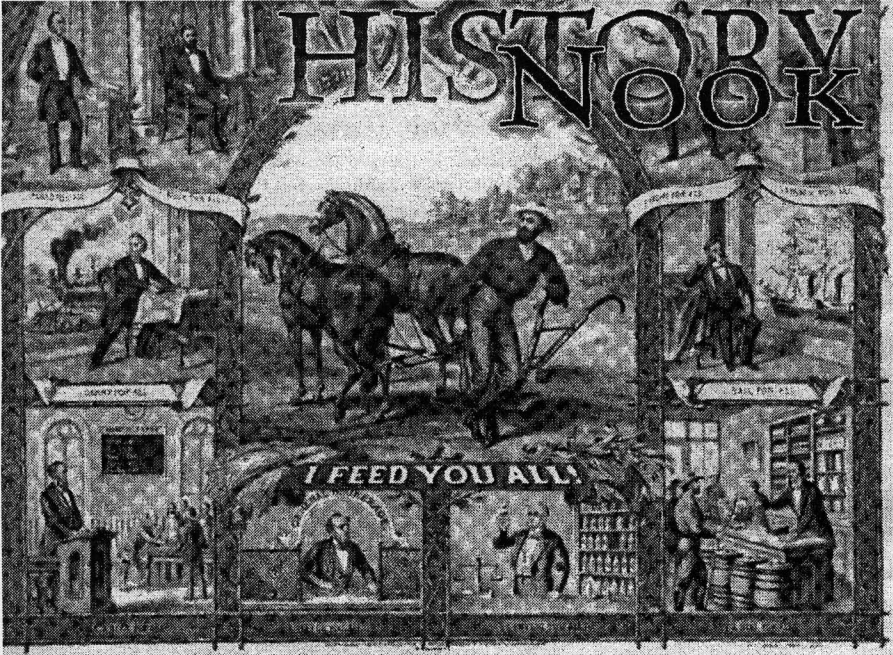


HISTORY NOOK



The origin of the National Grange

By: LINDA PETH

The Patrons of Husbandry, or the Grange, was founded in 1867 to advance methods of agriculture, as well as to promote the social and economic needs of farmers in the United States. The financial crisis of 1873, along with falling crop prices, increases in railroad fees to ship crops, and Congress' reduction of paper money in favor of gold and silver devastated farmers' livelihoods and caused a surge in Grange membership in the mid-1870s. Both at the state and national level, Grangers gave their support to reform minded groups such as the Greenback Party, the Populist Party, and, eventually, the Progressives.

The Grange was the first national organization to give full voice and vote to women, 50 years before Congress adopted the same. The Grange was instrumental in bringing rural free delivery mail service to rural America. This act alone saved farm families countless hours

of riding horseback into distant towns; sometimes as much as 30 miles way to get their mail. Grangers actively sought the establishment of the Future Farmers of America; making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture.

Support your local farmers.

SCHOLARSHIPS are offered each year through the Washington State Grange members or children of Grange members. The scholarships may be used at any institution offering courses leading to a certificate or degree in a recognized profession or vocation.

Applications forms are on www.wa-grange.org.

Linda Peth
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