



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Chapter TWENTY SIX: S.D George E. Donnelly 1939-1941

The twenty third State Deputy, George E. Donnelly was born in Fort Fairfield, Maine on November 18, 1877. He is the son of George A. Donnelly and Ellen McGlynn Donnelly. He was graduated from Fort Fairfield high school in 1894 and attended Bates College, at Lewiston, for two years.

On June 24, 1903 he married Nellie A. Scanlan. They did not have children. Mr. and Mrs. Donnelly celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1953. His first job was as a clerk in a wholesale fruit and produce company on Commercial Street in Portland. Later he was a city letter carrier for years in Portland. He owned a partnership in the Deering Dairy but retired from active work in 1948, while still retaining an interest in the business. He was a member of the State Milk Control Board from 1937 to 1945.

Brother Donnelly has given much of his time and ability to the Knights of Columbus. He was elected Grand Knight of Council No. 101 in Portland in 1916 and reelected in 1917. In 1918, State Deputy John F. Daily, of Bangor, appointed him to the office of District Deputy: which office he held with distinction for three terms. He was Faithful Navigator of the Father Sebastian Rasle Assembly for one year, 1928-1929. There is a coincidence believed unparalleled in the Maine jurisdiction. While Brother George Donnelly was serving as Grand Knight and District Deputy in Portland, his brother J. Ernest Donnelly, was serving in the same capacities at Bangor. Also both served as Faithful Navigators of their Assemblies but not at the same time.

At the convention held at Orono in 1931, Kenneth Groder was reelected State Secretary but the office became vacant on October 10, 1931, and Brother Donnelly was appointed to fill out the unexpired term. The following year, 1932, he was elected on his own right and held the office for seven years, or until 1939. At the convention held at Fort Fairfield that year, the delegates advanced him to the office of State Deputy and he was reelected the following year when the convention was held at Bangor. When elected to the office of State Deputy for the first term, he had no opponent and the election was unanimous. As a delegate to the Supreme Convention, he served and the Resolutions committee one year and the election committee another year. During this two year term there were no new councils organized.

For a dozen years he was secretary of the Maine Letter Carriers Association. He was a former president of the Portland Milk Package Exchange. A member of the First Friday Associates, Camion Hall Retreat League, Andover, Mass., and a member of the Holy Name Society.

George died on March 2, 1959 at the age of 81, after a short illness. Monsignor Edward O'Leary, of the Cathedral Parish, and Chaplain of the Portland Council, recited the Rosary at the wake, at which time 80 members of the district were in attendance. Supreme Knight Luke Hart sent a telegram of condolence to Mrs. Donnelly. The Requiem High Mass was from St. Joseph's Church on Thursday, March 5th and burial was in Calvary Cemetery.

FOURTH DEGREE MASTER #5: Martin T. Cavanaugh of Portland was appointed District Master of Maine and served from 1933 to 1944. While in office he held degrees in Augusta,

Waterville, Brunswick, Sanford, Augusta, Fort Fairfield, Brunswick, Waterville, Fort Fairfield, Biddeford, Caribou, Bath and Fort Kent.

STATE CHAPLAIN 1933 TO 1953: Father Joseph E. McCaffrey

Bishop of the Portland Diocese: Most Rev. Joseph E. McCarthy, D.D. 1931-55

State Convention for 1936 was held in Fort Fairfield on May 29, 1939

State Convention for 1937 was held in Bangor on May 27, 1940

State Convention for 1938 was held in Skowhegan on May 26, 1941