

Frank J. Davey

9th State Deputy of Oregon 1925-1926



Frank J. Davey was born August 18, 1850 Sligo, Ireland to Michael and Mary (Finigan) Davey. Frank Davey was the youngest of a family of twelve children, seven sons and five daughters. He received his education in the national schools of Ireland and came to America in 1867, where he joined his brother Patrick, who had crossed the Atlantic some years before. Upon arriving in the United States Frank Davey settled first in Keokuk, Iowa and remained in Iowa until the fall of 1886.

Frank married Villa A. Pike on April 4, 1877. They had four children: Merle, Vera, Robert and Alice.

He spent some years as a teacher and held the position of superintendent of schools for four years. He was county auditor there for four years and county surveyor for two years. It was during his residence in Iowa that he first took up newspaper work. He became editor and publisher of a newspaper in Iowa for six years.

He was admitted to the bar in 1880 but never followed the legal profession, preferring to concentrate his energies on journalism in which activity he was intensely interested and for which he showed natural aptitude. He came to Oregon in 1886 and carried on newspaper work principally in Salem. In May, 1907, he removed to Burns, Oregon, to make his home here, having purchased the Harney County News. His position at the head of the most important periodical in his city made him an influential factor in municipal life.

He was a lifelong republican. He served for two terms as a member of the state legislature from Marion County, Oregon, being elected first in 1902 and reelected in 1906. He was speaker of the house in 1907. In December, 1907, he was appointed receiver for the United States Land Office at Burns. He was an active factor in the passage of a bill favoring the direct election of senators in 1904.

Frank Davey was a member of the Burns Commercial Club and in 1911 was its president. He was an active member of the A.O.U.W. and Maccabees.

Frank was a member of the Salem Council 1748. He headed up a project to help the Servite Fathers build a five million dollar Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother at The Grotto, Portland. Due to business engagements preventing Frank from giving proper attention to the official duties as State Deputy, he only served one year. He resigned in March 1927. Patrick J. Hanley took over as State Deputy for the second time.



Frank J. Davey died February 17, 1937 and is buried at the St. Barbara Cemetery in Salem, OR. His wife, Vella, died 1946 and is buried next to Frank.



"The best official leaders in the world cannot make us grow in numbers and influence without the continued effort of the rank and file." Frank Davey PSD, May 16, 1927 19th State Convention, Portland, OR