



1664 US Highway 1 Littleton, Maine

January-March 2026 By Karen Donato

Southern Aroostook Agricultural Museum

"A museum by the people, for the people"

"We are an equal opportunity provider"

Our mailing address: 304 Campbell Road Littleton, Maine 04730 Tel: 207-538-9300
 Email: southernaroostookmuseum@gmail.com Website address: www.southernaroostookagriculturalmuseum.org
 Facebook Southern Aroostook Agricultural Museum Look for your renewal date on your mailing label.

2026 Membership Supper

We hope you will make plans to join as a new member or renew your current membership and attend our annual roast beef supper on Saturday, January 17. The ladies in the kitchen with the help of Colby Shaw and Gene Little will be busy preparing a delicious meal. With the recent frigid temperatures, it will do your soul good to make the drive to Littleton and meet up with old friends or meet new ones.

Your membership provides your free membership supper, four newsletters during the year and free admittance for tours during the year.

The memberships include: Single, \$25; Family, \$40; Sodbuster, \$50; Thresher, \$100; Farmer of the Year, \$250; Single Lifetime, \$500 and Couple Lifetime, \$750.

If you are unable to attend the supper, please send your membership dues to: SAAM, 304 Campbell Road, Littleton, ME 04730 or



A photo from 2018. From left: Sheila Cowperthwaite, visitor, Jim Ritchie, Kelly Little, Evelyn Delong, the late Susan Nason, Judi Britton, Annette Ewings, Ron-dise Watson, the late Thelma Henderson and Paula Woodworth.

Let us know if might like to volunteer at the suppers or by cooking.

Some facts about the Grange

The Grange, also known as the Patrons of Husbandry, was once known as one of the organizations in the United States and especially here in Maine.

The National Grange organization formed in Washington, D.C. in 1867 to "improve the farmer's lot".

This "Agricultural unionization" came to Maine, replacing old "farmers clubs" in about 1873. The first sub-ordinate Grange was founded that year in Hampden, Maine.

As farms, and farmers have dwindled down over the years in the United States, so have the Grange Halls and memberships.

These Halls were once very active centers of rural life. Dinners, dances, meetings and many, many social functions were held in these buildings.

At the height of popularity there were approximately 62,000 Maine Grange members by the mid 20th Century.

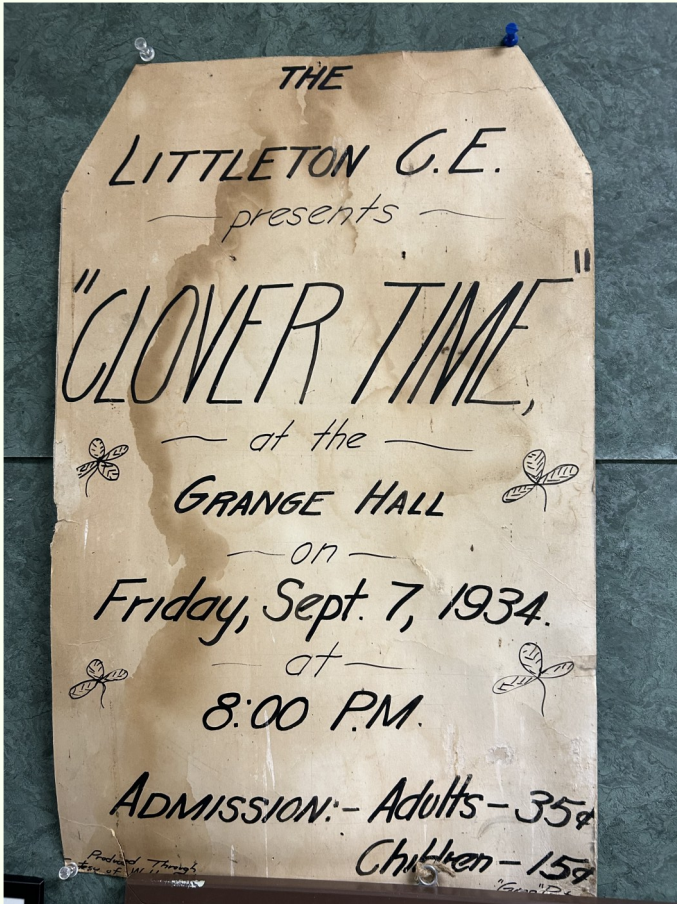
Today, the active number of members is believed to be less than 12,000. What numbered 500 active Grange Halls, is now below 100.

