

## **Clear Creek Grange No. 233**

Captions of Monticello Community Historic Society Museum

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The National Grange, organized in 1867 in Washington, D.C. It was originally called Patrons of Husbandry (P. of H.). It later became known as The Grange. The original intent of the founder was that the Grange would promote better farming methods, and improve the intellectual and social life of the often isolated farm families. They worked through the Grange to achieve cheaper transportation for getting their crops to market and to get lower prices on their supplies they purchased.

The Clear Creek Grange No. 233 was formed in 1873 in Monticello Township. They first met in member's homes and later in the Virginia and Lone Elm school buildings.

In 1882, it was decided to build a Grange Hall. It was predicted to cost \$425. Rock for the foundation was quarried from the Corliss farm. When completed, there would be no whisky, beer, swearing or card playing allowed in the hall. Land (near northeast corner of 83<sup>rd</sup> and Mize Road) was donated in 1883 for the building by James E. Corliss and work began. In December 1883, the members approved a motion to buy chandeliers and one dozen spittoons. A person would be fined if they missed the spittoons. The hall was furnished inside and ready for use in 1884.

The Clear Creek Grange continued to gain members. In addition to their business meetings concerning agriculture, they often hosted dances, picnics, watermelon eating contests, social gatherings and meeting of various groups such as 4-H, Scouts, and others. In 1948 the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grange was celebrated.

Clear Creek Grange struggled at times but did not close until about 1975.