

PHILIP H. DEWEY

7th MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE (1924-1927)



The Person:

- Born in Richmond Township, Tioga County November 12, 1868. He was the son of Addison and Amy Ripley Dewey, descendants of early settlers in New England. He attended public schools in his area and spent his early life lumbering in northern PA. He also owned and worked a farm in Tioga County.
- He married Lucy E. Haner of Tioga County at the age of 19. They had four living children, 2 sons and four daughters.
- In 1897 Mr. Dewey joined Marshfield Grange #1113. He served two terms as Master and was also active in Tioga County Pomona Grange before he was elected State Overseer in 1918.
- In 1920 he was elected Lecturer serving two terms before being elected State Master.
- Master McSparran appointed him as Chairman of the Committee for the erection of the Grange Memorial Girls Dormitory at State College. Upon his election as Master, he resigned the position and appointed M. B. Orr of Mercer County as the Chairman, but did remain active in the pursuit of the completion of the dormitory.
- He was re-elected as Master in 1926, but was appointed by Governor John Fisher as manager of the State Workmen's Insurance Fund. He resigned as Master February 2, 1927.
- J. Audley Boak, Overseer served until December 1927 when E. B. Dorsett was elected to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Dewey.
- In 1930 Mr. Dewey was elected Secretary of Internal Affairs and served for four years.
- In addition to other offices that he held at different times, he was a member of the Tioga Board of Commissioners, member of the State Legislature elected in 1920, trustee of PA State College and State College for Teachers at Mansfield. In 1932 he was elected as President of the College Trustees Association in PA.
- Mr. Dewey died at the age of 71 on August 9, 1939 following an appendectomy.

Of Note:

- US Senator Wharton Pepper of PA addressed the 1925 Annual State Grange session commending women for the large part they played in farm life. He stated "I believe that one reason why we take such a sane view of agricultural problems and are so strong for economy and local self-government is because in PA our women folks have always played a large part in our farm life. I think the day is coming when something like an adequate tribute will be paid to the farm women and the part they have played throughout our history. I believe the Grange has never more clearly proved its wisdom than by leading the organizations of the country in giving full recognition and representation to women."
- The records of 1925 indicated there were 911 Subordinate Granges with a total membership of 83,400. The drop in membership was attributed to the large number of cooperative associations being

established in agricultural districts. Association members felt they could buy as cheaply through the cooperative association as they could through the Grange purchasing agency.

- Secretary Fred Brenckman relinquished his position as Secretary and Legislative Agent as well as Editor of The Grange News to assume duties at the National Grange in 1926.
- At the annual session held in Erie in 1927 it was reported there were 900 Subordinate Granges, approximately 20 dormant Granges and a loss of 1,100 members with a total membership of 82,280.
- Mrs. Louie Taylor Rogers, Washington County accomplished violinist, and Ceres of the State Grange compiled "The Patron", adopted as the official songbook of the National Grange.

Legislative:

- During Mr. Dewey's first year as Master, State Grange led the movement calling for the 1925 State Legislature to appropriate a large amount of money for cattle indemnities for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis in PA.
- State Grange supported a \$25,000,000 bond issue for reforestation to allow the State to gain title to millions of acres of cut-over lands, lying idle and not receiving proper protection.
- In articles appearing in the 1925 Grange News Master Dewey advocated a reform in medical education which would assure an adequate supply of country doctors.
- The State Game Commission had been active in propagating deer. Some areas were overrun with deer which caused damage to orchards and crops. The State paid half of the cost of erecting deerproof wire fencing with the farmer and orchardists paying the balance. This practice did not appeal to either the farmer or orchardists. Farmers were permitted to kill the deer damaging crops and orchards, but immediately had to notify the nearest Game Protector and deliver the carcass to a designated state institution.
- After much dissatisfaction, the law was amended to permit the farmer to keep the carcass. This law was not pleasing to sportsmen and other organizations. The Grange joined with other groups asking for the repeal of the law and that the State Game Commission should take steps to reduce the deer population in areas where there were large number and were a nuisance.
- The State Grange took a leading part in the movement for rural electric. W. K. McClenahan, Chief of Construction of the Morrison's Cove Light & Power Company of Bedford County addressed the annual meeting at Johnston.
- Morrison's Cove Light & Power connected with a line of the Penn Central Light & Power Company. Farm spurs were built over many miles to connect the main line at Morrison's Cove. The labor was supplied by the farmer and the cash outlay per farm was approximately \$125.00. This represented a pioneer effort by farmers to secure electric service at fair and reasonable rates.
- There was dissatisfaction with the primary election system voiced at the December 1926 Lancaster session. The Legislative Committee was of the opinion that a better plan would be to impose a poll tax on all voters, which would be remitted to those who cast a ballot.
- State Grange opposed proposals for bond issues for building State Armories, a memorial bridge in Harrisburg, and a payment of a State bonus for World War I Veterans. It was the feeling of the State Grange that the soldiers were called into service by the Federal Government and not the State, and that the Federal Government should provide for all Veterans.

- December 1927 Annual Meeting the State Legislative Committee reported that there had been no enactment by the State Legislature for equalization of taxes.
- \$2,300,000 was appropriated for eradication of bovine tuberculosis;
- Liberal appropriations for the State College.
- The law taxing horses and cattle was repealed.
- A bill centralizing assessment and collection of taxes, opposed by the Grange, was defeated.
- Endorsed export debenture plan on farm relief advocated by the National Grange.
- E. B. Dorsett elected State Master.