, are the labors of the day completed?

V.P. They are, Worthy President.

Pres. As there is no more work for us today, the Steward will see that the implements are properly secured for the night.

Steward. All is secure, Worthy President.

Pres. *[Calls up.]* Brothers and Sisters: As we are again to separate, and mingle with the world, let us not forget the precepts of our Order. Let us add dignity to labor, and in our dealings with our fellow men be honest, be just, and fear not.

la fe, en la esperanza y en la caridad, cierro esta puerta interior, y a custodiar con fidelidad.

[Grange Tratamiento]

Pres. Patronos, en fe, en la esperanza, en la caridad y en Fidelity, esta Grange se abre ahora en forma amplia en el cuarto grado. *[Preidente abre Implementar la caja.]* Digno Vicepresidente, por favor proclamarla en consecuencia.

V.P. Por orden del Digno Presidente, procamo este Grange abrió en forma amplia para promover el bienestar de nuestro país y de la humanidad, y para el avance de los intereses, la elevación de los personajes, y el aumento de la influencia de todos los clientes de la cría de transacciones adecuadamente nuestro negocio y ejemplificando los principios de la fe, en la esperanza, en la caridad y con fidelidad.

CIERRE DE LA GRANGE

Pres. Digno Vicepresidente, se las labores del día completaron?

Capataz. Lo son, Digno Presidente.

Pres. Como no hay más trabajo para nosotros hoy en día, el Mayordomo verá que los instrumentos se fijan correctamente para pasar la noche.

Mayordomo. Todo es seguro, Digno Presidente.

Pres. *[Llama al.]* Hermanos y hermanas: Como estamos de nuevo para separar, y se mezclan con el mundo, no debemos olvidar los preceptos de nuestra Orden. Añadamos a la dignidad del trabajo, y en el trato con nuestros semejantes sean honestos, ser justo, y no temas.

We must avoid intemperance in eating, drinking and language, also in work and recreation, and whatever we do, strive to do well. Let us be quiet, peaceful citizens, feeding the hungry, helping the fatherless and the widows, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.

[Closing Song]

[Grange Salutation]

(Retire the flag. Optional.)

Pres. Worthy Vice President, please proclaim the Grange closed.

V.P. By command of the Worthy President, I proclaim this Grange duly closed until again lawfully opened, in Faith, in Hope, in Charity and with Fidelity.

Pres. So be it.

All. So be it.

Chaplain. *[Benediction]* May the Divine Master protect, guide and bless us all, now and evermore.

All. Amen.

Pres. Worthy Steward, inform the Greeter that the labors of the day are closed.

Steward. Worthy Greeter, the Worthy President directs me to inform you that the labors of the day are closed.

[President closes Grange with one rap of gavel.]

Hay que evitar la intemperancia en el comer, el beber y el lenguaje, también en el trabajo y la recreación, y todo lo que hacemos, se esfuerzan por hacer bien. Seamos ciudadanos pacíficos, tranquilos, que alimentan el hambre, ayudando a los huérfanos ya las viudas, y mantener sin mancha del mundo.

[Canción Cierre]

[Grange Tratamiento]

(Retirar la bandera. Opcional.)

Pres. Digno Vicepresidente, por favor anunciar el Grange cerrado.

V.P. Por orden del Dingo Presidente, proclamo este Grange debidamente cerrado hasta nuevo legalmente abierta, en la fe, en la esperanza, en la caridad y con fidelidad.

Pres. Que así sea.

Todas. Que así sea.

Capellán. *[Bendición]* Que el Divino Maestro proteger, guiar y todos nosotros, bendiga ahora y siempre.

Todas. Amén.

Pres. Digno Mayordomo, informar de Dingo Saludador las labores del día están cerrados.

Mayordomo. Digno Saludador, el Dingo Presidente me dirige digna de informarle de que las labores del día están cerrados.

[Presidente cierra Grange con un solo golpe de martillo.]

DEGREE WORK

[The following charge is to be given by the Master or designated person immediately before Conferral of the First Degree and after all candidates have been seated in the hall.]

M.: The ceremony you are about to witness is to introduce you to the Ritualism of the Grange. There is far more to the Grange than Ritualism. The underlying philosophy of the Grange is portrayed by the oldest and most successful method of communication known to man—the use of symbols. The staves carried by the Steward, the Assistant Stewards and the Gatekeeper, the working tools of the Order and the capes and blindfolds to be worn by the marching candidates at the beginning of the First Degree, are all a part of that symbolism and will be fully explained at the appropriate time.

The chief objective of the Grange is to build a better and higher manhood and womanhood, and to develop a mutual respect and concern through Brotherhood.

So welcome to the Grange, as its doors of friendship swing wide to receive you into its membership.

FIRST DEGREE 🍷 PREPARATION

(See Instructions page 38)

CANDIDATES: Laborers and Maids

THE LESSON: FAITH

SYMBOLS: Spring, Childhood, The Seed

EMBLEMS: Ax, Plow, Harrow and Spade

SCENE: A Farm in the Springtime

[Before conferring the Degree, Suggestions to Granges and Instructions in back of the Manual should be carefully studied by the officers, and thorough rehearsals of the work be arranged. Every officer should have his part fully memorized.]

[Having signed the roll, the candidates, properly prepared, are in the preparation room, men in the charge of A.S., women in the charge of L.A.S. Always form the procession two and two, with women at the right of the men, so that on coming to the stations of the Officers and facing to the right, the women will be in the front rank.]

[Before candidates are admitted, Steward shall caution them that they are about to engage in a serious task; that close attention should be paid to all lectures and that dignity and quiet should characterize every state of the degree.]

[In similar manner the Master may properly caution the members inside the hall, in order that the Degree may be given with maximum impressiveness.]

[All silent in the Grange. Alarm from the A.S.]

S.: Worthy Overseer, an alarm at the gate.

O.: See who approaches.

S.: Who comes?

A.S.: Men and Women seeking employment, who desire to assist in our work.

S.: Are they unconstrained and willing?

A.S.: They are.

S.: Have they been tried and found worthy?

A.S.: They have.

S.: You will tarry while I ascertain our Worthy Overseer's pleasure. Worthy Overseer, the alarm comes from strangers seeking admittance.

O.: Satisfy yourself that they are worthy and well qualified, and, if so, admit them.

S.: [*Opens Inner Gate*] None but those worthy and well-qualified can enter here. It is the pleasure of our Worthy Overseer that you enter the field with this caution: Use discretion, respectfully obey all orders, and, should work be assigned you, labor with diligence.

A.S.: Let our future conduct prove us.

[*All silent. Candidates are led once around hall to right; stop at O. and A.S. introduces candidates.*]

A.S.: Worthy Overseer, these friends of ours seek initiation into the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, and desire instruction.

O.: Friends, the Grange is a great fraternity, and the lessons of its ritual are expressed by the use of symbols drawn from the field, the farm and the farm home. The first four Degrees of our Order are based upon the seasons of the year, each conveying its appropriate lesson. You are about to enter the mysteries of the First Degree, symbolic of springtime on the farm, when all Nature is bursting into newness of life. The wild flowers are making the woods and the hills glorious with their beauty; orchards are in bloom, and the air is redolent with their perfume; plowing the fields has begun and soon the sower will go forth to sow.

Additional Laborers and Maids are needed for work in field and household, and we accept you as willing workers, now in waiting for the tasks to which you will be assigned: For in our fraternity there is work for all, and the idler has no place among Patrons of Husbandry.

[*Candidates are led again around the hall. As they approach station of Lecturer on first round they are halted by L. with upraised hand, who commands, "Hold!" This shall be the signal for all members to salute with one clap of the hands.*]

L.: Hold! Who are these who trespass within our peaceful enclosure?

A.S.: Friends who desire to be initiated into the mysteries of our Order.

L.: By what token may we prove them?

A.S.: By this signet.

L.: Present it. [*A.S. presents a card bearing these words:*] "An honest man is the noblest work of God." Right, Brother. The first and highest object of our Order is—"to develop a

better and higher manhood and womanhood.” Conduct them to the Worthy Overseer for his examination.

[Candidates remain in position before L., while Chaplain slowly and impressively gives charge.]

Chap.: He that will not plow by reason of the cold shall beg in the harvest and have nothing. He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread; but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding. The hand of the diligent shall bear rule, but the slothful shall be under tribute. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding; for the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

[After Chaplain’s charge, march toward O. is started and when line is halfway between L. and O. it is halted by S. representing Ignorance. S. should not carry staff while giving this charge.]

S.: My friends, whither are you going?

A.S.: We are traveling in search of light and knowledge.

S.: Take advice from one whose experience is blissful, and tarry with me. The promises of progress and improvement are delusive. The road you have traveled is familiar and easy, but the one you are now entering is full of obstacles, rough and uneven, environed with dangers, and leads, you know not where. With me you can find ease and comfort. While others are racking mind and body in seeking something new and better, we can secure enjoyment without mental or physical exertion. Moreover, you are blind and cannot see. Come, tarry with me.

All: Heed him not, but persevere!

A.S.: My friends, the person who has been speaking to you is that worst of enemies to progress—Ignorance, attended by his companions, Sloth and Superstition. Give them no heed if you hope to advance.

[Line passes directly to O.]

O.: Who comes here?

A.S.: Friends who desire to become members of our Order.

O.: Are they competent to assume the duties that will devolve upon them?

A.S.: They are.

O.: What wages do they expect?

A.S.: Wisdom, not silver, Knowledge, rather than fine gold.

O.: Do you vouch for their integrity?

A.S.: I do.

O.: Friends, is it of your own free will that you seek the position?

Candidates: [In unison] It is.

O.: It is well. You will conduct them to our Worthy Master; from him you will receive further instruction.

M.: Who are these persons, and why are they here?

A.S.: They come to be employed as Laborers and Maids.

M.: Are you willing to engage in these duties?

Candidates: [In unison] We are.

M.: Friends, your present condition is but an example of Faith, and emblematic of a higher confidence in a Supreme Being. We are constantly passing blindly along the pathway of life, events occurring that we do not understand, and often encountering difficulties and obstructions in our way; but we should press forward, having Faith that God will ultimately bring us into the broad and pleasant fields of Paradise.

We have confidence that you will persevere, but, before assigning you a place in our work, it is necessary that you give us a solemn pledge, which will not conflict with your moral, social, religious or civil duties. With this assurance, are you willing to proceed?

Candidates: [In unison] We are.

M.: Worthy Assistants, you will please place the candidates in position to give the pledge. *(See Instructions page 38)*

[O. calls up and M. administers the Obligation.]

M.: In the presence of our Heavenly Father and these witnesses, I do hereby pledge my sacred honor that, whether in or out of the Order, I will never reveal any of the secrets of this Order, nor communicate the ritualistic work of this Order to anyone unless legally authorized to do so. I further promise to uphold the by-laws of this Grange, and the constitution and by-laws of the State and National Granges. I also promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to obey the laws of the land. I will never propose for membership in the Order nor sanction the admission of anyone I have reason to believe an improper person, nor will I oppose the admission of anyone solely on the grounds of a personal prejudice. I will not knowingly wrong or defraud a Brother or Sister of the Order or allow it to be done by another if within my power to prevent it. I will endeavor to be a true and faithful Patron of Husbandry, perform the duties enjoined in this Order and aid others in the performance of the same. Should I knowingly or willfully violate this pledge, I will invoke upon myself suspension or expulsion from the Order.

Friends is this your Obligation?

Candidates: [All answer in a clear voice.] It is.

Song: Be Faithful, O Patron (No. 28, The Patron; No. 51, The Grange Songbook)

[O. calls down.]

M.: Brothers and Sisters, our desire and search for knowledge necessarily begins in the darkness of ignorance. The buried seed wakes to life in darkness, and then sends up its germ, seeking Heaven's sunlight. Being pledged to the rules of this Order, you will now be con-

ducted to the Worthy Overseer and prepared for further instruction.

A.S.: Worthy Overseer, it is our Worthy Master's pleasure that our friends be prepared to receive instruction.

O.: I will obey his request. My friends to primeval darkness, covering the face of the deep, came the command "Light be!" [A.S. and L.A.S. suddenly remove the hoodwinks, and all in the Grange salute by one clap of the hands.] and light was! And the evening, with its darkness, and the morning, with its light, were the first day. Courage then, and patience, when gloom broods over your pathway. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. To the upright there ariseth light in darkness, and the path of the righteous shineth brighter and brighter, unto the perfect day. Then shall the crooked be made straight, and the rough places plain, and knowledge be revealed.

I exhibit to you now a memorandum book, a knife, and a pencil. Note down the new and useful ideas that come to you that they be not lost; for new ideas are the material with which progress is made. The knife is used to prune a straggling branch, to cut off the nests of insects, or to cut a plant whose nature you may wish to study. In your intercourse with your fellow beings, correct an error kindly and with the smooth edge of affection, and do not bruise a wound you wish to heal.

I greet these Sisters as worthy members of our Order. Man and woman are the educators of youth and co-students through life; therefore both must acquire knowledge and wisdom. Education adds the greatest charm to woman; it is a companion of which no misfortune can deprive her, a friend no enemy can alienate, an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity. In this Degree—your Spring season in our Order—begin anew the acquisition of knowledge.

[Steward will advance near O. and address the candidates.]

S.: I must call your attention to the domestic animals that are committed to our keeping by the Great Author of our being. We are dependent upon them, for without their aid man could never have risen from barbarism to civilization. Practice mercy and compassion toward them. Never overwork nor overload them, and guard against haste in reprimanding them. Treat them with kindness and affection, and they will learn to love you. It is one of the objects of our Order to protect dumb animals from abuse, and any member who countenances their ill-treatment is liable to censure, suspension, or expulsion.

A.S.: I will now introduce you to our Worthy Chaplain.

[Music]

Chap.: Worthy Brothers and Sisters, Agriculture is the first and noblest of all occupations. It is the only one directly instituted by our Creator. God planted the Garden of Eden, and placed man therein to tend and keep it. He caused to spring forth out of the ground every tree and plant that is pleasant to the sight and bearing fruit good for food. It was a command of the Almighty that man should till the ground. History proves that where agriculture has been fostered, that nation has prospered and reached a high degree of perfection; but where it has been neglected degeneracy began. Let us heed the warning and escape the doom.

Worthy Sisters, 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.

A.S.: Brother and Sisters, that you may be taught the use of the implements and symbols of this degree, I will now conduct you to our Worthy Master.

[Music]

A.S.: Worthy Master, our Brothers and Sisters are prepared to receive your instructions.

M.: I will now call your attention to the implements of this degree—the Ax, the Plow, the Harrow and the Spade.

The Ax is used to cut away obstructions in the fields and to prepare timber for use. Its use teaches us perseverance in overcoming obstacles; for, as by repeated blows it cleaves its way through the hardest wood, so should we by repeated trials surmount every difficulty.

The Plow is used to break up the ground and prepare it for planting. This should teach us to drive the plowshare of thought diligently through the heavy soil of ignorance, and thus prepare the mind for the growth of knowledge and wisdom.

The Harrow is used to pulverize the soil as well as to cover the seed. Let this be emblematic of that course of study and observation necessary to enable you fully to understand your business.

The Spade we use when we wish to penetrate deeper into the soil than we can with the Plow. It thus becomes the emblem of thoroughness. Whatsoever you attempt to do, strive to do it well.

My Sisters, I am happy to greet you and to encourage you to persevere in the pursuit of the pure, the beautiful, and the good. The station of Maid in our Order involves those general duties which, though common and lowly, prepare for all that is most honorable and useful. Therefore, scorn not to receive instruction from the humblest object that offers you its lesson. This bouquet *[Exhibiting one of dried grasses]* as you perceive, is composed wholly of different varieties of grasses, possessing little beauty and less of interest to the careless observer, but full of instruction to the reflecting mind.

Grass is the basis of Agriculture. Without it the earth would be an arid, barren waste. It is emblematic of man's transitory state upon earth, and also of a brighter and more glorious truth. As the grass awakens to life again at the call of Spring, does not each tiny spear, as it shoots from the ground, preach to you of the resurrection and immortality?

Let the modesty and usefulness of the humble grass be to you an object of imitation as Maids in our Order.

Worthy Lady Assistant, you will now conduct our Sisters to the Worthy Steward, and then meet our Brothers at the station of the Worthy Lecturer.

Song: Maid (No. 41, The Patron; No. 39, The Grange Songbook)

[Candidates are led around hall directly to station of L., and A.S. halts the men, while the women in charge of L.A.S. pass to station of S.]

L.A.S.: Worthy Steward, I bring our Sisters for further instruction.

S.: Sisters, you entered here blinded and covered with that garment. Before you were placed Ignorance and Knowledge. You were allowed to choose for yourself, and you chose wisely and found light. Wearing that garment is to teach you that those we admit into our circle are not chosen by outward appearance, and that 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.

[The Lady Assistant Steward hands her staff to the Steward; she then removes the cloaks, hands them to the Steward; receives from him her staff as he continues.]

I now greet you as Sisters in our Order, and welcome you on your way.

Worthy Lady Assistant, you will please introduce the candidates to the Worthy Lecturer.

[Music]

[Pass around the hall, to places in front of the men, before the station of L.]

L.: Sisters, when God created the Garden of Eden, and planted therein all that was beautiful of tree and shrub, plant and flower, and so arranged His handiwork that it was Paradise, His last great work was to adorn it with woman.

To woman, then, we look for those noble traits that adorn humanity. Therefore remember the high position assigned to womanhood, and sustain it with dignity and grace.

Brother, the farmer at this season must be earnest in his labors, knowing full well that if he neglects to sow he cannot reap. So while occupied in the work of preparing your lands for the seed, have faith in God's promise that seedtime and harvest shall never fail, and do not lose sight of preparation for that great harvest where you yourselves will at last be garnered.

