

1915

Newspapermen's Dinner: In Observance of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Publication of the Initial Issue of Bangor's First Newspaper, The Bangor Weekly Register

Peter Edes

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Newspapermen's Dinner

***In Observance of the One Hundredth Anniversary
of the Publication of the Initial Issue of
Bangor's First Newspaper, The
Bangor Weekly Register
by Peter Edes***



***Bangor House, Saturday, November Twenty-seventh
Nineteen hundred and fifteen***

50972

BANGOR WEEKLY REGISTER.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1815.

Vol. I.—No. III.]

PRINTED BY PETER EDES.

[TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.]

For the Bangor Weekly Register.

REPUBLIC OF MAINE:
OR,
MAINE A NEW STATE.

No. II.

[In the first number, I sketched the old province of Maine from 1606 to 1789, when the General Court under Gorges' charter, and the Loyalist government under Claveas, were actively adverse to each other: I now proceed.]

To oppose Claveas, and to dispute, at all points, his asserted rights; another general

As soon, therefore, as Gorges was dead, the General Court which had hitherto been nominally under his auspices, was convened in 1649 at Georgetown, (York) for the purpose of adopting a preconcerted and new form of civil government. This little democratical assembly, having met, elected a governor, four assistant-councillors and a secretary; and also established certain measures and ordinances of general polity, for the people's common convenience and safety. It was a tribunal, that indiscriminately blended and confounded the several departments of civil government; as it legislated and judged upon the law, it tried the fact; and it carried

had with much labor adjusted into a happy equilibrium; and that every attempt from whatever quarter coming, to rob them of their dear-bought privileges, ought, in duty, to be repelled to the last extremity. To this, the commissioners still in the province, replied, that Goulet and his associates, had not, even by their own showing, any reasonable authority, power, or right to govern the province; and that the territory was, unequivocally, decidedly within the patent of Massachusetts. Indeed they left no probable means untried; but, partly by right, partly by persuasion and partly by coercion, they labored faithfully to accomplish their favorite purpose. They

United States, on the 1st day of Decr. 1815	1791	8,305,000
1792	9,117,500	
1793	8,117,500	
1794	7,500,000	
1795	8,042,182	
1796	8,275,112	
President Adams	1797	8,700,479
	1798	10,782,239
	1799	12,400,569
	1800	8,910,394
President Jefferson	1801	23,018,180
	1802	20,123,413

m.c.

Peter Edes and The Bangor Weekly Register

Peter Edes was born in Boston in 1756, the son of Benjamin Edes, a Revolutionary printer, whose newspaper office was a resort of famous leaders of those times. His first venture in the printing business was in the year 1789, in Boston, when he opened a shop. In March 1787, he began the publication of a newspaper in Newport, R. I., the *Newport Herald*. The paper, which was from the start financially unsuccessful, was suspended in 1791. Then he removed to Hallowell, and published the first number of the *Kennebec Intelligencer* on November 14, 1795. The name was thrice changed, once to the *Kennebec Gazette*, and later to *Edes' Kennebec Gazette*. Finally it was the *Herald of Liberty*. In 1815 Edes issued a prospectus for publishing a newspaper in Bangor, "at the solicitation of several gentlemen in the county of Hancock," and soon after came to Bangor.

The first number of the *Bangor Weekly Register* is dated Saturday, November 25, 1815. The size of the printed page was $16\frac{1}{2}$ by 10 inches, four columns to the page. The announcement by the editor was:

"The Register gives no predilection to either political party; its columns equally invite the well written productions and creditable statements of both. The object of this paper is to be a faithful chronicle of the passing events and current news and not a receptacle of party obloquy and personal abuse. No pains will be spared to select the most important official publication; the ablest essays or national economy, agricultural enterprise and mechanical ingenuity and the most judicious remarks on political events. Its columns also will be interspersed with specimens of eloquence and of taste, with biographical sketches, occasional memoirs, and such other compositions, moral and literary as may subserve the cause of liberty, virtue and religion."

Two dollars was the subscription price of the Register but the editor goes on to say that "payment will be made easy in any produce of the country."

In a letter written to a friend later, he confessed disappointment at not receiving a larger number of subscribers, "Owing to jealousy and rivalry," he remarks, "we get no assistance from Buckstown, Belfast or Castine, from which places we expected two or three hundred subscribers, but have not more than seven or eight single ones. But they say if I will remove to Buckstown they will procure six or seven hundred subscribers for me."

