

Maud Hart Lovelace - Betsy-Tacy Society Timeline



- 1892 Maud Palmer Hart is born April 25, 1892 in Mankato, MN. She was the daughter of Thomas & Stella (Palmer) Hart.
- 1902 Thomas Hart, Maud's father, privately published a collection of her poetry.
- 1910 Maud graduated from Mankato High School and enrolled at the University of Minnesota.
- 1911 Maud Hart sold her first short story to the Los Angeles Times – “*Number Eight*”
- 1917 Maud Hart and Delos Lovelace are married on November 29th. Delos was born in Brainerd, MN and worked as a journalist for the Minneapolis Tribune.
- 1926 First novel written by Maud Hart Lovelace is published, “*The Black Angels.*”
- 1931 Merian Hart Lovelace is born January 18th. Her mother continues to write adult novels. As Merian grew older Maud told her stories about her childhood in Mankato. These stories would later become the Betsy-Tacy books.
- 1940 Betsy-Tacy by Maud Hart Lovelace was published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company. From 1940- 1955, nine more books would complete a series. Three companion books were also published.
- 1961 The Mankato Branch of the American Association of University Women sponsored a “Betsy-Tacy Day” celebration and Rex Hill, the mayor of Mankato, proclaimed October 7, 1961, Betsy-Tacy Day.
- 1967 Delos Lovelace passed away January 17th.
- 1977 The Free Press successfully championed for the Maud Hart Lovelace wing for the new Minnesota Valley Regional Library, which was dedicated in 1977 with Maud's daughter Merian Kirchner in attendance.
- 1979 The Mankato Friends of the Library Association establishes the Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award for children's books.
- 1980 Artist, Marian Anderson commissioned to paint a portrait of Lovelace and a mural for the Lovelace wing of the library. An unveiling ceremony was held on March 9, 1980.
- The Friends of the Library and the Sweet Adelines hold a Betsy-Tacy Festival at the Minnesota Valley Regional Library.
- 1980 Maud Hart Lovelace passed away March 11, 1980 in California and her ashes are buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Mankato.
- 1990 Small group meets to discuss the Betsy-Tacy books going out of print. The Betsy-Tacy Society was established to encourage the re-publication of the Betsy-Tacy books, to preserve and protect homes and landmarks depicted in the books, and to promote awareness of Maud Hart Lovelace and her work.
- Initial one-page newsletter sent to BTS membership. This has developed into the current 30- page Journal sent to all members.

- 1989 Shirley Lieske and the Greater Mankato Area Camp Fire began the project to install a bench at the foot of Center Street as a memorial to Lovelace. The stone bench and plaque was dedicated on April 30th.
- 1992 1st Betsy-Tacy Society Convention held in Mankato to celebrate Maud Hart Lovelace's 100th birthday. Guest of honor was Merian Lovelace Kirchner, Maud's daughter, and noted Minnesota author, Patricia Hampl gave the keynote address.
- 1993 HarperCollins reissued the first four titles in the Betsy-Tacy series, due to the campaigning of the Betsy Tacy Society. Soon after the six high school books in the series were reissued.
- 1995 The Betsy-Tacy Society purchases Tacy's house at 332 Center Street, the real-life home of Frances Kenney (Tacy). The house was built in 1881. Restoration work on Tacy's House begins.
- 2nd Betsy-Tacy Society Convention held in Mankato with Dr. Louisa Smith, Professor of English at Mankato State University as the keynote speaker.
- 1997 3rd Betsy-Tacy Society Convention held in Mankato with the late Elizabeth Riley (Maud's editor of the Betsy-Tacy series) as the keynote speaker.
- Merian Lovelace Kirchner passed away on September 25th.
- 2000 HarperCollins reissues the entire Betsy-Tacy series plus the three companion books, *Emily of Deep Valley*, *Carney's House Party* and *Winona's Pony Cart*.
- 2001 BTS purchases the childhood home of Maud Hart Lovelace (Betsy's House), saving it from possible demolition. The house was built in 1892.
- 2002 4th Betsy-Tacy Society Convention held in Mankato, MN with Peggy Kirch as the keynote speaker. Peggy is the granddaughter of Frances Kenney Kirch (who was Maud's best friend and the character of 'Tacy' in the books.)
- 2004 BTS Membership has grown to over 1500 throughout the U.S. Canada, Japan, France, Netherlands, Australia, Germany, England and more.
- 2005-2009 "Hometime," a PBS syndicated home improvement show, films a total of five episodes at Maud Hart Lovelace's childhood home.