

# Troy R. Bennett

Bangor Daily News



## Recognition

Greater Portland has a remarkable legacy of historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes, and parks. Connecting residents and visitors to the stories of our past, to those who built, worked, and lived in our community before us, is critical to Greater Portland Landmarks' goal of protecting the historic fabric of our community. The buildings and landscapes we work with, whether they're beautifully saved, unattractively threatened, or anywhere in between, are almost always visually and historically interesting.

"If a picture is worth a thousand words," as the saying goes, what is a video worth? From February to December of 2017 *Bangor Daily News* photographer Troy R. Bennett published a weekly series of videos and blog posts called *This Week in Portland History*. In his weekly video series, Troy illuminated stories as varied as "The Time that Portland Swallowed a Neighboring City to Steal its Votes" about the annexation of Deering, "How a Portland Druggist Built an Empire on Hand Cream" and built a landmark laboratory and manufacturing building on Forest Avenue, and "How a Broadway Star Lost His Island Cottage so Thousands of Mainers Could Have Clean Water" about the Portland Water District's efforts to bring a reliable clean water supply to the city after the Great Fire of 1866. He also documented the story of one of our favorite buildings, the Portland Observatory, for its 210th anniversary in his video "This Lighthouse-Shaped Building is Definitely Not a Lighthouse".

Although he ended each entry of his weekly series with the disclaimer he is not a historian, we believe Troy is a preservationist. Through *This Week in Portland History* Troy helped to promote and preserve Portland's historic fabric. Troy's natural gift for storytelling and his multimedia journalism engaged the *Bangor Daily News'* readers with the stories of the people and places that make greater Portland unique.