



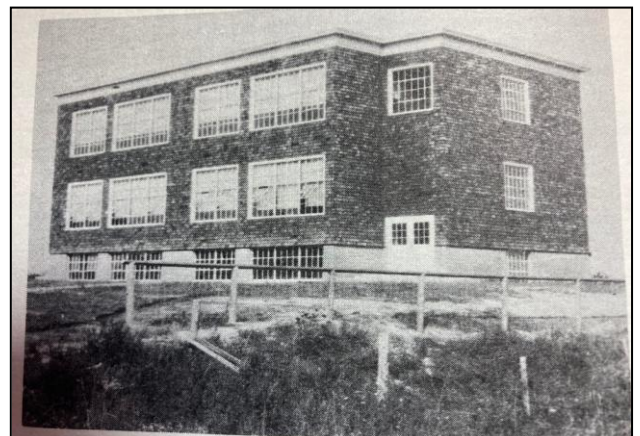
## February 2021 E-Newsletter

**Eric Hooglund, Editor**

*Published monthly for members of the Belgrade Historical Society*

BHS mourns the passing of Phronie *Guptill* Hammond, in January at age 97. She had been a major figure in Belgrade's civic organizations for over 65 years, and she also contributed to the BHS many historical documents, photographs and artifacts that are part of our permanent collections. Phronie was born at home, the old *Guptill* farm in Belgrade, on November 27, 1923. Her parents, Rosselle Nathaniel and Maude Susan *Yeaton* *Guptill*, had six older children who shared the joy of a new baby in the family: Four sisters and two brothers (a fifth sister had died as a toddler in 1910). Her eldest sister, Hazel (1903-1976), already was 20 and soon to be wed with David Mills, the brother of Minnie Mills, who married Will Penney. The sibling closest in age to Phronie was her sister Althea (1921-1925) who sadly died of childhood disease at age 4. Phronie's younger sister, Verna, was born in 1926.

In September 1938, Phronie became a student at Belgrade High School, and this marked the beginning of her lifelong involvement with her community. She was



president of her class during her freshman and sophomore years, and class secretary her junior year. She was on the softball team all four years and the team's captain her senior year. She also participated in the high school's plays all four years and was the school's secretary and treasurer during her senior year. During 1941-42, she served as senior class editor for the Belgrade High School

yearbook, *The Echo*, which is the reason we have so much information about her high school activities! At graduation, she gave the salutatory address for the class of 1942. It was a small class, only 7 seniors. Phronie's classmates were: Eddie Chaput, Jack Cook; Duncan Hutchinson; Naurine Kelley; Joyce



Page; and Donald Yeaton. Phronie's 'favorite' fellow student was Reginald Hammond (1922-2004), who had graduated from Belgrade High School two years earlier in 1940. She and Reginald got married in February 1943 and settled in a house in Belgrade Depot. Phronie's younger sister, Verna, and Reginald's younger brother, Clifton 'Skip' Hammond, still were in high school. Verna graduated in 1944 and worked at the State House in Augusta for a couple of years before marrying Skip; they lived in the house right across the street from Phronie and Reginald!

BHS extends its deepest condolences to the two daughters of Phronie Hammond; her son-in law; three grandsons; two granddaughters; ten great-grandchildren; and her sister and brother-in-law, Verna and Skip Hammond.



**Don't forget to renew your BHS membership for 2021!**  
**Or consider buying a membership for a friend or a family member who  
would enjoy the stories of Belgrade!**



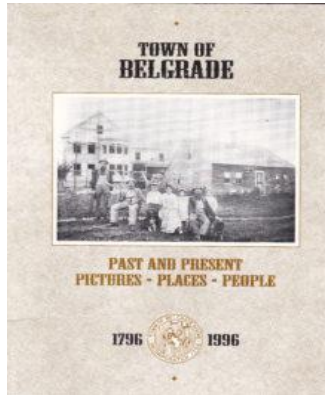
The Belgrade Historical Society welcomes all who support our mission and share our commitment to preserve the rich history of the town and its lakes. Individuals, families, organizations, or businesses may join. The membership year is January 1 – December 31, and at any meeting of the members each membership is entitled to one vote. Members may also attend any meeting of the Board of Directors . Please visit our website for more information on becoming a member or how you can donate to the BHS @ <http://belgradehistoricalsociety.org/>



**Don't forget our BHS Books are still available!**

**All proceeds to our Capital Fund for renovation of Belgrade's historic Town Meeting House, built in 1814 and used for the March 1815 Town Meeting.**

***Town of Belgrade Past and Present Pictures of People and Places***



A special hardbound photo and text book for the coffee table!

Special price: \$26, includes postage and handling or the

The *Past and Present*, reprint of 1976

Bicentennial book featuring over 100 old photographs, each with historically accurate descriptions! \$18, includes postage.



## **BELGRADE, A HISTORY**

EXCERPTED FROM

Illustrated History  
of Kennebec County, Maine  
1625-1799-1892

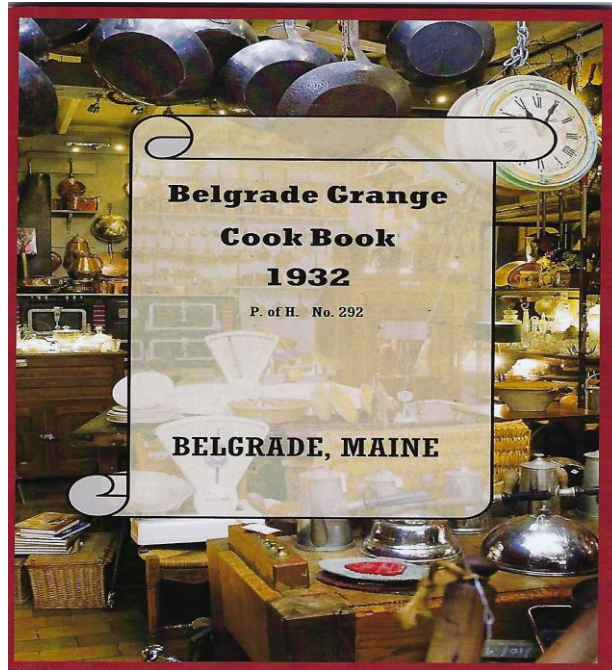
Editors: Henry D. Kingsbury, Simeon L Deyo



Also available is 'The History,' reprint of 1892 history compiled by Belgrade native John Clair Minot who eventually moved to Boston and became editor of *Youth's Companion*, a popular magazine for boys & an editor for Boston's Herald newspaper. \$10, includes postage.

A reprint of The Belgrade Grange cookbook is available at Hello Good Pie and Oliver and Friends Bookstore in Belgrade Lakes Village.

It is also available from the Belgrade Historical Society for \$15.00 + a \$3.00 for Postage. To order from BHS send an email to [belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com)



**Please stay safe!**

**Look for more events for the Belgrade Historical Website at <http://belgradehistoricalsociety.org/>**  
**For any suggestions or recommendations you may have for newsletters you would like to see email us at [belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com)**