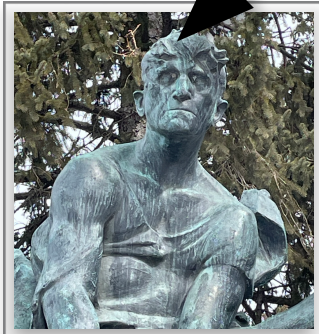


# QUEEN CITY REGISTER.

Inside This Issue!!

The Bangor Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

## New Exhibit Celebrates Historical Society's 160th!



**RECOGNIZE THESE ICONIC BANGOR PLACES?**

PAGES 2-3



**HAMLIN BECAME ANTI-SLAVERY CRUSADER EARLY IN CAREER**

**WHAT SHAPED THE FUTURE VICE PRESIDENT?**

PAGE 4

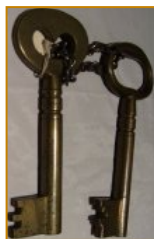


An Image From "Queen City Keepsakes", The Bangor Historical Society's 160th Anniversary Exhibit - Reference 1

The finest collection of historical artifacts in northern New England will be celebrated this summer in the Bangor Historical Society's first new in-person exhibit in several years! Commemorating 160 years of preserving, protecting, and promoting the Bangor region, and in partnership with other area cultural institutions like the Cole Land Transportation Museum, the Bangor Public Library, and the Maine Discovery Museum, "Queen City Keepsakes" will include 160 artifacts from the collection of the Bangor Historical Society to include images, documents, and many objects that define our past. "Few know of the extensive collection we

are lucky to maintain," says Risteen Bahr, President of the Board of Directors at BHS. "The Civil War collection alone could fill several exhibit galleries." From iconic images of the Queen City and her well-known (and less well-known) citizens, to artifacts like the keys to Samuel Veazie's bank vault, a cannon used in the infamous Penobscot Exhibition, and the bench and clock from our lost Union Station, artifacts will be placed around the city for the summer and early fall of 2024. To celebrate our birthday and draw more attention to the incredible collection, BHS will also host several events throughout the exhibit to include a family-friendly scavenger hunt of exhibit clues, special exhibits

(See "Anniversary" page 4)



Sam Veazie's Bank Vault Keys!

Reference 2



**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!**



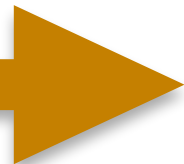
1864

Judge Godfrey leads creation of Historical Society

1870's



Bangor's heyday as lumber capital begins to wane





# Can You Identify These Bangor Icons? Architectural and

Brick archways were this architect's signature and this pre-fire beauty showcases them well!

1

Recognize these iconic Bangor places?

2

Hannibal Hamlin never visited this spot but founded the club it later housed!

Another post-fire site, art-deco was the style of its time!

3

Designed by a great post-fire architect, note the Maine granite pennants built in to this beautiful 1912 building!

4

1882

Bangor Opera House opens on Main Street

1889

Bangor Electric Railway opens trolley travel through city





# Sculptural Gems Surround Us



In a prominent park, celebrating the city's iconic industry

If you recognize these 5 places, send us the name of the building or sculpture and be entered to win a gift card for dinner in Downtown Bangor!

Send entries to:  
[curator@bangorhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:curator@bangorhistoricalsociety.org)  
 By April 30, 2024 to be entered to win!  
 Answers in our next issue!

## Special Thanks To Our Sponsors!



## Curator's Corner



Happy 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bangor Historical Society!

Preserving, Protecting, and Promoting Bangor, and the region's history has always been our mission.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1864, twenty-two Bangor citizens, lead by Judge John Godfrey, formed the Bangor Historical Society. By profession, there were six clergymen, three lawyers, three doctors, three merchants, rounded out with a bookseller, druggist, machinist, ships broker, banker, surveyor and newspaper editor. Four of them would serve as Mayor of Bangor!

