

# KENZIE S. BAGSHAW

## 10<sup>th</sup> MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE (1938-1944)



### *The Person:*

- His parents were Grange members when he was born on a farm in Huntingdon County on March 26, 1880. He was educated in public schools and at Juniata College. He taught for six years in public schools in Huntingdon County.
- At age 24 he married Clara M. Bush of Huntingdon County.
- In 1904 he received a Civil Service appointment in the USDA Bureau of Animal Industry. He spent two years in Sioux City, IA and then transferred to Cleveland, OH for five years.
- In 1922 he resigned his position with USDA and moved to a farm in Hollidaysburg, Blair County. He was a dairyman and breeder of Brown Swiss cattle. After returning to the farm, he became active in community affairs.
  - President of Blair County Agriculture Extension Association
  - President of PA Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association
  - President of Blair County Sheep & Wool Growers' Association
  - Chairman of Altoona Milk Marketing Committee
  - Director and Chairman of Interstate Milk Producers' Association
  - Master of Blair County Pomona for six years
  - Member of the State Grange Executive Committee for nine years
  - 1941 elected to National Grange Executive Committee
  - Priest Archon of the Assembly of Demeter for two years
  - Board member of Farmers & Traders Life Insurance Company and National Grange Mutual Liability Company
  - Member of the PA Farm Show Commission
  - Trustee of PA State College
  - 1924-26 served in the PA State Legislature

### *Of Note:*

- John H. Light, State Grange Secretary, was appointed Secretary of Agriculture by Governor Arthur H. James in 1939. Miles Horst, Lebanon County was chosen as his replacement.
- F. P. Willits, State Grange Treasurer for 25 years resigned March 18, 1939 and Philip Price of Chester County was appointed.
- The 1939 Annual Session was held in Chambersburg with Master Bagshaw stating the greatest need in agriculture is better appreciation and the value of cooperation. The Grange has been a pioneer in the field and should continue to lead the way. The State Session was addressed by Governor Arthur James and National Master L. J. Taber.
- At the December 1942 State Session held in Harrisburg, Granges were encouraged to use their halls as community centers for aiding the war effort.

- Granges had difficulty meeting during the War due to the shortage of gas and lack of automobile tires. Many young men on the farm were in the armed services or working in defense industries. Grange membership declined. The total membership as of September 30, 1942 was 59,323.
- Miles Horst, State Grange Secretary, was appointed Secretary of Agriculture by Governor Edward Martin in January 1943. Joab K. Mahood, Bradford County, appointed as Secretary, Managing Editor of the PA Grange News and Legislative Representative.
- December 1943 the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Session was held at Williamsport. The Nation entered the third year of total warfare, many of the farms had been stripped of efficient labor and operators who did the best they could with badly worn equipment.
- Farmers were unhappy with price ceilings established by the Office of Price Administration which were below the cost of production. In order for the farmer to remain in business subsidies were paid.
- Despite adverse conditions, the Grange had an increase in membership. The minimum Subordinate dues was raised to \$1.80 per year.
- Dr. C. C. Rankin, State Deputy, who conferred the Sixth Degree and authored a number of booklets on Grange Degree work and who was proficient in ritual work died during 1943.
- A net gain of 2,744 members was reported in 1944.

***Legislative:***

- At the 1940 Annual Session held in Wilkes-Barre the State Grange went on record in favoring a constitutional amendment requiring payment of taxes in order to vote. Pennsylvania's law was repealed.
- The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual session held in Uniontown in 1941 began two days after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. State Grange called for cessation of all unnecessary non-defense spending by the Federal Government and urged all power and resources of the US be mobilized to promote the war effort.
- The State Grange went on record as being opposed to the program for the "national socialization of land" which was in the Agricultural Adjustment Act.
- Opposed legislation that would put a ceiling on farm prices, unless the cost of production and price ratio made it possible for the farmer to secure an equitable share of the net income.
- W. Sharp Fullerton elected Master.