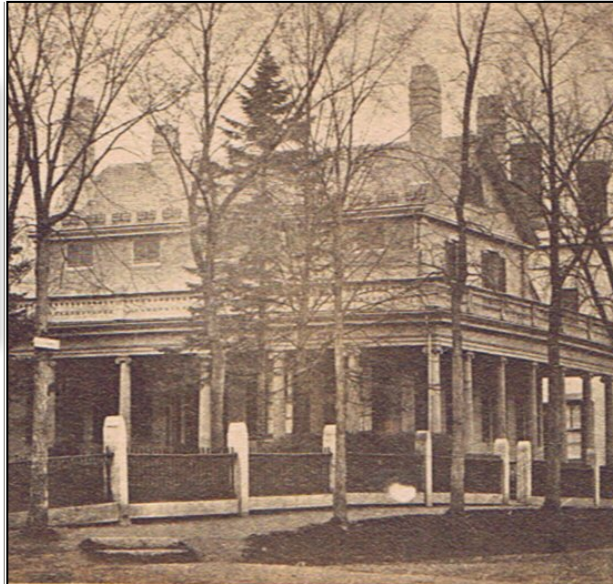


# QUEEN CITY REGISTER.

The Bangor Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

Inside This Issue!!

## Hill House Restoration Project Well Underway



An 1860s photo of the Bangor Historical Society's Thomas A. Hill House side by side with an image from 2024 - Reference 1

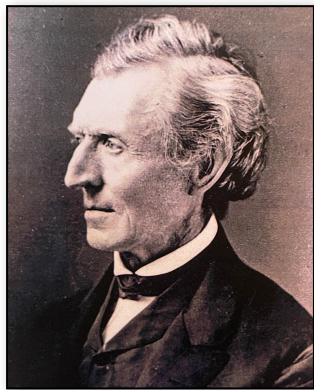
**B**angor Historical Society's Hill House is undergoing its most comprehensive restoration in over a century. The house, completed in 1836 is a Greek-revival style home designed by renowned architect Richard Upjohn for Bangor businessman Thomas A. Hill who lived in the house only briefly before losing his fortune in the panic of 1837. Subsequent residents improved the grandeur of the home, most notably Bangor Mayor Samuel Dale and his wife Matilda. Two years ago, the Board of Directors, led by President Risteen Bahr, approved a capital campaign to restore the home's elaborate granite wall, decorative iron fence, and greek portico. "What a difference a year makes! A

year ago the granite wall restoration and the return of the ornamental fence was still a dream," says Bahr. "Now as we look out the front door of Hill House, we see a construction zone that is making that dream come true. A year ago, the thought of restoring the portico seemed too overwhelming to even believe it was possible, and today we have in our possession grants and donations totaling just over \$278,000 with another \$100,000 of funding pending via the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund approved through the Congressionally Directed Spending program." Wall renovations for the fence installation revealed that the century old basswood

(See "House" page 4)



EXHIBIT ARTIFACTS TELL BANGOR'S STORY PAGE 2



JEREMIAH HARDY LOCAL ARTIST TRAINED WITH ICONIC INVENTOR! PAGE 4



IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 160TH BIRTHDAY, EACH ISSUE OF THE 2024 QUEEN CITY REGISTER WILL INCLUDE A SPECIAL TIMELINE COVERING 40+ YEARS OF BANGOR HISTORY!



Ornate City Hall opens on Columbia and Hammond Streets

- Picture Reference 2



President Theodore Roosevelt visits Bangor

- Picture Reference 3



# 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Artifacts Tell Compelling Story of Bangor's Past

For the past 160 years, the Bangor Historical Society has preserved, protected, and promoted the history of the Bangor region. Few people in New England or even Maine are aware of the vast collection of artifacts that tell the story of the Queen City in such compelling and often moving detail. From our founding in post Civil War Bangor, the BHS has worked diligently to curate the stories that have defined our city, State, and region. Now, in celebration of our 160 years, the Bangor Historical Society is proud to open our largest exhibit in years. **Queen City Keepsakes** includes 160 artifacts arranged in themes to tell the detailed stories



