

William M. Ireland:

William M. Ireland spent most of his life working in important positions in the US Post Office. Because of his Masonic background, he was friends with Oliver H. Kelley, John R. Thompson, and Wm. Saunders, and his knowledge of fraternal organization systems and methods were very valuable in the formative era of the Grange. His advice and constructive criticism helped to develop early Grange ritualism and unwritten work.

Acknowledging his limited agricultural background, he declined the offer to be first National Grange Master upon its organizational process, and he suggested Wm. Saunders for that position. He was, however, instrumental in establishing early Grange financial policy. Because of this, he was elected the first National Grange Treasurer.

Later, he was elected the second National Grange Secretary. His recordings of the 1875 through 1883 National Grange Sessions are regarded as the best and most comprehensive proceedings ever.

He was the second Priest Annalist of the Assembly of Demeter.