A.S.: And now once more to the Worthy Master.

[Music]

M.: In the Grange we are like one great family and when we assemble we securely close our gates to guard against intrusion. At the Outer Gate stands the Gatekeeper and at the Inner Gate the Steward. To gain admission at each the proper signal and passwords must be given. Other signs are included in our work, to all of which you should give careful heed.

I will now impart to you the secret instructions of this degree.

[Instructs the candidates in: 1st, Signal and Password at the Outer Gate; 2nd, Signal and Degree Words at the Inner Gate; and 3rd, Sign and Salutation of this Degree.] (See Code Book.)

It is also my duty to instruct you that to honor Womanhood and show our reverence for the Bible we respectively refrain from passing between the Altar and the station of the Graces when the Grange is in Session, except as prescribed in the Manual.

You are now Laborers and Maids in the First Degree of our honorable Order. The saluta-

tion of this degree signifies that a member of this degree places Faith in God. Our Worthy Patronesses, Ceres, Pomona and Flora will furnish you with advice essential to aid you in your duties.

[Music—If candidates march]

[Candidates may be marched once around the hall and halted before Graces or Graces may give their charges while candidates remain in position before station of M. Same rule applies after charge of F.]

L.A.S.: I present you to our Worthy Patroness, Ceres.

C.: As Laborers and Maids you will require food for sustenance; take of this corn, but save a portion of the best for seed. It is the Grange symbol of FAITH. The Faith in which you labor will have a realization in the promised reward. And in the blessed sunlight of that Faith all around you will be bright and beautiful. By this Faith even the nodding grain and pluming corn in their season furnish delight to the mind, as well as nourishment to the body.

L.A.S.: I now present you to our Worthy Patroness, Pomona.

P.: As specimens of the refreshments in store for faithful Laborers and Maids, behold this fruit. It is the result of Faith in planting the seed, in training the tree and vine and in guarding the fruit during blossoming and ripening.

Fine fruits are the flower of all the products of the earth—blessings designed to please the eye and gratify the taste—to multiply our comforts and elevate our social and moral condition. The culture of fruits indicates refinement. Their use as food tends to a healthy and refined temperament, both of body and of mind; hence they should be esteemed necessities rather than luxuries. It is, therefore, our duty to improve and increase these bounties to their utmost extent.

L.A.S.: I now present you to our Worthy Patroness, Flora.

F.: I will strew your path with flowers whose beauty and fragrance cannot fail to make life pleasant, and teach you that there is another and a better world— where everlasting Spring abides, and never-fading flowers.

[Music—If candidates march]

A.S.: Worthy Master, our Brothers and Sisters are now ready for labor in the field.

M.: I now greet you as Worthy Laborers and Maids, and charge you always to keep in remembrance the pledge of secrecy and fidelity you have given, and the lessons you have received, that your future conduct may be regulated by the precepts of wisdom and virtue.

Worthy Assistants, you will please introduce our Brothers and Sisters to their fellow workers, for which purpose I declare a recess.

[A.S. introduces the candidates, and all indulge in social greetings.]

SECOND DEGREE CULTURE

(See Instructions on page 39)

CANDIDATES: Cultivators and Shepherdesses

THE LESSON: HOPE

SYMBOLS: Summer, Fruit Blossoms, The Plant

EMBLEMS: Hoe and Pruning Knife

SCENE: A Farm in the Early Summer

[The A.S. and L.A.S. receive the candidates in the preparation room, and prepare them for advancement, women at the right of men. Alarm from the A.S.]

S.: Worthy Overseer, an alarm at the gate.

O.: See who approaches.

S.: Who comes?

A.S.: Brothers and Sisters who seek promotion and instruction in the care of the flocks and cultivation of the field.

S.: 'Tis well; wait until I obtain our Worthy Overseer's permission.

Worthy Overseer, there are Brothers and Sisters in waiting who desire to be advanced to the Second Degree.

O.: Admit them, that we may learn whether they are qualified.

S.: *[Opens the Inner Gate and says:]* It is the will of our Worthy Overseer that they be brought before him.

Song: Cultivator (No. 38, The Patron; No. 42, The Grange Songbook)

[During the singing the line will march once around the hall and halt at station of S.]

S.: The changing seasons of the year bring you now to a new experience in your Grange journey. In the First Degree you were taught the need of thorough preparation of the soil, the selection of good seed, and the lesson of Faith. You are now to receive instruction in planting and cultivating your crop, looking ever hopefully unto the harvest. Impressive indeed are the teachings of Nature in the unfolding wonders of each successive season; full of instruction for the reflective mind and commanding increasing reverence for the Great Master on High, who ordereth alike the heat and cold, and in whose hand are the harvests of the earth. As you pass into the summertime of your Grange journey, forget not these teachings of ceaseless activity, of earnest cultivation and of abiding Hope.

[After Steward has finished and without further command, candidates are again conducted around the hall and halted at station of O.]

[Music]

O.: Whom bring you here?

A.S.: Brothers and Sisters, who, having served faithfully as Laborers and Maids, seek promotion.

O.: Are they honest, faithful and diligent? Can you recommend them?

A.S.: They are honest, faithful to their pledge, and diligent in their work. They are kind and careful with their animals. Indoors and out they have a time and place for everything. Their homes and farms bear the signs of thrifty farmers.

O.: Brothers and Sisters, your recommendations are good. This degree is emblematic, as will be fully explained. To these Sisters I will give each a rose as a tribute for the Altar. *[Presents each a rose, real or artificial.]* You will now be conducted to the Worthy Lecturer.

[Music]

A.S.: Worthy Lecturer, our Brothers and Sisters desire instruction in planting.

L.: Have they been furnished with seed?

A.S.: They have.

L.: From whom did they obtain it?

A.S.: When Ceres furnished them with corn she enjoined them to save a portion of the best for seed, and her admonition has been heeded.

L.: 'Tis well. They have been guided by the lesson of Faith. Wherever you go, whatever your calling, aim to do good. Good deeds are ever fruitful of yet more good. Sisters, to be a true Shepherdess in our Order is a noble employment, and well worthy of woman. As a Shepherdess, constantly study the book of Nature. Learn from it the truths which may remind us of the immense greatness of God, and our own littleness—of His blessings, and the obligations they impose upon us. Worthy Assistants, conduct them to our Worthy Chaplain.

[Music]

A.S.: Worthy Chaplain, our Brothers and Sisters desire instruction from you as they advance.

Chap.: Brothers, the springing seed teaches us to increase in goodness, and the growing trees to aspire after higher and broader knowledge. Thus the labors of husbandman and his surroundings beget refinement of feelings and kindly sentiments. 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. Therefore, guard against selfishness. If thine enemy hunger, feed him. Do good, hoping for nothing in return, and your reward shall be great. Love one another.

My Worthy Sisters, Shepherds have always been highly favored of God, from Abel who offered the first acceptable sacrifice, to the Shepherds at Bethlehem, to whom the heavenly hosts chanted, "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good will toward men." The position, then, is ancient and honorable.

Above all, God is a Shepherd, and His people are the sheep of His pasture. You have, therefore, an adorable Pattern in your high and holy duties. To keep in safety those within the fold, and to reclaim the wandering—be your sacred charge. Be patient with the wayward, carefully instruct the erring, diligently seek and bring back the straying and those that are

cast out.

Song: Sifting, 1st verse (No. 40, The Patron; No. 44 The Grange Songbook)

[During the singing the candidates are led to the Altar, where each Sister lays her rose upon the open Bible. Previously prepared at the Altar should be a receptacle of dry sand and a smaller one of shelled corn, ready for the use of the M., who now comes forward and meets the candidates.]

[Obligation in the Second Degree is optional.]

M.: Worthy Assistants, place the candidates in proper position to give the pledge.

[Each candidate places open right hand over the heart]

[O. calls up and M. administers the Obligation:]

M. You will repeat after me this Obligation:

“I hereby solemnly renew—my obligation of secrecy and fidelity - taken in the First Degree of this Order— and further promise upon my sacred honor—to keep the secrets—fulfill the obligations—and obey the injunctions—of this Second Degree—and aid my Brothers and Sisters in doing the same.”

[O. calls down.]

M.: *[Takes a few kernels of the corn in the palm of his left hand to exhibit to the candidates, and says:]* We are now to teach you how to plant the seed. Behold these inanimate kernels of corn! But the germ has life—the future plant is there. We loosen the soil—we bury the seed; *[Plants the seed]* and in so doing impress upon our minds the truth of the immortality of the soul. There is no object in which, to appearance, life and death border so closely together as in the grains of seed buried in the earth; but when life seems extinct a fuller and richer existence begins anew.

From this little seed we have, first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. So with the mind, when duly nourished with Faith and Hope. But be not deceived! Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Therefore sow such seeds, and so cultivate them, that at the Harvest the ripened grain may meet our Heavenly Father’s approval and be garnered in the Paradise above.

Worthy Sisters your tribute is accepted. This is God’s Holy Word, and thereon fair hands, prompted by pure hearts, have dropped roses, emblems of everlasting love and charity. May the pure teachings of this book mingle with their fragrance, and fill you with the HOPE that maketh not ashamed, so that no fear shall deter you from doing that which is right.

Song: Sifting, 2nd verse (No. 40, The Patron; No. 44, The Grange Songbook)

[Candidates are conducted to station of Graces.]

L.A.S.: I will introduce you to our Worthy Patroness, Pomona.

P.: *[Presenting fruit blossoms, real or artificial.]* Let these fruit blossoms be to you an emblem of HOPE. 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.

L.A.S.: Next listen to Flora.

F.: In exhibiting to you these blossoms, let me remind you that they are symbols of love and charity, which, like flowers, cover many a deformity of nature. Encourage their culture, as well as study their forms and beauty. Endeavor to surround your dwellings with twining vines or graceful plants; for there is no spot on earth so rude as not to be refined by their presence, and none so adorned as not to be graced by their beauty and fragrance.

Above all, remember that amid all that is bright and beautiful in Nature there is nothing which blooms with such unfading colors—there is no perfume on earth fraught with such fragrance—as the flowers of good works and the sweet-smelling savor of that pity which feels for the wants and relieves the distress of our Sisters and our Brothers.

L.A.S.: And now listen to Ceres.

C.: As we look around and see the beautiful transformation of seeds into attractive plants or majestic trees, we have but another lesson taught us of the wondrous works of God. Changes and transformations are constantly passing before us—the dying grain into the living stalk, the tiny seeds into majestic trees, the bud to blossom, and the blossom to fruit. All these preach eloquently of the wonder-working God; and if the beauties of this world, when rightly viewed, offer so much of the magnificence of the Creator to charm us here, what must be the sublime grandeur of that Paradise above, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens?

Song: Sifting, 3rd verse (No. 40 The Patron; No. 44, The Grange Songbook)

A.S.: Worthy Master, we now come for your admonition and instruction.

M.: My Worthy Sisters and Brothers, may the lessons you have received find genial soil in your minds. Cultivate with HOPE the seed thus planted, that it may yield an hundredfold.

The tools used by us in this degree are the Hoe and the Pruning Knife. The Hoe, with which we cut up weeds and stir the soil, is emblematic of that cultivation of the mind which destroys error and keeps our thoughts quickened and ready to receive and apply new facts as they appear, thus promoting the growth of knowledge and wisdom.

The Pruning Knife, used to remove useless and injurious growths from our trees, plants and vines, should remind you to prune idle thoughts and sinful suggestions, and thus keep your passions within due bounds and prevent your fancy from leading you astray after the vanities and vices of the world. Bear in mind that moral and mental worth rank before worldly wealth or honors, and that, as a worthy Cultivator or Shepherdess in our glorious fraternity, you can justly claim to belong to the true nobility of the land.

I will now instruct you in the signal, degree words, sign and salutation of this degree. [*Imparts secret work. See Code Book.*]

You are now Cultivators and Shepherdesses in the Second Degree of our Order. The salutation of this degree signifies that a member of this degree “places Faith in God and nurtures

Hope.”

I now present you with the Declaration of Purposes, which clearly defines the basic principles upon which our Fraternity is founded. In order that you may fully understand the ideals and objectives of our Order, we strongly urge that you read the Declaration of Purposes and thus familiarize yourself with its contents.

And now accept the right hand of fellowship and the congratulations of your associates.

[M. declares a recess for greetings. See page 43.]

THIRD DEGREE HARVEST

(See Instructions page 40)

CANDIDATES: Harvesters and Gleaners

THE LESSON: CHARITY

SYMBOLS: Autumn, Manhood, Flowers, The Fruit, The Ripened Grain

EMBLEM: The Sickle

SCENE: A Farm in the Harvest Season

[The candidates are assembled in the preparation room in charge of A.S. and L.A.S.—alarm from the A.S.]

S.: Worthy Overseer, an alarm at the Gate.

O.: See who approaches.

S.: Who comes?

A.S.: Brothers and Sisters, who, having served faithfully as Laborers and Maids, Cultivators and Shepherdesses, desire to be instructed and receive employment as Harvesters and Gleaners.

S.: Tarry until I make their request known to the Worthy Overseer.

Worthy Overseer, Brothers and Sisters seek employment in the harvest field.

O.: Let them be admitted, that we may learn their qualifications.

[Music]

[Steward opens the Inner Gate, the line will march once around the hall and halt at the station of the Worthy Steward.]

S.: Brothers and Sisters, since the last Degree, the seasons have changed again. In the First Degree, Springtime, you prepared the soil with FAITH in God. In the Second Degree, Summer, you planted and cultivated, nurturing HOPE. It is now the Autumn, or Harvest time:

The yellow grain is waving for the reapers and gleaners; the rustling corn is hastening

toward ripeness; the fruits of the orchards are coloring in succession and bid busy hands to gather them. All these changes should possess your minds that you may enjoy your advancement and feel as well as hear the attendant lessons. We must reap for the mind as well as for the body, and from the abundance of our harvest, in good deeds and kind words, dispense CHARITY. You will now be conducted to the Worthy Overseer.

[Music]

[Candidates are conducted once around the Hall and halted at the station of O.]

A.S.: Worthy Overseer, I bring Brothers and Sisters for the harvest field.

O.: Brothers and Sisters, is it of your own free will that you desire to enter the harvest field?

Candidates: *[In unison]* It is.

O.: Have they been presented with a copy of our Declaration of Purposes?

A.S.: They have.

O.: Have they been taught how to select good seed, and how to plant it?

A.S.: They have.

O.: It is well. You will conduct them to our Worthy Master and secure his approval.

[Music]

A.S.: Worthy Master, in compliance with the Overseer's command, I present these Brothers and Sisters for instruction as Harvesters and Gleaners. I vouch for their qualifications, by reason of faithful performance of their duties in the previous degrees, and the exemplification in their lives of the lessons of Faith and Hope.

M.: Your recommendation is sufficient to insure them favor. More assistance is needed in the fields, the grain is ripe and ready for the harvest. It is, however, important that none but intelligent and skillful laborers be employed. Before they enter upon their labors, it will be necessary for them to receive instruction, and, first of all, to give a pledge of secrecy and fidelity. Brothers and Sisters, this pledge will not conflict with your social, religious, moral or political duties. With this assurance, are you willing to proceed?

[Obligation in in the Third Degree is optional.]

Candidates: *[In unison]* We are.

M.: You will be conducted to the Altar and there renew your obligations.

[Music]

[When candidates are in position at the Altar, O. calls up.]

M.: You will repeat after me this Obligation:

“I solemnly promise—to keep sacred the pledges—of the previous degrees of this Order—and hereby pledge my sacred honor—that I will faithfully observe—the precepts and injunctions of this degree—reveal none of its secrets—and assist in promoting—the welfare of the Order—according to my ability.”

[O. calls down]

M.: Brothers and Sisters, as Harvesters and Gleaners in our Order, gather only the good seed. Our associations in life are the fields in which we reap. Use judgment, and while you glean let your example be such that others may profit by it. You will now be conducted to our Worthy Lecturer.

[Music]

A.S.: Worthy Lecturer, our Brothers and Sisters come to gather words of wisdom from you.

L.: Brothers and Sisters, as Harvesters and Gleaners, reap for the mind as well as for the body. Natural history is replete with both the wonderful and beautiful, and its study enables us the better to carry out the principles we inculcate of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Cultivate an observing mind. It is delightful to acquire knowledge, and much more so to diffuse it. It is sad to think that any human soul should fail to perceive the beauty that everywhere abounds. Nature preaches to us forever in tones of love, and writes truth in all colors, on manuscripts illuminated with stars and flowers.

“Be faithful, be hopeful, be charitable,” is the constant song Nature sings, through warbling birds and whispering pines, through roaring waves and howling winds. As Harvesters and Gleaners of this wisdom, teach others how beautiful, how angelic, seems every fragment of life which is earnest and true.

Song Harvester (No. 36, The Patron; No. 45, The Grange Songbook)

A.S.: Worthy Overseer, our Brothers and Sisters come for further instruction.

O.: My Brothers and Sisters, all honest labor is honorable. God, who made the earth, set the example of labor, and sanctified it and made it the necessity of His creatures. Inasmuch as it is of God’s example and design, it is our duty to honor and dignify it, and make it conducive to the advancement and happiness of all God’s people.

You are now about to enter the harvest. God loveth a cheerful giver and no less a cheerful worker; for work is prayer. Labor with cheerfulness. A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. The truest balsam for injured minds is cheerful labor. Cultivate the habit of looking for better and brighter days, instead of mourning over the past.

While you strive to make labor honorable, exert yourself to make it pleasant and cheerful for all around you.

Worthy Assistants, you will now conduct our Brothers and Sisters to the Worthy Chaplain.

Song: The Gleaner (No. 3, The Patron; No. 46, The Grange Songbook)

A.S.: Worthy Chaplain, I present our Brothers and Sisters for instruction.

