

J. DAN TALBOTT

1932 - 1936

John Daniel Talbott was born on February 10, 1883, near Bardstown. He received his early education at home and entered Bethany Academy in Bardstown at the age of eleven and later attended Valparaiso University in Indiana (1903-1905).

George Talbott, a member of the Talbott Clan, ran Talbott Tavern (now known as Talbott Inn) on the Courthouse Square in Bardstown. The inn was a meeting place for the men in the community and young Dan was influenced by the discussions of local, state and national politics which were held there.

Ben Johnson, who was U.S. Congressman from the Fourth District from 1907-1927 was a friend and mentor of J. Dan Talbott. Johnson had a profound influence on Talbott's life.

In October 1909 Talbott married his childhood sweetheart, Rebecca Cox Johnson, the daughter of Ben Johnson.

Talbott began his career in local politics in Nelson County. He faced entrenched opposition because of his Catholicism. However, he succeeded in earning the respect and friendship of thousands of Kentuckians both Catholic and Protestant, by focusing on a goal of achieving good government. His reputation was one of honesty and tenacity. Both Democrats, Talbott and Ben Johnson faced political opposition because of their religion but became a powerful influence in state politics.

Talbott was elected state Auditor in 1931. During his term, the Division of Insurance was under his supervision.

Talbott became a prominent member of a political faction which opposed Governor Ruby Laffoon (1931-1935) and worked to secure the nomination and election of A.B. Chandler as governor (1935-1939). J. Dan Talbott served as Governor Chandler's chief advisor. Known as "the Old Bear", Talbott was named insurance commissioner and later as commissioner of finance under Chandler.

Talbott ran for Congress in 1943 but was defeated by Republican Chester O. Carrier.

Talbott died May 17, 1950, and was buried in Bardstown.