

December 2019 E-Newsletter

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Merry Christmas to all BHS members and friends! And a most sincere thanks to the many members and visitors who stopped by the BHS History Room in the Belgrade Community Center during the annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, Dec. 7.

We decorated the room with seasonal greens and ornaments, and we brought out antique toys, some from the BHS collection and others on



temporary loan from BHS members' homes.

Old toys, ca. 1950-60 on top of BHS display case

The 1950s era Lionel toy train of Belgrade resident Thomas Dowd was a special hit among the many children who came to the history room with

their parents. And the older children even came back several times on their own to inspect the toy engine and train wagons more carefully.

Of course, these youngsters also had a second and even third opportunity to sample the Christmas star cookies we had put out for guests! And some of them even bought another small, \$2 bag of Christmas candies, which BHS President Dianne Dowd carefully had assembled in the days prior to the fair. (We think she had guidance from her young granddaughters regarding what candies grade school age kids like!)



Christmas star cookies and Old Town House tiles for sale



Antique, handmade cotton angel and fresh pine Christmas swag.

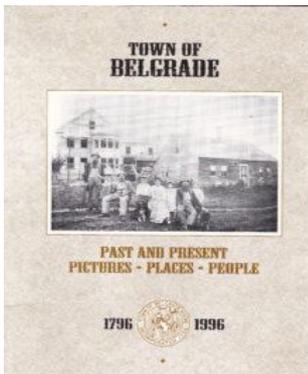
The most popular sale item among adults were the small photo ornaments that Dianne had created by making miniature copies of photos from the BHS collection of the Old Town House and horse-drawn sled photographs. These she placed in small wooden frames with colored strings to hang on Christmas tree branches. People seemed to think they were a bargain at \$5 each! Or perhaps they just wanted to support the BHS effort to preserve the Old Town House, as all proceeds from the day's sales were earmarked for our capital campaign to renovate our town's oldest building, 205 years young but in need of major repairs. We still have a few of these special ornaments left, and anyone who wants one is welcome to call me at 207-495-2310 and make arrangements to pick one—or more—up at the History Room in the Belgrade Community Center on week days up to Dec. 20, 2019. Meanwhile, please enjoy the photos of the History Room decorated for the season! They were taken with a cell phone camera, so they are not as perfect as the old photographs in our collection, but I think they capture a bit of the melding of the present and past.



German crèche made from carved wax, ca. 1955

Not too late to buy the past as a present, a gift membership, or a make a contribution to our Town House Fund in memory of a beloved relative or dear friend. Please Call 207-495-2310 to order and/or pick up or have sent by Dec. 21.

Looking for gifts, don't forget our **Reproduction Past & Present Books**.
Available at the Center for All Seasons BHS History Room or Day's Store!



Past and Present Books More than 140 unique and priceless photos of Belgrade's past, all with historical captions
Town of Belgrade Past and Present Pictures of People and Places
A special hardbound photo and text book for the coffee table!



Capital Fund Drive



Rendering of Townhouse after Renovation

Sketch by Artist Erik Johnson

The **Capital Fund Drive** is going well! We have received several thousand dollars and returns are coming in on a daily basis. A friendly reminder to those who want to give and have not yet done so. Use your return envelope or send

your own to BHS, P.O. Box 36A, Belgrade, Maine 04917. Use PayPal as an alternative by going to our website belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Thanks to those who have already donated, all donations will help the bottom line!

Don't forget that BHS is a non-profit 501 (3) 2 organization, so all contributions to its capital campaign to renovate the Old Town House are tax deductible. Any donation you make to BHS can be deducted from your income tax to the extent allowable by law. Please think of making an end-of-year donation to our worthy cause and help to preserve our history.

