



# THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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## **CHAPTER SIXTEEN: State Deputy 1914 - 1916**

Our thirteenth State Deputy, John J. Keegan, Sr., was born June 5, 1885 at Trescott, Maine. He was the son of Thomas F. Keegan and Catherine Andrews Keegan. He attended Lubec High School and was graduated from the University of Maine in 1907 with a LLB degree. While at high school and college he distinguished himself in basketball and baseball and later played semi-pro baseball. On November 12, 1913 he married Margaret J. Lundrigan and they had one son, John Jr.

He was a successful lawyer at Bath and was Judge of the Bath Municipal Court from 1912 to 1936. He served as chairman of the Selective Service Board from 1916 to 1919, and was an inspector in the Provost Marshall General's office from 1918 to 1919. He was a member of the Bath Board of Education from 1919 to 1923. He was also the Bath Area Rent Director and Attorney for Lincoln, Knox, Kennebec and Sagadahoc counties.

Brother Keegan has given much of his time and ability to the Knights of Columbus. He served as Grand Knight of the Bath Council in 1914-1915, and again from 1916-1917 and from 1918 to 1920; a total of four terms. Prior to being Grand Knight, he was State Advocate from 1911 to 1914. Elected State Deputy at the convention held at Ellsworth in 1914, he was the thirteenth person to hold the highest office in the State Council. He was reelected the following year at Lewiston. During his two year term there were no new councils instituted. A member of the Fourth Degree, he served as Faithful Navigator from 1945 to 1948.

It is interesting to note that John was not a "native" of the Bath council. He joined the Lubec Council No. 188, which was but a few miles from his native Trescott. He was Grand Knight of the Lubec council for two terms from 1909-1911. He was also a member of this council for two of his three terms as State Advocate, from 1911-1913. It is also a fact that the first year that he was State Deputy, he was also Grand Knight of the Bath Council.

Brother Keegan was a natural-born leader. He was graduated for the University of Maine at the age of 22. The following year while still but twenty-two he was a delegate to the Democratic State Convention from Lubec. This convention was held in Bangor on May 8, 1908. As further proof of his leadership he was the youngest person ever elected to the office of State Deputy, having been elected while still but twenty-eight years old.

In 1954 the Bath council honored him as a fifty year member. He died Sunday December 27, 1959 after a lingering illness at the age of 74.

## **State Chaplain 1914 – 1916:**

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 Conventions 1915 – 1916:**

State Convention for 1915 was held at Lewiston. In 1916 the Convention convened at Waterville.