Chap.: Brothers and Sisters, the fields of our labor are ever “white unto the harvest;” and in them “he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.” Take heed, therefore, and beware of

covetousness; for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of things he possesseth, but in the right use of God’s blessings. Say not, therefore, “Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years—take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry; for our Heavenly Father placed us here to be “laborers together with Him,” and raises up the ever-ripening harvest, that we may be the stewards of His bounty, and so partake of His blessedness in being beneficent. Therefore, be ye helpers one of another, for we are all brethren.

And forget not CHARITY. As flowers and vines cover the rough places in nature, so I charge you, cover the faults and failings of others with the mantle of CHARITY. Speak good of others, rather than evil. Gather up memories of others’ virtues, and pass by their faults in pity. The tears of the compassionate are sweeter than dewdrops falling from roses on the bosom of the earth.

Such are the great aims, labors, and rewards of the true Harvester and Gleaner; and to these I bid you welcome. Be faithful in gathering, that you may be liberal in dispensing.

A.S.: I will now present you to our Worthy Master.

[Music]

A.S.: Worthy Master, our Brothers and Sisters come for instruction in the secret work of this degree.

M.: I will now give you the signal of this Degree; also, the degree words, sign and salutation. *[Imparts secret work. See Code Book.]*

You are now Harvesters and Gleaners in the Third Degree of our Order. The salutation of this degree signifies that a member of this degree “places Faith in God, nurtures Hope, and dispenses Charity.” *[To A.S.]* As the day is far spent, you will conduct the Brothers and Sisters to the gate of the harvest field, and there join the harvesters as they return from their labors.

[Candidates are conducted to anteroom and preparations made for Harvest March. See Instructions page 40.]

*Song: Harvest Song (No. 30, The Patron; No. 48, The Grange Songbook) or
Bringing in the Sheaves (No. 44, The Patron; No. 41, The Grange Songbook)*

M.: *[Calls to order]* I now exhibit to you the Sickle. Like all the tools we use, it is ancient and honorable; as an emblem of our Order, there is none more so. It speaks of peace and prosperity, and is the harbinger of joy. It is used not merely to reap the golden grain for the sheaf, but, in the field of mind and heart and soul, to gather every precious stalk, every opening flower, every desirable fruit. Thus shall the implement prove a reminder of honorable employment, preaching its sermon of present prosperity and peace, and its prophecy of future plenty and rejoicing.

Song by all: Glory to the Steel (No. 33, The Patron; No. 47, The Grange Songbook)

Then glory to the steel
That shines in the reaper’s hand,

And thanks to God, who has blessed the sod
And crowns the reaping band.

M.: Brothers and Sisters, your task for the day is over; you have labored diligently, and I gladly commend your faithfulness. Let me urge you to continue with the same diligence until the harvest is finished. I now greet you as Harvesters and Gleaners, and trust that your faithful work will soon entitle you to still further advancement.

[Music—If candidates march]

[Candidates may be marched once around the hall and halted before Graces, or Graces may give their charges while candidates remain in position before station of M. Same rule applies after charge of F.]

L.A.S.: Let our Worthy Patroness Ceres greet you.

C.: Brothers and Sisters, happy are they who see in the matured harvest not only the product of human skill and labor, but the reward of Faith in God's promise of the seed time. From the abundance of good things which, with God's blessing, your labors in Faith and Hope have produced, forget not to dispense Charity in word and deed.

L.A.S.: And now listen to Pomona.

P.: Brothers and Sisters, the harvest of fruits will soon claim your attention. May it prove so abundant as to add gratitude to the Hope inspired by the blossoms of the early Summer.

L.A.S.: And now Flora will add the closing charge.

F.: 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.

“While in Faith and in Hope this world may disagree,
All mankind is concerned in Charity.”

[Music—If candidates march]

M.: And now, Worthy Assistant and Lady Assistant, please introduce our Brothers and Sisters to the members of the Grange—for which purpose I declare a recess.

[Brief recess for greetings. See page 43]

FOURTH DEGREE 🏠 HOME

(See Instructions page 41)

CANDIDATES: Husbandmen and Matrons

THE LESSON: FIDELITY

SYMBOLS: Winter, Old Age, The Feast

EMBLEM: The Agate

SCENE: A Farm in the Winter Season

[As in previous degrees the candidates should be in readiness in the anteroom in charge of the A.S. and L.A.S. Alarm from the A.S.]

S.: Worthy Overseer, an alarm at the Gate.

O.: See Who approaches.

S.: Who comes?

A.S.: Brothers and Sisters, who have finished their labor in the harvest field and now seek advancement.

S.: Do you vouch for them?

A.S.: I do

Song: Husbandman 1st verse (No. 25 The Patron; No. 49, The Grange Songbook)

[Steward opens the Inner Gate, the line will march once around hall and halt at the station of the Worthy Steward. At the conclusion of song, Steward advances and says:]

S.: Brothers and Sisters, I welcome you on your way. It is now the Fourth Degree, in the Grange, on the Farm, and in our lives. The seasons of Preparation, Culture, and Harvest have passed. It is in the Home that we enjoy the fruits of our labors in the fields of the farm, and the fields of life. In winter, the season of rest from active toil, we sit down with our families, our friends and neighbors, and enjoy together the good things our labors in the lower degrees have brought us. So also in old age we enjoy the fruits of a well-spent life, surrounded by friends, and in a happy home, "Noted for FIDELITY." You will now be conducted to the Worthy Overseer.

Song: Husbandsman, 2nd verse (No. 25, The Patron; No. 49, The Grange Songbook)

A.S.: Worthy Overseer, these Brothers and Sisters, who have served faithfully, desire to become Husbandmen and Matrons.

O.: Brothers and Sisters, your industry, zeal and efficiency have gained you the approbation of your companions in our Order; and I rejoice at your advancement. The position to which you have now arrived confers upon you great privileges, and binds you in a closer brotherhood. You will now apply in a higher station the wisdom gained in the previous de-

gress. Faithful there, we expect continued FIDELITY here. Is it your wish to proceed?

Candidates: [In unison] It is.

O.: You will then give us a further pledge of honor to secrecy and fidelity as a Patron, which will not interfere with your duty to God, to your country, or to yourself. With this assurance, will you give it?

Candidates: [In unison] We will.

O.: Worthy Assistants, you will now conduct these Brothers and Sisters to the Altar, where they will register their pledge in the Fourth Degree of our Order.

Song: Matron, 1st verse (No. 26, The Patron; No. 50, The Grange Songbook)

[During the singing, the candidates are led around the hall, reaching the Altar at the close, where they are met by the Master. Complete instructions for the altar circles, song, etc., will be found under Instructions Page 43, and should be carefully studied in advance of giving this Degree.]

M.: Worthy Assistant, whom bring you to our altar?

A.S.: Brothers, true, worthy and well qualified.

M.: Worthy Lady Assistant, whom bring you to our shrine?

L.A.S.: Sisters who have gleaned in the field.

M.: Have you a precedent for so doing?

L.A.S.: I have.

M.: Will you give it?

L.A.S.: In Ruth, the Moabite, who gleaned in the fields of Boaz.

M.: When urged by Naomi to return to her kindred, how did she reply?

L.A.S.: “Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for wither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God; where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.”

M.: Right, Sister; let us trust that equally strong friendship may exist among us all in our fraternity.

[O. calls up and M. administers the Obligation.]

M.: Brothers and Sisters, I will now administer the Obligation. You will repeat after me:

“I hereby renew and confirm—the obligations I have heretofore taken—in this Order—and solemnly declare—that I will never communicate—the secrets of this Order to anyone—unless legally authorized to do so—and that I will endeavor to be—a true and faithful Patron of Husbandry—perform the duties enjoined in this Order—and aid others in the performance of the same. —I further promise to uphold—the by-laws of this Grange—and the constitution and by-laws—of the State and National Granges.—I also

promise to uphold—the Constitution of the United States—and to obey the laws of the land.”

[Altar Circles and Songs] (See Instructions page 43.)

[During singing of first verse of Patrons’ Chain, A.S., L.A.S., Ceres, Pomona and Flora join hands with the candidates, making first circle around the M. and the Altar, and M. says:]

M.: Here, Brothers and Sisters, around our altar, with hands united, we pledge to you our friendship, and accept your pledge of fidelity in return.

[During singing of second verse of Patrons’ Chain outer circle is formed and M. will continue:]

M.: As we in form thus enclose you within a sacred circle, so does this Grange in the name of our noble beneficent Order pledge to you a pure friendship, enduring through life, to shield you from harm. And now, Brothers and Sisters, loose hands, but let us ever hold fast and firm our obligations of FIDELITY.

[O. calls down.]

M.: Worthy Assistants, you will now conduct the candidates to the Worthy Lecturer.

[Music]

A.S.: Worthy Lecturer, our Worthy Master desires you to instruct the candidates.

L.: Brothers and Sisters, to live in the country and enjoy all its pleasures, we should love rural life. To love the country is to take interest in all that belongs to it—its occupations, its sports, its culture, and its improvement—to gather the flocks around us and feed them from our own hands—to make the birds our friends, and call them all by their names—to rove over the verdant fields with a higher pleasure than we should have in carpeted halls of regal courts—to inhale the fresh air of the morning as if it were the sweet breath of infancy—to brush the dew from the glittering fields, as if our paths were strewn with diamonds—to perceive this glorious temple all instinct with the presence of the Divinity; and to feel, amid all this the heart swelling with an adoration and a holy joy absolutely incapable of utterance. This it is to love the country, and to make it not the home of the body only, but of the soul. The teachings of our Order would make the farmer’s home the brightest and happiest place on earth.

[Music]

A.S.: Worthy Overseer, our Brothers and Sisters are on their way to receive their reward, and desire counsel from you.

O.: Brothers and Sisters, you are now about to receive your reward as faithful Harvesters and Gleaners—a position reached by merit alone. As Husbandmen and Matrons look with earnest solicitude upon children and their welfare; and remember that they are to follow in our footsteps and occupy our positions. If we desire to encourage them to love rural life, we must make its labors cheerful. What a child sees makes the most lasting impression. We may tell them of the pleasures and independence of the farmer’s life; but if their daily intercourse with us shows it to be tedious, irksome, laborious, without any recreation of body or mind,

they will soon lose all interest in it and seek enjoyment elsewhere. Therefore, strive to make your homes pleasing—make them more and more attractive. Adorn your grounds with those natural attractions which God has so profusely spread around us; and especially adorn the family circle with the noble traits of a kind disposition—fill its atmosphere with affection, and thus induce all to love and not to fear you; for love is the only enduring power. Speaking the truth in love, you will impress your memory on the mind of childhood in characters which floods cannot wash out, nor even the slow-moving ages of eternity obliterate. Be careful, also, to engraft only such truths as will be guide and teacher when your voice shall be silent on earth, and you have passed to another and a better world.

Song: Matron, 2nd verse (No. 26, The Patron; No. 50, The Grange Songbook)

A.S.: Worthy Master, our Brothers and Sisters are now ready to receive their reward.

M.: Brothers and Sisters, you have labored diligently, and I say unto you, “Well done, good and faithful servants.” The Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward will now decorate you with the regalia of Husbandmen and Matrons of our Order; an emblem of Fidelity and Fraternity. Brothers and Sisters, wear it with honor and dignity. You will now be instructed in the lessons of the signs of the degrees. The first you will receive from Ceres.

[Music—If candidates march]

[Candidates may be marched once around the hall and halted before Graces, or Graces may give their charges while candidates remain in position before station of M. Same rule applies after charge of F.]

C.: Brothers and Sisters, my tribute is the seed corn. Have FAITH. Faith in the spring of the year, and the springtime of life. Even as little children have Faith in their parents, so should we have Faith in the Great Provider. We prepare our fields and plant the seed having Faith in its resurrection.

L.A.S.: Brothers and Sisters, give heed to further lessons from Pomona.

P.: I need not prompt you to nurture HOPE. Hope is the heavenly light that gilds our labors. Were we deprived of that source of consolation, life would indeed be dreary. When you see the blossoms open in the early summer, Hope is there for the luscious fruit. The labors of the Husbandman and Matron encourage Hope at every turn. Let the fruit blossoms be to you an emblem of Hope.

L.A.S.: By Flora you will be further taught.

F.: Let flowers be to you an emblem of CHARITY. In kind words and deeds dispense Charity, as freely as flowers do their perfume, and as generously as they cover all God’s footstool. Beautify and adorn your homes with flowers. The home that is thus made fragrant and cheerful is prepared to be the abode of sweeter affections and more radiant virtues.

A.S.: We will now return to the Worthy Master.

[Music—If candidates march]

M.: Let the Agate be to you an emblem of FIDELITY. May your principles of man-

hood and womanhood be as firmly impressed as the lasting colors in the stone, and may our friendship be as firm as the stone itself. I now give you the sign and salutation of this Degree [*Imparts same. See Code Book*]

Brothers and Sisters, you are now Patrons of Husbandry in the Fourth Degree of our honorable Order. The salutation of this degree signifies that “A good Patron places Faith in God, nurtures Hope, dispenses Charity, and is noted for Fidelity.”

I will also impart to you the signal and degree words of this degree, annual word, voting sign, grip, Patrons’ test, and instruct you in the use of the gavel. [*Imparts Secret Work, with proper exemplifications of same. See Code Book.*]

Annual Word: The Annual Word is communicated by the High Priest of Demeter to the Master of the National Grange. By him, to the Masters of State Granges, to the officers of the National Grange, and to the surviving members of the Seven Founders of the Order. By Masters of State Granges, to the Masters of Subordinate Granges within their respective jurisdictions. And by them alone to the members of their respective Granges who are entitled to receive it.

The Worthy Secretary will now instruct you as to your obligations to this Grange.

[*Music*]

A.S.: Worthy Secretary, it is the wish of our Worthy Master that these newly-initiated Patrons of Husbandry shall be instructed by you concerning their obligations to this Grange.

Sec.: Inasmuch as you are now members in the Fourth Degree of this Grange, it is important that your obligations to the Order be fully understood. One of the essential virtues of a good Patron is punctuality—in attendance upon meetings, in response to parts assigned, and in meeting financial requirements. 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.

The members’ dues constitute the financial lifeblood of the Order, and Subordinate/Community, Pomona, State and National Granges are supported by this small contribution from the membership. Dues are payable in advance and should always be cheerfully and promptly met. Prompt advance payment of dues by all members assures good financial standing by the Grange and contributes very materially to its prosperity and growth.

A.S.: And now, once more to our Worthy Master.

Song: The Beautiful Lessons (No. 29, The Patron; No. 37, The Grange Songbook)

M.: Now, Brothers and Sisters, having merited and received the approval of your companions, I cordially invite you to join us in the enjoyment of the fruits of our labors in the preceding degrees.

[*The closing of the Fourth Degree with the Harvest Feast may be carried out by either one of two methods as the Grange may elect: 1. Incorporating it immediately as a part of the Degree at this point, with a small table placed in the center of the hall; 2. or in connection with the Harvest Feast in the dining room. Under either plan the exercises at the table may*

be opened with song and the positions around the table will be as follows: M. at the head, with Chap. at his left, L. at his right and O. at the opposite end. When all have taken positions M. will say:]

M.: Worthy Chaplain, our harvest being ended, and the fruits thereof spread before us, it is meet that we return thanks to the Great Creator for these blessings.

Chap.: Heavenly Father, who openest Thine hand to satisfy the desires of every living thing, make us grateful for Thy present provision, and may the strength it imparts be expended in Thy service and that of humanity.

All: Amen.

[Make the Feast cheerful with pleasant conversation and songs. At the close of the Feast, M., standing at his place at the table, will call to order and deliver this closing Lecture of the Degree.]

M.: Another season in the work of our Order has passed. The lessons we have endeavored to inculcate are appropriate to all the walks and seasons of life. In the morning or Springtime, as Laborers and Maids in field and household, we are admonished to be diligent—persevering in our researches for truth, and in a faithful discharge of the various duties that devolve upon us. As Cultivators and Shepherdesses, we are impressed with maxims that lead to habits of observation, industry and order in life's Summertime. As Harvesters and Gleaners, we learn to be joyous and thankful for the blessings that, in each Autumn, reward our efforts to increase the store of comfort and happiness vouchsafed to man. And when the ripened fruits and falling leaves of Autumn give place to Winter, as Husbandmen and Matrons—Patrons of Husbandry—indeed, we can enter into the enjoyment of that rest from physical labor which gives us leisure for mental and social culture; and which, in our Order, brings us into that circle where unbounded confidence prevails, and where the welfare of each is bound up in the good of all. Let us treasure up the lessons we have learned, both by successes and failures, plan wisely and hopefully for the future, and strive to make our lives as harmoniously beautiful and bountiful as are the works of Nature's God.

[Note—Inasmuch as the Harvest Feast and the accompanying lecture constitute a beautiful climax to the degree, this portion should be made as impressive as possible. See complete instructions page 43; also Note at end of page 42.]

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON DEGREE WORK

FIRST DEGREE [*Laborer and Maid*]

The First Degree is intended to symbolize Springtime on the farm.

PREPARATION

Court Robes—White with proper colored trimmings: Yellow for Ceres, green for Pomona, and pink for Flora. Ladies may, if desired, wear sunbonnets pushed back from the face. The use of different colored court robes for each degree is optional with the Grange. The M. will declare a recess for a few moments to prepare the room for initiatory ceremony.

PARAPHERNALIA

The A.S. shall have in readiness—

1. The memorandum book, knife and pencil on the desk of the O.
2. Implement Case, containing ax, plow, harrow and spade, on the desk of the M. [*All other implements removed from the case.*]
3. A bouquet of grasses for M. to illustrate his lecture.
4. Curtains down, screening the stage, if tableaux are to be used.

