

QUEEN CITY REGISTER.

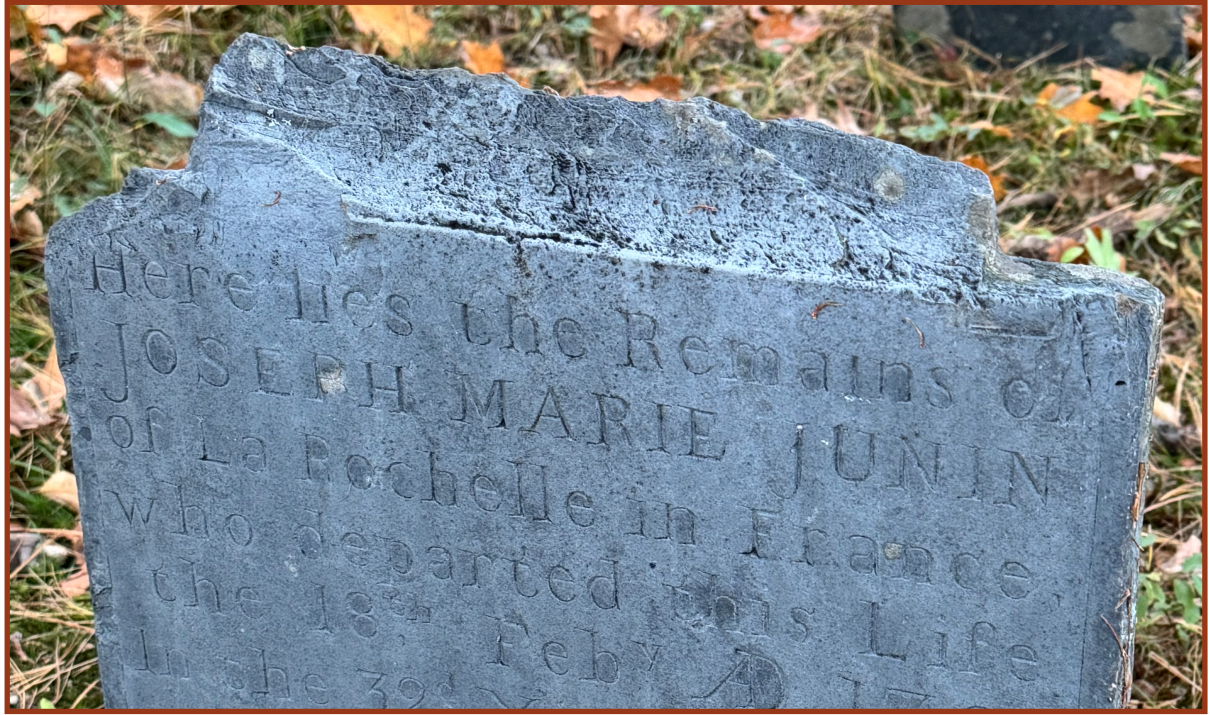
Inside This Issue!!

The Bangor Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

The Secret Spy Life of Bangor's First Murder Victim?



BANGOR MET BRIDGERTON!!
PAGE 2



The grave of Joseph Marie Junin at Mount Hope Cemetery - Bangor's First Known Murder Victim? - Staff Photo



BRADY GANG ANNIVERSARY EVENT!
IT'S BEEN 87 YEARS!!
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BANGOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1864

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!

We here at the Bangor Historical Society have long told the story of Bangor's first known murder victim (and cold case?), especially around Halloween as part of our Darker Mount Hope Cemetery Tour. What we don't as frequently share is the more surprising recent research on the background of this spooky tale from 1791. Charles Lagerbom in "*Plenty With Grudges: The Cold Case Murder of Joseph Junin*" in the **Journal of the American Revolution** starts with the well told unsolved murder of Joseph Marie Junin, a French Indian trader, in February 1791 in what was then the

small frontier town of Condukeag Plantation. This event is notable for being Bangor's first official murder, occurring just before the town's incorporation.¹ On February 18, 1791, Junin was found dead in his log cabin store, shot at least twice in the head while asleep. The victim was only 32 years old at the time of his death. Although he claimed that three Native Americans had broken into the cabin and committed the murder, Junin's nephew, Louis Paronneau, became the prime suspect in the case and was arrested and put on trial for the murder.² The case gained significant

