

QUEEN CITY REGISTER.

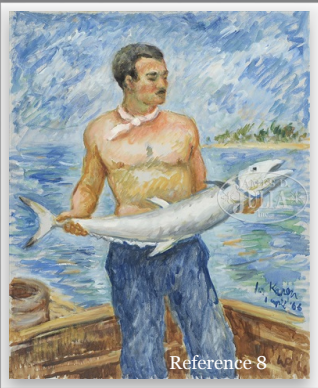
Inside This Issue!!

The Bangor Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

As Colorful As His Canvas: Bangor's Waldo Peirce



'TIS THE SEASON!
HOLIDAYS AT THE HILL HOUSE
PAGE 3



WHERE'S WALDO!
SEE MORE ICONIC WORK OF
WALDO PEIRCE!
PAGE 2

Born in Bangor on December 17, 1884 to wealthy lumber baron, Mellen Chamberlain Peirce and his wife Anna Hayford, Waldo Peirce's journey from a privileged upbringing to becoming a celebrated artist and bohemian figure is a tale of adventure, creativity, and an unbridled passion for life. Waldo's formative years were spent on the shores of the Penobscot River and in the affluent circles of New England. He attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, before enrolling at Harvard University. At Harvard, he was known more for his prowess at local pool halls and his position as a center on the football team than for his scholarly achievements.³ After Harvard, he embarked on his artistic journey, studying at the Art Students League in New York City and later in Europe at the prestigious Académie Julian in Paris. Peirce's life was marked by a series of adventures that would rival the plots of novels. In 1910, he attempted to cross the Atlantic on a cattle boat with his Harvard classmate John Reed, only to dramatically jump overboard and swim back to shore when he found the conditions unbearable.⁴ The outbreak of World War I saw Peirce joining the American Field Service as an ambulance driver in 1915



Waldo Peirce - Portrait of the Artist at Work
Reference 1

where he met fellow driver Ernest Hemingway. His bravery on the battlefields of Verdun earned him the Croix de Guerre from the French government. After the war, Peirce spent time between Europe and the United States, developing his artistic style. He studied under the Spanish artist Ignacio Zuloaga, though he later criticized his teacher's traditional approach.⁵ Peirce's exposure to the works of Goya during this period

(See "Art" page 2)



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!



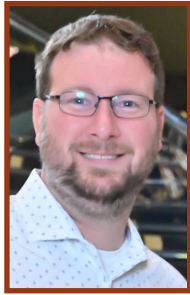
1974
Stephen King's Carrie is published
Reference 9



1976
Great Flood of Downtown Bangor, February 1976
Reference 10

Curator's Corner

2024 has been a year to remember, celebrating 160 years of the Bangor Historical Society!



While historical societies focus on the past, we do look to the future! 2025 once again will be a very exciting year for the BHS. Our walking tours of Bangor and Mount Hope Cemetery will resume again in the spring. Our annual awards, movie nights, and other events that you know and love will be scheduled. Our portico restoration project continues to be our biggest variable in scheduling events for next year. The restoration timeline is yet to be defined, but our Thomas A. Hill House will be open with a new exhibit in 2025 and we cannot wait to celebrate the completion of this project with you all by throwing a lawn party with house tours, games, prizes, and a Thank You reception for all of our supporters!

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and hope to see you all in 2025 to celebrate our 161st year.

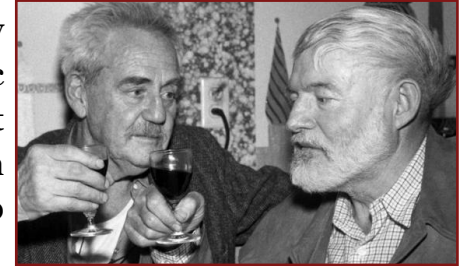
- Matt Bishop

Special Thanks To This Season's Sponsors!



The Art and Life of Waldo Peirce

(continued from Page 1) significantly influenced his artistic development. One of the most defining relationships in Peirce's life was his friendship with Hemingway. They bonded over shared experiences in World War I, their expatriate



Peirce and Hemingway in 1959 Reference 2

lives in Paris, and their passion for bullfighting in Spain. Peirce even painted three portraits of Hemingway and captured scenes from their adventures in Pamplona and the Caribbean. ⁶



Penobscot Gals by Waldo Peirce Reference 8

Peirce's artistic career was marked by prolific output and early success. He held numerous one-man shows across the country, and his works found homes in leading museums and



Pile up in the Encierro at Pamplona, 1924-25 Reference 8

private collections. Peirce's style evolved from his early Impressionist influences to a more

Regionalist approach in his later years. Peirce's personal life was as colorful as his canvases. He was married four times and had numerous children. ⁷ Peirce embodied the spirit of the early 20th-century American artist – adventurous, unconventional, and deeply passionate about life and art. Waldo Peirce died in 1970 and we here at Bangor Historical Society are proud to recognize this Queen City native on the 140th anniversary of his birth this December.

