



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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CHAPTER TWENTY TWO: S.D. L. FRANK BAKER 1928 - 1931

Our nineteenth State Deputy, L. Frank Baker, was born August 14, 1891 in Orono, ME. He was the son of Louis N. Baker and Annie Sullivan Baker. He graduated from Orono High School, and while there distinguished himself in sports, taking part in football, basketball, baseball and track. After leaving school he also played on semi-pro teams. On August 4, 1913 he married Beatrice Burruby and had two sons.

Frank worked for the International Paper Company for over twenty-five years and was a member of their 'Quarter Century Club'. Starting at the bottom of the organization, he advanced until at the time of his death he was serving as agent. Always interested in civic clubs; he was a charter member and Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Orono, Past President of the local Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the town budget committee for several years, and served on many committees to raise funds for the St. Mary's parish and the Catholic High School.

Frank was a tireless worker in the Knights of Columbus. He served as Grand Knight for two terms from 1918 to 1920. He was Faithful Navigator of the Fourth Degree from 1920 to 1923. State Deputy James H. Carroll, recognizing his leadership abilities, appointed him a District Deputy in 1924, which office he held until 1928, the last two years of which he served six councils. At the convention held in Waterville he was a candidate for State Deputy and defeated Patrick J. Joyce of Portland. He was so successful in this capacity that he was reelected and served for three terms. After his election as State Deputy, his council and townspeople gave him a testimonial banquet. Chief Justice Dunn, of Orono, was the principal speaker and he said "Frank Baker was the greatest citizen Orono ever had and a great Catholic with many charitable virtues". As a District Deputy he was instrumental in instituting the Father Druillette Council No. 2537 at Old Town and while State Deputy he instituted Council No. 2702 at Bar Harbor. He was also a member of the Fourth Degree staff under both James J. Neilon of Biddeford and Fred Harvey of Portland, Masters of the Fourth Degree.

Brother Baker's death was a shock to his community since he died suddenly at a Boston hospital following surgery, at the early age of forty-nine, on December 11, 1940. He was survived by his four brothers, three sisters, two sons, and his widow who later moved to Poughkeepsie, New York.

STATE CHAPLAIN 1910 TO 1933: Rt. Rev Msgr. Michael C. McDonough remains State Chaplain and serves as pastor at St. Patrick Church, Lewiston.

Bishop of the Portland Diocese from 1924 to 1931:

Most Rev. John Gregory Murray, D.D.

State Convention for 1929 was held in Lewiston on May 27, 1929

State Convention for 1930 was held in Augusta on May 27, 1930

State Convention for 1931 was held in Orono on May 26, 1931

