

History of New Market Grange No 362

1920-2019

The New Market Grange was originally organized as New Market Grange No. 40 on February 20, 1874, by J.N. Chiswell; after only lasting one year the Grange turned in their charter. The thought of a Grange in New Market lay dormant until January 13th, 1920 when State Organizer J.T. Anthony reorganized the Grange as New Market Grange No. 362. There were 37 charter members, and all regular meetings were held in the New Market Odd Fellows Home. The first major activity was the construction of a hall. On land that was donated by Grace Episcopal Church, the Grange set out to do just that.

Charter member Frank Maynard, who was the manager for Detrick Farms, was able to acquire standing timber from Mr. Detrick that was used for the lumber to build the hall. Members cut the timber, hauled it to the sawmill and then to the building site. The first Grange hall was patterned after the Catholic Hall in Libertytown. Many members donated time and their efforts in the construction of the first New Market Grange hall. The cost to the members to build the hall was \$4,000. After four years the hall was finally completed and ready to become one of the main “hot spots” in New Market. State Master B. John Black performed the dedication ceremony in 1924. After the dedication ceremony, Grange members got to work raising the funds to pay off the mortgage. \$8 was charged to schools and churches for use of the hall, \$5 rent per week was charged to movie representatives for showing movies to the public, the Grange members bought binder twine in bulk to sell to members at a reduced rate, and much more. In 1926 \$450 was paid on the hall, and in 1927 the Board of Trustees recommended that \$100 be paid on the hall quarterly.

In 1930, it was decided to have a food booth at the Great Frederick Fair. Since that time the New Market Grange has operated a food booth and participated in the Frederick County Pomona Grange exhibit during the fair. In 1931 the Treasurer reported that all Grange funds were tied up in the Central Trust Company Closure. With the closure of the Central Trust Company in October 1934 the trustees were directed to place a \$500 mortgage on the hall with the Domestic Building Association. In 1939 Mt. Pleasant Grange surrendered their charter and asked permission to join New Market Grange. At last, in 1940 the New Market Grange celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a covered dish supper, the program included installation of officers and remarks by State Master Brooks and Pomona Master Edward F. Holter.

In 1941 a mortgage burning ceremony was held boasting the accomplishments of the members, State Master Roy Brooks was the speaker and a covered dish supper marked the occasion. The New Market Grange since its humble beginnings has been a great supporter of the community. During World War II the Grange Hall was used as a first aid station and was set up as a place for blood donations. A resolution was passed supporting the construction of a Vocational Agricultural shop at Frederick High School, and in 1949 the Grange recommended that the Board of Education teach driver training in all schools. In the '50s Walter Burall donated one acre of land on Route 75, just 2 miles north of New Market, to the Grange for the purpose of planting trees as a memorial to those who served in World War II. Over the next few years, the Grange Hall was used by the Board of

Education as an extra classroom until a new addition was built to the New Market Elementary School.

Something else happened in the '50s that set the New Market Grange on a new venture. They purchased a 3 ½ lot for a new hall. On April 12, 1961, the Grange voted to sell the old hall and build a new one. After much consideration, the hall was sold in July 1963 for the sum of \$7,000 with a one year option. The final settlement was made in June 1964. In the late summer, ground was broken on the lot for the construction of the new hall. Mr. Charles Taylor, a local building contractor, was hired to supervise the construction with a lot of the work done by the Grange members. The cost of the new hall was \$22,139.74; \$10,500 was borrowed to pay for it. The first meeting in the new Grange Hall was held on April 14, 1965. The hall was dedicated on October 10, 1965, with State Master Lionel Burgess Acting as the Dedication Officer and the Worthy National Master Herschel Newsom presenting the address.

The mortgage on the new hall was paid off in 1972, marked by a mortgage burning ceremony. The New Market Grange along with Linganore Grange joined forces with the Linganore High School FFA Chapter and FFA Alumni to start a Community Show. The community show to this day is still in full swing, with the Granges still serving supper for the event.

In the fall of 1982 main floor bathrooms were added to the hall at a cost of \$12,000. In May of 1983, in an effort to have a new Post Office located in the Town limits the Grange submitted a bid to have the building located on land adjacent to the Grange Hall. In the spring of 1988, a handicapped ramp was added to the entrance of the hall, and new shrubbery and trees replaced the old. The '80s were marked by a commitment to help meet community needs with an average of \$1,800 in contributions annually.

Through the 1990s until present time Betty Thompson, Scott Burall, and Richard Stonebraker chaired community service programs that won first place in the State Grange Community Involvement Program. Efforts to increase membership in the late '90s and to date have resulted in welcoming 67 new members while losing 41, giving us a gain of 26 members.

The main floor of the hall is rented out more than 100 times a year yielding a net annual income of about \$10,000. Our annual budget provides over \$10,000 to support community activities and roughly \$19,000 for the maintenance of the hall for community use. We work closely with local high school FFA members and encourage them to become members of the Grange. Former Linganore FFA President and former Maryland State FFA Vice President Richard Stonebraker served as New Market, Frederick County Pomona, and Maryland State Grange Youth Director, becoming the youngest State Youth Director at the age of 16.

January 2010 saw the 90th Anniversary of New Market Grange with over 50 members and guests present to celebrate the occasion. National Master Ed Luttrell was present for the occasion and addressed those present. Memorabilia from the Grange's history was on display and many memories were shared by members and guests.

Since its anniversary, New Market Grange has been hard at work updating the Grange Hall and its grounds. The parking lot was repaved in fall 2014, new flower beds were created and filled with new plants in spring 2015. Inside the hall painting has taken place, floors refinished, and new curtains purchased to replace the old. Not many Granges in the state have their own hall, so New Market sees it as an obligation, not only to the

community but to the organization its self to maintain its hall for all to enjoy. The Grange's food booth at the fair has been updated with new lighting, appliances, and more. September 2019 will mark the 99th year our food booth has been in operation at The Great Frederick Fair.

January 2019 saw the election of officers in which history was made again in this Grange. Brother Richard Stonebraker was elected President (Master) of the Grange, the youngest one in New Market's history. New Market continues to change as the times change. Membership, as within many organizations, has become the topic of most discussions. New Market is working to "re-brand" itself, most associate membership with the fact that you must be a farmer or related to one to join. That is not the case. Our organization is for all to be involved. If you have a passion for helping your community and making it a better place for all, then the Grange is for you. In January 2020, New Market Grange will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. We look forward to what the coming years bring, and the members are dedicated to the work of our great organization. As our slogan goes: in the New Market Grange, you are more than just a member. You are family.