*"A society under the name of Bangor Historical Society has recently been organized in this city for the purpose of collection and preserving facts and materials in relation to the history of this part of the State, and particularly such as relates to the valley of the Penobscot."*

*-Elijah Hamlin, June 28, 1864.  
 Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*

Our first display area would be inside of Bangor's Customs House but we would lose the vast majority of our collection in the Fire of 1911 and move into the Thomas A. Hill House in the 1952!

Embarking into our 17<sup>th</sup> decade, the BHS strives to continue this very important mission. Through visiting schools, organizations, walking tours, digital platforms and maintaining the historic Hill House and using it to showcase our storied past. We thank you for supporting us through 160 years and appreciate your continued support in the years to come!

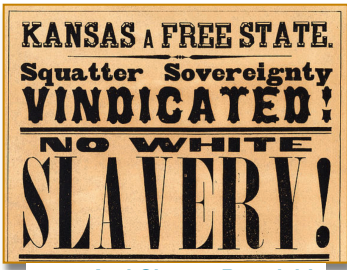
**- Matt Bishop**

1890's

Population of Bangor reaches 19000 for 1st time



## Did You Know? - Hannibal Hamlin Bucked Political Traditions From the Start



1850s Anti-Slavery Broadside  
- Reference 3

After young Hannibal Hamlin served as a legal apprentice to the anti-slavery activist Samuel Fessenden in Portland, he opened his own law practice in Hampden, Maine. Realizing the allure of the more urban Bangor, he was elected to the Maine House of Representatives in 1835 as a Jacksonian

Democrat, further developing his burgeoning political talents. While in Congress, Hamlin broke with many in his party to help pass the Wilmot Proviso, banning slavery in western territories. Although the bill died in the Senate, Hamlin, still influenced by his formative work with Fessenden, continued the battle when he himself was appointed to the U.S. Senate. One of only a few Democrats to oppose the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Hamlin voted against the law because he did not want slavery to spread into the territories. His opposition to the Act led him to renounce his affiliation with the Democratic Party in 1856 and join the newly organized Republican Party, causing a national sensation.<sup>4</sup> Hamlin's stance against the extension of slavery was a defining aspect of his political career, aligning him with antislavery principles and contributing to his involvement in the Republican Party during a period of intense political change in the United States.<sup>5</sup>

*This series of five life lessons that shaped the career and success of Bangor's Hannibal Hamlin will continue in future issues of the Queen City Register!*

## Anniversary Exhibit This Summer!

(Continued from Page 1) at partner organizations, and a series of talks related to the 16 decades of work of the Bangor Historical Society. "We can't wait to share what we have," Bahr says. "The collection is world class and Bangor is going to be proud to see it, celebrate it, and appreciate it this summer!" Watch our [Facebook page](#) and the next issue of the *Queen City Register* for more details!



An Image From the Collection -Carrie Collett, Bangor High Class of 1880  
-Reference 6



1911 Great Fire transforms the Queen City



AND THE THOMAS A. HILL HOUSE MUSEUM

HILL HOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT

[Click Here to Help!](#)



### References Used in This Issue

1. "5 Male Children on Main Street, Bangor - 1895." - Matheson Collection, Bangor Historical Society
2. General Veazie's Bank Vault Keys - Bangor Historical Society Collection
3. Kansas / Nebraska Broadside, 1854 <https://pixels.com/featured/kansas-nebraska-act-c1854-granger.html>
- 4-5. "Hannibal Hamlin." UVA Miller Center <https://millercenter.org/president/lincoln/essays/hamlin-1861-vicepresident>
6. "Carrie Collett." CL Marston - Bangor Historical Society Collection

### Page 1 Photographs:

- Hannibal Hamlin - [Matthew Brady Library of Congress archive](#)
- Judge John Edwards Godfrey - [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)
- Lumbermen - [Maine Highlands - Maine Lumbermen's Museum](#)

### Pages 2 - 3 Photographs:

- Bangor Icon Photos by Ryan Hews
- Bangor Opera House - [Digital Commons@UMaine](#)
- Bangor Trolley Car - [Bangor Daily News - Dick Shaw](#)
- Park Street, 1890's - [Bangor Public Library](#)

### Pages 4 Photograph:

- Great Fire, 1911 - [Bangor Public Library](#)

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