In the issue of March 1, 1817, appears this notice: "As it is now good sleighing, it is hoped that our country readers will not be unmindful of the Printer—Wheat, cheese, butter, eggs or cash will be received."

Again in the number for May 27, 1817, this appeal for payment appears: "The Printer respectfully informs his patrons that 18 months have elapsed since the commencement of the Register, and agreeable to his proposals another payment has become due. He therefore requests those who are in arrears to settle immediately as the continuance of the Register depends solely upon punctuality of payments."

These requests were apparently of no avail, and on August 2, 1817, he announced that the plant was for sale. He later resided in Baltimore, Md. He came to Bangor again in 1832, and died here on March 31, 1840, then 83 years of age, and probably the oldest printer in the United States. His remains lie in Mount Hope cemetery.

Peter Edes: A Biography With His Diary While a Prisoner by The British at Boston in 1775; Edited by Samuel Lane Boardman and Published by The DeBurians, Bangor, 1901.

THE MENU

Grapefruit

Maraschino

Chicken a l'Turque

Celery

Breadsticks

Young Turkey—Chestnut Stuffing

Whipped Potatoes

Squash

Hot Rolls

Cranberry Jelly

Pineapple and Nut Salad

Cheese Balls

Toasted Crackers

Vanilla Ice Cream—Claret Sauce

Cake

Coffee

Mints

Cigarettes

Cigars

THE PROGRAM

A Quarter of Century in Newspaper Work

ROBERT LINCOLN O'BRIEN, Boston Herald

Reminiscences

OLIVER L. HALL, Bangor Commercial

The Paper from the Old Home Town

ARTHUR G. STAPLES, Lewiston Journal

Journalism's Useful Yesterdays

FREDERICK G. FASSETT, Waterville Sentinel

Fellowship in the Newspaper Craft

GEORGE W. NORTON, Portland Express

Maine's School of Journalism

ROLAND P. Gray, Professor of English
University of Maine

Bangor Newspapers and Periodicals

- Bangor Weekly Register**
Nov. 25, 1815—Dec. 25, 1817
- Bangor Register**
1817—August 2, 1831
- Penobscot Gazette**
1824—1827
- Eastern Republican**
1827—1838
- The Clarion (Literary)**
1828
- Penobscot Journal**
1831—1833
- Bangor Courier**
1833—1834
- Bangor Daily Whig and Courier**
July 1, 1834—March 2, 1900
- Penobscot Freeman**
(Anti-Masonic)
1834—1835
- Daily Commercial Advertiser**
1835—1836
- Mechanic and Farmer**
Feb. 1835—Feb. 21, 1838
- Eastern Magazine (Monthly)**
1835
- Maine Monthly Magazine**
1835 (?)
- People's Press**
1836—1838
- The Bangorean**
1836
- Bangor Journal**
1837
- Bangor Democrat**
1838—
- Bangor Gazette**
1842 (?)
- The Platform**
- Bangor Daily Mercury**
1844—1854
- The Expositor (Monthly)**
- Bangor Post**
1849 (?)
- Daily Bee**
1849 (?)
- The Jeffersonian**
1849—1870
- Bangor Daily Journal**
1854—1857
- Bangor Evening Times**
June 19, 1858—Sept. 10, 1867
- Bangor Daily Union**
1859 (?)
- The Spirit Guardian**
(Spiritualistic)
- Jeffersonian Daily Evening News**
June 28, 1862—August 2, 1862
- Burr's Fifty Cent Monthly**
April 1870 (?)
- Bangor Daily Commercial**
Jan. 1, 1872
- Northern Border**
1873—1877
- The Dirigo Rural**
1874
- Greenback**
1878 (?)
- Greenbacker**
1879 (?)
- Record**
1879 (?)
- Industrial Journal**
Jan. 1880
- Freeholder**
1881 (?)
- Messenger**
1881 (?)
- The Parlor Table**
Literary, 1881—1882
- Bangor Historical Magazine**
1881—1889
- Temperance Advocate**
1883 (?)
- Bangor Daily News**
June 18, 1889
- The Mascot**
- Bangor Life (Society)**
- Maine Sportsman**
1894—1908
- Bangor Sunday Republican**
- Maine Rural Life**
1913
- Eastern Democrat**
1914



The Peter Edes Press

Destroyed in the Bangor Public Library in the Conflagration
of April 30, 1911

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Peter Eades