

QUEEN CITY REGISTER.

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The Bangor Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

Presidential Visits in 1871 and 1978 Thrilled Bangor

NEW EXHIBIT

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Maine's U.S. Senators Edmund Muskie and William Hathaway Greet President Carter in Bangor in 1978. Bangor Daily News, February 18, 1978 - Reference 1

NEW TOUR STOPS AT MOUNT HOPE!

JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR NEW STOPS ON THE MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY TOUR

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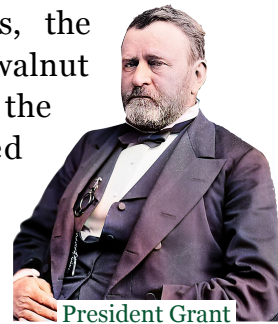
DID YOU KNOW?
LEARN THE INSPIRING STORY OF MARY SNOW

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Despite more than a century separating them, the visits of Presidents Ulysses S. Grant and James Earl Carter thrilled the residents of the Queen City who turned out to greet their chief executives with ceremony and civility. Although other Presidents have made historic campaign stops or brief visits to Bangor during tours of Maine, including Theodore Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and, most recently in 2020, Donald Trump, the visits of Grant and Carter left indelible marks on the community. Grant's visit in 1871, centered on the grand opening of the railroad connecting Canada with the United States through Maine, and also plays a role in the historic lore of the Bangor Historical Society's home at The Hill House. Mayor Samuel Dale who resided at The Hill House during the presidential visit presided over Grant's visit and the two days of parades,

banquets, speeches, and receptions. Dale is thought to have spent thousands of dollars decorating the Hill House for the Presidential reception with Historical Society records indicating bunting on the exterior veranda, a new carpet imported from Brussels, the marble-topped black walnut table still present in the house, and heavy red drapes to hang on every window. Dale escorted the president on a private tour of Bangor and organized a grand reception for the visiting dignitaries. As historian Trudy Scee notes in her comprehensive history of Bangor, "A large arch was built over Main Street welcoming the president" which, along with thousands of Civil War veterans and other national and local dignitaries including Hannibal Hamlin and the Secretary of State, "...greeted the



President Grant Reference 2

(See "Presidents" page 3)



Curator's Corner

People frequently ask: "What is the best way to see and experience Bangor?" I think the best response is to become immersed in it. Walk around, go to events, and get some great food! While we do not cook for you, our experienced guides will take you on a walk-through

Bangor's history. We talk about the historical events and people that have impacted our city and region, introduce those from away to Bangor traditions and happenings, reminisce with locals about businesses, buildings and, yes, even restaurants that are no longer around and point out current establishments that occupy buildings of historic note in our beautiful downtown. Walking tour season is now upon us and we continue to offer our guided tours of Mount Hope Cemetery, the Best of Bangor Downtown Walking Tour, a walk through the Fire of 1911 historic district, and many more! Pairing a walking tour with a visit to one of the area's great restaurants is also a great way to understand and appreciate Bangor's long history and culture. I hope that you will be able to take advantage of Maine's beautiful weather and take one of these guided walks with us in the upcoming season. Walking tours are \$12 per person with kids under 16 free! For a full listing of our walking tours and how to make tour reservations please visit our website at :

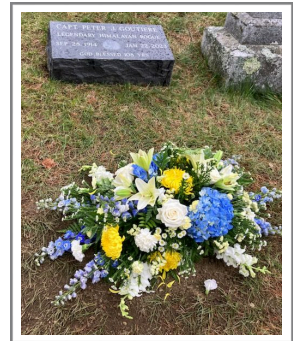
<https://www.bangorhistoricalsociety.org/tours/>

We also welcome private tours! Please reach out to curator@bangorhistoricalsociety.org for more information. See you on the walk!! - **Matt Bishop**

New Mount Hope Tour Stops To Help Broaden Our Understanding of Bangor's Rich and Diverse History

With thousands of stories to tell, the final resting places of Bangor's citizens at Mount Hope Cemetery are an amazing resource of local history. The Bangor Historical Society tours of the 2nd oldest garden cemetery in the United States have long shared the contributions of the many men and women who shaped the Queen City, Maine, and the country but this summer we're adding a few stops to help broaden our understanding of Bangor's rich history. In addition to new graves like

the recently departed "Himalayan Rouge" Peter Goutiere who died in January at the age of 108 after an incredible life of adventure, we will also explore the Black history of Bangor. Stories like that of Thomas Brown, who according to researcher Deborah Knowlton, was an early African American settler of Bangor who appears in the 1830 census and became a prominent merchant and physician in the Queen City. Brown sold sundry goods and owned a house on Third Street until his death in 1887. Come learn more about this influential but little known free black who helped shape Bangor's early days and other amazing stories on our tours this summer!