The L.A.S. will have in readiness for the candidates to wear:

1. Cloaks made of suitable green material, in the form of a circle neatly prepared and trimmed, covering the entire dress, to be worn by the lady candidates in first part of degree.
2. Hoodwinks for all candidates.

DEGREE WORK

Marching in the conferral of the degrees should be kept to a minimum. The line of march should be directly to the next Station unless the instructions call for the candidates to be marched around the Hall.

All being ready for the ceremony, the A.S. and L.A.S. will prepare the candidates in the preparation room. They should adjust hoodwinks on all candidates. Arrange candidates in two lines, place the left hand of each candidate on the left shoulder of the one in front, the leading candidates placing their left hands on the left shoulder of the assistant they follow, and they will follow readily.

The A.S. and L.A.S. will now proceed, the candidates following, as described above. They will approach the Inner Gate and give the alarm. When the door is opened they enter and pass to the right, as directed in Manual. [*There should be perfect silence.*]

The “salute” consists of one clap of the hands simultaneously by all the members.

When directed by the M. the candidates are conducted by the A.S. and L.A.S. to the Altar and placed in position to receive the pledge. The M. administers the Obligation. The A.S.

and L.A.S. restore the candidates to light by removing the hoodwinks when so directed by the O. in his lecture, "Light be."

The O. instructs them in the emblematic use of the memorandum book, knife and pencil.

The M. instructs in the use of the implements of this degree, the ax, plow, harrow and spade, which should be before him in miniature form in a neat case.

The Sisters are instructed by the M. in the symbolism of the grasses by exhibiting a bouquet of dried grasses.

The M. also instructs the candidates in the Secret Work and symbolism of the degree.

C., P. and F. furnish the candidates with useful information and counsel in the spring season of the farmer's life.

In the ceremonies of all the degrees the M. should see that proper decorum is preserved, as talking or any noise disturbs and distracts the attention of the candidates, and seriously mars the impressiveness of the work.

SECOND DEGREE [*Cultivator and Shepherdess*]

This degree symbolizes Summer on the farm.

PREPARATION

Court Robes—Pink, made of suitable materials. Trimmings: Ceres, yellow; Pomona, green; Flora, white. Garden hats may be worn.

PARAPHERNALIA

The A.S. shall prepare—

1. A suitable receptacle of sand, and a small dish of shelled corn, for use on the Altar.
2. A case of miniature implements, containing hoe and pruning knife, on desk of M.
3. Copies of the Grange Initiate and Declaration of Purposes, with the Certificate of Membership filled in by the Secretary.

The L.A.S. shall prepare—

1. Roses on the desk of O., to present to each sister.

DEGREE WORK

The lectures are exceedingly beautiful, and each officer should study to render them in the best and most impressive manner.

The O. should be prepared at his desk, to present each Sister candidate a rose, to be laid upon the open Bible before the Obligation is administered.

THIRD DEGREE [*Harvester and Gleaner*]

This degree symbolizes Autumn on the farm, when the ripened grains and fruits are garnered.

PREPARATION

Court Robes—Buff. Trimmings: Ceres, yellow; Pomona, green; Flora, pink. Tam o'Shanter caps with russet trimmings are appropriate.

PARAPHERNALIA

The A.S. shall prepare—

1. A small bunch of gleanings made of wheat or rye, constituting the sheaves of grain for each lady member in the Harvest March.
2. Medium size gilded or silvered sickle for each male member in Harvest March.
3. A bright miniature sickle should be on the desk of the M.

DEGREE WORK

In first part of degree, after instruction in the Unwritten Work, the candidates are sent to the preparation room. As soon as they leave the Hall, the Altar is moved to the position between F. and Secretary.

All is then in readiness for the execution of the Harvest March, which constitutes one of the most beautiful features of the entire degree work, and which should be carried out in all Granges with the utmost care and in accordance with the printed instructions below.

THE HARVEST MARCH

A group of selected members [*three to six couples as desired*] form two and two in front of L. facing the O. Sisters all carry gleanings and Brothers sickles. These represent the Harvesters coming in from the field, at the close of the day, bearing the fruits of their labor.

All being ready, they march once completely around the hall, everyone singing the "Harvest Song" (*No. 30, The Patron; No. 48, The Grange Songbook*) or "Bringing in the Sheaves" (*No. 44, The Patron; No. 41, The Grange Songbook*). As they pass the Inner Gate the second time it is opened and the candidates led by A.S. and L.A.S. enter and join in the procession. The third time around the bunches of gleanings are deposited in front of C., thus forming a complete sheaf of grain. [*C. assisted by P. and F. will immediately assemble the gleanings in sheaf form, tying same securely with appropriate yellow ribbon.*] The line then continues around the hall to station of S. (*See Plan of Subordinate/Community Grange on page 5*), turns left and proceeds diagonally across the hall to station of M., opens to the right and left, passes down back of center single file until the heads of columns again reach the station of S. This will bring the candidates in the rear up between the two columns to the M., who now exhibits the sickle with its accompanying lecture, followed by the chorus by all, "Then Glory to the Steel," after which the congratulations of C., P., and F. are offered, as in the Manual.

The couples who are to execute the Harvest March should be as carefully trained as the

officers; should be seated together and in close proximity to station of L., to facilitate prompt and quiet formation for the march; and at its conclusion they should pass quietly from station of S. [*where march ends*] to their former seats.

It is now considered to be the hour of sunset, the day's work, is over and the Harvesters and Gleaners are all assembled on the lawn in front of the Masters office.

FOURTH DEGREE [*Husbandman and Matron*]

This degree symbolizes Winter and the good cheer of the Farm home.

PREPARATION

Court Robes—Light blue. Ceres, trimmed in yellow; Pomona, white; Flora, pink. Appropriate headdress—Ceres, wheat heads; Pomona fruit buds; and Flora, flowers. Each lady officer carries a bouquet of flowers.

A Harvest Feast Table, set with luscious fruits of the farm and garden, the voluntary contributions of Husbandman and Matron.

PARAPHERNALIA

The A.S. shall prepare—

1. Sufficient fourth degree pins on desk of M. for all candidates.
2. A highly polished Agate on desk of M.

DEGREE WORK

On the desk of the M. should be the badges of this degree and an Agate for the M. to use in explaining the symbolism of his lecture.

The table should be spread with luscious fruits and provisions for the festivities—the voluntary contributions of the members.

The candidates in charge of the A.S. and L.A.S. are now admitted and instructed by the various officers.

After the Obligation has been administered by the M. occurs the formation of the Altar Circles, which, when properly performed, constitute a most impressive feature, which the candidates can never forget.

ALTAR CIRCLES

The Obligation should be followed immediately by singing one verse of the “Obligation Song” (*No. 28, The Patron; No. 51, The Grange Songbook*). During this singing S. comes forward, takes staves from the A.S. and L.A.S. and assumes position slightly at right of M.'s station [*standing*]. Immediately at the conclusion of one verse of the “Obligation Song,” the “Patrons’ Chain” (*No. 27, The Patron; No. 52, The Grange Songbook*) is started. While first verse is being sung, C., P. and F. come forward [*no others*] and join hands with A.S., L.A.S.,

and candidates, to form complete altar circle, enclosing M. [*C. stands directly behind the M., P. takes hand of L.A.S., and F. the hand of the A.S.*]. Two candidates at end will complete circle by joining hands. After first verse is finished, M. gives charge, “Here, Brothers and Sisters, around our altar,” etc.

Second verse of “Patrons’ Chain” is then sung, during which the members advance from their seats and with joined hands form a complete second circle around the first, standing thus [*no marching*] while M. gives charge, “As we in form thus enclose you within a sacred circle,” etc. Then O. calls down; members return quietly to their seats; S. presents staves to A.S. and L.A.S. and passes to his station.

In arranging for the Fourth Degree circles at the altar; it is very desirable to select a leader for starting the second circle, in which the members are to participate, and have it clearly understood in advance that no one is to start making the second circle until the leader gives the cue; similarly, the return to seats will await the initiative of the leader.

In the event of a crowded hall it will probably be wise to request in advance that only those in the front row of seats on each side of the hall come forward to make the second circle, provided this number will be sufficiently large to enclose completely the first circle. Confusion at this point is inevitable unless this caution is observed.

CONTINUATION OF FOURTH DEGREE

After candidates leave the altar they will be conducted once around the hall and introduced to L., the work then following according to the Manual.

Upon command of the M. the candidates are conducted to C., P. and F. for instruction in the lessons of the signs of the degrees. It is recommended that a tableau be shown at this point, presenting a winter scene, which should show the home of a prosperous farmer enjoying with his family the fruits of the season’s labors. Sufficient time should be allowed to permit the members to view the tableau before Ceres begins to deliver her charge. Ceres, Pomona and Flora give their respective charges, and candidates are then conducted around the hall to station of M., for instruction in the Unwritten Work (*See Code Book*).

[Whenever the stage is used for tableaux C., P. and F. will be stationed on the floor of the hall directly in front of stage.]

After the candidates have received instruction from the M. in the Secret Work and in the symbolism of this Degree, and following the Secretary’s charge, they are invited to the feast.

THE HARVEST FEAST

As suggested in the Manual (*Page 36*) either one of two methods may be adopted for illustrating this closing feature of the Fourth Degree. If a table is to be placed in the hall, it should be attractively prepared outside in readiness for immediate presentation at the point where M. invites to the feast. In such event it should be placed near the center of the hall, with positions of M., O., L. and Chap. as indicated in the Manual.

If all can be seated at one time in the dining room, the Masters invitation to the feast may

be followed by a march to dining room—officers first, led by A.S. and L.A.S., then candidates, visitors and members of the host Grange. Officers will occupy same positions as already prescribed. When the feast has ended [*before any are permitted to leave*] Master will rise and slowly and impressively deliver the final lecture of the degree.

If feast is to be given in the dining room after Grange is closed the Master should so announce. Same instructions as to march, seating, closing lecture, etc., will then apply.

GREETINGS

Candidates may be greeted or introduced at the close of the Second and Third Degrees only when conferring two degrees at a meeting. Candidates may be introduced only once at the discretion of the Degree Master when more than two degrees are conferred at a meeting.

SONGS FOR DEGREE WORK, ETC.

For Uniform Use in all Granges

In the use of the various songs in the degrees, the number of verses to be sung will necessarily be governed somewhat by the size of hall space, as it affects the marching distance; except as specifically indicated in above list.

Before starting a degree the songs to be used should be conspicuously displayed, so that without announcement all may readily be enabled to join in singing.

(Reasonable latitude in song selections is acceptable. Long practice has demonstrated the appropriateness, however, of the following songs in connection with Grange ritualism.)

Degree	Manual Page	The Patron	The Grange Songbook	Song Title
1	18	28	51	Be Faithful, O Patron
1	20	41	39	Maid
2	23	38	42	Cultivator
2	25	40 - 1st v.	44	Sifting
2	25	40 - 2nd v.	44	Sifting
2	26	40 -3rd v.	44	Sifting
3	29	36	45	Harvester
3	29	37	46	The Gleaner
3	30	30 or	48	Harvest Song
	30		41	Bringing in the Sheaves
3	30	33	47	Glory to the Steel
4	32	25 - 1st v.	49	Husbandman
4	32	25 - 2nd v.	49	Husbandman
4	33	26 - 1st v.	50	Matron
4	33	28	51	Obligation Song
4	34	27 - 1st v.	52	Patrons Chain
4	34	27 - 2nd v.	52	Patrons Chain
4	35	26 - 2nd v.	50	Matron
4	36	29	37	Beautiful Lessons

OFFICIAL GRANGE OBLIGATION CEREMONY

[The following Obligation Ceremony is authorized for use by Subordinate/Community Granges, between conferral of the four degrees, upon approval of the State Grange in Annual Session, and with special permission granted by the State Master.]

The Master of the Grange may serve as the Master of the Obligation Ceremony team or may appoint someone else to serve as Master.

It is recommended that candidates be seated in the front row to the left of the Master.

Members received by way of the Official Obligation Ceremony are considered Patrons and are eligible to participate in all the benefits of the Order.

In order to create the most favorable impression upon the candidates, it is important that this ceremony be committed to memory.

The Master should announce the songs to be sung during the altar circles before the ceremony begins.]

OFFICIAL OBLIGATION CEREMONY

[To take place during Order of Business - "Conferring Degrees"]

Sec.: Worthy Master, we have applicants who have been duly elected to membership and are present this evening. They are, _____, _____, _____, etc.

M.: Before we proceed to receive our new members, the Worthy Chaplain will lead us in a word of prayer.

[Master calls up]

Chap.: Almighty Father, Maker and Ruler of the Universe, and Giver of every good and perfect gift, we beseech Thee to be with us on this occasion and Bless those who shall now be initiated into this Grange. We ask all in Thy Holy name. Amen.

[Master calls down]

M.: Friends, the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, commonly known as the Grange, is a great fraternity. The lessons of its ritual are expressed by use of symbols drawn from the field, farm and farm home. The Subordinate/Community Grange to which you are being received into membership consists of four degrees. These four degrees are emblematic of the four seasons of the year. You will have an opportunity in the future to learn more of its philosophy and teachings when you are present for the full exemplifications of the four degrees. Today I welcome you as new members of the Grange as you take this first step in your Grange journey. This ceremony is intended to give you immediate membership status, but you are encouraged to take the ritualistic four degrees within the next year to gain the full appreciation and meaning of the four degrees in our Grange Ritual. With this admonition in mind, it is necessary that you give us a solemn pledge which will not conflict with your moral, social, religious or civil duties. With this assurance, are you willing to proceed?

Candidate: I am.

M.: The Assistant Stewards will conduct the candidates to the Altar to receive their Obligation.

[Assistants conduct candidates to the Altar - they should pass to the Overseer and turn squarely to the left in front of the Overseer and proceed up the hall to a point slightly beyond the Altar - the Lady Assistant Steward on the right of the Altar and the Assistant Steward on the left - Master should proceed to Altar at the same time. At the proper signal each line of candidates should face in, and, when so instructed by the Master, place their right hand over their heart in position to receive the obligation.]

[Overseer calls up]

M.: Please place your right hand over your heart and repeat after me:

In the presence of our Heavenly Father and these witnesses, I do hereby pledge my sacred honor that, whether in or out of the Order, I will never reveal any of the secrets of this Order, nor communicate the ritualistic work of this Order to anyone unless legally authorized to do so. I further promise to uphold the by-laws of this Grange, and the constitution and by-laws of the State and National Granges. I also promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to obey the laws of the land. I will never propose for membership in the Order nor sanction the admission of anyone I have reason to believe an improper person, nor will I oppose the admission of anyone solely on the grounds of a personal prejudice. I will not knowingly wrong or defraud a Brother or Sister of the Order or allow it to be done by another if within my power to prevent it. I will endeavor to be a true and faithful Patron of Husbandry, perform the duties enjoined in this Order and aid others in the performance of the same. Should I knowingly or willfully violate this pledge, I will invoke upon myself suspension or expulsion from the Order.

Friends, is this your obligation?

Candidate: It is.

Song - Be Faithful, O Patron (No. 28, The Patron: No. 51, The Grange Songbook)

[Overseer calls down]

M.: I will now impart to you the signal and password used at the outer gate, the signal and password used at the inner gate, the salutation and words of the Fourth Degree, and instruct you in the voting sign, grip and use of the gavel.

It is also my duty to instruct you that to honor Womanhood and show our reverence for the Bible, we respectfully refrain from passing between the Altar and the station of the Graces when the Grange is in session, except as prescribed in the Manual.

[Instructing officer does so with proper exemplifications. If other than the Master is serving as the instructing officer; the Master should be called upon to communicate the Annual Word.]

Brother and Sisters, you are now Patrons of Husbandry in the Fourth Degree of our honorable Order.

Now let us form our fraternal Altar circles.

[Overseer calls up.]

[During singing of first verse of Patrons' Chain, the Steward comes forward and takes Assistants' staves and assumes position by the Master's station. A.S., L.A.S., Ceres, Pomona and Flora join hands with the candidates, making first circle around the Master and Altar, and Master says:]

M.: Here, Brothers and Sisters, around our Altar, with hands united, we pledge to you our friendship and accept your pledge of Fidelity in return.

[During singing of second verse of Patrons' Chain, outer circle is formed and Master will continue:]

M.: As we in form thus enclose you within a sacred circle, so does this Grange in the name of our noble and beneficent Order pledge to you a pure friendship, enduring through life to shield you from harm. And now, Brother and Sisters, loose hands, but let us ever hold fast and firm our obligations of Fidelity.

[Overseer calls down, members return to their seats. Steward returns Staves. Assistants conduct new members to Secretary's station.]

Sec.: Inasmuch as you are now members in the Fourth Degree of this Grange, it is important that your obligations to the Order be fully understood. One of the essential virtues of a good Patron is punctuality - in attendance upon meetings, in response to parts assigned, and in meeting financial requirements. 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.

The members' dues constitute the financial lifeblood of the Order, and Subordinate/Community, Pomona, State and National Granges are supported almost entirely by this small contribution from the membership. Dues are payable in advance and should always be cheerfully and promptly met.

Prompt advance payment of dues by all members assures good financial standing by the Grange and contributes very materially to its prosperity and growth.

[Assistants conduct new members to Master's station.]

M.: Brothers and Sisters, we welcome you to the Grange and present you with "The Grange Initiate and Declaration of Purposes." Worthy Assistants, please introduce the new members of the Grange.

[Following introductions, Assistants will conduct new members to their seats.]

[NOTE: Marching is optional.]

NEW MEMBER WELCOMING CEREMONY

[This Ceremony should be practiced by the Grange and presented with respect when new members are being received. The new member(s) should be assigned a sponsor and should be seated between the Chaplain and the Executive Committee. Packets of material should be prepared for each new member.]

Sec.: Worthy President, we wish to welcome the following new member(s) to our Grange:
[reads list of names.]