Yet, in nearly every town one can find an old Grange Hall and many Maine family histories are closely tied to the Grange.

This account was originally printed in Stories from Maine.



The Monticello Grange was torn down several years ago.





Our fall raffle winner was Gary Sewell from Monticello, shown here with President Francis Fitzpatrick. The winner received a Henry Big Boy brass side gate 44 Magnum polished hardened brass lever action rifle. The second prize of a \$100 gift card to Mac's Trading post was Henry Monarca with third prize, a \$50 gift card to Mac's won by Albert Fitzpatrick. Our thanks to all who supported the raffle by buying a ticket and for Mac's Trading Post's support.

Photos from previous suppers. Our thanks to Nancy Wright and her creative talents for decorating for each of our events and Debbie Melvin for keeping our displays looking good.





New windows for school

Since our last newsletter, we have secured some funding for our new windows. Our thanks to the Putnam Trust, Robert Nagle, Michael Oswald, and Judy Fuller for contributing to this fund. If you would like to contribute please send your donation to the SAAM address. We are purchasing the windows through one of the local Amish families and the windows will be ready to install in the spring.

New Ricker memorabilia has arrived from former student, Bill Tarbox of North Andover, Massachusetts. He is a '72 graduate. This box along with another can be seen in the library.

We are working on replacing 12 windows in our Ross School. Each window averages \$500. Let us know if you would like to donate to this project. If you are handy with a hammer, join us for the installation.

Memorials

Memorials have been given in memory of Ruth Ewings, Betty Anderson, Susan Nason, Sheila Bishop Steele, Tom Brown and life-time member, Bob Anderson.



We have gift certificates available for our suppers and memberships. Great birthday, Christmas gift or a just because gift.

Upcoming Events

Suppers are served from 4:30 to 6 p.m. or until we sell out. \$12 per person. Take-out available.

January 17—Roast Beef

February 21—SAAM Supper

March 21—SAAM Supper

Please send your 2026 membership dues to:

S.A.A.M. 304 Campbell Road Littleton, ME 04730 or renew online.

Thank you for supporting our mission to preserve the past.

Bits and pieces of information:

Multi-Purpose Room: Our gym & kitchen facilities are available to rent for reunions, receptions, parties or banquets.

We are a non-smoking, alcohol free facility and handicapped accessible.

Gift Certificates are available for suppers or memberships.. Great birthday, anniversary or "just because" gifts.

Regular Museum meetings are the first and third Saturdays of the month beginning at 9 a.m. Members and guests welcome

Open for tours Thursday, Friday and Saturday-1 p.m. to 4.
Mid-June through Labor Day.

For private tours call Debbie Melvin or other members listed below.



Look for your renewal date on your mailing label.

Mailing address: 304 Campbell Road
Littleton, Maine 04730

SAAM appreciates your support!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Becoming a member does not obligate you to any volunteer position, but it does help us fulfill the dream of :

"Cultivating the Heritage of the County"

Please complete the form below to enjoy free admittance to the museum and help support a great cause. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, operated solely by volunteers.

___ Single Membership \$25

___ Family Membership \$40

___ Sodbuster \$50

___ Thresher \$100

___ Farmer of the Year \$250

___ Single Lifetime—\$500

___ Couple Lifetime--\$750

___ Additional donation for:

Date _____

Name _____

Business _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send to: SAAM, 304 Campbell Road
Littleton, Maine 04730

c/o Barry Campbell

Or pay online

www.southernaroostookagriculturalmuseum.org

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT..Francis Fitzpatrick.....538-0050

V.PRESIDENT.....Colby Shaw.....694-0824

TREASURER.....Barry Campbell.....538-9583

SECRETARY.....Debbie Melvin.....538- 9604

COMMITTEES

Buildings & Grounds..Colby Shaw.....694-0824

Paul Klein.....521-1874.

EVENTS / Rae Johnston.....538-9402

Contact Debbie Campbell to reserve museum.....538-9583

HISTORIAN /open for volunteer

PUBLICITY /Karen Donato..... 694-6099

Displays/decorating-Nancy Wright 538-8905

and Karen Donato..694-6099

TRANSPORTATION OF DONATED ITEMS:

Francis Fitzpatrick.....538-0050

MUSEUM.....538-9300

www.southernaroostookagriculturalmuseum.org

Email— southernaroostookagmuseum@gmail.com

We are now on Facebook—check us out!

Southern Aroostook Agricultural Museum



S.A.A.M

304 Campbell Road
Littleton, ME 04730