1860s Silk Dress with Hoops  
Quipus Collection  
Bangor Historical Society

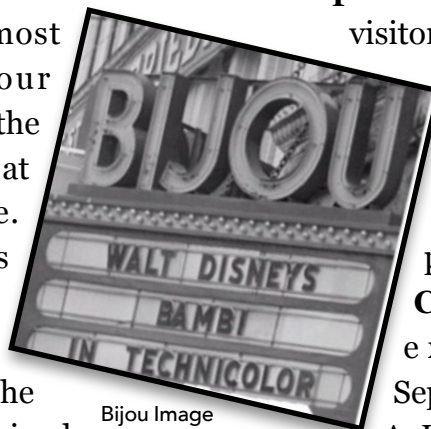


Business Thermometer  
Bangor Historical Society

of Bangor and her people. Curator Matt Bishop reflects on the creation of this anniversary exhibit: "With thousands of artifacts in our collection, it has been very

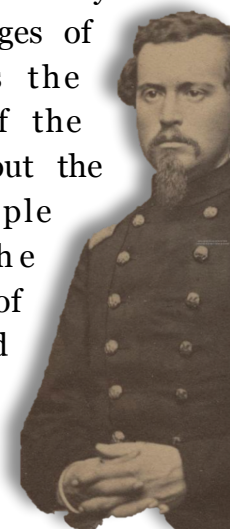
difficult to narrow down Bangor's story to just 160 items," Bishop states, "and to connect our mission with that of other Bangor cultural organizations, partner exhibits are on display at the Bangor Public Library, Cole Land Transportation Museum, Maine Discovery Museum, and the Zillman

Art Museum until mid-September." The exhibit, organized around themes that tell 16 decades of Bangor stories, include features on the iconic people of Bangor, life in the Queen City in the 1860s, and transportation, business, and cultural treasures in our collection. Civil War buffs will be most interested in our Grand Army of the Republic Gallery at The Hill House. From our decades long association with the Sons of Union Veterans, the Bangor Historical Society was gifted hundreds of Civil War artifacts that comprise some of the most valuable in our possession including weapons, uniforms and the ceremonial battlefield sword of Bangor Civil War hero, Daniel



Bijou Image  
Reference 4

Chaplin. Additionally, the exhibit includes a special focus on Bangor's lumbering history with tools and images of Bangor's time as the "lumber capital of the world." Rounding out the exhibit are multiple dresses from the Quipus Collection of period fashion and interesting odds and oddities from the archives including a rare image from the Brady Gang shootout in 1937 and artifacts from the Great Fire of 1911. We hope **Queen City Keepsakes** will inspire museum visitors and secure our place as Bangor's champion of historical preservation and promotion. **Queen City Keepsakes** is on exhibit through September at the Thomas A. Hill House at 159 Union Street in Bangor and our partner organizations until mid-October. The Hill House is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hours at our partner organizations vary by location.



George Varney  
of the 2nd Maine  
Bangor Historical Society Collection

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1907 Union Station opens on Washington Street

- Picture Reference 5



1912



Bangor is rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1911

- Picture Reference 6





### Curator's Corner

History has been brought to life once again this year in Bangor. Our "Queen City Keepsakes" exhibit, celebrating our 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has opened and early impressions have been great. We thank all of our partners, volunteers, interns, and

Ryan Hews for all of the extra work they have put in to help make this exhibit shine.

We also want to give a big THANK YOU to **Maine Trailer** for being our Admission Sponsor for the 2024 season. Their support allows the Hill House to be free of charge and accessible for all. Corporate sponsorship opportunities are still available to help us preserve, protect, and promote the history of this region.

Don't miss one of our *Soldiers at Rest* walking tours of Mount Hope Cemetery on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am. *Soldiers at Rest* walks the grounds of Bangor's Mount Hope Cemetery and is focused on the stories of some of the hundreds of Maine men, many from the Bangor Region, who fought in America's Civil War. Included is that of the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery that mustered in Bangor in 1862 as the 18th Maine Volunteers and was renamed in 1863. 604 men from the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery died in a single battle, the Siege of Petersburg, in June, 1864. It was the largest single day loss of any regiment throughout the course of the war. Spaces are limited and reservations are required. To secure your spot, please email [curator@bangorhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:curator@bangorhistoricalsociety.org)

We have plenty of other walking tours scheduled for the rest of the summer. For a complete listing, please visit our website: [www.bangorhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bangorhistoricalsociety.org)

We hope to see you this summer as we celebrate Bangor's rich history!