1978

Reference 11



Largest indoor shopping center north of Boston opens at Bangor Mall



1978

President Jimmy Carter visits Bangor and stays with local family

Reference 12

Join Us For Holidays at the Historic Thomas A. Hill House



Visit our holiday exhibit from December 6 - 21 from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. This year, as part of our traditional Holidays at Hill House, we are introducing a **Legacy Tree**—a special tribute that welcomes visitors with photos and stories of those who have left their mark on our community. After all, it's the people who make the place! Whether your loved one was a merchant, banker, logger, nurse, homemaker, clerk, business owner, volunteer or a contributor in any way to the community, BHS would love to hear their story!

For more information and to participate visit our website to complete the **Legacy Tree form**.



1984

Bangor celebrates its 150th Birthday with the River City Festival

Reference 13

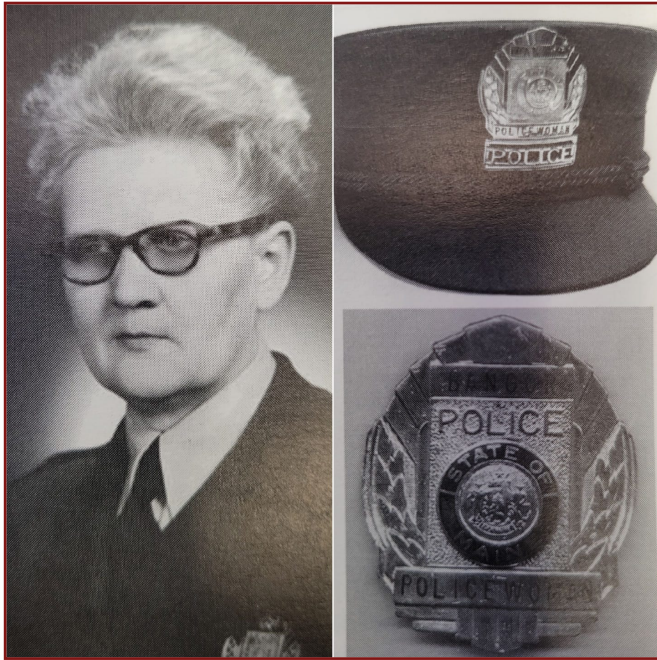
1998

4 inches of ice cripples Bangor in the Ice Storm of 98

Reference 14



Did You Know? - Maine's First Police Woman Was Bangor's Lillian Watson in 1944



Lillian Watson and Her Distinctive Hat and Badge - Reference 15

Another Bangor first was also a first for Maine. In 1944, Lillian Watson became the first female police officer in the State of Maine. Watson was remembered fondly for her many years of service to the BPD with locals recalling her guidance of traffic in downtown and her social work in the community.¹⁵ During that era, the term “policewoman” was used to identify female members of

the department, a term emblazoned on Officer Watson’s badge and hat. According to the City of Bangor Facebook page, women hired by the department were not permitted to do the types of duties that their male counterparts could but instead were “hired to work with female prisoners to oversee women and juveniles who had run “afoul of the law.”¹⁵ Officer Watson also led a group of women who served local schools as traffic guides which provided a model for the rest of the state. A Bangor Daily News article in 1949 provides a hint about Watson’s role as the local moral compass. Speaking to a women’s church association, Officer Watson expressed the feeling that juvenile misbehavior was “caused by such things as the wrong types of reading and motion pictures.”¹⁶ Watson served with distinction for 20 years, retiring in 1964. She moved to Hardin, Montana with her son where she passed away in 1978 at the age of 81.¹⁷



Bangor Daily News Article, March 22, 1949 - Reference 16



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National Folk Festival Comes to Bangor 2002

Reference 18



Celtic Woman is the 1st performance at Waterfront Concerts

Reference 19

2010

Bangor Historical Society

159 Union St.
Bangor, ME 04401

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