



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Farming in the Valley: 2011 Oral History Project

The following are transcripts from two audio clips in the **Sense of Community/Social Organizations** section. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/historyculture/social-organizations.htm> to view the entire page.

The Grange

Hazel Broughton, former resident of Everett, describes the purpose and history of the Grange, a service club supporting rural communities.

“The original Grange was formed in 1867 following the Civil War. And it was started because of the unruliness between the states and agriculture and Washington. So they fashioned it after a rural organization for farmers to, mainly, get their ideas together to be able function and raise crops and livestock. Now, it is mainly a community service. We still are rural-minded, but it’s past its prime. But we have a national Grange, we have a state Grange, we have a local Grange, and now we have four Granges in Summit County, of which when I started they were twelve, and I am Summit County Pomona Master, which is the county. Unfortunately, younger people today, families, do not join Grange anymore. There’s too many other things to join. So it’s fading.

“One thing I’d like to say about the Grange: They were the instigator for rural delivery of mail. They were instigator in free lunches in schools. While they didn’t do it, they pushed it. They pushed it from the rural standpoint. So you can see that it’s been important. And we *do* do a lot for community service. We work in connection with our communities, and Deaf, Deaf is our project. Deaf, for the Deaf schools in Ohio, especially down around Columbus where we have the Columbus deaf school. It’s local, and I’m proud of it.”

Women's Farm Club No. 1

Pat Morse, whose mother was a member of Women's Farm Club No. 1, remembers club activities and events during the 1930s and 40s.

“The women met once a month and they did, I would say, they studied progress and farming, being farmer’s wives, I would say, with canning and sewing and that kind of thing. Oh, and the other thing they did was, each year they had a big picnic at the end of the year. I don’t know how this evolved, but all of us kids had to put on a play to entertain them, and we just *loved* that. It was such fun. And you’d meet at different peoples’ homes each year. And they were very large gatherings at that time.”