

Perrysville Grange # 1945

On an evening early in the summer of 1914, a joint meeting of Petersburg and Leesville Granges was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. T. W. Shotwell near Perrysville. It was an open meeting with all of Perry Twp. invited, and its objective was to see what could be done toward organizing a Grange in Perry Twp. A program was given, refreshments were served, a general good time was had socially, and along with it all there was a good deal of Grange talk.

A paper was circulated among Perry Twp. citizens to ascertain how many were willing to become Grange members. More than the number of names required for organizing were received and arrangements were made for another meeting.

A short time later a meeting was held in the Stonebrook schoolhouse when the 1st and 2nd degrees were conferred by County Deputy, E. M Capper. More names were being added to the list of applicants, and at a meeting at Perrysville schoolhouse, July 28, 1914, the obligation of the 1st and 2nd degrees were again given. The same evening the 3rd and 4th degrees were conferred on the entire class.

The next order of business was the election of officers and the following were chosen:

Master	W D Kail
Overseer	J W Wallace
Lecturer	Georgianna Amos
Steward	O R Amos
Assistant Steward	Olin Dodd
Treasurer	J W Logan
Secretary	Harry Logan
Gate Keeper	Lorin Lotz
Chaplain	John Patterson
The Graces	Nellie Lotz, Bernice Lotz, Clara Amos
Lady Assist Steward	Mary Palmer

With the installation of these officers, the organization of what is now known as Perry Twp. Grange No. 1945 was completed, with a charter list of fifty-eight members.

A R Amos	C E Dodd	Rilla Leggett
Bernice Amos	Olin Dodd	Harry B Logan

Clara Amos	F G Gamble	J W Logan
Georgianna Amos	S C Havnar	Lorin L Lotz
George Baker	Emerson Heidy	Nellie Lotz
Harry Brower	Benjamin Hendricks	Eva Osburn
Pearle Brower	E L Hendricks	H C Osburn
W R Brower	John Hendricks	Lee Osburn
Levi Busler	Clara Kail	I J Palmer
J E Butterfield	W D Kail	Joseph A Palmer
Josephine Butterfield	Alice Kirby	Mary Palmer
S R Butterfield	J M Kirby	Nannie Palmer
W E Butterfield	Marie Kirby	John Patterson
Dewey Davis	E S Laughridge	Anna Shambaugh
Robert Davis	Bell Laughridge	Ross Shotwell
Violetta Davis	W A Leggett	Roy Shotwell
Carl Dawson	Paul Leggett	Erma Shotwell
J B Dawson	Frankfort Leggett	Harry Smeltz
Anna Dodd	Charles Leggett	J W Wallace
		Mary Wallace

The first regular meeting was held at the Perrysville Schoolhouse, Tuesday evening, August 11, 1914. It was decided to hold the meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday evening of each month. A few years later this was changed to the second and fourth Friday nights, as that seemed a more convenient time.

At the second meeting, the subject of a meeting place was taken up. It was decided to use the Perrysville Schoolhouse for the time being. The building of a Hall was discussed pro and con. Mr. Shotwell moved that we lay the matter before the Township Trustees and the motion carried.

On March 23, 1915, it was moved that we as a Grange stand behind the proposition that the Trustees are working upon to build a public hall in Perrysville. For a time after the first send off of organizations, not much progress was made, but we seemed to hold our own. During the summer of 1915, a contest was held based upon attendance taking part in literary programs, prompt payment of dues, and new members secured. The members were divided, the ladies against the gentlemen. Each side its leader who had charge of the literary program and kept tally. The ladies came out the winners and were treated to a supper by the losers. As a result of the contest, new interest was taken in Grange work and some growth was made numerically. That fall, more encouragement was given when one of our number, W. D. Kail was chosen as a delegate to the State Grange meeting.

The question of a public hall was a topic of discussion at numerous meetings during 1916. It was kept constantly before the people, with the result that a levy for the purpose of building a township hall was voted upon by the township and carried.

The year 1917 took on a brighter outlook, partially as the result of winning the first Grange victory. In April the township trustees proposed a plan for building the hall. The Grange voted in favor of aiding in the construction of the building and appointed a committee to look after labor etc.

Previous to this time the work of the order had been carried on without implements of any kind. In June, a full set of officer sashes and working tools were purchased.

In 1918, H. C. Osburn was installed as Master. The community seemed to realize that the Grange had come to stay, and we began to make progress. An important event in May of this year was the furnishing and moving into the new Township Hall as our permanent Grange home. In addition, a piano and partial dining room and kitchen furnishings were secured. Officer stations were made and contributed by Mr. Osburn and officer staves by W. R. Brower.

We were in charge of laying the cornerstone for the Perrysville High School building in 1927 with Harry A Caton as speaker.

Over the years our Grange has become known over the County for good ritualistic work. On several occasions our degree teams have exemplified the 5th degree. Our Grange sponsored a County Installation Team two years. Several Pomona Masters have been chosen from our Grange as well as a number of delegates to the State Grange. Our Grange was further honored in Feb. 1959 when Matthew Morvatz was appointed County Deputy Master.

We have made exhibits at the county fair several times, taking first place a few times. Our Grange sponsored the first Farmers Institute to be held in the township and helped with each Institute that followed.

Our Grange has endorsed the following movements over the years:

Putting Quail on the songbird list
Temperance
Ohio Home Protective League
State Grange stand on Taxation
Rural Police

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of the Grange to our members has been the Insurance Program. Many thousands of dollars worth of fire, life and automobile insurance has been written for our membership.

Our membership grew from fifty-eight to a high of 154.

The early founders of our order gave as its purpose” To educate and elevate the American farmer”. We continue to make our community a better and more pleasant place to live.

The Grange was discontinued in 2000.

Masters of Perrysville Grange No. 1945

1914	W D Kail	1943	W C Shawver
1916	J W Wallace	1944	Ira J Palmer
1918	H C Osburn	1947	O J Kirby
1920	Ira J Palmer	1948	Hallie Long
1922	Frances Scott	1950	O J Kirby
1923	Harry Logan	1951	Matt Morvatz
1925	A B Hendricks	1953	W C Shawver
1927	Harry Logan/ Ira J Palmer	1955	David Kennedy
1928	Ira J Palmer	1956	Guy Stine
1930	R J McClain	1957	Curtis Shawver
1933	Jay Slates	1958	Matt Morvatz
1935	W C Shawver	1960	Curtis Shawver
1939	Ira J Palmer		