



**Betsy-Tacy Gift Shop Order Form**  
 Betsy-Tacy Society  
 P.O.Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094  
 Email: btsmankato@gmail.com Phone: 507-345-9777  
 www.betsy-tacysociety.org

**Books/Novels by Maud Hart Lovelace – The Betsy-Tacy Series & Deep Valley Books**

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
	Betsy-Tacy	\$5.99	
	Betsy-Tacy and Tib	\$5.99	
	Betsy and Tacy Go Over The Big Hill	\$6.99	
	Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown	\$6.99	
	The Betsy-Tacy Treasury (Combines the first 4 books listed above)	\$15.99	
	Heaven to Betsy/Betsy In Spite of Herself	\$15.99	
	Betsy was a Junior/Betsy and Joe	\$15.99	
	Betsy and the Great World/Betsy's Wedding	\$15.99	
	Emily of Deep Valley (New Edition)	\$12.99	
	Carney's House Party/Winona's Pony Cart (New Edition)	\$13.99	
	The Black Angels	\$12.95	
	Early Candlelight – Maud received an award from the U.S. Army at Fort Snelling, MN for this book.	\$17.95	
	One Stayed at Welcome – Book based on the early history and founding of Eden Prairie, MN	\$14.00	
	Betsy-Tacy CD (Audiobook)	\$17.95	
	Gentlemen from England	\$22.95	

**Books About Maud Hart Lovelace/Betsy-Tacy**

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
	Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley – A book of Mankato people & places from the Betsy-Tacy series. By Julie Schrader	\$25.00	
	Discover Deep Valley – A Guide to Maud Hart Lovelace's Mankato. By Julie Schrader	\$12.95	
	Collected Short Stories Volume 1: Maud Hart Lovelace and Delos Lovelace. Edited by Julie Schrader	\$14.00	
	Collected Short Stories Volume 2: Maud Hart Lovelace and Delos Lovelace. Edited by Julie Schrader	\$15.00	
	Orange Blossoms Everywhere – The Story of Maud and Delos Lovelace in California 1953-1980. Reprinted by the Southern Chapter of the Betsy-Tacy Society	\$10.00	
	Betsy-Tacy in Deep Valley: People and Places - By Carlienne Frisch	\$10.00	
	The City at Their Feet: Maud and Delos in Manhattan - By the Greater New York Chapter	\$12.95	
	Between Deep Valley and The Great World: Maud Hart Lovelace in Minneapolis. By Amy Dolnick Rechner	\$9.95	
	Future in a Handbasket By Amy Dolnick	\$19.95	

**Note Cards/Holiday Cards**

Blank inside with white envelopes – 5 1/2 x 4 1/4 Package of 6

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
	<p><b>Choice of Note Cards</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's Trunk <input type="checkbox"/> Being Good <input type="checkbox"/> Immortal Trio <input type="checkbox"/> A Note for You <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Maple Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Maud Hart Lovelace Home &amp; Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Deep Valley <input type="checkbox"/> MHL Deep Valley</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Maud and Delos <input type="checkbox"/> High Street House <input type="checkbox"/> Maud's Birthday Party Set (3 images)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Betsy-Tacy Society: Hill Street Winter Scene by Cheryl Harness (Inside: Happy Holidays From Deep Valley, Tea Length Red Envelope)</p>	\$8.00	

