

## **November and December 2021 E-NEWSLETTER**

**Edited by Eric Hooglund**

*Wishing all BHS members & friends Happy Holidays!*

How many readers know that Christmas 1914 was the coldest ever recorded in Belgrade? I did not until I read this item in the Waterville *Morning Sentinel* for December 31, 1914:

“Belgrade experienced the coldest weather on record Christmas, the mercury running to 40 degrees below zero in some places, while in other places the thermometers could not register the maximum degrees of cold.”

Despite the very frigid temps, it seems that Christmas activities were not disrupted, because the Belgrade correspondent for the paper wrote:

“Christmas Eve the children of the Sunday School enjoyed the exercises and tree at the Old South Church; also many enjoyed family trees Christmas night.”



*Blanche Minot watercolor of Old South Church in winter. BHS: Stuart Collection*

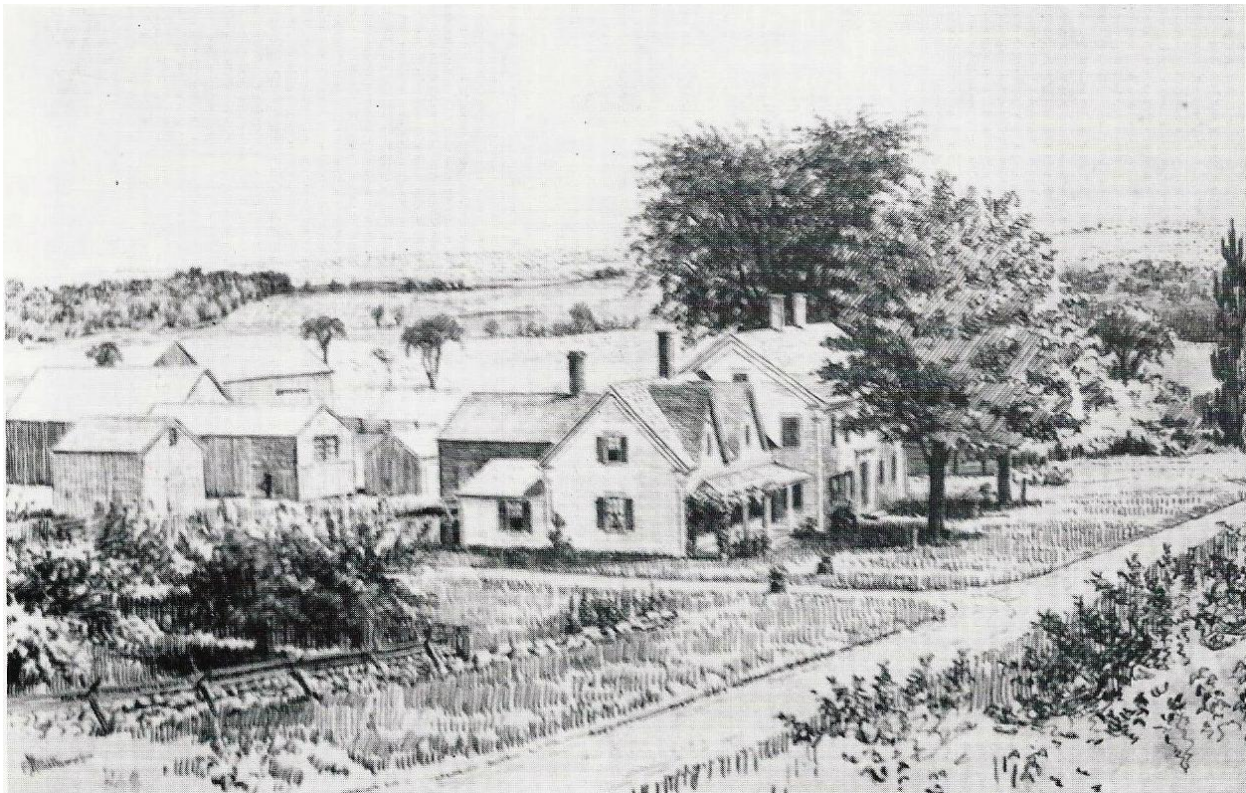


The correspondent also reported that on Christmas Day:

“Mrs. Guy Yeaton entertained a large family at dinner” and that many adult children who were teaching elsewhere in Maine or out of state had come home for Christmas. These included:

“Miss Blanche Minot, who teaches in Waverly, Mass., is spending the Christmas holidays with her mother, Mrs. Effie Minot. ... Miss Donna Yeaton, who teaches Latin in the high school in Port Jervis, N.Y., and Paul M. Yeaton, who is an instructor in the Westerleigh Collegiate Institute, Staten Island, are spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Yeaton.”

