



February 2018 E-Newsletter

Eric Hooglund, Editor

Published monthly for members of the Belgrade Historical Society

It is February in Belgrade, and that means winter has settled in, with ample snow and cold nights. But the days are getting longer, and sometimes the sun is warm enough to melt a bit of the ice and snow. Winter is a good time to take stock of the past year and begin to look forward to spring and summer. Taking stock for your BHS means cataloguing the 100-plus items that 27 members and friends donated for our collections in 2017. Every donated item is an historical artifact and is deeply appreciated. We received many old photographs, postcards, high school and youth camp yearbooks, and tourist brochures, all of which help us to understand and even to visualize the history of our unique community. We also received some unique artifacts, which we can use as fine permanent exhibits once we have renovated the Old Town House. It would be interesting to describe each of these special 2017 donations.



First, we received the heavy 19th century metal school bell who's pealing called common and later grammar school children to class in Belgrade Lakes for nearly 80 years. The bell may have been made right in Belgrade, for the name C. (for Charles) M. (for Melvin) Pray is engraved on its top exterior rim, along with the date '1887.' Pray (1835-1904) was a local farmer who made metal tools and implements, and could have cast the bell. We believe the bell was used in the District 11 common school up to 1900, when the

New Century School replaced it. By the late 1920s, a larger school was needed, so the bell moved with the students in 1929 to the new grammar school on School Street, where it resided for the next 40 years. After 1969, the school became the first Belgrade Health Clinic, which did not need a bell. The journey of the old school bell during the past 40-plus years is not known, but BHS is grateful to have received it and will preserve it for future generations.

Speaking of schools, BHS received in November the old Regulator wall clock that once hung on the wall of the one-room Lincoln School that used to be on the Bartlett Road, near the railroad tracks, an area known as ‘Slab City’ in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The clock is encased in a 3-foot long wooden box frame. The Gilbert Company of Winsted, Connecticut, manufactured the clock, probably between 1895 and 1900. We know the clock was in the old Lincoln School that was demolished in 1903 after a new school was built north of the railroad tracks. Lincoln School was closed in 1923, and its students were transferred to the new Central School in Belgrade Depot. The new Central School had no use for an old wall clock, which then fell into private possession for over 90 years. BHS is grateful to have this important artifact of our town’s history.



The third significant donation for the BHS collection is a trio of Edwardian era (1903-1914) dresses. Each is sheer white cotton, a popular fabric of the period. The dresses belonged to Rose (Rockwood) McKissick, who was born and raised on the Rockwood farm at the corner of the West Road and Route 135. During the first decade of the 20th century, she lived mostly in the Boston area, where she made and sold perfumes and potions for women. However, she visited the family homestead in the summers, and probably wore one or all three of these dresses while vacationing in

Belgrade. To display these gowns properly, BHS will need some dress forms. If any of our readers find one for sale and would like to buy and donate it to BHS, we would be grateful, and so would the dresses!

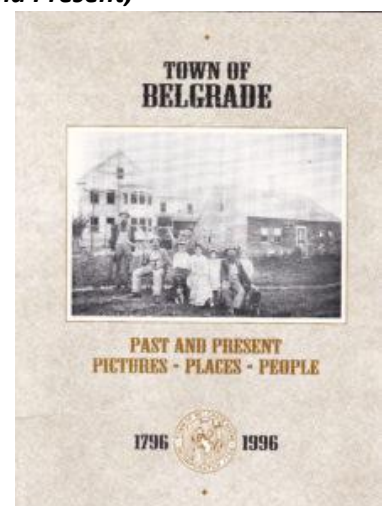


We hope you enjoyed this monthly e-newsletter and if you have any suggestions you would like to see an article on, please email Eric at eric.hooglund@gmail.com.
Thanks Eric another great newsletter!



Reminder: The BHS has the 2nd printings of the Town Of Belgrade Past and Present, Pictures -Places -People 1796-1996 available for sale at the Belgrade History Room, Day's Store and the Belgrade Town Office. Pricing for these books are \$30.00 each or \$27.00 for Members.

We also have the 2nd printings of the 1774-1976 Soft Cover "Past & Present", Pictures and People of Belgrade, Maine Books, are available for sale at the Belgrade History Room, \$15.00 or \$13.50 for Members.





Remember...history not recorded is history lost!

Still Searching for the Oldest Photograph of the

OLD TOWNHOUSE

One of the oldest extant buildings in Belgrade is the Old Townhouse on Cemetery Road beside the Woodside Cemetery. Built in 1815 and in use as the location of the annual Town Meetings until 1873, the facility has a long and interesting history.

Dennis "Denny" Keschl, of the Belgrade Historical Society's Board of Directors, has been researching this historically significant building. One thing he's not been able to find is a photograph showing the building without the front porch, which was added in the early 1940s. With his deep interest in the Old Townhouse, Denny is personally putting up a prize of \$100 for the oldest known picture of the building prior to the porch's addition.

If you have an old photograph of the Old Townhouse, please send us a copy with descriptive information to verify its provenance to:

Belgrade Historical Society

P.O. Box 36A

Belgrade, ME 04917

After reviewing the photo and information, our Collections Committee will make a determination as to which photograph will win the reward. If more than one copy of the winning photograph is submitted, then the one that we receive first will be the winner. The society will keep copies of all the entries submitted for our use. If an original is submitted, we will make a copy and return the original unless it was given as a donation. The reward will be made immediately after the oldest photograph is selected. If you have any questions, please contact Denny at: keschl@yahoo.com tel: 207-495-2973 ~ cell: 207-441-3701

