



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: State Deputy 1918 - 1921

Our fifteenth State Deputy, John F. Daily, was born in North Vassalboro, Maine on November 7, 1882. He was the son of James Bernard Daily and Julia M. O'Reilly. He attended the public schools and was graduated from Shaw Business College in Portland. He married Mary McBride Vose on July 27, 1925 and they had four sons.

One might say that Brother Daily was a man of destiny in the Order. Having joined the Bangor council in 1908, he was elected Grand Knight in 1911 and served but one term. He did not serve as a District Deputy but was elected the fifteenth State Deputy at the Orono Convention in 1918. He was the first State Deputy to hold the office for three terms. This was a period of great expansion of the Order in the state. There were two reasons for this: first, it was the end of World War One. The boys were coming home and because of the wonderful social work that the Order had done during the war for the veterans the Order was held in very high esteem by the boys and the public in general. Secondly, it was at this time that the great wave of persecution swept the country fanned by the Klu Klux Klan. Because of this, Catholics banded together in order to better resist and protect themselves. As a result, State Deputy travelled the length and breadth of the state, organizing new councils everywhere. In this short space of three years Brother Daily instituted Councils No. 1934 at Fort Kent, No. 1936 at East Millinocket, No. 1947 at Brunswick, No. 2006 at Hallowell (although this council was organized, because of objections made, it was never instituted, No. 2089 at Skowhegan, No. 2091 at Rumford, No. 2192 at St. Agatha (this council later surrendered its charter), No. 2219 at Westbrook, No. 2231 at Sanford, No. 2239 at Saco, and No. 2266 at Old Orchard Beach.

Recognizing the outstanding organizing abilities of this great leader, the Supreme Council employed Brother Daily as a Special Agent on January 1, 1922, which office he held until December 31, 1940, when his title and his duties were changed to those of A General Agent of the Insurance Department. On April 12, 1943 he discontinued his work as a General Agent of the Insurance Department and resumed his efforts as a Special Agent under the title of Special Representative until his retirement on January 31, 1955.

In his capacity as a Special Representative, Brother Daily's duties consisted principally of visiting councils that had become indebted to the Supreme Council, for the purpose of collecting whatever moneys owed by them and for the further purpose of ascertaining what circumstances had caused them to become indebted and of prescribing a remedy for whatever difficulties existed. In addition to his work of visiting delinquent councils, Brother Daily performed many other duties that were assigned to him by the Supreme Council in his capacity as Special Representative. For example, he located the beneficiaries of deceased insurance members when the Supreme Office was unable, through other means, to locate such beneficiaries. He held courses of instruction for Financial Secretaries and other council officers at State Council meetings.

Since Brother Daily's work took him out of the state most of the time, he moved to Belmont, Massachusetts and transferred to the Belmont Council No. 332 in December 1926. Few men are ever privileged to work for the Supreme Office for a period of thirty-two years until after they are seventy-two years of age. Sometime after his retirement, John suffered a coronary affliction and died on July 11, 1960.

FOURTH DEGREE 1919: Unusual factors resulted in the appointment of Fred D. Harvey as our second District Master of Maine. The record of Brother Harvey is somewhat unparalleled. We do not find where he ever held an office in his council. He was never a District Deputy, nor was he either a Faithful Navigator or Comptroller of the Fourth Degree Assembly. He was appointed State Master of the Fourth Degree in Maine in 1918 and served in that capacity until 1926, at which time he was elected the eighteenth State Deputy at the convention held in Old Orchard Beach.

State Chaplain 1918-1921:

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael C. McDonough continues to serve as State Chaplain and serving as pastor of St. Patrick's church in Lewiston until 1933.

State Convention for 1918 was held at Orono on May 14, 1918. In 1919 the Convention convened at Portland on May 29, 1919. The convention for 1920 was held at Bangor on June 14, 1920.