

Houlton Grange No. 16

Largest Grange in the World



Founded in 1867, the National Grange, officially referred to as The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, was a fraternal organization in the United States that encouraged families to band together to promote the economic and political well-being of the community and agriculture, with full membership beginning at the age of 14. In the Grange, women have been equal members since its inception.



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The Houlton Grange was organized May 6, 1874. [Charles E. Gilman](#) was elected first master and held that office for seven years.

In 1879 the membership had declined to 13 and there was a motion made to surrender the Charter.

By a vote of 7 to 6 this motion was voted down.

How often has that single vote determined the successful outcome of great causes?



Horse Drawn Float for the 1928 Parade

In 1888 the first move was made to secure a home and a hall was erected close to the present location. It was 20 X 30 at a cost of \$173.79. Membership had risen to 40 that same year. In 1891 the Grange gave full support to the Hon. Albert Burleigh relative to the proposed Bangor and Aroostook Railway.



In 1898 the present hall was built at a cost of 1,700 dollars.

In 1901 it was voted to build a Grange store, in 1905 a blacksmith shop was added.

In 1924 (?) Houlton Grange No. 16 was acknowledged as being the largest grange in the world with a membership of over 1,000 members.

[Houlton Grange at the Maine Memory Network.](#)

Putnam, Cora M. The Story of Houlton. Portland, Me.: House of Falmouth, 1958. Print.

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