

November 2018 E-Newsletter

Eric Hooglund, Editor

Published monthly for members of the Belgrade Historical Society

The Belgrade Historical Society is pleased to announce a major donation to our capital campaign for renovating Belgrade's historic, but deteriorating, Old Town House, adjacent to Woodside Cemetery—the town's original 'burying ground—on Rt. 135. The notice for this generous gift from Hammond Lumber Company came with the following note:

Hammond Lumber Company values our community and honors the spirit of making this a great building for the historical society. They are donating \$10,000 toward the project and are also committing to work with their vendors and manufacturers to procure discounted materials.

BHS sincerely appreciates this generous gift, which pushes total contributions for the Town House renovation project over \$75,000. We have made great progress since inaugurating our fund-raising campaign in June, and we appreciate every single donation!

The Hammond Lumber Company is Belgrade's most famous business. But how many people know that family has been an integral part of Belgrade for over 150 years. Abner Hammond (1819-1893) was born on his family's farm in Sidney, but he moved to Belgrade Depot in 1867 with his wife and two sons. According to J. Clair Minot's "Town of Belgrade" chapter in the 1892 *Illustrated History of Kennebec County, Maine, 1625-1977-1892*, Abner Hammond bought from Charles W. Stuart (1825-1895) the large store, which he owned in the Depot near the train station; Hammond then re-opened the store in January 1868 as A. Hammond and Sons (p. 1013). Abner Hammond's oldest son, Paul Hammond, was the grandfather of Clifton "Skip" Hammond, and it is with Skip Hammond that the origins of Hammond Lumber begin.

The pictures below and their captions are from p. 34 of *Town of Belgrade, Past and Present: Pictures, Places, People*, published in 1996 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Belgrade's incorporation as a town:

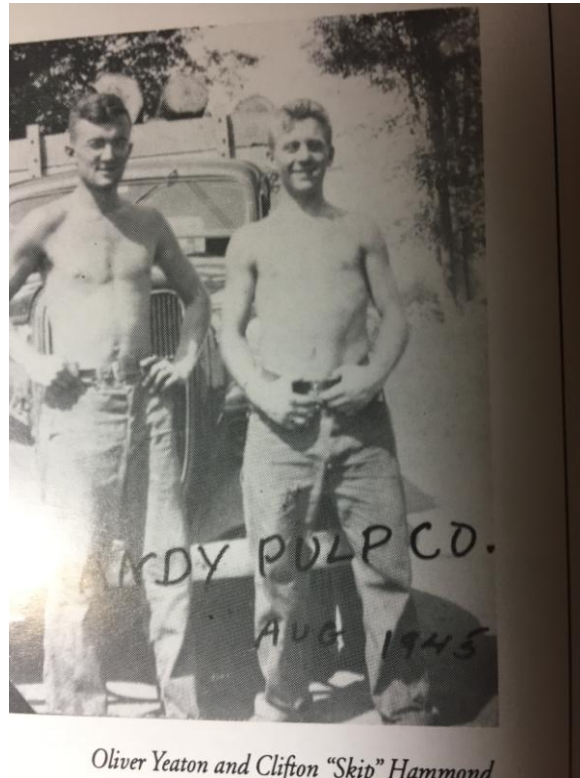


Skip Hammond with The Handy Pulp Company team of horses.

This was the start of Hammond Lumber Company! The two enterprising were Oliver Yeaton, on the left, and Clifton "Skip" Hammond, on the right. They were making a little money while in high school.

Here is the historical paragraph, also on p. 34 in the above-cited book,

"Little wonder that these lumbermen are taking a break! They've already put in a hard day's work as students at Belgrade High School. Their company, 'HandY Pulp Company,' with its total inventory, total equipment and total personnel is shown in the above photograph. Each afternoon they could be found at the wood lot off the Dunn Road. The "H" in HandY is for Hammond, Clifton (Skip) that is and the "Y" is for Yeaton, Oliver (Ollie) that is.



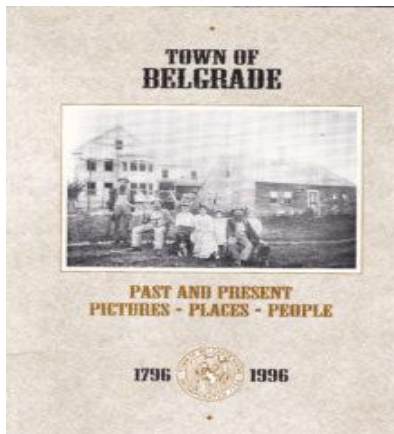
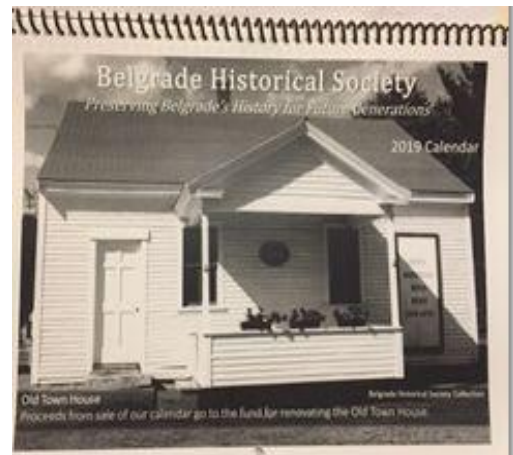
Oliver Yeaton and Clifton "Skip" Hammond

After High School [they both graduated from Belgrade High School in 1945], Ollie went on to the University of Maine where he prepared for his life's work in technology and sales with the Du Pont Company in Delaware. [The rest of the text explains how Skip Hammond went on to develop Hammond Lumber Company in the 1950s and 1960s, but that takes us out of the realm of history and into the present! Members who own the book or want to buy the reprint edition, which BHS is selling for \$30, are encouraged to read about the present on their own.]