Blanche Minot (1874-1935) was the youngest child of George Evans (1836-1897) & Effie *Parcher* (1836-1939) Minot, and she lived most of her adult life in Waverly, where she had an art studio in her home. There she produced many watercolors, such as the one above, and a variety of other art works. She had two older brothers, George Linville Minot (1867-1933), who remained on the family farm, located on Minot Hill Road, and raised his family there; and John Clair Minot (1872-1941), who wrote the ‘History of Belgrade’ chapter for the 1892 *History of Kennebec Country*, when he was only 18! He subsequently moved to Boston, where he had a career as an editor for *Youth’s Companion* magazine and the *Boston Herald* newspaper.



***Blanche Minot drawing of the Minot Farm. BHS: Stuart Collection***

Sister and brother Donna and Paul Yeaton were the children of Edwin H. (1845-1926) and Lillian *Powers* (1859-1945) Yeaton, and they were born and raised in the old Yeaton farm, which their grandfather had built on the West Road in 1826. They both were members of the old Belgrade High School's first graduating class in 1908, and they went on to Bates College, graduating in 1912. In the early 1930s, Paul returned to Belgrade with his wife and three young sons to live on the family farm, and he became an active member of the town's many committees, civic and social organizations. Subsequently, Donna also returned home to Belgrade and became an active volunteer with the Ladies Aid Society and the Grange.

**Also, Hot off the Press!**

***Eighty-Eight Years on a Maine Farm, by Will and Minnie Penney***

Reprint of the 1970 edition by *Down East Books*.

Retail price: \$19.95

BHS price: \$17, plus \$4 postage and packaging if mailed

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)

**BELGRADE,  
A  
HISTORY**

EXCERPTED FROM

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

Editors: Henry D. Kingsbury, Simeon L. Deyo

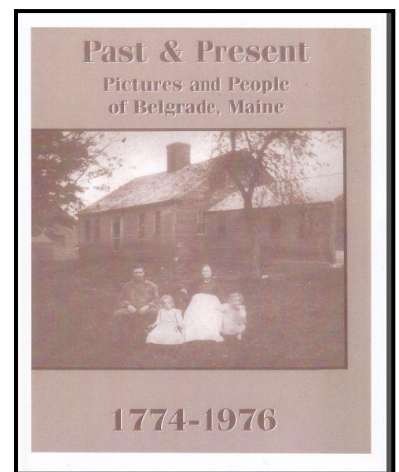
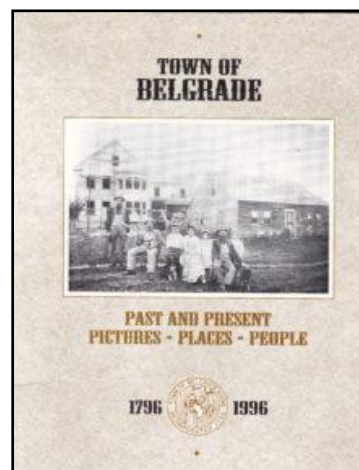


Also available is 'The History,' reprint of 1892 history compiled by Belgrade native John Clair Minot who eventually moved to Boston and became editor of *Youth's Companion*, a popular magazine for boys & an editor for Boston's Herald newspaper. \$10.00 includes postage.

***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, featuring over 100 old photographs, each with historically accurate descriptions! \$18.00 includes postage. 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.

## **BHS Capital Campaign**



### **Rendering of Townhouse after complete Renovation**

Sketch by Artist Erik Johnson

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 <http://belgradehistoricalsociety.org>  
Or contact us through email at the following email address:  
[belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

Don't forget that BHS is a non-profit 501 (3) 2 organizations, 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.

### **Remember...history not recorded is history lost!**

Don't forget our face book for the most up to date news and information on The Belgrade Historical Society at  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/httpwww.belgradehistoricalsociety.org>