

## Emery, Tanya

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**From:** Emily Burnham <eburnham@bangordailynews.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:45 AM  
**To:** Emery, Tanya  
**Subject:** Re: archive material re: Gomez monument

Hey Tanya,

Here's everything I've found, from start to finish! These are just our old archive links -- but since you have the specific dates for the stories, you could probably just ask Betsy over at the BPL to look them all up in the microfilm archive and send you screengrabs. Though I'm pretty sure these will be slightly more legible. Hope that helps! They might not tell you anything more than what you already know, but good to have anyway I suppose.

<https://archive.bangordailynews.com/1998/06/03/no-mtbe-in-bangor-water-supply/>  
<https://archive.bangordailynews.com/1999/05/28/bangor-to-get-explorers-memorial-new-bedford-artisan-commemorating-portuguese-who-sailed-up-penobscot/>  
<https://archive.bangordailynews.com/1999/10/08/bangor-to-dedicate-monument-to-early-river-explorer/>  
<https://archive.bangordailynews.com/1999/10/12/portuguese-explorer-honored-massachusetts-town-gives-monument-to-bangor/>

And here's the full text of one that I can't find an archive link for, about the one-year anniversary of its installation:

Contributions of Portuguese celebrated

Publication date: 10/10/2000

Photographer (Byline): Dawn Gagnon Of the NEWS Staff

BANGOR - Though he last visited the area almost 500 years ago, a little-known Portuguese explorer is finally getting his due.

Estevan Gomez in 1525 became the first European to set foot on land that would one day be part of the city of Bangor when he sailed up the Penobscot River in search of a route to the Far East. He's believed to be the first European to help map the coastal area from Newport to Nova Scotia.

During a ceremony in Explorer Park - a neatly manicured plot of land at the confluence of the Kenduskeag Stream and Penobscot River - about 150 members of New England's Portuguese-American community and dozens of Mainers gathered to celebrate the contributions of Gomez to Bangor and the rest of the world.

Their meeting place was Bangor's year-old stone and concrete monument to Gomez. A gift to Bangor from the community of New Bedford, the monument which was dedicated a year ago, was handcrafted by Julio Vasconcellos, an employee of the Massachusetts city. It features a mosaic of a large compass, a basic tool of navigators.

The ceremony was one highlight of the second annual visit to Bangor by Americans of Portuguese descent, mostly from New Bedford and its neighboring communities.

Participants took a few moments out of the annual Columbus Day observance to contemplate an aspect of early Bangor history that was known until recently by few here.

As Bangor City Councilor Jerry Palmer observed during his welcoming remarks, the 1525 visit from Gomez was not part of the history curriculum during his school days.

Some of the lessons he recalled were about the Pilgrims and French explorer Samuel de Champlain, who did not get to the New World until almost 100 years after Gomez. He also remembered lessons about Jacob Buswell and his family, the first white settlers in Bangor, relative late comers who didn't arrive until 1769.

"This puts our history so much farther back," Palmer said.

Councilor Joseph Baldacci, former mayor, and council colleagues Dan Tremble and Judy Vardamis joined Palmer in expressing Bangor's hope the relationship with New Bedford would be a long-lasting one.

Baldacci presented the group a key to the city, telling the visitors, "The door's always open."

The blossoming relationship between the two cities was instigated by Edmund Dinis, a former district attorney, state representative and state senator from New Bedford, who worked with staff from the two communities for more than a year before the Bangor monument was unveiled last October.

During his remarks, Dinis spoke of the warm reception he and other members of the Portuguese-American community received from city staff and city officials, as well as from Aquelidio "Rod" Rodrigues, a Bangor photographer of Portuguese descent who provided cards featuring scenes of Bangor's Gomez monument.

Dinis noted that Rodrigues had a relatively rare pedigree for this part of Maine, which has only a small Portuguese population.

Dinis also observed that the pilgrimage was important to those he led north.

"You can see for yourselves our status in Maine and Nova Scotia," he said, later adding, "After 500 years, all we want is a little recognition."

The New Bedford delegation visited Bangor as part of their pilgrimage to historic sites first visited by Portuguese explorers.

Before their stop in Bangor, the travelers went to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where they visited New Bedford's monument to Joao Alvares Facundes, a Portuguese explorer who established a community in Nova Scotia in 1520.

