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
As soon, therefore, as Gorham was dead, the General Court, which had hitherto been annually under the influence of his influence, was convoked in 1813 in Georgetown (York) for the purpose of adopting a new constitution and new form of civil government. This little democratic assembly, having met, elected a governor, four assistant-governors and a secretary and also established certain measures and forms of general policy, all in the name of the people and for the people's common convenience and safety. It was a wholesome, solid democracy that stood firm and inviolate, and it established a government, as it believed, and which it firmly believed had with much labor adjusted upon a happy foundation; and that this very strange from whatever quarter coming, to put them of their dear-born privileges, rights, in every, to be rejected in the least extremity. To this, the commissioners who were in the province, replied that Grafton and his associates, had not, even by their votes, shown any warranted authority, power, or right to govern the people, and if the territory was convenient, decide its limits. Massachusetts, indeed, was left to be judged mean and by every, by right, by persuasion and purely by consent, and if they labored diligently to accommodate their legitimate purpose, they...
20 DEAD IN PEABODY FIRE

SIX HUNDRED CHILDREN BARELY ESCAPE IN PANIC

GREAT EDUCATIONAL ARMY IS IN BANGOR

St. John's Parochial School Is Destroyed

SERBIAN FORCES RECAPTURE USKUP

Fire Breaks Out at Child's Nest, Astray Near Morning Session.

AUBURN MAN IS PRESIDENT

AUSTRO-GERMANS AND BULGARIANS ADVANCING--FRENCH REACH STRUMITZA HEIGHTS AND COMMAND THE TOWN

STELLADY CLOSING IN ON SERBS ON NORTH AND EAST

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AUSTRO-GERMANS AND BULGARIANS ADVANCING--FRENCH REACH STRUMITZA HEIGHTS AND COMMAND THE TOWN--ALLIES WATCHING GREECE
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 1/2 by 10 inches, four columns to the page. The announceement 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. 16, 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
1875 (?)

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

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