



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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CHAPTER NINETEEN: State Deputy 1921 - 1923

Edward F. Flaherty was the sixteenth person to hold the office of State Deputy of Maine. He was born on October 1, 1873 in Portland, ME. He was graduated from West Grammar School and attended one term at Portland High School. On September 14, 1910 he married Marie T. Coyne they had three children, two boys and a girl. He then entered the employ of Robert F. Somers, one of the best known hatters in the city where he remained for several years. He worked for many years in Portland for Haskell and Jones Company and later as a partner for Flaherty & Coyne, a clothier, hatter and furnisher at 559 Congress Street.

Mr. Flaherty took an active part in local and state politics after reaching manhood. He served for many years as chairman of the Democratic City Committee. His first political office was that of Representative to the Legislature in 1907-1908, and he later served two terms as State Senator.

Brother Flaherty joined the Order by becoming an insurance member of Council No. 101 of Portland on March 23, 1896, two years after the institution of the council. He was twenty-two years of age at the time. After holding minor council offices, he was elected Grand Knight in 1907 and served for two years. In 1917 he was appointed District Deputy and served one year. In 1921, at the convention held Lewiston, he was elected State Deputy which office he held with distinction for two terms. During these two years the Order saw a period of one of its greatest expansions. New councils were instituted: No. 2344 of South Portland, No. 2358 of Lisbon Falls, No. 2358 of Greenville, No. 2386 of Lincoln, No. 2392 of Jackman Station, No. 2399 of Madison, and No. 2465 of Farmington. All of these were small communities and small councils. However, of the seven councils instituted all continued to function throughout the years except at Lincoln.

He was a communicant of the Sacred Heart Church where he was active and supported ardently its various activities and philanthropic undertakings. Brother Flaherty was stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage while about his duties in his store and passed away within a short time at his home on January 10, 1925. His sudden death came as a shock to his hundreds of friends and business associates. The Solemn High Mass was sung by a choir of Fourth Degree Sir Knights from the Sacred Heart Church. The State Officers and Past State Deputies acted as honorary pall bearers. An Honor Guard of the Fourth Degree from the Sebasian Rasle Assembly led the members of the Knights of Columbus from the various sections of the State in the funeral procession.

State Chaplain 1921 – 1923:

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.

District Master 1921-23: D.M. Fred Harvey remains in office as District Master until 1926.

Bishop Of Maine 1921-23: Bishop Louis Sebastian Walsh continues to serve as Bishop of Maine.

State Convention for 1921 was held at Lewiston on May 31, 1921. In 1922 the Convention convened at Waterville on May 22, 1922. The convention for 1923 was held at Mt. Kineo on June 5, 1923.