Pres.: It is indeed a pleasure to welcome you as a member of this Grange. The Grange strives to improve and enhance the lives of those living within this community, and works with others to better the community in general. It provides a unique opportunity for young and old, families and individuals to interact in the spirit of fellowship. Worthy Assistant Stewards, please escort our new members and their sponsors to the Altar. *[President calls all to rise. New members and their sponsors are escorted to the Altar.]*

Pres.: *[Standing between the Graces and Altar]* A Grange member is recognized for high character, commitment to principles, concern for others and for financial responsibility. A Grange member exemplifies these characters on a daily basis. As a member of our Grange we expect that you will support the organization by contributing time and talent to the best of your ability, will meet your financial obligations in a timely manner, and will conform to and abide by the laws of your state and nation, and the Constitution, rules and regulations of the Grange at all levels.

In return you can expect from this Grange fellowship, a chance to explore and develop your personal talents, and the opportunity to serve. Please place your right hand over your heard and listen to this pledge:

In the presence of our Heavenly Father and these witnesses, I do hereby pledge my sacred honor that, whether in or out of the Order, I will never reveal any of the secrets of this Order, nor communicate the ritualistic work of this Order to anyone unless legally authorized to do so. I further promise to uphold the by-laws of this Grange, and the constitution and by-laws of the State and National Granges. I also promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to obey the laws of the land. I will never propose for membership in the Order nor sanction the admission of anyone I have reason to believe an improper person, nor will I oppose the admission of anyone solely on the grounds of a personal prejudice. I will not knowingly wrong or defraud a Brother or Sister of the Order or allow it to be done by another if within my power to prevent it. I will endeavor to be a true and faithful Patron of Husbandry, perform the duties enjoined in this Order and aid others in the performance of the same. Should I knowingly or willfully violate this pledge, I will invoke upon myself suspension or expulsion from the Order.

With this understanding, do you agree to become a member of _____ Grange? If so, please answer "I do."

New members respond: I do.

Pres.: Worthy Chaplain, please ask our Heavenly Father to be with us on this occasion.

Chap.: Almighty Father, Maker and Ruler of the Universe, and giver of every good and perfect gift, we ask you to be with us on this occasion and to bless these who become members of this Grange, and all connected with our Order. We ask all in thy Holy Name. Amen.

Pres.: I will now explain to you our Salutation, the Voting Sign, and the Use of the Gavel.
[Gives instruction on Salutation, Voting Sign, and Use of Gavel]

[The Pianist plays the “Welcome Song,” The Grange Songbook, number 53. During the first time through, two or three members approach the piano and prepare to sing the first verse. Other members come forward and form the Friendship Circle by joining hands around those at the Altar. When the circle is formed, the Pianist again plays the “Welcome Song,” and the first verse is sung by those at the piano and others who wish to join in the singing.]

Pres.: As we enclose you within a circle of friendship, so does the Grange pledge to you a pure friendship, enduring through life.

And now, Brothers and Sisters, let us loose hands, but ever hold fast to the principles of our Order. To help you become more acquainted with us and with the Grange, I ask each of your sponsors to serve as mentors for you for the next few months. The sponsors will act as your personal guide, helping you become familiar with the organization and its traditions.
[Present “Welcome to the Grange” or “The Grange and You” and your Grange new member materials.] Please accept this certificate of membership and familiarize yourself with the materials included.

Now, let us all join in welcoming our newest members.

[Introductions should be made by each sponsor or the President, and all return to their seats.]

[President calls all down.]

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

A copy of “Welcome to the Grange” should be given to each new member by the Secretary following the Secretary’s final charge.

A Fourth Degree pin or button may also be presented by the Master/President at the end of the Ceremony.

SUGGESTIONS TO GRANGES

Designed to assist Officers and Members in rendering the work of the Order most effectively

All officers of Subordinate/Community Granges, before attempting to confer the degrees, should make themselves thoroughly familiar with the Manual—not only the lectures, but the preparations and directions.

In order to attain the highest degree of proficiency and discipline, thorough rehearsals of the work should be held by the officers. They should realize the object of the degrees and remember that “Whatever we do, strive to do well.”

They should be sure that the Grange room is properly arranged in advance, with the Altar, officers’ stations, tables, etc., in position exactly as located in the diagram in this Manual (*See page 4*).

Officers’ regalia and members’ badges should be kept in suitable closets in the anteroom, together with necessary equipment, emblems and implements; and no member should be allowed to pass the Inner Gate, when Grange is open in form, unless attired in regulation regalia, as defined in the Digest.

Regalia and badges should never be removed while any part of the closing exercises is in progress. Each officer should leave his/her sash at their station and S. at Inner Gate should collect all Grange-owned badges from members as they leave. A frequent check-up on Grange property insures against loss.

The Altar should be in position, one-third the distance from C. to O., and should have the Bible upon it. There should be an appropriate rug in front of O., one-third of the distance from him to Ceres, to denote the place where the Salutations shall be given.

The lady officers should wear appropriate robes when engaged in degree work. These may be varied to suit the degree and season of the year to be typified. The baskets at the stations of the Graces should be neatly arranged and properly supplied—grain for Ceres, fruit for Pomona, and flowers for Flora.

C. should be provided with a miniature Sickle [*which can be neatly colored with silver or gold*] to illustrate her lessons.

The S. should be provided with the Spud. The A.S. with the Pruning Hook. The L.A.S. with the Shepherd’s Crook. The G.K. with the Owl. These should be mounted on one inch staves six feet long, painted black and varnished.

The S. has the general charge of the arrangement and preparation of the room for conferring degrees, also of the decorations. His assistants should aid him in perfecting the arrangements and seeing that everything is in place before the work is commenced.

The O. should be attentive to all that is transpiring and be ready to direct the S. and aid the M. if needed; especially to call up and down when the M. is not at his desk, where his gavel should be left.

While the candidates are being prepared by the A.S. and L.A.S. in preparation room, the

M. should caution officers and members to strive to make the degree as impressive as possible. A chorus, quartet or other musical group, should be ready to lead the singing and instrumental and vocal music should accompany the movement of candidates upon the floor, unless silence is required in the instructions.

The A.S. and L.A.S. lead the candidates around the hall to the right. Right and left in a Grange hall are right and left of the O.

In any Grange desiring to use it, an officers' entering march is permissible, provided it is done without waste of time. In such event the M. calls the meeting to order, all other officers assembled outside attired in full regalia. Following the Master's declaration, "Let each repair," etc., the line marches in and the respective officers are seated, with such form as the Grange may prescribe.

Tableaux illustrating the symbolism of the several Degrees, when presented under competent supervision are permissible; likewise drills, marches, etc., by degree teams, when authorized by vote of the Grange. Such additional features must never be permitted to interfere with the ritual parts, nor should any drill or tableau be allowed while a spoken part is being rendered or while a march of candidates is in progress. A limit of two or three tableaux to any one degree is recommended.

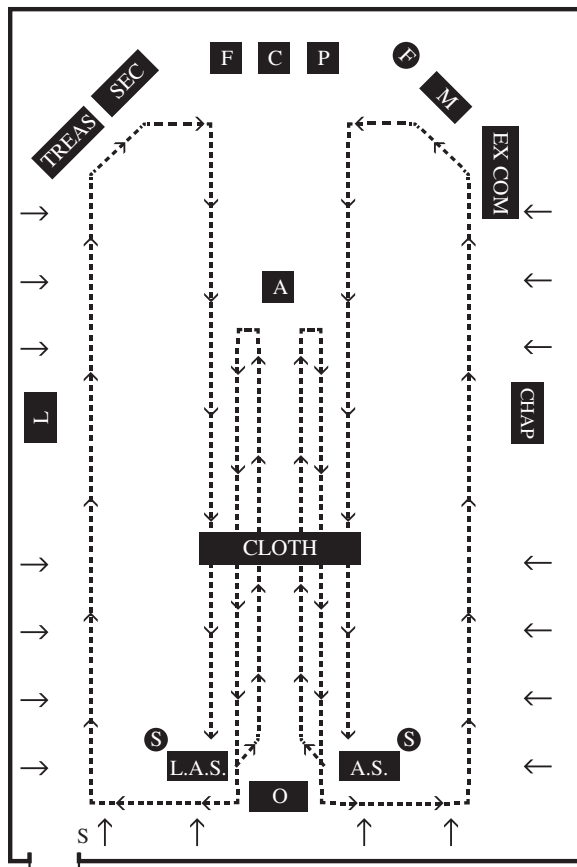
[The italic instructions in the Manual must be carefully observed.]

DIRECTIONS ON OPENING THE GRANGE

The opening examination must not be omitted. When the Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward hear the reply of the Steward "My assistants will make examination and report," they will rise and pass directly to the altar. The Assistant Steward opens the Bible, then each faces about and they proceed to the Overseer in the same line as they came to the altar, the Lady Assistant Steward at his left hand and the Assistant Steward as his right, receive from him the word and pass along the sides of the hall. As they pass in front of the members, each will rise and whisper first the Annual Word and then the fourth degree word. They meet at Ceres, pass to the cloth, face the Overseer and the Lady Assistant Steward replies, "All on the left are correct Worthy Overseer." and the Assistant Steward, "The same on the right Worthy Overseer." they then pass to their stations and remain standing. After they report to the Overseer he replies to the question of the Master in the language of the Manual, "Worthy Master we find all present correct." If during the examination any are found to be without the words, they will be reported to the Master who will request them to approach his chair and receive them if they are entitled to them. If a visiting member has not the password he must leave the hall unless vouched for as a Patron in good standing by a member of his own or the visited Grange. After the inside gate is closed the Master will say "Patrons I am about to open the Grange in the fourth degree. You will assist with the salutation." He then gives the salutation accompanying it with the appropriate language as follows: "A good Patron places Faith in God, nurtures Hope, dispenses Charity, and is noted for Fidelity." The members will all silently and simultaneously give the salutation. The same form is used in closing the Grange immediately after the closing song.

When the M. calls to order officers should repair to their proper stations; all members

Opening Examination



should be seated. When assistants are directed to make examination and report, A.S. and L.A.S. rise, take their staves, which should always be carried erect in the right hand, and proceed directly to the Altar. Upon reaching the Altar, the L.A.S. passes her staff to her left hand; at the same time the A.S. passes his staff to his left hand and gives it to the L.A.S. The A.S. stands directly behind the Altar. He will quietly and reverently pick up the closed Bible, it having been placed in the center of the Altar prior to the time of opening the Grange. He then opens the Bible by placing his fingers on the back of the book while using the thumb to part and hold the pages in position. There is no special page nor chapter at which the Bible should be opened. After opening the Bible, the A.S. receives his staff from the L.A.S., who again takes her staff in her right hand, then each faces about, the A.S. turning squarely to his right, while the L.A.S. turns squarely to her left, and they proceed to the O. in the same line as they came to the Altar. The O. instructs the L.A.S. first, then the A.S., then each

proceeds to take up the words, as directed in the Secret Work.

Each member must rise and give the words in a whisper. Should a member be found without the words, the Assistant should say:

“Worthy Master, a Brother [or Sister] without the words.”

The M. will direct such member to approach the chair and be instructed if entitled. The Assistant continues taking up the words and does not re-examine the member who has been instructed by the M.

[Note—The accompanying diagram supplies all needed information as to movement of officers upon the floor.]

PASSING TO DIFFERENT DEGREES

When the Grange is ready to pass from the fourth to a lower degree, the Master will rise and say, “Patrons I now close the Grange in the fourth degree and open it the ___ degree. Worthy Steward, inform the Gatekeeper that we are now at work in the ___ degree. Worthy Steward inform the Gatekeeper that we are now at work in the ___ degree.” When the Grange is ready to pass from a lower to a higher degree the Master will rise and say, “Patrons the Grange will now work in the ___ degree. Now the Grange is not open in any degree and all may leave who desire without the ceremony of salutation but especially those must leave

who have not received the instructions in the higher degree.” The Master then gives one rap and asks, “Worthy Overseer are all entitled to sit with us in the ___ degree?” If he can vouch for all he replies, “They are Worthy Master.” If he cannot vouch for all he will say, “The Worthy Steward will ascertain.” The Steward hearing these words will say “My Assistants will make examination and report”. Whereupon the same examination takes place as in the opening ceremony. After the Assistants report and the Overseer replies, “They are Worthy Master.” The Master declares the Grange open in the ___ degree. In thus passing without ceremony from one degree to another it is not necessary to give the salutation.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership in the Order must be made to the Grange in whose jurisdiction the applicant resides, as regulated by National and State Grange law.

All applications for membership in the Order must be made in writing, signed by the applicant and recommended by one member of that Grange; the fee must accompany the application, which shall be read in open Grange and the candidate balloted for at the same meeting.

A prospective member’s application may be submitted without fee or signature of the applicant and balloted upon as above provided that a properly signed application, accompanied by the membership fee, is submitted prior to initiation per the National Grange Digest of Laws.

BALLOTING FOR CANDIDATES

Balloting must be done at regular meetings only, and should be conducted with care and privacy. Each Patron should exercise this privilege with freedom, and no one should permit a personal prejudice to influence his or her action, but at all times remember the Obligation. In meeting the needs of our membership and Granges, balloting for new candidates is by simple majority, using paper ballots or the conventional method of the ballot box using balls and cubes, subject to the approval of the State Master.

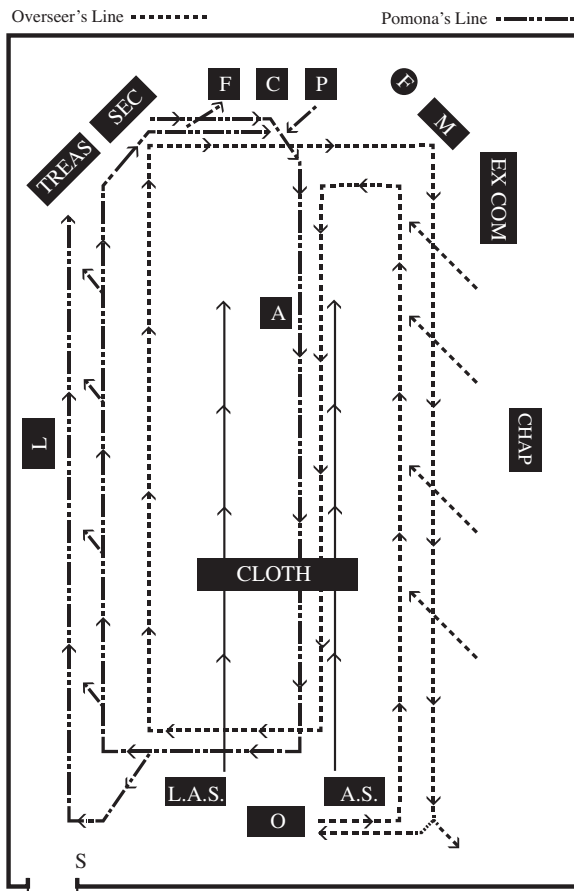
When the M. instructs the S. to prepare the ballot, he shall announce the name of the candidate to be balloted for. Each candidate must be balloted for separately except under the provision for collective balloting in states adopting same, and fully defined in the most current edition of the National Grange Digest of Laws.

The S. will first present the box to M. for inspection. The M. will take the box and see that the ballots are in the proper compartment, close the box and return it to the S., who will present it to the O. for inspection.

The O. raises the lid, and if correct, will close it and hand it to the S., who will place it upon the Altar, the open end of the box towards Ceres, ready for balloting. *[Ballot box must never be placed upon the Bible. If the Altar is small, a table for ballot box may be placed adjoining it on the side toward station of Ceres.]*

While the balloting is in progress S. takes position in the center of the cloth, facing the Altar, all members passing between him and O. in their march to the right after balloting. He will then attend the ballot box promptly after M. declares the ballot closed. S. must call some Patron to guard the Inner Gate during his absence therefrom.

Balloting for Candidates



Before Grange is called up M. will say: "Patrons, we are about to ballot upon the application of _____ to become a member of this Grange. Be careful how you vote and remember your Obligation."

[As the M. is the presiding officer, he need not ballot for candidates unless he so desires. If he so chooses, he shall precede Pomona.]

The Grange shall ballot as follows:

M. calls up and at the first note of a march on the piano the A.S. and L.A.S. pass up the hall to the right and left of the Altar and to a point **four feet beyond it**. They should stand facing in, four feet apart, with their staves crossed. Pomona immediately passes down under the crossed staves to the right of the Altar, ballots, then proceeds to a point in front of the O. and within the line of the chairs of the A.S. and L.A.S., turns squarely to her right for a few steps *[governed by the size of the hall]*, then to the right again and returns to her station. Pomona is closely followed by those at her right down to but not including the O. *[As Pomona returns to her station she should fall in*

behind the line of marching Patrons, or, if the size of the hall permits, on the outside of that line.]

Each Patron must pause before the crossed staves until the preceding Patron has balloted. As the last one in Pomona's line is pausing before the A.S. and L.A.S., the O. passes up the hall to the right, turns to the left at a point that will bring him half way between Ceres and the A.S. and L.A.S., where he makes the second turn to the left, passes under the staves and to the right of the altar, ballots, proceeds to a point in front of the O., and within the line of the chairs of the A.S. and L.A.S., turns squarely to the right for a few steps *[governed by the size of the hall]*, then to the right again and around the hall until he reaches his station. The O. is followed by all on his right, balloting in same manner as the first line.

After all on the right side of the Hall have balloted, the M. asks, "Have all balloted who desire to do so?" Seeing no one approach the ballot box, the L.A.S. may ballot, followed by the A.S. and S.

