THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

RON SABOURIN : STATE HISTORIAN rrsabourin@aol.com

Chapter Four : The Second State Convention in Maine 1897:

The second Maine State Convention was held in Bangor on February 2, 1897 and the following state officers were elected:

State Deputy	**Joseph A. McGowan**	**Portland**
State Secretary	**John B. Friel**	**Waterville**
State Treasurer	**William Thompson**	**Orono**
State Warden	**Michael T. O'Brien**	**Lewiston**
State Chaplain	**Rev. Thomas H. Wallace**	**Lewiston**
State Advocate	**Richard J. McGarrigle**	**Calais**
State Auditor	**James Foley**	**Winterport**
Reserve Fund Auditor	**James McInnis**	**Rockland**
Reserve State Fund	**Edward Foley**	

A short period after this convention, John F. Crowley, of Bangor, was appointed District Deputy by State Deputy McGowan.

Of the first one hundred councils organized between March 1882 and August 1894; 57 were in Conneticut, 32 in Massachusetts, 8 in Rhode Island, one in New York, one in New Hampshire and one in Maine. Conneticut was the first State Council organized; followed by Rhode Island and Massachusetts. New York and Maine is believed to both having been organized the same year, 1896. By the time the 1897 Directory was printed 215 councils had been organized, of which eleven were in Maine.

Each of the eleven councils were eligible to have two delegates, two councils had but one delegate, so there were a total of twenty delegates present. The delegates began arriving at noon on Tuesday February 2, 1897, and were escorted to the Bangor House by District Deputy John F. Crowley and Grand Knight John B. Frawley. The session was called to order at the Red Men's Hall at 5 o'clock. A recess was held at 6 p.m. for supper. After which the business session was resumed. The first State Constitution or by-laws were discussed and voted.

Maine's First State Chaplain: His biography

Rev. Thomas H. Wallace was born in Somersworth, N.H. He was graduated from Holy Cross College in 1868, ordained in Portland by Bishop Bacon on August 5, 1871. He studied at the Grand Seminary in Montreal. He was appointed assistant at St. Dominic's in Portland. Rev. Wallace arrived in Lewiston as the sixth pastor of St. Joseph's Church: the oldest church in Lewiston with the cornerstone of the permanent church laid in 1864. To him goes credit for inaugurating the parochial system, which now holds such an important place in the Twin-Cities. In 1881, he founded St. Joseph's School. By 1887 the parish had become too large for the church to accommodate the people and by this time Father Wallace had been made a Monsignor. Monsignor Wallace started construction of St. Patrick's Church in 1887 and when it was completed, he became its first pastor. Monsignor Wallace died in November, 1907 after serving in Lewiston parishes for 31 years.