

**1864-1914 FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BANGOR HISTORICAL
SOCIETY: PROCEEDINGS AT THE
BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH, 1914**

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VARIOUS

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BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY, THE PRESENT HOME OF THE BANGOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1864-1914

Fiftieth Anniversary

of the

Bangor Historical Society

Proceedings at the

BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, April 8th, 1914

BANGOR, MAINE

1914

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The Maine Historical Society



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Charles S. Fellows, Secretary 1864	
Elnathan Freeman Duren, Secretary 1864-1902	
Edward Mitchell Blanding, Secretary 1910—	
Rev. John S. Sewall, D. D., Corresponding Secretary 1881-1911	

The Bangor Historical Society exceedingly regrets that there is no picture available from which can be procured a likeness of Hon. Elijah L. Hamlin, the society's first President.

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PRAYER

REV. ALVA ROY SCOTT

O God, our Father Divine, Thou hast been the help of our fathers in the ages past, and Thou art our hope in the years to come. Our fathers trusted in Thee and Thou didst never put them to shame. We give thanks for the lives and service of good men and women in all times. We are deeply grateful to those in the history of our own city who have loved righteousness, liberty, and truth, honor and justice. May their illustrious examples of loyalty to all good inspire us to an appreciation of our rich heritage, and to a service to city and nation worthy of the opportunities made possible by the sacrifice of generations gone.

Bless, we beseech Thee, this organization which has endured for half a century, and make it an institution to perpetuate fine traditions, and to promote good citizenship.

Let Thy favor rest upon the people of this city and this nation. May we abide in Thy love.—Amen.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

—by—
HON. HENRY LORD
—

Members of Bangor Historical Society, Ladies and Gentlemen:

When the Bangor Historical Society was organized in 1864, Bangor was a prosperous, enterprising, growing, splendid little city of about 16,000 population, with a taxable valuation of \$7,075,000.

Her population today is 25,000 and her valuation about \$25,000,000. Her leading men were noted for their energy, ability, public spirit and patriotism. This little city had a world-wide reputation; a broader and bigger reputation than she has today, with her larger population and greater wealth. This reputation was due to several causes. She was considered the largest lumber mart in the world, and Bangor's lumber products were sold far and wide and her merchants were known the world over; and she was the builder and owner of many merchant sailing vessels. The Penobscot river was lined with her saw mills and her harbor filled with craft of every description. The citizens of Bangor had the reputation of owning an area of timberlands larger than the state of Delaware.

In 1864 a person standing on the old wooden toll bridge that spanned the Penobscot from Bangor to Brewer, looking up the river, would see as far as the eye could reach, the river nearly filled with rafts of lumber, which came from saw mills, some of them fifty or sixty miles away. These rafts were black with men at work, surveyors and overhaulers, sorting the lumber into different kinds and qualities, to be floated by stevedores to the harbor below, to be loaded into vessels to be carried to American and foreign ports. This work gave employment to a large number of men. It was a common thing to see a hundred sail of vessels in Bangor harbor and frequently a fleet of a hundred and fifty sail.

In 1864 one hundred and ninety vessels were cleared with cargoes from Bangor for foreign ports. Not half that number

have been cleared in the last twenty years. There were three foreign clearances in 1913. In those days there were large shipments of deals to England and the North of Europe. From fifteen to twenty cargoes of orange and lemon box shooks annually were shipped to ports in the Mediterranean, cargoes of lumber to the Canaries, the Azores and the Cape de Verde Islands, sugar box shooks and hoghead staves to ports in Cuba, Porto Rico and other islands in the West Indies, large cargoes of lumber to South American ports—Rio Janerio, Montevideo, Buenos Ayres and Rosario. Many of these cargoes were carried in Bangor built vessels, hailing from the city of Bangor. There were five shipyards in the port of Bangor then, giving employment to many ship carpenters, caulkers, riggers, sail makers and other workmen.

In the years 1864, '65 and '66 there were thirty-two vessels launched in Bangor; six ships, four barques, twelve brigs and ten schooners. These vessels and those launched in other years were many of them named for Bangor people—Abner Taylor, Amos M. Roberts, Samuel Larrabee, James Littlefield, Samuel D. Thurston, Hosea Rich, Mary Stewart, Florence Treat, Jennie Hight, Caroline Eddy, L. J. Morse and Thomas J. Stewart and for others. Many of these ships on their first voyage left Bangor never to return, but for many years they hailed from Bangor, were owned and controlled here and were to be found in all the great maritime ports of the world—St. Petersburg, Hamburg, London, Liverpool, Lisbon, Messina, Havana, Buenos Ayres, Valparaiso, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Calcutta and other great commercial ports, flying the flag of the American Republic. It was natural therefore that Bangor, with her great lumber trade and her many merchant vessels, should have had a worldwide reputation.

But Bangor had a reputation outside of that given her by her lumber kings and her merchant marine. She was known because of the prominence and greatness of her public men, of her jurists and her theologians. Bangor was the home of Hannibal Hamlin, Vice President of the United States, and Hannibal Hamlin's name was associated everywhere with that of Abraham Lincoln. Of the eight justices of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, Bangor had three. For thirty-five