Then the M. declares the ballot closed. The S. will present the box to the O. for inspection. The O. will take the box and when inspected close the lid, return the box to the S., who presents it to the M., who inspects it in the same manner and says: "Worthy Overseer, is the ballot favorable or unfavorable?" The O. replies, "Favorable" or "Unfavorable, Worthy Master." *[No other language should be used in reporting the condition of the ballot.]* The M. declares

the result of the ballot, and, before returning the box to the S., destroys the ballot. *[No one but the M. and O. should know the exact condition of the ballot.]*

Note—The ballot is favorable if it's a majority vote. If unfavorable the instructions in the most current edition of the National Grange Digest of Laws must be followed.

PROCEDURES FOR PAPER BALLOTING

The same procedure will be used for paper balloting.

Except when the Master declares the ballot closed, the Steward will present the box to the Overseer. The Overseer will count the paper ballots and write (on a slip of paper) the results and hand to the Assistant Steward. The Assistant Steward will approach the Master's station with the results. The Worthy Master will say, "Worthy Overseer, is the ballot favorable or unfavorable." The Overseer replies, "Favorable" or "Unfavorable, Worthy Master." *[No other language should be used in reporting the condition of the ballot.]*

Note—The ballot is favorable by a majority vote. If the Master wants to see the paper ballot, he has the option to also count; however, the meeting can still continue while the Overseer counts.

[If a Grange ballots for candidates when visitors from neighboring Granges are present, the Master may if he desires, excuse the visitors from rising during the balloting. Otherwise the call of the gavel applies to all in the hall.]

ADMITTING MEMBERS TO HALL

If a member be admitted to the hall by the S. before the Grange has completed the Opening Ceremony, he should be directed to refrain from going before the O. Members must not be permitted to enter the hall during the ceremony of initiation.

Any officer or member leaving the Grange hall, whether by direction of the Master or otherwise, must salute the Overseer.

PASSING BETWEEN THE ALTAR AND CERES

The M. should permit no one to cross the hall between the Altar and Ceres, except those assisting in Presentation of the Flag, Balloting for and Initiation of Candidates, Officers and Degree Team Drills, Installation of Officers, or as otherwise specifically prescribed.

POSITION OF STEWARD IN HALL

The position of the Steward in a Grange hall is directly inside the entrance, guarding the Inner Gate.

CEREMONY FOR CLOSING THE BIBLE AND SECURING IMPLEMENTS

In closing the Grange after the M. says, "As there is no more work for us today, the Steward will see that the implements are properly secured for the night," and before the S. replies, "All is secure, Worthy Master," the A.S. and L.A.S. proceed directly to the Altar and close the Bible in the same form as in the opening ceremony.

While this is being done the S. advances to Master's station, receives the case of imple-

ments [which should always be in position open upon the station when Grange is open in Fourth Degree] and returns to his post before reporting, “All is secure.”

Care should be taken not to confuse “implements” with “regalia” or “emblems.” “Implements” refers to the case of symbolic tools intended to be in position on Master’s station when Grange is open in form.

DEFINITION OF AN ALARM

An alarm is any rap, unlike a proper signal.

INSTRUCTIONS IN THE PREPARATION ROOM

Candidates should be instructed by the Assistants in the preparation room that one blow of the staff upon the floor is a signal to stop or start, and that they should not face about to the officer addressing them until after the hoodwinks have been removed.

WHEN BUT ONE CANDIDATE IS TO BE INITIATED

When but one candidate is to be Initiated, the M. may request a Brother or a Sister to act as a second candidate.

OFFICERS DURING INITIATION

An officer about to instruct candidates should be upon his feet as the A.S. and L.A.S. approach—not waiting until addressed by the A.S.

The same rule applies to the Overseer when receiving the salutation from members.

CONDUCTING CANDIDATES TO THE ALTAR TO GIVE THE PLEDGE

The Assistants in conducting candidates to the Altar for the pledge should turn squarely to the left in front of the O. and proceed up the hall to a point slightly beyond the Altar—the L.A.S. on the right of the Altar and the A.S. on the left. At the proper signal each line of candidates should face in, and, when so instructed by the M., place their right hand over their heart in position to receive the obligation; the O. then calls up, also seats the Grange at the close of receiving the obligation.

POSITION OF THE FLAG AND FLAG SALUTE

Grange law prescribes that no Grange can be legally opened unless in addition to the open Bible upon the altar, the American flag is properly displayed in the Grange room. The position of the flag is thus defined by Grange law.

If possible, the flag shall be placed on a staff, between the stations of Pomona and the Master. If placed on the wall, it should be directly behind and above the Graces, the stripes in either case pointing toward the Master’s station. (*See the most current Digest of Laws.*)

Immediately after the last Word of the Overseer’s proclamation in the opening exercises of the Grange, and before the Master calls down the musician [without announcement] will strike the first chord of “The Star Spangled Banner.” Whereupon all will face the flag and give the civilian salute, which is made by placing the right hand open over the heart; then stand at salute

during the singing of the first verse of “The Star Spangled Banner.” If any member is present in military uniform, he will give the military salute. *See the most current Digest of Laws.*

In Granges having no piano, the singing of the Star Spangled Banner may be omitted. However, it is required that either the Pledge of Allegiance be given or the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner be sung as a part of the opening ceremony.

The presentation of the flag is optional and should be used only when the custom has been approved by resolution or precedent of the State Grange. Then the manner of presentation must not conflict with Grange ritualism or prescribed method of opening or closing the Grange.

INSTALLATION SUGGESTIONS

For Increasing the Impressiveness of the Work

At no other point in the year is the opportunity afforded for creating so favorable an impression of the Grange as at the annual Installation of Officers—both upon the Patrons themselves and upon those outside the gates, who may be guests at the event. Those in any way responsible for the installation exercises should therefore give due thought to the necessary preparations.

The official installation service, herein outlined, is simple but effective, and should be rendered in exact accordance with the Manual. Such additions as local desires may suggest, in the way of special music, marches, tableaux, etc., should be planned with only a single thought—to emphasize and supplement the lessons taught in the Manual itself. Such features may, unless properly supervised, detract from the impressive lessons which the Manual teaches and in such event they were far better omitted.

If tableaux are shown, these may appropriately be at installation of Master/President, Chaplain, Ceres, Pomona and Flora and during the singing of the Closing Ode. One of patriotic nature during singing of the Opening Ode is not inappropriate. No tableaux should ever be permitted while a Manual charge is being spoken; and tableaux lose their effectiveness if attempted while a march is in progress.

Care should always be taken not to overload the Installation Service—even with otherwise commendable features—to such an extent as to render it too lengthy. Ordinarily 60 minutes would be judged the maximum time limit.

Aides on the Floor—An excellent plan of installation procedure calls for three floor aides: (1) A marshal, to conduct and introduce officers-elect; (2) A regalia bearer; (3) An emblem bearer. A competent musician and a soloist, quartet or other musical group, are helpful in leading the musical numbers; and the use of an installing chaplain, who will offer the invocation, is desirable.

If desired, the officers-elect may march in and form a circle about the Altar, for the Chaplain’s invocation and the Opening Ode, before being seated at the left of the Master, as indicated in the Manual.

When Ceres is being installed, Pomona and Flora may be asked to rise during the first half of the charge to Ceres, inasmuch as this is in the nature of a joint charge.

Members of the Executive Committee should note the part they are expected to take when their fellow member is being installed.

Appropriate songs for installation use will be “Nearer, My God to Thee,” for Chaplain, and “Bringing in the Sheaves” for Ceres.

Those who are to give the invocation and benediction should have the parts fully memorized; and no Patron should attempt to render the Grange Installation Service until it has been thoroughly committed to memory.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

(See Complete Installation Instructions and Suggestions, page 56.)

[Any Master, Past Master or Fifth Degree member may install officers. The installation may be public if desired.]

M.: We have met on this occasion to install the officers of this Grange; let us first invoke the blessing of God. *[Calls up.]*

Chap.: Almighty Father, Maker and Ruler of the Universe, and Giver of every good and perfect gift, we beseech Thee to be with us on this occasion. Bless those who shall now be installed officers of this Grange, and endow them with prudence and wisdom. Be with all the officers of the National and State Granges, and aid all connected with our Order in extending its benefits in all parts of our land. Prosper all orders and associations having for their object the advancement of education, and of the moral welfare and happiness of mankind. We ask all in Thy holy name.

All: Amen

(Opening Ode, No. 13, The Grange Songbook.)

M.: *[Calls down.]* The officers-elect will please seat themselves at the left of the Worthy Master.

[When seated he shall say:]

M.: Patrons and Friends, be pleased to give an attentive ear to our worthy Brother (Sister) who has been authorized to install our officers.

[Installing officer may open with an original address, but should close with the following:]

Inst. Off.: Since God placed man on earth, agriculture has existed. There is no occupation that precedes it, no order or association that can rank with the tillers of the soil. 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. Agricultural toilers, therefore,

“claim this precedence over royal dynasties and titles of nobility—that they represent the oldest and most indisputable lineage, and hold a patent that issues from the ancient gates of Eden.”

The Order of Patrons of Husbandry is the only association whose teachings accompany its members in their daily pursuits. They form part of the farmer’s life. They do not call him from his work to put his mind upon any other subject, but furnish recreation in his daily duties, and, by cheerful instruction, lighten and elevate his labor. These teachings are the loftiest that man can seek. Nor does our Order interfere with his religious or political views, but in morality it seeks the highest standard. Honesty is inculcated, education nurtured, temperance supported, brotherly love cultivated, and charity made an essential characteristic. Thus our Order binds us together in fraternity, and, by encouraging education, will advance to a higher state of perfection the science of agriculture. We encourage the planting of trees, fruits and flowers, by which to enhance the value and increase the attractions of our home; adorning them with those beauties so lavishly given us by the God of Nature. There is no calling more elevating to the mind than agriculture, when viewed as presented in our Order. God, in the beginning, made it honorable, and it is our duty to sustain it as such.

Discarding the principles which exclude woman from a knowledge of the mysteries, we open wide the door and bid her welcome. In so doing we claim a high precedent, for God said, “It is not good for man to be alone.” Thus ours is truly a social Order—one in which all can find something to enjoy; and we believe there is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor. It is from the hand of God.

We ask none to join us who cannot see good in their fellow beings; but to all interested in Agriculture, who have generous hearts and open hands to help the needy, raise the fallen, and aid in making the labors of this life cheerful, we say, “Welcome to the Grange.”

[To the members.] Patrons, I am clothed with authority to install your officers.

[To officers-elect.] Placing confidence in you, that you will seek to add honor to your positions by correct deportment, your companions have selected you as their leaders for the ensuing year.

[To the Grange.] Patrons, is it your wish that Brother (Sister) _____ shall be installed as Master of this Grange?

Grange: It is.

[Installing Officer’s Marshal will now conduct the Master-elect to the Altar and say:]

Mar.: Worthy Sir (Madam), I have the honor to introduce to you Brother (Sister) _____, who has been chosen Master of this Grange. I believe him (her) to be well skilled in our work, and observant of the noble precepts of our Order, and I have no doubt that he (she) will discharge the important duties of his (her) office with fidelity.

[Installing Officer calls up and administers this Obligation:]

I, _____, having been elected Master of _____ Grange, do solemnly pledge my honor that I will perform all the duties appertaining to the office, as far as in my power, until my successor is duly installed.

I will support the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Grange, and of this State Grange, and the By-Laws of this Grange, and I will inculcate a strict obedience to all laws and edicts emanating from the proper authority. I will not take advantage of the position to bias, in any way, either directly or indirectly, the political or religious opinions of any member of the Order. And at the close of my term of office, or when legally required, I will deliver to my successor, or other properly authorized person, all the property of the Grange, or of the Order, which may be in my possession. All of which I promise on my sacred honor.

[Installing Officer calls down.]

Inst. Off.: Worthy Brother (Sister), in performing this duty, I must impress upon your mind the importance of the position you hold. You should be foremost in advocating the principles and carrying out the objects of our Order. To you all connected with your Grange will look for example; and not these only, but those outside the Gate will diligently scrutinize each act. Let me caution you, that you keep the eye of the mind open among your members. Encourage improvement; remember that Nature's motto is onward; SHE never goes backward.

You may encounter difficulties. Overcome them, remembering that difficulties are but opportunities to test our abilities. As Master of this Grange, your fellow laborers will look to you to devise work. A judicious Master will use due care that no time is lost in useless labor. Let all labor and all time tend toward improvement. Your laborers may not at first comprehend the value of this; but it is your duty to instruct them. Thus you will come in contact with their minds; if they are left uncultivated, if neglect is allowed, the moral weed crop will baffle and torment you.

It is especially your duty to exercise the supreme authority with which you are invested, in maintaining order in the Grange, and in enforcing obedience to the Constitution and Laws of the Order, yourself setting the example in all things. Decide all questions with calmness and firmness, granting the right of appeal courteously, and abiding decisions against you cheerfully.

We trust that it will be a prominent part of your duty, both in and out of the Grange, to encourage the education of the children within the limits of your jurisdiction, and to plead that they be not employed in the arduous labors of the field, before their minds have received that gentle care and training which enliven, explain, and dignify labor.

It is also an important part of your duty to exercise such oversight in the conduct of the Grange as will encourage each officer to perform his or her part, and to suggest ways and means of assistance whenever needed.

[Inst. Off. Calls up and continues:]

I now decorate you with the regalia of the Master of this Grange, and present you with the Master's gavel; *[presents gavel]* and *[conducting him/her to the Chair]* I place in your hands the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Grange and of our State Grange, and the By-Laws of this Grange. *[Presents books.]*

[Inst. Off. calls down. Retiring Master extends greeting, and, if he/she sees fit, makes a retiring speech.]

[The other officers elect are now placed in position before the Altar, where the Inst. Off. administers the Obligation to all. They are then seated and Marshal introduces—]

OVERSEER

Inst. Off.: Brother (Sister), it is your duty to see that the orders of the Master are faithfully transmitted to the Laborers, and, in his (her) absence, to take his (her) place. The Laborers come to you for instruction in their work, and you are brought in contact with them. Your influence is direct; exert that influence with due care. Of all the sweeteners of human toil, of all the motive powers that give alacrity to the hand or foot, readiness to the will, and intelligence to mind and purpose, the quickest and most enduring in results is the kind word spoken in season.

In presenting you with the emblem of your rank [*presents gavel*], I urge you to be faithful in the performance of your duties.

[Marshal places regalia upon him/her and conducts officer to station. Then introduces—]

LECTURER

Inst. Off.: Brother (Sister), to you is assigned the important duty of leading in the literary program and the educational work of the Grange. To this end you will be prepared, at all regular meetings as time will permit, with a list of exercises, consisting of essays, discussions, readings and music, to be responded to by the members. Especially urge and encourage the young and the diffident to become writers, readers and speakers in Grange meetings, and thus develop and direct to greater usefulness the latent abilities of your fellow members.

In selecting subjects, include the household and the home, as well as the farm and the field; for it is in the former that the rewards of labor upon the latter are finally enjoyed. A well-ordered household is essential to a happy home, and without a happy home no farm is fully a success.

You will also see that addresses, lectures, and other information for the good of the Order are promptly laid before the Grange, or distributed among the members.

We now have the pleasure of investing you with the regalia, and of decorating you with the emblem of your office [*presents scroll*].

[Marshal places regalia upon him/her and conducts officer to station. Then introduces—]

STEWARD

Inst. Off.: “It is required in Stewards that they be found faithful.” Your post is at the Inner Gate, which you are to guard carefully and to report all signals to the Overseer. Your duty in the Grange is to learn the qualifications of new laborers, then assign them their proper places, and set them at work. It requires good judgment on your part. You are also to see that each one is suitably rewarded for his labor. You will find many claiming a thorough knowledge of the business of the farm who, at the same time, are ignorant of the first principles of the laws of Nature. To these you will furnish every facility, by referring them to the library, to improve their minds, and incite them to use every effort to attain the highest rank in their calling. It is also your duty to keep safely and in proper order the property of the Grange. Your assistants will aid you in the care of the wardrobe, and in arranging the decorations and ornaments of the Grange rooms.

Your emblem is the Spud, [*presents staff*] an ancient implement used by Stewards in passing through the fields to eradicate weeds that may have escaped the notice of the Laborers. Let it remind you of your duty as a faithful steward to prevent or remove all causes of dissension or strife, in the Grange and in our Order.

[*Marshal places regalia upon him/her and conducts officer to station. Then introduces—*]

ASSISTANT STEWARD

Inst. Off.: Brother (Sister), your duty is to assist the Steward in his (her) labors, and to examine the members at the opening of the Grange. You will guide those consigned to your charge over the fields, and guard their minds and hearts from misconceptions, and their feet from stumbling. Be cautious, be true. As the Assistant Steward, there are labors also devolving upon you which require that you look carefully to the comfort, protection and welfare of the Grange. Your associations with the Steward should be of the most amicable nature.

Your emblem is the Pruning Hook [*presents staff*]. The spear, beaten into a pruning hook, is emblematic of peace. May it always remind you of your duty to preserve peace in our Order.

[*Marshal places regalia upon him/her and conducts officer to station. Then introduces—*]

LADY ASSISTANT STEWARD

Inst. Off.: My Worthy Sister, it is your duty to assist at the opening examination and to conduct your Sister initiates. At your hands alone are they enabled for the first time to enter a working Grange, and it is by you that they are decorated as Sisters in our Order. May the impressions you make upon their minds be salutary, and may the associations so formed prove honorable to all. You will also aid the Steward in keeping the wardrobe and the decorations of the Grange rooms in proper order.

I present you, the Lady Assistant Steward of your Grange, with the Shepherd's Crook [*presents staff*], which symbolizes a sense of caring.

