



**MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE
SESSION
WESTFORD REGENCY
OCTOBER 27-30, 2005**



Westford Regency Hotel — October 27th The 133rd Annual Session opened on Thursday evening with the officer entry by the 6th Middlesex Regiment. Honored guests included the National Representative, William Steel, National Master.

Worthy State Master, Mary J. Jordan gave her fourth and final Master's Address where she outlined some of the successful activities. Over the past four years, I have greatly appreciated the resolutions submitted by Subordinate and Pomona Granges. Some years we have had as many as 20 resolutions while other years there have been less. One of the main purposes of our Annual Session is "to deliberate upon and devise measures for the welfare of our order." Each Grange should focus one of their goals to devise a resolution to be acted upon at our Annual Session. Resolutions should reflect the concerns and issues affecting our Grange, Community, State and Nation.

To the entire Grange membership, I thank you for your wonderful hospitality, concern and kindness that you have shown not only to me, but also to my husband Randy and our children. I could not have filled the responsibilities of Master without the assistance of many people including all the elected and appointed State officers. Without the hard work, dedication and teamwork approach from all of you, the success stories of Grange work would not have been possible. My family and friends have truly played an integral part in my Grange work.

As I said last year in my Annual Address, "It's you the people — the Grange membership" who are working hard to promote the good works of the Grange. Remember always in our Grange work—that it's people that we influence with our good deeds that make every chapter in our work so important. ***As a Chapter in Grange work closes, so another one opens....***



6th Middlesex Regiment

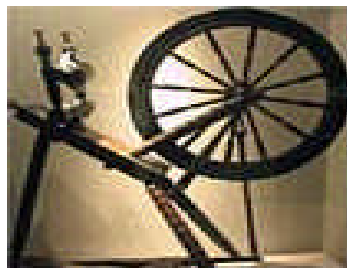
The 6th Middlesex Militia Regiment opened the 133rd Annual Session of the Massachusetts State Grange with an impressive demonstration.

Members of the regiment hale from Dunstable, Carlise and Groton. Their attire and drill are historically correct including a Fife and Drum .

Some of the members of the Regiment include: Captain Bancroft, Mr. Pellittier, Mr. Flowers, Mr. LaCroft, Mr. Evens and Mr. Shephard.

October Birthdays

- 10/24 Jean Hall
- 10/24 Tom Severance
- 10/28 Debbie Goodrich



American Textile Museum

On Thursday Afternoon many State Session Attendees went on a tour of the American Textile Museum in Lowell. The Museum was founded by Caroline Stevens Rogers in 1960 and in 1997 moved into its current space at the Kitson Manufacturing Company building adjacent to the Lowell National Historical Park. Some of the exhibits include fabric being woven on vintage looms in the Museums working weave shed and the Textiles in America display of textiles, machines, photographs, tools and other artifacts showing how textiles were created and used over the last 250 years.

Report of the Worthy Overseer

Brother Calvin Chase gave his fourth and final report as State Overseer which closes his duties as State Overseer, and if chosen, will be the beginning of his work as State Master. "I am grateful for all the support and friendship extended to me and to Linda in our travels. May each and every one feel the sense of fraternal family we have come to love. My sincerest thanks to all those who have carried the torch these many years. Each elected officer, appointed committee, deputy and member have made a worthwhile contribution to the betterment of the Grange."

Brothers and Sisters, our order is in danger of collapse. Since becoming Overseer, nearly 1200 members have disappeared from our ranks. We need to turn the Grange in Massachusetts into a growing group. Toward that end, all the committees of the State Grange will be committed to growing the Grange. You, the delegate body must understand and report to your Granges that each of you, and you alone, have the power to grow the Grange. The State Grange can and will provide assistance and training when asked, but you must do the recruiting.

Since becoming an officer of the State Grange, I found that my input became limited and I also found my duties were limited. The one exception is the office of Steward, which has become very exciting and very educational with the responsibility of coordination with the hotel staff. I intend to liven up the work load of the line officers. I intend that Membership and Leadership Development will be composed of the Overseer, Steward, Assistant Steward, Lady Assistant Steward, Gatekeeper, and one or two members at large. Their responsibility is to make our State Grange grow. Toward this goal, they will be establishing training programs, and rendering such assistance to the local Granges as is in their power. The responsibility for growth is in the hands of each local Grange. We can help.

We need to be visible in our communities and be worthwhile to the benefit to the community. Now we must focus on ourselves and how to improve the internal programs so that all members benefit. I recommend the current youth committee be broken up into two groups. Youth Committee (ages 14-21) and Young Adults Committee (22-45) [this news received a resounding yahoo]. The Youth Committee needs to refocus on training and leadership development. Last year saw the suspension of the Massachusetts State Grange Youth Leadership Association (MSGYLA). This program can again be successful if it is refocused on the group that needs the experience of leadership and the basic skills of office in a favorable atmosphere.

A part of the long term strategy for the Grange is to develop our future leaders in Junior Grange. Junior Grange needs our support as leaders (Matron's and Patron's) and our monetary support. I congratulate those Junior Granges that are still active. I would urge each and every Grange to consider a charter for a Junior Grange. I would like to see one new or re-chartered Junior Grange by the 2006 State Session. The Executive Committee voted to create a "State" Junior Grange that encompasses the entire state for those Junior's not able to get to an existing local Junior Grange. I encourage each Granger to get their children or grandchildren involved with this program.

We have a great fraternity, a leader in equality, in agriculture, in community involvement, and in political action. We need to rededicate ourselves to the principles of our founders. Be involved. Work for the common good. Improve our communities. Educate. Lead. **AND ABOVE ALL, HAVE FUN DOING IT.** We must remember that no distance is gained until the first step is taken. Each tiny step of the infant soon leads to the Olympic athlete. No progress will be made if we do not collectively take those first steps of getting involved again with our communities. There is no more depressing a note than to go into a Grange community and ask where the Grange is meeting, than to be told "What Grange?" We will have programs for you to take those first tiny steps. Please use them and support them. **WE WILL AGAIN GROW!**

Calvin C. Chase, Jr.