**Matt Bishop**

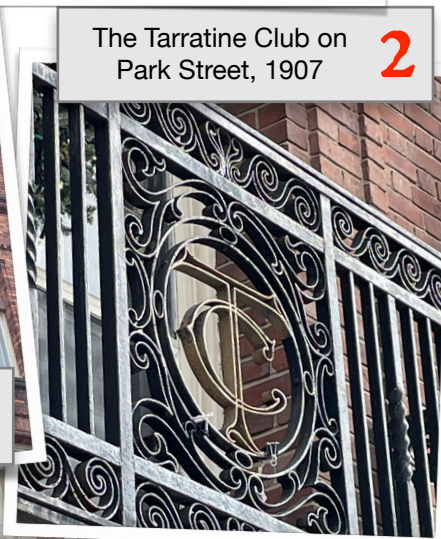
## Architectural Gems Identified!

In our last issue we asked you to identify these iconic places in Bangor. Here are the results!



1

Wilfred Mansur's 1892 Columbia Building



2

The Tarratine Club on Park Street, 1907



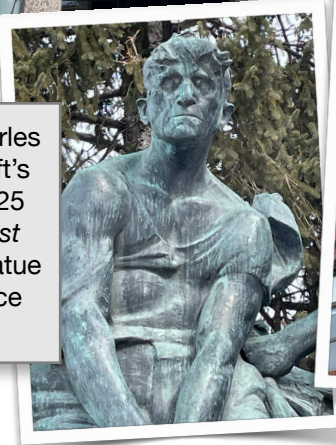
3

Bangor Telephone Exchange, 1931



4

C. Parker Crowell's Eastern Trust Building, 1912



5

Charles Tefft's 1925 Last Drive statue in Peirce Park

### Special Thanks To Our Sponsors!



1932

Bon Ton Ferry carries passengers between Bangor and Brewer

- Picture Reference 7



## Did You Know? - Bangor Artist Jeremiah Pearson Hardy Trained With Samuel Morse



Jeremiah Pearson Hardy - Reference 8

Jeremiah Pearson Hardy (1800-1888), the prominent New England painter who spent most of his career in Bangor, specializing in portraits, genre scenes, animals, and still-lives has an interesting historical connection to the larger world of artists and entrepreneurs of the 1800s. Hardy's artistic journey was significantly influenced by his association with Samuel F. B. Morse, the renowned artist-inventor. In the early stages of his career, Hardy traveled to New York to train under Morse, who was then primarily known as a painter. This mentorship proved to be pivotal in shaping Hardy's artistic skills and approach to portraiture.<sup>9</sup> Morse, who would later gain fame as the inventor of the telegraph, imparted valuable techniques and insights to the young Hardy. After his training with Morse, Hardy

moved to Bangor, Maine, in 1826, which was then a thriving lumber port. He quickly established himself as the leading portraitist in the region, creating likenesses of many elite Maine citizens.

## Hill House Renovations Continue

(Continued from Page 1) trees in the front yard of the property were rotten and potentially dangerous to the future of the house resulting in the difficult decision to have them removed. While new landscaping will include more appropriately sized and sited trees for the property, curator Matt Bishop notes that the beauty of the house and its architectural features are now more prominent. "The House really stands out now and you can better appreciate its Greek-revival features. We hope visitors will be drawn to the property as they see the improvements progress." The Bangor Historical Society will continue its fundraising efforts for care and restoration of the house and grounds and hope that our members, visitors, and guests will help us to secure the future of this beautiful property by donating using the link provided on this page of the *Register*. Be sure to stop by the Hill House this summer to see the amazing progress and enjoy

our **Queen City Keepsakes** exhibit!



- Picture Reference 10

Brady Gang  
Shootout in  
Downtown Bangor

1937



AND THE THOMAS A. HILL HOUSE MUSEUM

[CLICK HERE](#) to Support Bangor's History

### Upcoming Events:

**Mt. Hope Movie Night!**

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

**Great Bangor History Hunt!**

Saturday, September 14, 2024

*Bangor Meets Bridgerton*

OCTOBER 5 TH, 2024

AT THE GRAND BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

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8. Jeremiah Hardy Portrait - Image courtesy of Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, DigitalCommons@UMaine,
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10. "Brady Gang." *Federal Bureau of Investigation*, www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/brady-gang.

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Register compiled, designed, and edited by BHS Volunteer Ryan Hews and BHS Curator/Operations Manager Matt Bishop