



Tour delivers ghostly look at Bangor's past

BY SHELBY HARTIN
BDN STAFF

Outside the Thomas A. Hill House on Union Street, a small crowd gathered last week to stroll through the streets of the Queen City of the East, and learn a little about Bangor's haunted lore. Matt Bishop, curator and operations manager of the Bangor Historical Society, who led the tour, began many of the haunted tales told during the Ghostly Bangor Walking Tour with the foreboding phrase "the story goes ..."

The tour, which offers the public a chance to listen to tales of unsolved mysteries, murder and hauntings, was the first of nine that will take place through the month of October.

The first stop on the tour was the Isaac Farrar Mansion, a three-story brick building that dominates a portion of Second Street. The story goes that a small child from the prominent Merrill family died accidentally from swallowing a marble. His nanny, full of remorse, hung herself in her third-floor quarters. They both haunt the mansion, a building whose residents have reported being plagued by the sounds of footsteps and voices, and doors opening on their own.

The tour winds through the streets of downtown Bangor, along Union, Main, Central and High streets, as well as through West Market Square and Hannibal Hamlin Park..

One story in particular

about the Bangor House on Main Street piqued the group's interest on Oct. 3 because of its connection to the infamous Boston Strangler. Rumors are the Bangor House is haunted by a chambermaid named Effie MacDonald, who was strangled with one of her own stockings in an unused room in the 1960s. Panic ensued because the first suspect was the Boston Strangler himself. Though it turned out in the end to have no connection to the Strangler, the murder remains unsolved to this day.

From the city's first reported murder in 1791 of a Frenchman named Joseph Junin, to tales of a small ghostly child who weaves through crowds at performances at the Bangor Opera

House and the infamous killing of Al Brady, public enemy number one, on Central Street, the tour is filled with not only speculation, but historical facts.

Bishop usually sees about 20 to 25 people per tour, who excitedly follow as he leads them around Bangor for a walk that lasts about an hour and a half.

There's still plenty of time to walk the dark streets of downtown at night. Upcoming tour dates include Saturdays, Oct. 10, 17 and 24, Tuesdays, Oct. 20 and 27, Thursdays, Oct. 15 and 22 and Friday, Oct. 30.

Tickets are \$10 for an adult and \$5 for a child and are available for purchase online at bangorhistoricalsociety.org/purchase-guided-walking-tour-tickets/.



SHELBY HARTIN | BDN

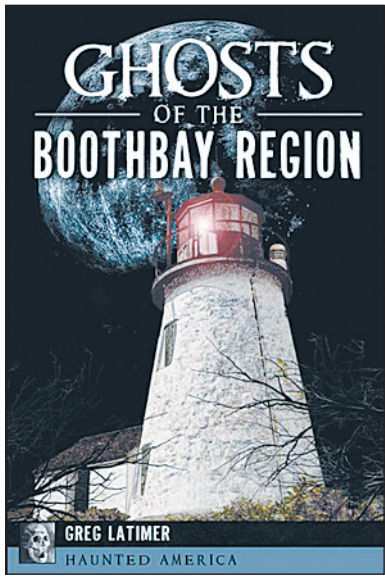
Matt Bishop (right), curator and operations manager of the Bangor Historical Society, explains Bangor's first recorded murder in 1791 of Frenchman Joseph Junin to participants while on the Ghostly Walking Tour of Bangor last week.

Ghostly tales of Boothbay region

BY SARAH WALKER CARON
BDN STAFF

From ghostly sightings to mysterious deaths, a new book aims to raise those little hairs on your neck with its tales from midcoast communities.

"Ghosts of the Boothbay Region" by Greg Latimer was released in August by Arcadia Publishing. Latimer, a journalist whose work has spanned both coasts of the United States, has worked as a reporter, photographer and a police evidence photographer. With a keen interest in the paranormal, Latimer has done extensive research on hauntings throughout the country. His book "Haunted Damariscotta" was published in 2014.



The idea for the book about the Boothbay region came from research he'd done both with his wife, who runs Red Cloak Haunted History Tours, and independently. It contains 17 tales of haunted happenings — including some that still have Latimer's interest for answers piqued.

"In terms of density, there's a location I can stand in in Boothbay Harbor and I can point to five buildings where employees have reported paranormal activity," said Latimer in a recent phone interview.

There's a resident ghost in a bookstore, spirits in the opera house and a shadowy figure at a restaurant. There also is murder and mayhem.

"We also ran into another mystery that I am still working on having to do with the Lady of the Dusk," said Latimer. "Nobody really knows who this lady was."

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PABLO OCAMPO | HELIKER-LAHOTAN FOUNDATION

East Machias artist Jude Valentine works on "Campobello, Grand Manan and Lubec" in July at the Wadsworth Studio of the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation. This painting was installed this week at the Washington County Courthouse in Machias.

