



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Chapter SEVEN:TURN OF THE CENTURY IN MAINE K OF C

With the beginning of the 1900's came a new State Deputy, John L. P. Burke from Bath, Me. He was born on March 12, 1861 and named John Levi Patten Burke in honor of one of Bath's outstanding citizens, Captain Levi Patten. He was taken prisoner 5 times during the war of 1812. John Burke was limited to a grammar school education and was married on Thanksgiving Day 1893. He had three children, a daughter and two sons.

John L.P. Burke was employed as a bookkeeper by Charles W. Morse and later by George Moulton, Jr. He later entered the store of the Bath Iron Works and was soon promoted to a position in the main office of the plant. He was promoted to the position of purchasing agent for 30 years. He originated a filing system of accounts which was later adopted by many of the greatest shipyards of the country.

Brother Burke was a charter member of the Bath council #249 and served as this council's first Grand Knight from 1898 to 1900. It is interesting to note that he was Grand Knight and State Deputy at the same time. During his one year term as State Deputy there were no new councils organized.

STATE CHAPLAIN OF MAINE 1898-1899 Father Michael F. Walsh:

Father Walsh was born at Manchester, N.H. on New Year's Day 1852. He attended local schools and entered Holy Cross College in 1876, at the age of 23. He studied theology in Paris, and was ordained on May 13, 1883. His assignments included in Portland at St. Dominic's Church, St. John's Parish in Bangor, and became the first pastor at South Berwick in 1886. He was appointed to Calais on July 12, 1888 to succeed Rev. Owen M. Conlan. He built the Immaculate Conception Church which was dedicated in September 1894. The new rectory was built in 1896.

It was during Father Walsh's labors at Calais that the St. Croix Council #149 was organized on February 16, 1896. Both Father Walsh and his assistant Father William Dollard were charter members. Fr. Walsh was appointed State Chaplain for one year from 1898 to 1899.

STATE CHAPLAIN OF MAINE 1899-1900 Father Richard W. Phelan:

Father Phelan was appointed the third State Chaplain and served one year from 1899 to 1900. Very little is known of the life of Father Phelan except that he was born in Ireland and educated there. We have no record of when he came to Maine or of the parishes that he served. It is known that he served at Winterport from 1882 to 1888 prior to his going to Rockland. While in Rockland he built the present St. Bernard Church in 1889. In 1907 he was transferred to Bath where he served until his death on August 16, 1913. As proof that Father Phelan must have been very active in the Order is that he was appointed State Chaplain at the State Convention held in the town of Rockland in 1899. Father Phelan served one year as State Chaplain.

State Convention for 1899 was held in Rockland on February 7, 1899

State Convention for 1900 was held in Waterville on February 6, 1900