(See "Junin or Lunier?" page 3)

1933

Chesley Husson purchases the Maine School of Commerce that will become Husson College in 1947



Reference 5

Historical Society Gala Allows Bangor to Meet Bridgerton

Bangor travelled to Bridgerton for the Bangor Historical Society's annual gala and awards ceremony on Saturday, October 5, 2024. BHS Board President Risteen Bahr noted "it was a magical evening celebrating our honorees, WABI TV and the Bangor Public Library. Our honorees noted the importance of preserving history and our joint efforts toward this goal for future generations." One attendee remarked that "the event was an absolute delight! The library provided such a great venue which, coupled with the fantastic food and the orchestra music, made one feel we were in the Bridgerton times." Bangor Historical Society thanks our event sponsors:

Cross Insurance, Bangor Symphony Orchestra, Bangor Wine and Cheese, Emerson's and Simply Macarons!



All photos courtesy of Kevin Bennett Photography

Period dance lessons enlivened the evening!



BHS Board President presents WABI with the Witness to History award!



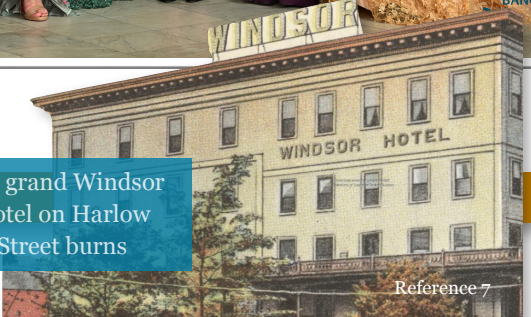
Gowns and suits made for a special night!

1940 Army Engineers begin construction of what will be Dow Air Force Base



Reference 6

1950 The grand Windsor Hotel on Harlow Street burns



Reference 7

Junin Or Lunier The Spy?

(continued from page 1) attention, with the French Consul from Boston, Phillippe Andre Joseph de Létombe, attending the proceedings. Paronneau even sent a plea letter to President George Washington. Despite circumstantial evidence suggesting Paronneau's guilt, including his nervous behavior the night after the murder, his legal defense managed to secure a not guilty verdict. It's always been an intriguing part of the mystery that Paronneau was able to secure such influential defense in this frontier murder case but Lagerbom offers compelling new research on Junin that may change our understanding of this unusual outcome. Lagerbom's investigation reveals that Colonel Jonathan Eddy, a Revolutionary War military leader and founder of the town of Eddington, believed that "Junin" was actually an alias, and that the victim's real name was Monsieur Lunier, a spy with aristocratic roots in the French nobility. 3 According to Eddy's writings, Junin (or Lunier) was involved in deals with Native Americans during the Revolutionary War with activities that went beyond simple trading. Eddy claimed that Junin/Lunier not only traded supplies with the Penobscot tribe but also gathered information about American troop movements from them. This intelligence was then allegedly shared with the British, suggesting that Junin/Lunier may have been acting as a British agent during the war. Eddy specifically wrote: "Junin was an Indian trader and without doubt the same man who acted as British agent on Penobscot River during the Revolutionary War." 4 These claims, if true, add a layer of intrigue to Junin's murder, suggesting that his death may have been connected to his alleged espionage activities during the Revolution rather than a simple robbery or dispute with his nephew. Perhaps the Junin murder is a cold case no longer?

