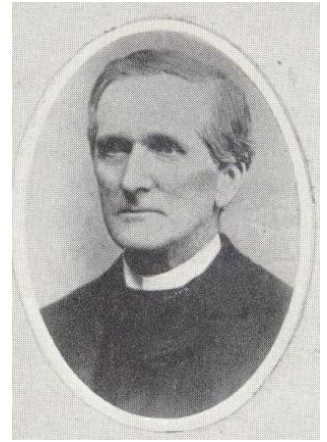


DAVID B. MAUGER

1st MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE (1873-1876)



The Person:

- David B. Mauger was born in Douglass Township, Berks County August 12, 1822.
- He married Mary Amanda Lorah in 1851, and they had four children.
- At age 18 opened a subscription school in Pottsgrove Township, Montgomery County.
- In 1842 he took charge of an academy at Douglassville for seven years. During that time he studied surveying.
- For 16 years he followed teaching in connection with surveying and conveyance.
- At age 34 he purchased a farm in Douglass Township where he resided for the remainder of his life.
- He served for 55 years as a Justice of the Peace, and was a member of the Board of Managers of the Perkiomen & Reading Turnpike Company and became Secretary in 1872.
- He was a Charter member of the first Subordinate Grange organized in Berks County, Amity #4, and later transferred to Adams Grange #18 established August 18, 1873 in Douglassville.
- The PA State Grange was formed September 18, 1873 in Reading and he became the first Master serving until 1876 when he voluntarily retired.
- He died April 2, 1906 at the age of 84.

Of Note:

- January 7, 1874 first annual meeting held at Patriarch Grange #42 in Harrisburg.
(Additional information included below)
- From September to January the number of Subordinate Granges increased from 25 to 74.
- Seal of State and Subordinate Granges adopted.

Legislative Activities:

1. Re-enactment of law where lender charging more than 6% interest was penalized by the loss of both principle and interest.
2. Act making it easier for farmers to collect damages from railroads for property damage or destroyed by fire of passing locomotives.
3. Compel railroad companies to furnish cars to shippers particularly for anthracite and bituminous coal.
4. Opposed owning of real estate by railroad companies beyond reasonable needs.
5. Provide for reasonable freight and passenger charges and prohibit unjust discrimination.
6. Make public highways free to all

Additional Information:

- Thomas L. Smith, Past Master of North Star Grange, MN and National Lecturer T. A. Thompson in attendance at the first Annual Meeting in Harrisburg January 7, 1874.
- Emphasis on savings through cooperative purchase of machinery and supplies.
- Mr. Mauger was authorized to act as purchasing agent until a permanent appointment made.
- The Fifth Degree conferred on Masters, Past Masters and wives during the meeting.
- Farmers Friend & Grange Advocate, became first weekly paper consisting of eight pages January 3, 1874.
- Paper edited by R. H. Thomas and was the official organ of the Grange.
- Special session held in Mechanicsburg June 10, 1874 with 129 Masters in attendance.
- Motion adopted that women be represented on all committees in the future.
- No discussion of political or religious subjects permitted in Grange rooms.
- County Councils organized to look after cooperative work and serve as purchasing agencies. Councils were replaced by Pomona Granges at a later date.
- Organized Grange Life and Fire Insurance Company.
- Second Annual Session held in Williamsport January 6, 1875 at Lycoming County Courthouse. Noted that there were 440 Granges with 18,000 members.
- Legislation requested the following:
 - Amendment to change meeting to the second Tuesday in December.
 - Third annual session held December 14, 1875 at the Lancaster Courthouse.
 - Subordinate Granges numbered 630 indicating 190 were new Granges and 14 ceased to exist leaving 616 active Granges. As of September 30, 1875 there were 25,000 members.
 - Executive Committee instructed to Incorporate. Charter issued August 9, 1875.
 - C. E. Gladding appointed as the first State Business Agent. Office located in Philadelphia.
 - December 12, 1876 Annual meeting held at the Crawford County Courthouse, Meadville.
 - Confronted with serious financial issues. Samuel Downing, Chester County moved a \$10,000 note be drawn and sufficient number of endorsers be secured to make the note acceptable.
 - Plan adopted and 30 signers secured, but only 23 were recorded in the minutes.
 - Also an issue was the stock of Patron's Centennial Encampment Association organized for the purpose of building a hotel near the grounds of Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia.
 - Hotel caught fire and totally destroyed along with the records of the Association.
 - Reported at the Meadville session were 98 new Granges organized making a total of 728 since the beginning of the Organization. A total of 200 were classified as being delinquent in payment of dues. As of June there were 28,000 members on the roll. Eight more Pomona Granges were organized.
- Victor E. Piollet elected Master.