Another of the group's aims was to share some of their rich history and culture with others.

"We have almost 1,000 years of culture," said Eduardo Rodrigues, news director for WJFD, a Portuguese-language radio station broadcast out of New Bedford on FM radio and over the Internet.

Portugal, he said, gave the world some of its greatest navigators and cartographers, men who bravely embarked on their exploratory journeys with no knowledge of what their destinies might be. Portuguese also happens to be the sixth most spoken language in the world.

During Monday's celebration, the Portuguese-American delegation also was presented a proclamation from the City and taken on the Bangor Historical Society's "Best of Bangor" tour.

After the tour, the visitors were the guests of honor at a luncheon at the Elks Club.

Emily

On Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 11:29 AM Emery, Tanya <[tanya.emery@bangormaine.gov](mailto:tanya.emery@bangormaine.gov)> wrote:

Hi Emily,

For part of the Commission on Cultural Development review of the Gomez Monument for possible deaccessioning, we need to gather information from a variety of different sources. CCD members are working with UMaine, the Bangor Historical Society, etc. I wonder if the BDN archives might have any articles from the time when the monument was proposed and installed that could be helpful to them? How do I go about getting a copy of any relevant materials?

And let me know if this request should go somewhere else – I just figured I'd start with you!

Thanks,

Tanya

BANGOR DAILY NEWS (BANGOR, MAINE)

# No MTBE in Bangor water supply

By Roxanne Moore Saucier, BDN staff  
June 3, 1998 12:00 am

BANGOR — A gasoline additive, a 16th century explorer, a hot dog stand and a Web site composed an eclectic agenda Tuesday for the municipal operations committee.

Around the state, reports of contamination from MTBE — methyl tertiary butyl ether — in water supplies are cropping up, but not in Bangor's water, explained Wayne Rogalski, superintendent of the Bangor Water District.

The district, which draws water from Floods Pond in Otis, has been tested twice for the contaminant, first in March 1997 and again in May 1998. Nothing showed

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That good report was not unexpected. The district owns the pristine Floods Pond and much of the watershed around it.

In fact, said Vaughn Smith, district trustee, the water source “is one of the few places in the country that is so well-protected.”

The committee also was told that the new water main for district customers in Hermon will run along Odlin Road.

In other business, the panel gave tentative approval to Edmund Dinis’ request that he be allowed to place a memorial to Portuguese explorer, Estevan Gomez, also known as Estavao Gomes, in a location to be determined.

Dinis, an attorney from New Bedford, Mass., had supplied the city with information from a book by renowned historian Samuel Eliot Morison.

John Frawley, former city engineer, has been researching the issue, and has come up with a variety of possible explorers to the region — Irish, Icelandic, Viking and others — including Gomez.

The committee on Tuesday approved allowing city staff to work with Dinis on a possible memorial, providing the city has approval on the memorial and its wording. Dinis has spoken to the secretary of state in Portugal about that country possibly donating the memorial, and has further offered to pay for it himself if Portugal doesn’t.

Councilor Gerry Palmer suggested that Dinis' concept of a boulder with a plaque on it might incorporate a rock from Portugal.

Also on Tuesday, Purchasing Director David Pellegrino told the committee that the concessionaire for the Union Street Softball Field was transferred with little notice, and that the field is without a refreshment stand.

One affiliated with another city facility had been lined up, but his plans didn't work out.

Pellegrino said that a couple of days later he received a request from Marshall Frankel, asking that L.A.M.M. Inc. be allowed to run the concession this year with a \$100 rental. Frankel said that he would serve Coca-Cola products because that company helps the field through the city's adopt-a-park program.

Councilors decided there wasn't time to issue formal requests for proposals, but wanted to be fair to all who might want to apply. They asked Pellegrino to contact possible vendors and to spread the word that the city would like to hear from those interested. Next year, the city will go through the regular proposal process.

Also on Tuesday, Brian Ross of Virtually Bangor gave a brief presentation on the city information he hopes to put on a Web site. This would include council agendas and various municipal information.

City Solicitor Erik Stumpf explained that the information is all on public record, and site developers may put the data on their sites as long as they don't purport to be the official city Web site. That has not been developed yet, although the airport has its own site and some information is on BAIRnet.