The grave of Peter Goutiere at Mount Hope Cemetery

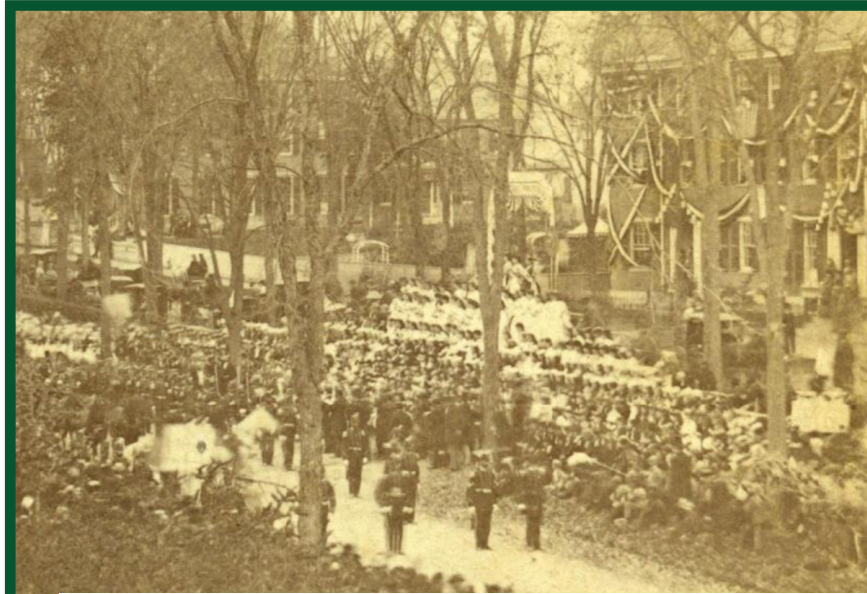


Presidents Remembered For Their Visits To The Queen City

(Continued from Page 1)

President with thunderous applause.”³

Grant’s visit is remembered as much for its connection to Bangor’s Civil War history as it is the economic inspiration connected to the railroad expansion. As the Maine Historical Society notes with its associated image of the gathering, the President “...made



Citizens Greet President Grant in October of 1871 On Broadway In Bangor
Maine Memory Network - Reference 4

several small stops at receptions along the rail line to Bangor, and once he arrived, there were enormous crowds waiting to greet him.” The photograph shows “...the assembled schoolchildren of Bangor waiting along the parade route on Broadway to serenade the President, the Mayor, the Governor General of

Canada, and the president of the rail line, who rode together in a carriage. The parade involved all of the Maine regiments, who later passed in review before the President, although the exercise had to be cut short when night fell.

Newspapers recorded that several men, mostly Civil War veterans, broke through the barriers along

the parade route in order to shake hands with the President, who responded with grace.”⁴

A similar response came over a century later when President Jimmy Carter visited Bangor for a campaign event in support of then U.S. Senator William Hathaway. Although Hathaway would go on



Carter at the Bangor Auditorium, February 17, 1978 - Reference 5



to lose his election that year to William Cohen, Carter’s visit is still remembered vividly in the Queen City because of the President’s kindness and his decision to stay with a local Bangor family instead of using The Bangor House (which closed that year) or another prominent hotel in the city. Robert and Laura Murray’s home on Maple Street in Bangor

became the center of the political universe on that winter weekend in 1971. According to NewsCenter Maine, “The Murrays were told they had been chosen just a few days before Carter’s visit...Carter arrived in a presidential limousine, greeted the parents on the porch, then walked across the street to greet neighbors.”⁶

The night of Carter’s stay at the Murray residence followed a town hall meeting held at the Bangor Auditorium at which Carter took questions from residents related to the Indian Land Claims settlement and his administration’s energy policy. At the closing of Carter’s question and answer session, he thanked the citizens of Bangor for their welcome: “It’s a very enjoyable thing for a president to get out of Washington...to come back and visit with friends who took me in when I was a lonely, unknown candidate...”⁷ Carter’s kindness is still remembered by those he met on that visit and by the Murray family. Winnie Murray remembers Carter well “...He was definitely happy to come into this humble house...The next morning he made his bed, came down, and joined us for breakfast.”⁸



Mary Snow from the Bangor Historical Society Collection - Reference 9

Did You Know? - Mary Snow Offered Pioneering Leadership of Bangor Schools

Mary Sophia Snow was born in Bangor in 1857 and began her career as a teacher in the Queen City's schools. After leaving teaching for a career in business, she was elected to the Bangor School Board and, eventually, named the system's superintendent in 1891. Resigning due to illness in 1902, Mary's impact on

Bangor's children and on Maine teachers was profound. In her 11 years as Superintendent of Schools she also founded Maine's first "normal training school" where new teachers are taught the practical, day-to-day skills necessary to become professional teachers and served as the elected president of the New England Superintendents' Association. In the years before women's suffrage and despite the discrimination she faced, this pioneering daughter of Bangor went on to serve students in Chicago and New York before her death in 1924.¹⁰ She is buried prominently in Bangor's Mount Hope Cemetery and you can see her stone on this summer's cemetery tours! See [our website](#) for tour times and details!

Exhibit Highlights Emancipation Proclamation

A new exhibit at The Bangor Historical Society's Hill House highlights the Reconstruction history of the United States with a rare facsimile of the Emancipation Proclamation created in 1863 as a fundraiser for the U.S. Sanitary Commission. Although the exact number of copies of this rare document is unknown, Bangor's copy hasn't been seen by the public in over 30 years. Be sure to stop by The Hill House this summer to see this document up close. We're open Mondays through Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



On Display at The Hill House



Upcoming Events:



Once a year **Soldiers at Rest Mount Hope Cemetery Tour**

Featuring Stories of Bangor's Civil War Veterans

Coming **July 22!** Register at curator@bangorhistoricalsociety.org

SAVE THE DATE!!

- **August 23, 2023 - Pet Cemetery in the Cemetery!! Join us at Mount Hope for this spooky movie event!**



- **October 21, 2023 - Mark your calendar for Logs and Legends, our new annual gathering in support of the Bangor Historical Society!**

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