



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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CHAPTER TWENTY THREE: S. D. THOMAS F. LOCKE 1931 - 1933

Our twentieth State Deputy, Thomas F. Locke, was born at Cork, Ireland on September 25, 1885, the son of Michael and Hannah Mulcahey Locke, the youngest of eleven children. He came to this country at an early age where he attended the parochial and public schools through the eighth grade. From then on he studied privately.

At the tender age of eleven he started working in the local textile mill. When he was seventeen he was employed as timekeeper at the Saco-Lowell shops, which position he held for eight years. From 1910 to 1918 he was City Clerk of the city of Biddeford. From 1918 to 1920 he was employed at the local post office. He became Mayor of Biddeford in 1920. He also at this time entered the law office of Cleaves, Waterhouse and Emery. In 1922 he read law in the office of Robert B. Seidal, while from 1923 to 1924 he took a special course in law at Boston University. He was admitted to practice law in 1924. He served several years as Chairman of the Board of Education. He served as corporation counsel in 1926. Elected to the Maine legislature in 1929, he served his party as Minority Floor Leader. In 1937, he was appointed to the Maine State Liquor Commission by Governor Lewis O. Barrows and served through 1941 as a representative of the minority party, but declined reappointment and never sought public office again.

Thomas Locke married Anne Frances Dunn on September 28, 1915. They had no children. He always for the betterment of the community and was active in the Kiwanis Club, holding local, state, district and national offices. He was also a member of the Ancient Order Hibernians, National Alcoholic Beverage Control Association, a Minute Man of the Democratic National Committee from 1932 until his death. As a lawyer, his standard of ethics was very high. He carefully selected his cases to exclude any that involved bootleggers or criminals. While he held many political offices, he retired from each as poor as when he was elected.

Brother Locke gave generously of his time and talents to the Knights of Columbus. Joining the Order in 1911, he held minor offices until elected Grand Knight in 1914, which office he held for one term. Appointed District Deputy in 1928 by State Deputy L. Frank Baker, he served for three terms until elected State Deputy at the convention held at Orono. The following year he was re-elected but declined a third term. He held no other state council office. During his administration there were no new councils organized. This was during the depression, followed by the bank holidays. All efforts were exerted to rally the members and hold the councils together. And while no new councils were instituted, it is to the credit of this leader, and his assistants, that there was no council dissolved during his time. He served as Faithful Navigator of his Fourth Degree Assembly from 1934 until 1935. And then without having served as State Master, he was appointed Vice Supreme Master of Cabot Province, Fourth Degree on October 6, 1934 and served until August 31, 1947. Brother Locke died June 25, 1951 at the age of 66. His funeral was attended by numerous members of the Supreme Council including the current Supreme Knight John Swift and Supreme Master John Delay. Current and past State Deputies along with the current and past State Masters all attended the burial mass with a fine Fourth Degree Honor Guard. Brother Locke is survived by his widow. He was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Biddeford, Maine.

STATE CHAPLAIN 1933 TO 1953: Father Joseph E. McCaffrey was appointed the State Chaplain in 1933, while pastor of Saint Bridget's Parish at North Vassalboro, and served for twenty years until his death on December 9, 1953. He succeeded the late Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. C. McDonough, of Lewiston.

Born in Lincoln, Rhode Island, December 12, 1895, he received his early education from the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers of Lasalle Academy, Providence. He took his college course under the Fathers of Holy Cross and was adopted by the late Most Reverend Bishop Walsh for the Portland diocese. He entered the House of Philosophy in September, 1915, and for six years studied Philosophy and Theology under the Sulpician Fathers of Montreal. He was ordained May 21, 1921, in Saint James Cathedral, Montreal. He was assigned to the Cathedral, Portland, Maine June 1921. Father McCaffrey taught Latin, Church History and Apologetics at Cathedral High School, 1921 – 1923. He served as Master of Ceremonies at Cathedral for Bishop Walsh and Bishop Murray. He was appointed Pastor of St. Bridget's Parish in North Vassalboro, December 1925, by Bishop Murray. Father McCaffrey served as chaplain for the Daughters of Issabella, Local and State Chaplain for the Maine Council of Catholic Women and as State Chaplain for the Knight of Columbus from 1933 until 1953. He was appointed Pastor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Fairfield, to succeed the late Reverend James A. Winnen, in September 1941. While at Fairfield, he constructed the modern brick parochial school there.

In 1946 Father McCaffrey edited the State Council Golden Jubilee Booklet, which celebrated the 50th birthday of the Maine State Council. Always a forceful and dynamic speaker, he gave the best of his energy to the Knights of Columbus, in Maine, until ill health forced him to relinquish many of his activities. His death came very suddenly and all Catholics who knew him were shocked at losing their dear friend. His funeral was attended by the about sixty members of the clergy. Bishop Feeney sung the Funeral Mass. The State Deputy was present along with the State Secretary and State Advocate. The Fourth Degree was led by the Vice Supreme Master of Cabot Province, Louis Ayoob and the State Master William Provencher. The body was taken to Fr. McCaffrey's home in Rhode Island for burial.

New Bishop of Portland Diocese 1932 to 1955:

Born on November 14, 1876, Joseph Edward McCarthy was appointed on May 13, 1932 and was consecrated as the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Portland on August 24, 1932. McCarthy was ordained to the priesthood on 1903. Prior to arriving in Maine, Joseph Edward McCarthy was a language teacher at a seminary in Connecticut. During his tenure as Bishop of Portland, Bishop McCarthy stabilized the financial situation of the diocese by issuing bonds which liquidated the entire debt by 1963. Numerous Catholic elementary schools, high schools and colleges were opened. During Bishop McCarthy's tenure the Portland Diocese saw the arrival of our first auxiliary bishop, Bishop Daniel Joseph Feeney. Bishop McCarthy also guided the diocese through the rigors of World War II. By 1948, the administration of the diocese passed to Feeney due to Bishop McCarthy's declining health. Bishop McCarthy died on September 8, 1955.

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

State Convention for 1932 was held in Portland on May 24, 1932

State Convention for 1933 was held in Augusta on May 23, 1933