Belgrade's Annual Holiday Stroll is Saturday, Dec. 1! As in past years, there will be lots of activities in the Center For All Seasons, including vendors selling one of a kind, hand crafted Christmas gifts. And the **BHS History Room** will be open from 9 am to 1 pm. Be sure to stop by to see what we are will be selling for Christmas.

- Our **2019 calendars**, with classic 8" X 10" photographs of Belgrade from the 1890s to the early 1950s. Wonderful way to enjoy Belgrade all year long! And the photos are perfect for framing as keepsakes when each month is over.

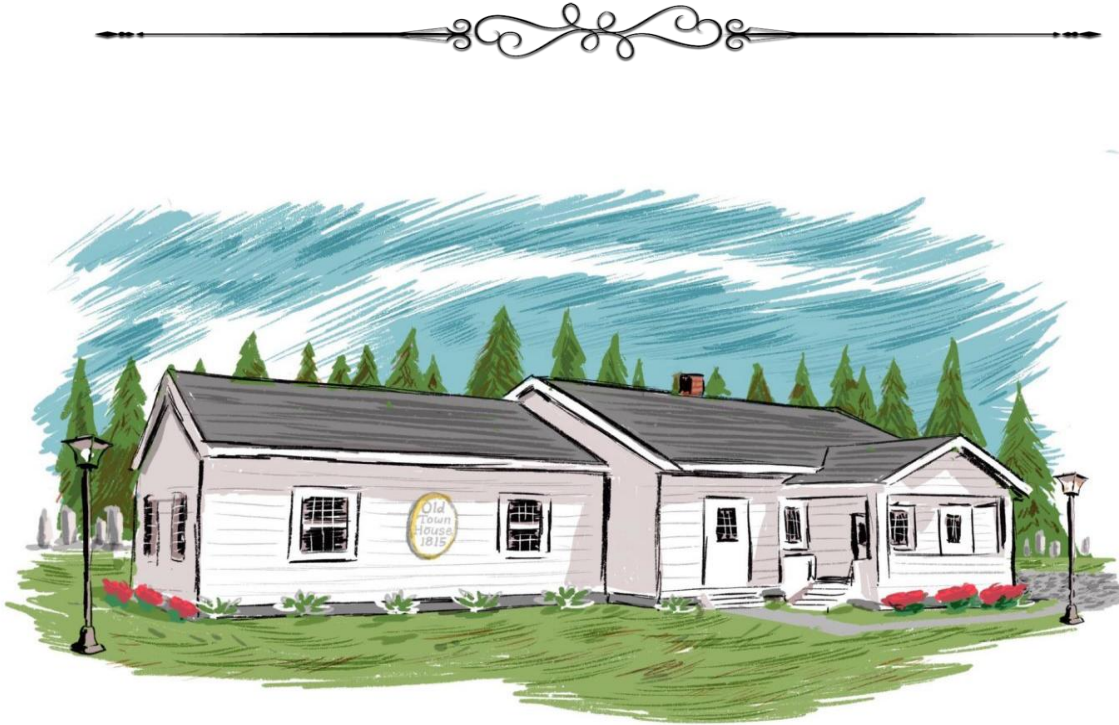


- **Reprints of Belgrade history books, including** the highly sought-after *Past and Present*, originally published in 1976, with hundreds of old photographs, all with historically relevant captions. At only \$15, it is a bargain. You'll want one for yourself and several more for family and friends! We also have reprints of *Town of Belgrade Past and Present: Pictures, Places, People*. It has fewer photographs but more historical and family information. And we have a reprint of J. Clair Minot's classic 1892 history of Belgrade, the indispensable source for the early history of Belgrade.

- **Antique postcards of** Belgrade Depot, Belgrade Lakes, North Belgrade and all the lakes.
- **Hand-crafted and tied fishing lures**, perfect stocking stuffers for the fishermen and fisherwomen on you list!
- **And various other unique items! Wonderful gifts that will be cherished for years by those who love the Belgrade Lakes region!**

And while your in the **BHS History Room**, you can see our historical photos on the walls, which document visually, the transformation of Belgrade from a prosperous farming community to a

popular summer resort. And you can view the fascinating artifacts from Christmases past in the display cases. And our History Room is **Kid-friendly**, so bring your favorite child or grandchild to play our Belgrade trivia game or color a Christmas scene!



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 before Dec. 31 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.

Remember...history not recorded is history lost!