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BANGOR DAILY NEWS (BANGOR, MAINE)

# Bangor to get explorer's memorial > New Bedford artisan commemorating Portuguese who sailed up Penobscot

By Roxanne Moore Saucier, BDN staff  
May 28, 1999 12:00 am

BANGOR — Come fall, Kenduskeag Stream Park may be the site of a memorial to a 16th century Portuguese explorer believed to have set foot in Bangor more than 450 years ago.

The project has been in the planning stages for nearly two years, organized by attorney Edmund Dinis of New Bedford, Mass.



City councilors on the municipal operations committee heard the latest report on the project recently from Stan Moses, assistant director of community and economic development.

The artisan for the monument would be Julio Vascaueelos, a third-generation concrete artisan from Portugal who is construction supervisor for the New Bedford Public Works Department.

On a recent trip to Massachusetts, Moses stopped in New Bedford to see a dozen monuments designed and built by Vascaueelos.

Moses told the committee that the monuments, which include a Holocaust memorial, were “wonderful works of art. I was absolutely amazed. I’d never seen anything like that in concrete before.”



Like many of those in New Bedford, Bangor's monument — a gift from the city — would be “a monument similar to a moderate-size headstone, cast in concrete and polished,” Moses said.

Many of the markers he saw showed “colored fibers mixed in, looking like grains of natural stone,” he said. “Some of them were really quite breathtaking.”

Vascaueelos would cast the base in four square sections for shipping to Bangor, Moses said. The base would then be mounted on crushed rock by the Kenduskeag, on a grassy area near the intersection of Broad and Exchange streets.

A bronze plaque on the monument would read: “Estevan Gomez, a Portuguese navigator sailing for Spain in search of the Northwest Passage, landed on these shores in 1525.”

Bangor's role would be to excavate and prepare the site, and to help bring the marker and its base from New Bedford.

In proposing that Bangor accept the monument to Gomez — also known as Estavao Gomes and Don Esteban Gomez — Edmund Dinis provided the city with information from Samuel Eliot Morison's "The European Discovery of America" and from "Woodsmen and Whigs" by Abigail Zelz and Marilyn Zoidis.

Gomez also was discussed in "Maine: The Pine Tree State from Prehistory to the Present," edited by Richard W. Judd, Edwin A. Churchill and Joel W. Eastman and published in 1995 by the University of Maine Press.

Gomez was looking for "el Cathayo oriental," and sailed up the Penobscot River in hopes that it might be the Northern Strait.

His vessel was a 50-ton caravel, authorized by King Charles V for outfitting and supplies costing about \$5,800 in gold.

Reaching the "head of navigation" at Bangor, Morrison said, Gomez decided the waterway was only a "famous river with a great flow of water." And although there was iron pyrite — fool's gold — there was no real gold. "No hay alla de oro," Gomez wrote.

Mayor Joseph Baldacci has spoken with the New Bedford mayor about the project, which may be completed and dedicated this fall.

“We do have people of Portuguese descent living in Bangor,” pointed out Councilor Patricia Blanchette.

Dinis has served in several capacities in state and county government, Moses said, and is the owner of Spanish-language and Portuguese-language radio stations.

“He is a person who is trying to preserve the Portuguese culture in this country,” he added.

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BANGOR DAILY NEWS (BANGOR, MAINE

# Bangor to dedicate monument to early river explorer

By Roxanne Moore Saucier, BDN staff  
October 8, 1999 12:00 am

BANGOR — Probably the largest compass in Bangor will mark the spot where a Portuguese explorer may have set foot in 1525 near the confluence of the Kenduskeag Stream and the Penobscot River.

The dedication of the monument to Estevan Gomez, one of the first Europeans to explore the river, will bring together officials and others from Bangor and New Bedford, Mass., where the 14-foot-by-14-foot marker was made.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. Monday in the Kenduskeag Stream Park near the intersection of Washington and Broad streets.

Designed and created by mason Julio Vasconcellos, a Portuguese native who works for the city of New Bedford, the monument will feature a concrete and granite slab displaying a compass face of cobblestones — gray, white and off-white.

Gomez's name will be on the monument and on a small concrete cross and shield. Two concrete benches will allow visitors to rest near the banks of the Kenduskeag.

Vasconcellos has created many monuments, both in New Bedford and in surrounding communities. Bangor city councilors viewed pictures of the artisan's



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work during discussions of the project.