Washington County life

Artwork reflects understanding of Down East

BY JOHANNA S. BILLINGS
BDN STAFF

MACHIAS — Lobster boats crowded in an offshore section of water in Cutler. A lighthouse in Lubec. Two views from the belfry atop the Washington County Courthouse.

All of these are among the nine pastel paintings by East Machias resident Jude Valentine that were installed on Oct. 5 in the Washington County Courthouse.

Two more paintings by Valentine are in storage and are to be installed in the courthouse when the \$8.3 million courthouse renovation project is completed in December.

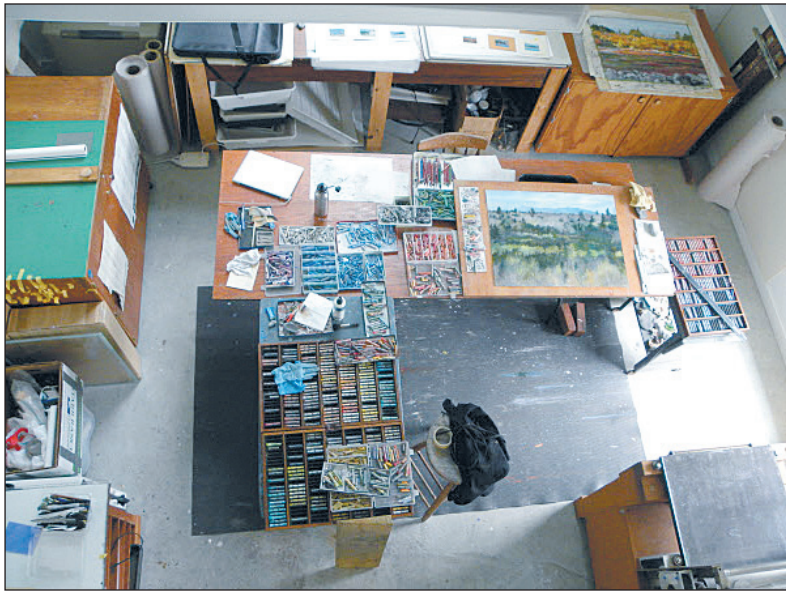
"It's like a once in a lifetime to

have 11 of your paintings go into a public building," said Valentine. "They'll be there forever. I'm really honored."

The paintings were created as part of the Maine Arts Commission's Percent for Art program, which allots up to 1 percent of a building project's total budget for the acquisition and installation of artwork. The Maine Arts Commission sent out a request for proposals for the artwork in July 2014.

In February, Valentine was notified she was one of three finalists, and in March, she learned she was selected.

"By April, I was up in the belfry," said Valentine, whose con-



JUDE VALENTINE

The painting "Forestry" is being completed as part of the Washington County Courthouse commission seen recently in the Wadsworth Studio at the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation in Cranberry Isles. Smaller studies for larger works are on the table (upper center) and the "Blueberrying" painting is in progress (upper right).

cept included four paintings of Machias as seen from the belfry on top of the courthouse — one facing each direction.

"I did preliminary photos to get a sense of the layout of the pieces," she said.

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Photographer captures Maine writers at work for series

BY KATHLEEN PIERCE
BDN STAFF

PORTLAND — All writers lead exciting lives.

Or, at least, that's what photojournalist Doug Brunns believed when he set out to capture Maine scribes at work. For nine months the Portland-based photographer and self-described "reader" traipsed across the state to photo-

graph writers — including famed novelist Anita Shreve and Pulitzer Prize winners Richard Ford and Richard Russo — in their writing chambers.

The result is the Maine Literary Portrait Project, a series of 50 black-and-white photos of contemporary Maine writers on display through October at the Portland Public Library's Lewis Gallery.

"I wanted to do this for the ex-

perience and to support Maine writers," Brunns, who is donating these portraits to his subjects' town libraries when the show closes, said.

Long fascinated by wordsmiths and their practice, Brunns said the experience was eye-opening.

"I think music is the highest form of creative disciplines. Writing comes second," he said. "As a photographer and occasional

writer, I was intrigued by the understanding of the writing process."

Also, like many lovers of the written word, he wanted to peek behind the pages into the writing life. Much to his surprise, they let him.

"As a photographer, it was voyeuristic," said Brunns, who allowed these known Maine novel-

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ROCKY HORROR SHOW

October 23-24, 30-31 at 7:30pm, October 25 & November 1 at 2pm

Tickets: \$23 Adults, \$21 Youths + Seniors / visit www.operahouse.org for more information

October 1 – November 1 / Black + White: Scott Minzy prints, Tim Christensen ceramics and Dereck Glaser metal work. Closing reception + artists talks: October 27 / 5–7pm. Visit www.watervillelibrary.org for more information

September 29 – November 15 / MCA Invitational Glass Exhibit: This showcase of handmade fine glasswork includes Tandem Glass, Atlantic Art Glass, David Jacobson, Gola Glass and Hope Murphy. Visit www.commonstreetarts.org for more information