[*Marshal places regalia upon her and conducts her to her station. Then introduces—*]

CHAPLAIN

Inst. Off.: [*Calls up and places regalia upon him/her.*] Brother (Sister), upon you devolves a labor that I trust will ever be a pleasant and cheerful task. In presenting you with this sacred volume [*presents small open Bible*], the textbook to which all look for wisdom and instruction, I need not urge you to be faithful in your calling. As the Chaplain of this Grange, in your prayers to the Master of the Great Grange above, may you never labor in vain. May the spiritual seed you shall sow fall on good soil, and bring forth an hundredfold. Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt gather it after many days. Remember the parable of the mustard seed. (*Song: Nearer My God to Thee, No. 62, The Patron; No. 91, The Grange Songbook.*) Brethren, behold your Chaplain.

[*Inst. Off. or Marshal conducts Chaplain to his/her station and Inst. Off. calls down.*]

Marshal introduces—]

TREASURER

Inst. Off.: Brother (Sister), confidence in your honesty and integrity prompts your companions to deposit in your keeping the keys of the treasury. Prove your ability by having your accounts always correct and in order for examination, and the funds safely secured and ready for needed payments. Take the emblem of your office [*presents keys*], and may you prove to all that you are honorable and worthy of the trust.

[Marshal places regalia upon him/her and conducts officer to station. Then introduces—]

SECRETARY

Inst. Off.: Brother (Sister), the duties of your office are most arduous of all, requiring judgment, promptness and efficiency. You become the organ of the Grange, and through you communication is maintained with the Granges throughout the land. Let your correspondence at all times be courteous, brief, yet comprehensive. The records of this Grange [*presents record book*] will be held as a memento of your labors long after the recording hand has crumbled into dust. Let them be exact, that they may redound to your honor, and exhibit a faithful history of the work of your Grange to all who come after us.

[Marshal places regalia upon him/her and conducts officer to station. Then introduces—]

GATEKEEPER

Inst. Off.: Brother (Sister), in presenting you with the emblem of your rank [*presents owl on staff*], I caution you to be vigilant and watchful. Your position between the Outer and Inner Gates is a responsible one. Neglect on your part might permit an enemy to enter, rob the orchard and vineyard, or sow the ground with tares. Being chosen by your fellow Patrons is evidence that they hold you in high esteem. Deserve it, by sleepless watchfulness at your post, by scrutinizing all who enter or pass out, and by seeing that the garments of the Laborers are suitable, and that none enter the field except authorized persons, clad in proper attire.

[Marshal places regalia upon him/her and conducts officer to station. Then introduces—]

CERES

Inst. Off.: My Worthy Sister, the ancients worshipped Ceres, Pomona and Flora, as Goddesses presiding over cereals, fruits and flowers. But we place woman in these presiding positions as Patrons, to show our respect for her and our regard for Agriculture. Therefore, also, we aid her to enlarge her sphere of thought and action, and to elevate her aims and character; and we ask her in return to grace our meetings with her presence and counsel, and thus refine our manners and improve our lives.

You have been chosen to preside over our sacred rites as Ceres, and to encourage your Brothers to labor with diligence and prudence. We therefore entrust to your care the garnered grain and place the sickle under your protection [*presents grain and sickle*]. Treasure the one, guard the brightness of the other. Both are reminders of God's bounty, and of man's

duty to garner that bounty, carefully and gratefully.

[Marshal places regalia upon her and conducts her to her station. Then introduces—]

POMONA

Inst. Off. In greeting you as Pomona, goddess of fruits, let me remind you that the department of fruits is to receive your special attention and care. Urge their cultivation and improvement upon your associates, and encourage woman to engage in that work wherever practicable and proper. The best in kind and quality can never become too abundant.

And thus placing fruits in your care *[presents fruits]*, let us remember that no trees bear fruit in Autumn which do not blossom in the Spring. 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.

[Marshal places regalia upon her and conducts her to her station. Then introduces—]

FLORA

Inst. Off. You have been selected to impersonate Flora in our sacred rites, and I cordially welcome you to that station in your Grange, and trust that the ardor you will evince in the cultivation of those most beautiful expressions of the Creator's goodness will prompt all your associates to adorn their homes with flowers. Their purifying and refining influences are needed by all, and their cultivation cannot but elevate the thoughts and refine the tastes of all who thus study and cultivate their graceful forms and beautiful colors. The home that is thus made fragrant and cheerful is prepared to be the abode of sweeter affections and more radiant virtues. That you may be incited to a zealous performance of your duties, I present you with these beautiful flowers *[presents bouquet]*, emblematic of the graces and the virtues that should ever adorn and dignify your sex.

[Marshal places regalia upon her and conducts her to her station. Then introduces—]

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Inst. Off.: In installing you as a member of the Executive Committee of your Grange for the constitutional term, we would remind you and your associates. *[Inst. Off. turns and addresses other members of Executive Committee at their station, who should rise and remain standing until the newly installed member reaches the station]* that the office carries important duties and grave responsibilities. As an Executive Committee you are responsible for the custody of the invested funds of the Grange *[presents bank book]* and from you is expected such advice and counsel as will encourage your fellow officers in the faithful discharge of their duties. As an Executive Committee, but always and only in conjunction with the Worthy Master, you are authorized, between regular meetings of your Grange, in time of emergency or need, to act for and in the name of the Grange itself.

[Marshal places regalia upon him/her/them and conducts officer(s) to station. Then introduces—]

MUSICIAN

Inst. Off.: In your selection as Musician of this Grange, you are presented with the opportunity to share your talents with the members of your Grange and visitors and guests.

It will be your duty to select appropriate marches to enhance the floor work of the officers and aid the Lecturer in presenting musical portions of the programs.

Music truly touches the mood of people, increasing joy and happiness in good times and providing solace in times of trouble and despair. It is said that God hears music above all else. Use your abilities to lift the hearts of those around you.

[Marshal places regalia upon him/her and conducts him/her to his/her station.]

Inst. Off.: *[Calls up.]* I now declare the officers of this Grange duly installed. May your labors be pleasant, and your duties faithfully performed, to the satisfaction of all working under you. Be cheerful, be united. “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard—even Aaron’s beard—that went down to the skirts of his garments as the dew of Hermon, as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.”

Song: *To Thee Beloved Grange (No. 7, The Patron; No. 22, The Grange Songbook) or Closing Ode (No. 27, The Grange Songbook.)*

Inst. Off.: And now, Patrons, cherishing in our hearts every kind feeling toward all other orders and associations which seek to promote human welfare, let us strive with them, working hand in hand, for the good of our fellow beings. Let us remember that amid all that is bright and beautiful in Nature there is nothing that blooms with such unfading colors, there is no perfume on earth fraught with such fragrance, as the flowers of good works, and the sweet-smelling savor of that pity which feels for the wants and relieves the distresses of our Sisters and our Brothers.

BENEDICTION

Chap. May our Father and our God, the bounteous Benefactor of all beings, Who has filled the earth with His goodness and crowned its season with continually renewed beauty, fill our souls with His love, that our every good word and work may be blessed with abundant harvests of joy and peace.

All. Amen, and Amen!

[Master closes installation with one rap of gavel.]

ALTERNATIVE INSTALLATION CEREMONY

[Any President, Past President or Fifth Degree member may install officers. The installation may be public if desired.]

Pres.: We have met on this occasion to install the officers of this Grange; let us first invoke the blessings of God. *[Calls up.]*

Chap.: Almighty Father, Maker and Ruler of the Universe, and Giver of every good and perfect gift, we ask You to be with us on this occasion. Bless those who shall now be installed officers of this Grange. Give them prudence and wisdom. Be with all the officers of the National and State Granges, and aid all connected with our Order in extending its benefits in all parts of our land. We ask all in Your holy name.

All: Amen

Pres.: I am pleased to introduce Brother/Sister _____, who is authorized to install our/your officers.

Inst. Off.: 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.

The Order of Patrons of Husbandry was created to bind farmers together in fraternity. The lessons of the Grange's ritual are intended to accompany its members in their daily lives. These lessons emphasize honesty, education, self-control, love and charity. They do not interfere with religious or political views. The Grange has always welcomed women, making it truly a social order. We ask all who support our principles to join us.

We are here today to install the officers that you selected as your leaders for the next term. *[President calls up officers. The Marshal leads them to form a circle around the altar.]*

Inst. Off.: *[Installing Officer calls up all and administers this obligation.]*

I, _____ (say your name), having been elected _____ (name your office) of _____ (name your Grange) do solemnly pledge my honor that I will abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Grange and this State Grange and the By-Laws of this Grange.

I will instill a strict obedience to all laws and edicts issued from the proper authority. I will not take advantage of my position to unfairly influence other members with my political or religious opinions.

At the close of my term of office or when legally required, I will deliver to my successor, or other properly authorized person, all the property of the Grange, which may be in my possession. All of which I promise on my sacred honor.

[Calls down.]

[Marshal leads officers to their seats and conducts the President-elect to the altar.]

Mar.: Worthy Installing Officer, I have the honor to introduce to you Brother/Sister _____, who has been chosen President of this Grange. I believe him/her to be well skilled in our work, and observant of the noble precepts of our Order, and I have no

doubt that he/she will discharge the important duties of his/her office with fidelity.

PRESIDENT

Inst. Off.: In installing you as President of this Grange I urge you to be faithful to your obligation. I must impress upon you the importance of your position. The members of your Grange selected you to lead them and will look to you as an example. They expect you to continue successful programs and activities. You should also find new ways to serve your community, promote agriculture, and attract new members. In appointing your chairmen and committees, do so with the welfare of the Grange in mind. Decide all questions with calmness and firmness, grant the right of appeal, and accept decisions against you gracefully. Encourage each officer to perform his or her duties, offering your assistance, if necessary. If you encounter difficulties, remember that they are opportunities to test our abilities.

This gavel [*presents gavel*] is a symbol of your responsibility to maintain order in your Grange meetings. Become familiar with the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Grange and of our State Grange, and the By-Laws of this Grange [*presents books*] to ensure that your decisions and actions follow the principles and rules of our order. [*Marshall escorts President to his/her station.*]

[*Marshall escorts each officer-elect to the altar and introduces them to the Installing Officer.*]

Mar.: Worthy Installing Officer, I have the honor to introduce to you Brother/Sister _____, who has been chosen _____ of this Grange.

VICE PRESIDENT

Inst. Off.: It is your duty to assist the President with his/her responsibilities and to fill the President's position in his/her absence. Therefore, you should be a partner in leadership in your Grange. When there are problems or differences, work with all to solve them. Be honest and be fair.

In presenting you with the emblem of your office [*presents gavel*], I urge you to be faithful in the performance of your duties.

[*Marshal places regalia and conducts him/her to the Vice President's station*]

LECTURER / PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Inst. Off.: Brother/Sister you have the opportunity and responsibility to bring educational and entertaining programs to the Grange. Look for interesting and timely topics for discussion. Encourage all members to participate and develop hidden talents, this is your opportunity to help them grow. Information for the good of the order should be presented to the Grange or distributed among the members.

We now have the pleasure of decorating you with the regalia [*Marshal places regalia*] and presenting you with the emblem of your office [*presents scroll*].

[*Marshal conducts him/her to the Lecturer's station.*]

STEWARD

Inst. Off.: God said, “It is required of Stewards that they be found faithful.” Your position at the Inner Gate is to ensure that guests and visitors are announced to the Worthy President and intruders are prevented from interrupting the work of the Grange.

It is also your duty to take care of the property of your Grange. Your Assistants will aid you in preparing the Grange room and distributing regalia to the officers.

Your emblem is the Spud [*presents staff*], an ancient implement used by Stewards to eliminate roots or weeds from the fields. Let it remind you of your duty as a faithful steward to prevent or remove all causes of disagreement in the Grange and in our Order.

[Marshal places regalia and conducts him/her to the Steward’s station.]

ASSISTANT STEWARD AND LADY ASSISTANT STEWARD

Inst. Off.: Your responsibility is to escort special guests and candidates. You will ensure that the Bible is opened and closed during each meeting, and it is your privilege to assist in presenting and retiring the flag at meetings. These are expected to be done in a respectful manner. Together with the Steward you form the team in charge of the set up of the Grange room and distribution of materials to the members.

The Assistant Steward’s emblem is the pruning hook [*presents staff*]. The spear, beaten into a pruning hook, is emblematic of peace. May it always remind you to preserve peace in our Order.

Worthy Lady Assistant, I present you with the shepherd’s crook [*presents staff*]. As shepherds nurture their flock so should you nurture your members.

[Marshal places regalia on each officer and conducts them to their stations.]

CHAPLAIN

Inst. Off.: [*Calls up and places regalia upon him/her.*] May your service as Chaplain be filled with Joy. In presenting you with this sacred volume [*presents small open Bible*], the textbook to which all look for wisdom and instruction, I urge you to teach humility to all and love for one another. You have the privilege of leading your Grange in prayer that God’s wisdom will guide us. You should encourage your fellow members to keep in their thoughts and prayers those who cannot be present at meetings. When it becomes necessary, you will conduct a memorial service to honor members who have gone before us. Your loving touch will add to the ceremony. Be an example to others, and “Do good things everywhere you go. After a while the good you do will return to help you.” Remember the parable of the mustard seed and encourage members to have faith. Members, behold your Chaplain.

[Installing Officer or Marshal conducts the Chaplain to his/her station. Installing Officer calls down.]

TREASURER

Inst. Off.: You have been chosen by your fellow members to serve as Treasurer because they believe in your honesty. Prove your ability by having the accounts always correct and in order for examination and the funds safely secured and ready for needed payments. Together with the Secretary, you will see that all bills are paid promptly. Take the emblem of your office [*presents keys*] and prove to all that you are honorable and worthy of the trust.

[Marshal places regalia and conducts him/her to the Treasurer's station.]

SECRETARY

Inst. Off.: The duties of your office are very important. You will communicate with Granges at all levels, and correspond with members, prospective members, and other organizations. Your correspondence should be courteous, brief, yet comprehensive. Work closely with the Treasurer to make sure that all bills are paid promptly. Let the minutes you take [*presents record book*] be accurate and exhibit a faithful history of the work of your Grange.

[Marshal places regalia and conducts him/her to the Secretary's station.]

GREETER

Inst. Off.: Brother/Sister in presenting you with the emblem of your office [*presents staff*], I urge you to be vigilant and watchful. Your position at the entrance of our hall is a responsible one. You are the first contact with visitors and guests. Be sure to introduce them to members and be courteous and friendly to all.

[Marshal places regalia and conducts him/her to the Gatekeeper's station.]

GRACES (CERES, POMONA, & FLORA)

Inst. Off.: Worthy Sisters, the ancients worshiped Ceres, Pomona, and Flora who represent cereals, fruits and flowers. In the Grange only women may hold these offices. In asking you to grace our meetings, we show our respect for women and the history of agriculture.

Selected as Ceres, you have the opportunity to encourage your fellow Grangers to be persistent in their work. I present you [*presents grain and sickle*] with these emblems, the grain and the sickle. They are reminders of God's bounty and of our duty to gather that bounty carefully and gratefully. Treasure the one and guard the brightness of the other.

In greeting you as Pomona, I place this fruit in your care [*presents fruits*]. Remember that no trees bear fruit in autumn that do not blossom in the spring. Let this remind all to cultivate youth, helping them to become educated, responsible, and involved adults.

In welcoming you as Flora, let me remind you that you represent the many colors and fragrances of flowers, one of the Creator's most beautiful expressions of His goodness and influence. Take these flowers [*presents flowers*] and urge others to fill their homes with beauty, joy and love.

[Marshal places regalia on each officer and conducts them to their stations.]

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Inst. Off.: As an Executive Committee member, you have important duties and grave responsibilities. The Executive Committee is responsible for the custody of the invested funds of your Grange [*presents bank book*]. Working in conjunction with the Worthy President, the committee is authorized, between regular meetings, in time of emergency or need, to act for and in the name of your Grange.

[Marshal places regalia on each committee member and conducts them to their station.]

MUSICIAN

Inst. Off.: [*No music is played when the Musician is presented.*] You were brought here in silence to show how quiet our meetings would be without your talents. Your duty in the Grange is to provide music at the opening and closing ceremonies and during the ritualistic work of our order. It is also your duty to assist the Lecturer in providing music in the presentation of programs. Your emblem is this songbook [*presents songbook*]. Inside its covers you will find many appropriate hymns, marches and “songs of the season” to aid you in your labors. May all who hear your music find peace and joy in their lives.

[Marshal places regalia and conducts him/her to the Musician’s station.]

Inst. Off.: I now declare the officers of this Grange duly installed. May your labors be pleasant and your duties faithfully performed to the satisfaction of all working with you. Be cheerful, be united. “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” As officers, endeavor that your members receive teachings that will enable them to become outstanding citizens.

And now, Patrons, carry with you a feeling of compassion for those who strive to make the world a better place. Let us work hand in hand for the good of our neighbors. Let us remember that those with trials and tribulations need our help most of all.

Chap.: May our Father and our God fill our souls with his love, that our lives may be blessed with abundant harvests of joy and peace. Amen.

RECEIVING DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

[Each State Grange may provide the ceremony for receiving State and National Officers in the Subordinate/Community or Pomona Grange meetings. Where no other ceremony is provided, the following is suggested:

When a visiting National or State Officer appears at a Grange Meeting, he should be seated in the rear of the Grange room, or remain in the anteroom. Immediately after the Master calls down, following the opening of the Grange, the Steward will announce:]

S.: Worthy Master, Brother (or Sister) _____ (giving full name and title) is our guest and is in waiting.

M./Pres.: Patrons, Brother (or Sister) _____ (repeating full name and title) is our honored guest. The Assistant Steward (the Lady Assistant Steward if the visitor is a woman) will present our honored guest to the Master's/President's station.

[The Master/President calls up. The Musician will play a march and the Assistant, at the visitor's right, will escort him to the Master/President's station. If there is more than one visitor, or if the visitor is accompanied by his wife (or her husband), both Assistants will act as escorts, the Lady Assistant Steward preceding.