Stan Moses, Bangor assistant director of community and economic development, visited many of the monuments — including a Holocaust memorial — during a visit to Massachusetts.

Moses told councilors later that Vasconcellos created “wonderful works of art. I was absolutely amazed. I’d never seen anything like that in concrete before.”

Two years in the making, the tribute was the idea of Edmund Dinis, a former district attorney, state senator and state representative from New Bedford.

He approached the two cities with the idea, with New Bedford providing labor and materials. The city of Bangor took on the transportation and installation of the marker.

The owner of Spanish- and Portuguese-language radio stations, Dinis is active in the preservation of the Portuguese culture in this country and will attend the ceremony.

Spain had sent Gomez on the journey in hopes that he would find the Northern Strait, a short route to the East. He also was looking for gold, but found none.

DO WORK THAT MATTERS

BANGOR DAILY NEWS (BANGOR, MAINE)

# Portuguese explorer honored > Massachusetts town gives monument to Bangor

By Roxanne Moore Saucier, BDN staff  
October 12, 1999 12:00 am

BANGOR — Portuguese explorer Estevan Gomez found neither gold nor the mythical route to the Far East on his journey up the Penobscot River, but his 16th century visit has spawned a special friendship between the cities of Bangor and New Bedford, Mass.

Dozens of New Bedfordites — many of them fluent in Portuguese — traveled by bus to join in Monday's dedication of a monument their city donated to Bangor, where Gomez set foot in 1525 while sailing for Spain.



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Handcrafted by New Bedford city employee Julio Vasconcellos, the concrete monument, with its mosaic of gray and cream-colored rocks, features a large compass, “the basic tool of all navigators,” explained New Bedford Mayor Frederick Kalisz.

The mayor, addressing about 100 spectators, said it was good to see “two cities work together to foster a love of history,” a rich history that Americans too often take for granted. He added that after discussions with Bangor Mayor Joseph Baldacci, he was hopeful that Bangor and New Bedford would work on a kind of “sister city” relationship for the future.

The mayors agreed that credit for Monday’s event went largely to Edmund Dinis, a former district attorney, state representative and state senator from New Bedford. For more than a year, the philanthropist worked on the project with both New Bedford and Bangor officials such as Stan Moses, assistant director of community and economic development.

Dinis visited the Queen City in 1998, and said Monday he had been “impressed by this particular site” in a corner of Kenduskeag Stream Park, not far from the stream’s confluence with the Penobscot.

The Gomez who sailed for Spain, explained Sandra Patrick, president of the Bangor Historical Society, was born Estavao Gomes in Portugal. He was quite the character, getting himself jailed in Spain after he mutinied from his travels with explorer Ferdinand Magellan.

But Gomez talked his way out of jail and convinced King Charles V that he could find a better route to the East and its riches, Patrick said. Soon he was on his way to the New World, landing at Cape Breton before making his way down the Maine coast — past Mount Desert Island, through Eggemoggin Reach and finally up the Penobscot.

The navigator found the country “temperate and well-forested,” Patrick said, and called the river “Rio de las Gamas,” because of its abundance of deer.

Gifts were exchanged between city officials Monday, and it turned out that Dinis had more gifts for Bangor, as well. He presented Bangor Librarian Barbara McDade with copies of historian Samuel Eliot Morison’s “The European Discovery of America,” as well as a large painting of Gomez’ ship, La Anunciada, done by New Bedford employee Victor Augusto.

Toward the end of the ceremony, a cross-shaped marker on the monument was unveiled by Moses, Kalisz, Baldacci and Dinis. The marker bore a plaque: “Estevan Gomez. A Portuguese navigator and explorer in the service of Spain landed in this area in 1525.”

Portuguese heritage was the order of the day. Catarina Avelar of New Bedford sang the national anthem Monday, while Portuguese Vice Consul General Joseph Canha commended Dinis for his work on the project, and Bangor for accepting the gift and its history. Canha presented his remarks in both English and Portuguese.

After the ceremony, officials invited the New Bedford delegation to board the city-run River Dog cruise boat for a sightseeing trip of the Penobscot where Gomez had sailed his ship.

As for Dinis, he isn’t resting on his laurels now that the Gomez memorial is in place. He told the New Bedford Standard-Times recently that he is working with the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, on a monument for Joao Alvares Fagundes, who started a Portuguese community there in 1520.