

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANGE

The New Hampshire Grange was a type of club for people who lived in rural communities. Beginning in 1873, Granges were formed in towns all over the state.

Granges had three purposes:

- 1) Granges were a social club for people who lived in rural communities, people like farmers who might not see many of their friends or neighbors since people didn't live close together. They were all spread out because they lived on farms, but the Grange brought them together.
- 2) Granges celebrated rural life and sponsored fairs and competitions that allowed farmers to show off their livestock and the crops they grew on their farms.
- 3) Granges provided some excitement for rural communities because towns wanted to keep people living there. Too many people, especially young people, were moving to the cities to get jobs in factories and enjoy all the excitement of living in a place where there were theaters, restaurants, shops, and amusement parks. The activities organized by New Hampshire Granges, including speakers, parties, and agricultural festivals, showed people that it was fun to live in a rural community too!

Notice & Wonder

1. Why would agricultural fairs make people more likely to want to stay in rural communities?
2. Would you rather live in a town or a city? Why?



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