Curator's Corner



What a year it has been for the Bangor Historical Society's Thomas A. Hill House! We have been able to complete our fence restoration project and bring a healthy lawn back to the Hill House. Thanks to Bangor Lawn and Landscape and Allen Farm Fence Company, the house is looking beautiful. In the short time the project has been completed, people have mentioned how it has improved our house in so many ways. It has generated curiosity about the building and helped bring more visitors to our 160th anniversary, Queen City Keepsakes exhibit, inside of the house. While this is a large portion of our landscaping, it is not finished. When our portico restoration project is completed, we will be adding a historical garden and adding new trees! We cant wait to have outdoor events once again!



Thomas A. Hill House - Staff Photo

Thank you to everyone who has made our 160th year so memorable and we are not done yet! The Hill House will remain open for tours until October 30th. We will close for more than a month of decorating and will reopen for Holidays at Hill House on Friday, December 6th. We will then be open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. until December 21st! See you soon! - **Matt Bishop**

Special
Thanks
To This
Season's
Sponsors!



1963

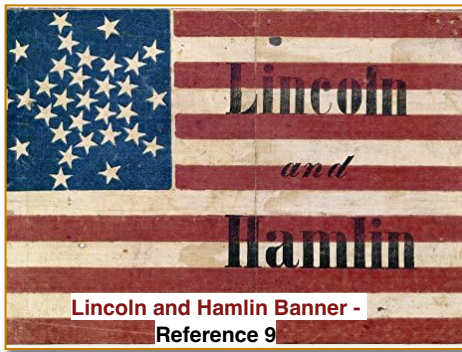


Here is the real solution...
Bangor's downtown
URBAN RENEWAL
plan



BEAUTIFUL!
but, is it
possible?

Urban Renewal Authority
releases its plan to reimagine
Downtown Bangor

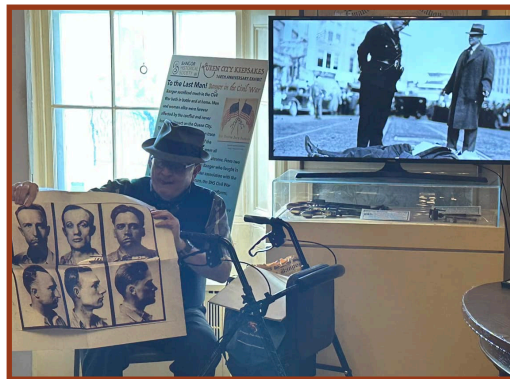


Did You Know? - Lincoln Never Met Hannibal Hamlin Until AFTER The Election?

Bangor's Hannibal Hamlin was a political man with vast legislative experience at multiple levels of government. His selection as Vice President for the 1860 ticket had nothing to do with any prior relationship with Lincoln as the two had never met prior to their election! Hamlin was chosen by the party bosses at the convention in Chicago because he had established himself as a senior senator with significant influence, making him valuable to Lincoln for advice on cabinet choices. Hamlin had vocally opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which effectively repealed the Missouri Compromise and allowed for the potential expansion of slavery into new territories but had also demonstrated an ability to work with Southern senators on other issues while in the Senate from 1848 to 1861. Hamlin's senatorial career was marked by his principled stand against slavery and his ability to navigate the complex political landscape of the pre-Civil War era.¹⁰ His experience and connections in the Senate made him an attractive choice for vice president, balancing the Republican ticket both geographically and politically.

Brady Gang Shootout Remembered

The Bangor Historical Society partnered with local historian and Brady Gang expert Dick Shaw for a very special remembrance of the Brady Gang shootout on the 87th anniversary of the event. Shaw shared rare artifacts with our guests including a piece from the gang's car and vintage newspapers and magazines



Richard Shaw Presenting Artifacts, October 12, 2024 - Staff Photo

before the group toured the site of the shooting. We appreciate Mr. Shaw sharing his knowledge with us at this special anniversary event!



Reference 11

1970

Airport Mall opens on Union Street



DARKER MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY TOUR

Advanced tickets required. Groups capped at 20 people.

We recommend dressing warmly and bringing a flashlight.

Parking available at the cemetery.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 25-26

90-MINUTE, 1-MILE WALKING TOUR
TOURS BEGIN AT 6PM

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