The guest should be advised that he is to speak only for a moment. After the introduction and greetings, the Master/President will call down. If it is the intention to have the visitor make his address at the time of introduction, the Master/President should call down before presenting him to the Grange.

After escorting the visitor to the Master/President's station, the Assistants will immediately retire to their stations.

It is not necessary to recognize a State Officer as a guest who is visiting without invitation in his own or nearby county, unless it is so desired.

The ceremony of receiving guests should always be conducted in a friendly and not too formal manner. Where a more elaborate form is desired, the Assistants will lead and the Steward will escort the visitor to the Master/President's station, passing under the crossed staves of the Assistants.]

CEREMONY FOR DRAPING A GRANGE CHARTER

[This charter-draping service, adopted by the National Grange, should be used at the first meeting following the death of a member, and should be carried out with dignity and reverence. Appropriate music should be rendered by musician during the march, before and after charter draping. Immediately after the third order of business (reading records of last meeting), the Chaplain will rise and say:]

Chap.: Worthy Master/President, I have a report to make to Worthy Ceres.

M./Pres.: Proceed, Worthy Chaplain.

Chap.: Worthy Ceres [*Ceres rises*], it becomes my sad duty to inform you of the death of our Worthy (Brother/Sister) _____ (Giving the name in full.)

C.: Heavy indeed are the sorrows that so often descend upon us during this earthly pilgrimage; yet proving the trial of our Faith, in the certainty of the resurrection and the immortality of the soul. To those who look forward to a reunion in another and a brighter world, where there will never more be separations nor pain, the experience of death is shorn of its sting and life's eventide becomes more delightful than the morning; its sunset offers more beautiful visions than those we build in the morning clouds, which disappear before the strength of day.

Seen through the eyes of Faith, we remember our (Brother/Sister) not as one dead— (he/she) has only gone on before us through the gates of the Grange Above, where dwells the Great Master of us all.

Worthy Master/President, let us drape our charter in loving memory of our Worthy (Brother/Sister).

[Master/President calls up and the Assistant Steward and Lady Assistant Steward march to station of Ceres, followed by Chaplain as they pass the latter's station. Ceres joins in, marching with Chaplain, behind the assistants, around hall. When they reach the charter they pause, Ceres passes the drape to Chaplain, who places it over the charter. Line of march is resumed to station of Overseer/Vice President, then to the Altar, where Chaplain and Ceres face the Altar and assistants take position at either side of the Altar, facing in. Chaplain leads in the Lord's Prayer, all members joining.

At conclusion of the prayer, line is reformed, marches to Ceres, turns left and continues around hall past station of Chaplain, where Chaplain drops out, to station of Ceres, where Ceres drops out, then assistants pass in direct line to their own stations and Master/President calls down.]

SUGGESTIONS

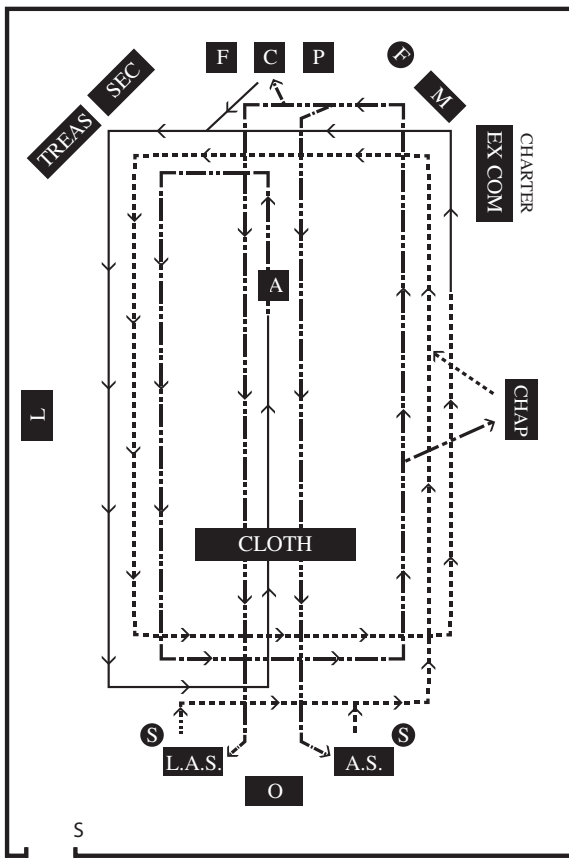
If the Charter is in its proper place (neatly framed and on the wall between the station of the Master/President and the Chaplain, low enough to be easily read), little advance preparation is necessary. When the Charter is not so placed, it should be rehung for the occasion near the station of the Chaplain, low enough to be easily draped in a dignified manner. If desired, the charter may be placed upon an easel slightly in front of and between the stations of the Master/President and the Graces.

A distinct addition to the impressiveness of the service will result if “One Sweetly Solemn Thought,” or other appropriate selection is sung, either as a solo or by a chorus, immediately following the Lord’s Prayer, while the officers are still at the Altar. The Chaplain may substitute another prayer or proper verse in place of the Lord’s Prayer in respect of the beliefs of members of various faiths.

Those who are to participate in this solemn service should have their parts thoroughly committed to memory and the line of march, the Altar positions, etc., should be fully understood.

It is the general custom to leave the Charter draped for thirty days in memory of a deceased member. Granges may vote to designate a different period of time if desired.

Draping the Charter



Short dotted line indicates march prior to draping charter; solid line indicates march to Altar after draping; long and short dotted line indicates return of officers to stations.

GRANGE BURIAL SERVICE

[The burial ceremony is intended only for those who desire to use it. Its use is optional and not mandatory on the part of the National Grange. Patrons who do not wish to use it upon funeral occasions have no right to object to its use by those who do.]

Members will assemble at a designated point in the cemetery, not far from the burial plot, and at the approach of the funeral party will form in two equal lines, facing in, and stand with uncovered heads as the mourners pass through. Line will then close in, members marching two and two, and follow the funeral procession to the burial plot, where members will form a circle about the grave. Master and Chaplain will take positions at head, inside circle, and at the proper time the Master will say:]

M./Pres.: Worthy Patrons, it becomes our duty to pay tribute and make memorial of respect and devotion for our departed Brother/Sister. We recall that all flesh is mortal and therefore must know death; but the spirit is immortal and returns to God who gave it. Therefore, we are not cast down, but abide in that eternal Hope which illumines and overcomes the dark valley of death.

Worthy Chaplain, please lead us in prayer and Scripture.

Chap.: Let us pray. Loving and Merciful God, we entrust our Worthy Brother/Sister to Your mercy. You loved him/her greatly in this life; and now that he/she has been freed from all its cares, give him/her happiness and peace with You, forever and ever. Amen

Let us seek comfort in His Holy Word.

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 23

[An appropriate selection as a burial hymn is “Abide with Me” – No. 52, The Patron; No. 90, The Grange Songbook. This may be sung as a solo or duet at this time. While this is being sung, the members may pass once around the grave and each drops a flower upon the casket. Master will then drop his/her flower upon the casket. When all are again in place, the Chaplain will continue.]

Chap.: Our fraternal circle has been broken, and we have assembled to pay tribute to our departed Brother/Sister with whom we have shared many labors. The Faith we practice and teach is our sustaining arm; While we weep at the human loss we have experienced in our earthly fellowship, yet it is not as those who have no hope. While we bid a last farewell and there is sadness in the parting, the depths of our love for our departed Brother/Sister is expressed by dispensing charity toward their families. Our tears and expressions of sorrow are but the signs – as weak as they sometimes appear – of our consolation and concern for them. Our Heavenly Father placed us here to be laborers together with Him and after toiling for an ever increasing harvest are made stewards of His bounty and partakers of His blessedness. So in old age we enjoy the fruits of a well-spent life, surrounded by friends and in a happy home noted for fidelity. May the example of our Brother/Sister inspire us to persevere and when we are called to lay down our implements here on earth, may we be reunited with all our Brothers and Sisters who have labored in His glorious cause. May we enter the Paradise

not made with hands, eternal in the heavens and receive that welcome plaudit: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” We remember our Brother/Sister not as one dead – but as one gone on before us through the gates, where dwells the Great Master of us all.

[Chaplain places a flower, bouquet or wreath on the casket.]

And now, before our final prayer and farewell, let us pray together the prayer which the Lord Jesus Himself taught us to pray:

All: (Pray the Lord’s Prayer)

Chap.: Let us pray: Almighty God, we give You thanks for the good example and friendship of our Brother/Sister who has finished his/her course and now rests from his/her labors. But let us also pray to the Lord for ourselves. Fill us all with the spirit of service and may each new reminder of the uncertainty of this earthly life inspire us to greater zeal and renewed efforts, until that day when we shall be reunited with our departed Brother/Sister and share the joys, the peace, the life and the completeness of that Kingdom where You live and reign now and always, forever and ever. Amen.

SUGGESTIONS

The Grange badge of mourning consists of one piece of black ribbon and one of white each one inch wide, tied above the elbow on the left arm. All Patrons in attendance at the burial service may be so attired and care should be exercised that every Patron be provided with a flower to use at the appointed time.

GRANGE SERVICE FOR PRIVATE HOME OR FUNERAL HOME

[This service in memory of a departed member is designed for use, either at the funeral home or in the home of the deceased, on the evening before the funeral. It should be used only at the request of the family or with their consent. The funeral director should be advised as to its details.]

[Members will assemble at an appropriate place. Master/President and Chaplain will take positions near casket. At proper time Master/President will say:]

M./Pres.: Worthy Brothers and Sisters, it becomes our sad duty to pay a last tribute of respect to a worthy (Brother/Sister). Let us remember that all flesh is mortal and must needs die; but the spirit is immortal and hath returned to God who gave it. Wherefore be not cast down, but abide in that eternal Hope which illumines even the dark valley of death.

Worthy Chaplain, let us bow in prayer

[Chaplain prays.]

Chap.: Once more our fraternal circle has been broken, but the Faith we practice and teach is our sustaining arm in this hour of mourning. We weep at the loss we have suffered in our earthly fellowship, yet not as those who are without Hope. All the teachings of Nature are our assurance, and the promise of the Master is our refuge—“Because I live, ye shall live also.”

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters; He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

M./Pres.: And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying; neither shall there be any more pain: For the former things are passed away.

Chap.: Almighty God, we give Thee thanks for the good examples of all these, Thy servants, who, having finished their course in Faith, do now rest from their labors. Imbue us all with the spirit of service and may each new reminder of the uncertainty of this earthly life inspire us to greater zeal and to renewed endeavor; for soon cometh the end of the day, when man’s work is done. And now may the peace which passeth all understanding, the ministry of the Eternal Comforter, and the blessing of the Great Master Above, abide with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.

All. Amen.

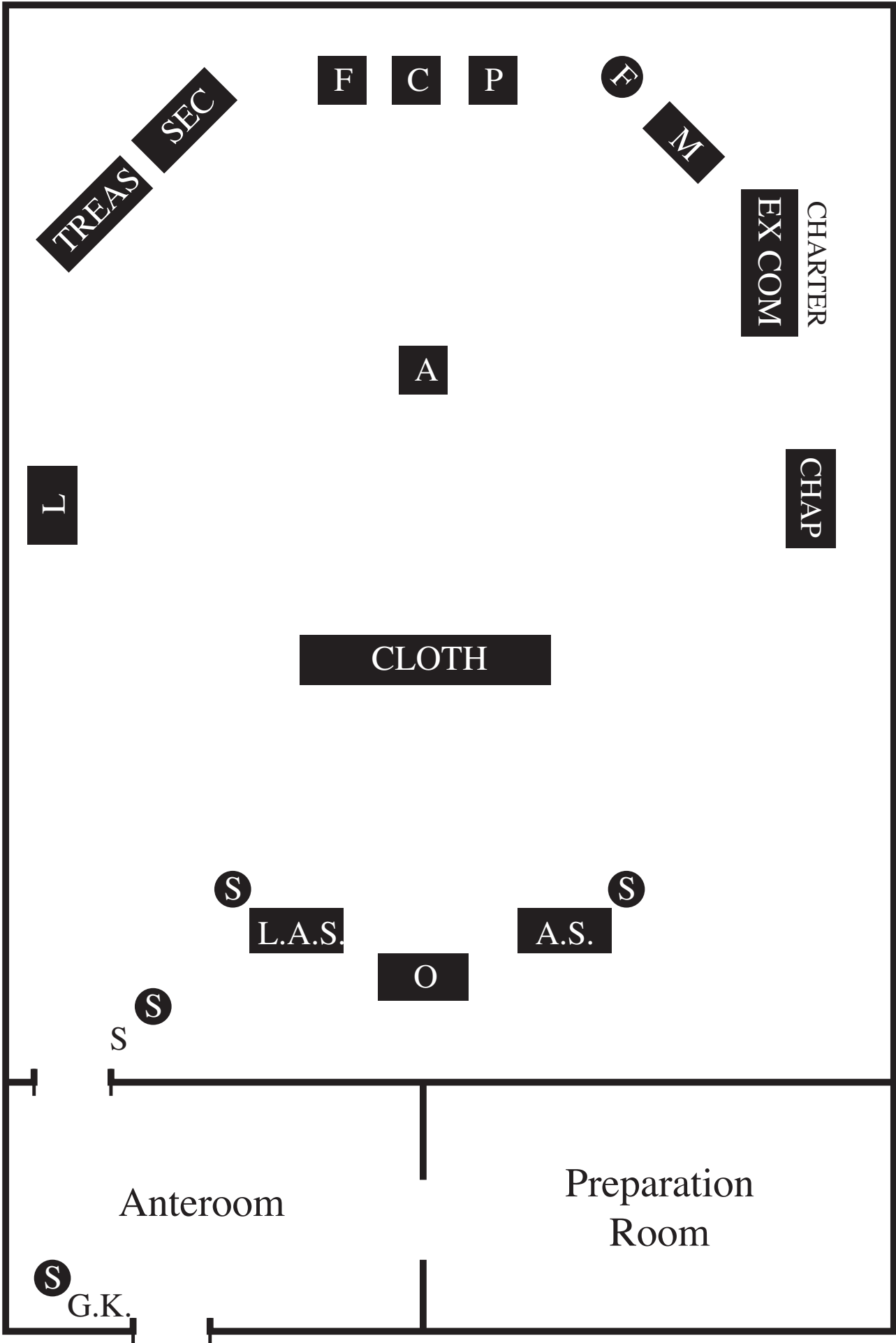
SUGGESTIONS

To be read if a longer service is desired. “Abide With Me.” “Crossing The Bar.” “There is No Death.”

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Every Subordinate/Community Grange may fittingly set apart a day at the proper season of the year as a Memorial Day, when appropriate tribute shall be paid to those Patrons who have passed away during the year; with decoration of grave of all deceased Patrons.

If desired such an occasion may be carried out entirely within the Grange hall, with decoration of the altar in memory of those deceased. For such an observance a reverent and impressive Memorial Service prepared by the National Grange, is available (sent upon request) to all Granges desiring to use it.



HELPFUL FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED

Members are not considered Patrons of Husbandry until they have taken the Fourth Degree, have been received into membership by way of the Official Grange Obligation Ceremony, or have taken the Welcoming Ceremony. Nor can they vote on any business matters of the Grange.

By following a wise financial policy, the ordinary funds of a Grange, if judiciously expended, will be ample to provide the necessary hall furniture, and suitable paraphernalia to do the work properly and acceptably.

Dues should be collected regularly in advance and quarterly reports made promptly to the State Grange. The Lecturer should arrange programs of interest to all members for every regular meeting. These programs should be educational, informative, timely and announced beforehand. During the Lecturer's program period, the Master should remain at his/her station and maintain order.

All visitors should be treated as strangers at the Gate, and in the hall, until they have been satisfactorily examined in the Unwritten Work of the Order, or properly vouched for. A member cannot vouch for another unless he has positive knowledge that the person to be vouched for is a member of a Subordinate/Community Grange in good standing; and then only in strict accord with the instructions of the Unwritten Work, contained in "Opening," as given in the cipher code.

There is no work more beautiful or instructive than our Initiatory and Degree Work, when done well, and with an appreciation of its spirit and meaning.

However often it may be rendered, each time will develop new beauty to a reflecting mind. It is important that each officer should study the Manual in order to become so familiar with the entire work, that the use of the book can be wholly dispensed with.

Every Master should aim to set an example before his Grange, by having his ritualistic and secret work thoroughly committed to memory.

In the event of a large class of candidates for initiation, and especially with limited hall space, it will be found expedient to select a marching class of not more than six to ten couples, to be conducted on the floor. The remaining initiates should be escorted into the hall previous to starting the degree and be seated in a group in the front row at the Master's left. When the Obligation is about to be administered all candidates should be placed in position before the Altar; except that if such movement of a large class, in a crowded hall, is likely to create confusion, the Master may permit candidates not in the marching class to stand in their places and receive the Obligation.

Various books are available which will prove useful to Granges contemplating the formation of degree, tableau and drill teams.

In a well ordered Grange that business will be disposed of expeditiously so that the Lecturer's program may be started at a reasonable hour and closed likewise. It is a grave mistake in Grange procedure to so prolong Grange meetings that members will become weary and

consequently not want to come again.

Long, tedious Grange recesses are an inexcusable waste of precious time and should never be permitted.

Established regalia suppliers issue up-to-date illustrated catalogues on Grange regalia and equipment, from which much useful information can be gathered; even in such cases as Granges whose members desire to make part of their own equipment, such as robes, stage curtains, etc.

By the aid of these instructions, and those given throughout the Manual, any officer of a Subordinate/Community Grange, if he is willing to give his duties proper study and attention, can perform the work acceptably.

Attend to every duty promptly, and keep constantly before the minds of the members the important fact that the great object, and the crowning glory of our organization is to “educate and elevate the American farmer and improve the quality of life in rural communities.”

