



Belgrade Historical Society E-Newsletter May 2021

Edited by Eric Hooglund

Summer is fast approaching, and for this summer season The Belgrade Community Center is hosting six craft fairs in the Village Green Park, located on Route 27 at the southern end of Belgrade Lakes village. The first fair is VERY SOON: **Sunday, May 30!** Not quite summer, but Memorial Day weekend **IS** the historic start of the summer tourist season in the Belgrade Lakes region! So please mark this date on your calendars because your BHS is planning to have a booth at the fair and we would like to see you there!

With so many different artisans participating, this is going to be a fun fair that you don't want to miss! And do stop by **your** BHS booth, where you can meet and talk with BHS Board members. We are happy to provide you with up-to-date information on the progress we have been making in restoring Belgrade's old 1814 Town Meeting House.

As we prepare for this fair, we have been busy creating displays of some interesting small items in our collection, antique gadgets and implements that reveal the ingenuity of Belgrade's citizens 75 to 120 years ago. In addition, we will have items for sale that make wonderful gifts, for family and friends, or even yourself! These items include our popular reprint of the Belgrade Grange's 1932 Cookbook, various BHS history publications, reproductions of old postcards and hand-made

fishing lures. We also will have homemade refreshments for sale, appropriate for a sunny and warm day, which we hope May 30 will be.

The very next day after the fair—**Monday, May 31, 2021**—is Memorial Day, and the Town of Belgrade will conduct its annual Memorial Day Program at the Old Town Meeting House, a tradition for at least 90 years! Memorial Day originated in 1868 as Decoration Day, a day in late May to decorate the graves of the thousands of men who had died during the Civil War. We know from diaries and letters dating to the late 19th century that older children in Belgrade’s primary schools were placing flowers on the graves of Civil War veterans in Pine Gove cemetery by 1900. After World War I, Decoration Day morphed into Memorial Day with a fixed date of May 30. In 1971, Memorial Day became a federal holiday and was fixed as the last Monday in May.



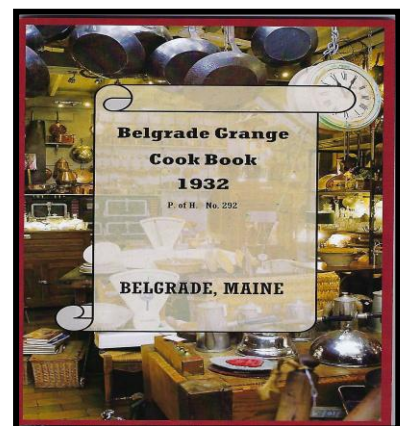
Old Town Meeting House in early May is ready for its final two coats of white paint! [Photo Credit: Dianne Dowd]

Memorial Day in Belgrade became a solemn and official occasion after World War I. The town organizes a memorial service, with a guest speaker, and this year invites veterans and those currently serving in the arm forces to read aloud the names of all deceased Belgrade veterans—649—who have served in the US Armed Forces from the Revolutionary War to the present. This year, the ceremony will be held at the nice-looking restored Old Town Meeting House (although some minor work still needs to be completed!). Members of Girl Scout Troop 1236 will be participating in the flag ceremony and placing a wreath at the grave of the Unknown Soldier. Volunteers will decorate the graves of the deceased veterans with flags. There will be local singers Christine Poulsen, David Archibald (Archie) and Frank Dionne who will sing patriotic songs. US Army Major Ian Hepburn of the Maine National Guard will be the guest speaker. It is a nice occasion to remember friends and relatives who have served our country but no longer are among us.



BHS Books for Sale!

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. The Belgrade Grange Cook Book has been a great seller; this book is a reprint of the original cover and all!

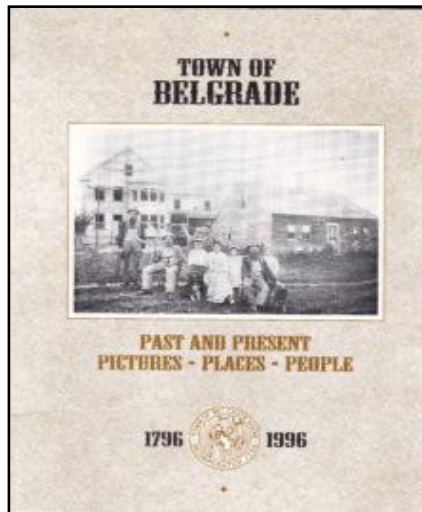


A reprint of The Belgrade Grange cookbook is available at Hello Good Pie and Oliver and Friends Bookstore in Belgrade Lakes Village.

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

Town of Belgrade Past and Present Pictures of People and Places

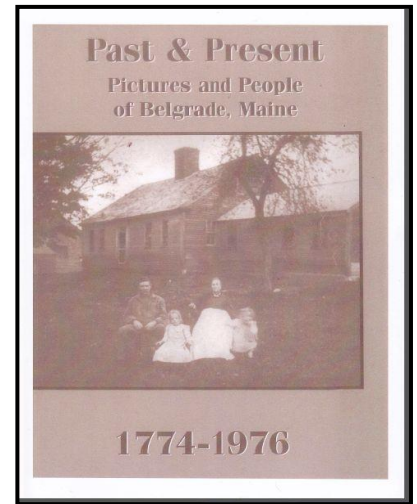


A special hardbound photo and text book for the coffee table!

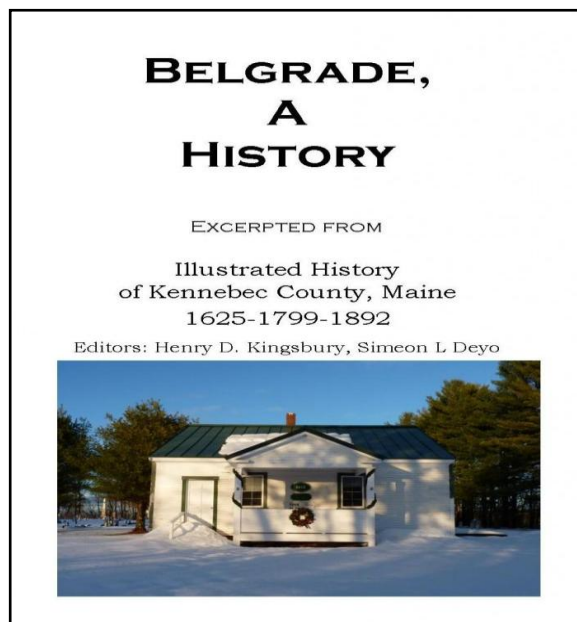
Special price: \$26.00, includes postage and handling

The Past and Present, reprint of 1976 Bicentennial book featuring over 100 old photographs, each with historically accurate

descriptions! \$18.00, includes postage.



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. \$10.00, includes postage.



**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/>



Rendering of Townhouse after Renovation

Sketch by Artist Erik Johnson
The **Capital Fund Drive** is going well!

For those who want to give and have not yet done so, it is not too late. 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.

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.

