



Simsbury Grange #197

Honoring the Past, Looking to the Future

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. attended dances at the Simsbury Grange in the 1940's! Grange Halls were often used for dances as well as other social and community events like potlucks, barbecues, holiday parties, and more.

We just learned of this amazing history of our local Grange in late 2019. The Simsbury Grange is trying to find out more about the dances and any other events that Martin Luther King Jr. attended at our Grange. We do know that a few years before Martin Luther King attended a dance our Grange applied for and received a federal tax exemption on dance tickets. In keeping with our history, the Grange plans to once again offer dances that are "Tax Exempt!"

FORM 725-A
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
Revised March 1939

**CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM COLLECTION OF
FEDERAL TAX ON ADMISSIONS**
OFFICE OF COLLECTOR

To Simsbury Grange No. 197 September 11th, 1940
Simsbury
Connecticut

I have received your affidavit on behalf of Simsbury Grange No. 197
(Name of beneficiary)
claiming exemption from collecting the tax on admissions to a dance
(Character of entertainment)
to be given at Grange Hall
(Name of building, park, etc.)
samo (Name of lessor), lessor, located at _____ (Street and number)
West Simsbury (City) Connecticut (State), on September 14, 1940 (Date or dates)

because the beneficiary named above is a _____
Your claim for exemption is **ALLOWED** and you are advised that should it be afterward shown that your claim is improper you may be subject to the fines and penalties prescribed by law.
Tickets must read "Tax Exempt"

Your claim for exemption is **DISALLOWED** because the beneficiary named is not under the law and regulations exempt from collecting the tax on admissions, as the proceeds do not inure exclusively to the benefit of a religious, charitable, or educational institution, society, or organization, or other exempt organization or person.

(CROSS OUT THE PART NOT APPLICABLE)

Thomas J. Smith Collector,
District of Connecticut

16-8078

When the current Grange members came together and revitalized Simsbury Grange #197 we started with a new heating system, insurance, extensive cleaning, building inspections and energy and infrastructure upgrades. We hosted an Eagle Scout project and another one is in progress in 2020. We refinished our wood floors and certified our kitchen and now have a wonderful community space. We inherited cabinets and drawers full of records that need sorting and archiving. We hope to find more treasures like this receipt. Assistance and donations are welcome to help us on our mission.

In 2020 the Simsbury Grange is proud to participate in Simsbury's 350th celebration. We will be hosting an old-fashioned picnic after the Memorial Day parade in downtown Simsbury. It will feature homemade food from a veteran-owned and -operated foodtruck business – Curbside Chefs! The picnic is free for all veterans and a \$10 donation is requested.

The Memorial Day picnic starts at 2:00 pm at 236 Farms Village Rd., West Simsbury. We have seating inside and out so the event is rain or shine. Feel free to bring lawn games and bring a lawn chair or two if possible. If you are able, please park in the shopping plaza next door or across the street at the post office. Anyone with mobility issues is welcome to park in our parking lot.

The Memorial Day event will serve as a Grand Re-opening of the Simsbury Grange. Everyone is welcome!

Simsbury Grange #197

P.O. Box 364 for postal mail. Located at 236 Farms Village Rd. (Rt. 309), West Simsbury, CT 06092

Visit us online at www.simsburygrange.org; contact us at info@simsburygrange.org