

At Sanborn Mills Farm, preserving the past and planning for the future go hand in hand!

Sanborn Mills Farm

July 2017 eNews



[www.sanbornmills .org](http://www.sanbornmills.org)

A little history on getting the help you need in the garden & on the farm . . .



Thanks to our hardworking vegetable gardeners Emma & Jenn, the Teaching Garden is flourishing this year. But each season brings unique challenges and this summer is no exception. This year [fire blight](#) has affected two apple trees, our weeping crab apple, our remaining quince tree, and two of our pear trees. Leafhoppers have decimated one of our three varieties of hops. Next year we will use prophylactic applications recommended by the [University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension Service](#). Their [county agents and the Master Gardener program](#) are always there to help.

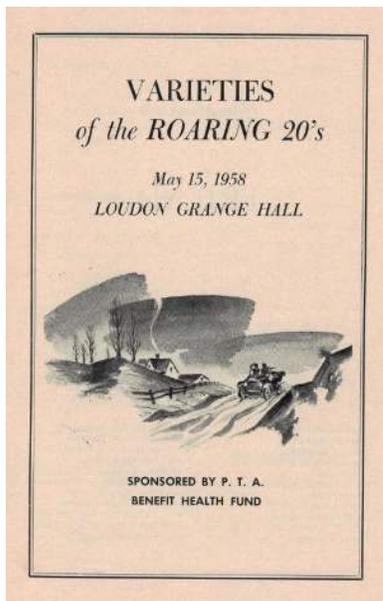


Back in the mid-1800s information on how to solve problems was harder to come by and many rural farmers relied on their Grange society for good advice. The first Grange was founded in 1867 by [Oliver Hudson Kelly](#), a native of Massachusetts who had been commissioned by President Andrew Jackson to survey agricultural conditions after the Civil War.

Responding to the many problems he observed, Kelley and a small group of like-minded individuals founded *The Order of Patrons of Husbandry*, *The National Grange* with the goal of advancing and sharing information on agriculture and promoting the social and economic needs of farmers.

Through the 1870s, local chapters flourished across the country. Usually equipped with a large open space, a stage, and a kitchen, the Grange Hall provided a place for members to meet and discuss farming challenges and a venue for community gatherings including performances and dances. The Grange movement was nonpartisan and helped inspire important programs to benefit rural communities including the [Cooperative Extension Service](#), [Rural Free Delivery](#), and the [Farm Credit System](#). Progressive in many ways, Granges allowed women to fully participate and vote.





Many historic Grange buildings can still be seen in the towns across New Hampshire. Sanborn Mills Farm has the original Loudon Surprise Grange from Loudon Village. We plan on re-erecting it, including a traditional raising of the frame, after we have completed our current infrastructure improvements in the Sanborn Barn and the New Carriage barn.

[Click here](#) and [here](#) for a more detailed history of the Grange movement.

[Click here](#) for more information on the New Hampshire Grange as it exists today.

It's been a busy summer at the farm . . .

The annual Water-Powered Mills & Open House was well attended with over 300 people coming to learn about early farm life in New Hampshire.



Colin Cabot demonstrating in the historic blacksmith shop.



Jake Farmer with the sawmill crew demonstrating sawing boards on our restored water-powered saw mill.



Tyler demonstrating the a double neck yoke with Huck & Finn.



Farm Manager Tim Huppe explaining how ox yokes are made.

July Workshops . . .

The floor cloth workshop was a busy one. Ten students from as far away as Virginia and Pennsylvania were led by instructor [Michele Hollick](#). Everyone left with two beautiful designs - one diamond floor cloth and one stenciled.



Carol Brock from Francestown, NH



Barbara Onorata from Dumfries, VA



Rita Russell from Bellefonte, PA



Nancy Miner from Hopkinton, NH

Blacksmithing has been busy as well this month. The Allen family journeyed all the way from Banks, Oregon to take a blacksmithing workshop followed by a working cattle workshop.



Jim Allen with his newly forged hook.



Mike Allen with his two-sided trivet.



Philip Allen with his double-layered trivet.



SMI teamster Tyler (left) pulling a log out of the woods with helper Greg Wright (center) & student Jim Allen (right).

Building connections . . .

We enjoy sharing the unique history of the farm and insights into 19th "single-person" technology with groups that have common interests and goals. This summer we are hosting a few meetings.

On June 24, [The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers](#) toured the farm with a special focus on our timber framed buildings and the water-powered mills.

In August, we will be hosting the [New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association's](#) (NHTOA) annual board meeting and an awards ceremony.

In September, the farm will host a board meeting of the [Land & Community Heritage Investment Program](#) (LCHIP).

If you are interested in holding a meeting of your group or organization at the farm, contact us at info@sanbornmills.org or 603-435-7314 weekdays from 9 am to 3 pm.



Thank you to our friends & neighbors . . .

We recently received a donation of two looms. The estate of Oliver and Mary Ellen Fifield of Canterbury donated a barn frame loom that dates from the early 1800s. Barn frame looms get their name from the timber framed method of construction. This loom has great promise and with the help of our historic loom consultant Craig Evans and our carpenter Kevin M. Schurman, it promises be a great addition to our collection.

Janet (Fifield) Valdez, Oliver's daughter, donated a 45" four harness Leclerc loom. Leclerc's are made in Canada and renowned for their strength and excellent craftsmanship.

The Fifield's have been generous to Sanborn Mills Farm for many years and we thank them. Steve Fifield, Oliver's son, has worked on a wide range of restoration projects here including the mill dams, the gristmill, the Sanborn Barn, and the Grano Barn. Steve's wife Betty has cooked up many a home-cooked meal for our workshop participants.



Partial set up of the barn frame loom donated by the Fifield family.



The Leclerc loom donated by Janet Valdez.

Photographs for this eNews by Lynn Martin Graton.

Historic posters "[I Feed You All](#)" & "[Gift for the Grangers](#)" courtesy of the Library of Congress Digital Collection. Click on the embedded links provided to download your very own copy!

The 1958 Loudon Surprise Grange playbill is in the collection of Sanborn Mills Inc..

Sanborn Mills Inc. | 603-435-7314 | info@sanbornmills.org | www.sanbornmills.org

A traditional New Hampshire farm and nonprofit organization dedicated to sustainability, creativity, and preserving folklife skills and agricultural knowledge so that the best of the past can help shape our future.

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