**Ephemera**

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
	<p><b>Photo Postcards</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Maud Hart Lovelace (Portrait by Marian Anderson) <input type="checkbox"/> Maud with daughter Merian at age 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's House <input type="checkbox"/> Tacy's House <input type="checkbox"/> Maud and Bick (Betsy &amp; Tacy) <input type="checkbox"/> Midge (Tib)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Maud and Delos Lovelace <input type="checkbox"/> Maud Hart Lovelace (1940) <input type="checkbox"/> Mankato High School (Deep Valley High)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Immortal Trio <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy-Tacy (1940 Book Cover) <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy-Tacy and Tib (1941 Book Cover)</p>	\$1.00 each or 10 for \$9.00	
	<b>Trio Photo "Betsy-Tacy Days" in Mankato, MN 1961 &amp; Betsy, Tacy &amp; Tib illustration by Lois Lenksi – 2 sided 5x7 card</b>	\$1.50	
	<b>Betsy &amp; Joe's Wedding Invitation – Reproduction of an original promotional card printed for the release of "Betsy's Wedding" in 1955</b>	\$2.00	
	<b>Maud Hart Lovelace Booklet – Reproduction of an original publication published by Thomas C. Crowell Company.</b>	\$5.00	
	<b>Journals – Hardcover, 112 lined pages</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy Tacy <input type="checkbox"/> Friends Forever <input type="checkbox"/> Forget-Me-Not	\$5.00 (each)	
	<b>Journal Gift Set – Choice of journal with matching bookmark and two Betsy-Tacy Pencils</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy-Tacy Journal <input type="checkbox"/> Friends Forever Journal <input type="checkbox"/> Forget-Me-Not Journal	\$10.00	
	<b>Laminated Bookmark with brass book charm</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Photo of Maud & Bick (Betsy & Tacy) <input type="checkbox"/> Photo of Maud <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy in the Maple Tree (Lenski illustration)	\$2.95 each	
	<b>Betsy-Tacy Bookmark - Reproduction from the publisher of the BT Bks Thomas Crowell Co.</b>	\$2.00	
	<b>Maud's Signature Bookplate (1) – Reproduction autographed bookplate</b>	\$5.00	
	<b>Betsy and Tacy Bookplate (Set of 5) This Book belongs to _____</b>	\$2.00	
	<b>Bookplate Set - This Tome Belongs To _____ Betsy, Tacy, Tib Bench/Betsy All Grown Up</b>	\$1.50	



*Betsy-Tacy Society*  
 P.O. Box 94  
 Mankato, MN 56002-0094  
 www.betsy-tacysociety.org

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT  
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# Deep Valley Sun

NEWSLETTER OF THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

To promote and preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy and her work, encourage and support literacy and conserve historic landmarks in Mankato

VOL. 11 ISSUE 1

FALL 2015

## I Remember When a Grocery Store...



Sieberg's Grocery on Byron Street. Photo courtesy of Patti Sjulstad

By Joan Johnson Brown

It's been a while, quite a while in fact, but back in the 1940s, a grocery store was a grocery store without pretensions of being anything else.

There were no huge parking lots, no giant carts, electronically operated doors did not open before you, and the entire experience was a much simpler, easier process than today's stressful encounter with the walk down endless aisles and the long lines at checkout.

Throughout the Mankato area, you could find small, friendly neighborhood grocery stores. These mainly "Mom and Pop" stores were not only a convenient place to pick up a few necessities for baking or to buy hand-packed ice cream, essentials for unexpected guests for supper, but were also the anchoring spot of the neighborhood. The grocer and his wife knew you, your family, and your dog. The atmosphere was friendly, welcoming and low-key; there were no automatic door openers and

### In This Issue

- A Betsy-Tacy Proposal.....5
- Becoming Friends with BT .....6
- My Love Affair with BT .....7
- Feeding Generations .....8
- Deep Valley Homecoming ...14
- Deep Valley Book Festival.....21

no cart to wheel about – you used a basket. No one was in a hurry and the atmosphere was leisurely, although if you did need to rush, you could be in and out in ten minutes. The grocery shopper did not have to debate about which brand or what price. It was all about

the same. No coupons passed hands, charge accounts were prevalent, and the entire experience was not so much a chore but a kind of personal visit. Kids rode their bikes there on errands, and parents stopped by on their way home from work. They were fun places to go.

Mothers sent their kids to pick up a loaf of bread or a quart of milk for supper, and sometimes, but not always, we were given a nickel for penny candy, the nickel being carefully wrapped in a corner of a handkerchief, so as not to lose it. We lingered in front of the candy counter, debating whether a Batman sucker was our choice, or would it be a package of Walnettos? Maybe the black licorice strap with the cutouts of cats and dolls that we pushed through the strap. Perhaps a jawbreaker or a wax miniature doll with blue or pink syrup. Maybe a roll of lifesavers; a daring choice was the rum-flavored variety. Root beer barrels were good, but they scratched the roof of your mouth! We tried to hurry with our choices, knowing that mother needed the vanilla for the cake she was baking, but these were agonizing decisions.

After we had made our choices, the grocer patiently putting each item into a small paper bag, we undid the nickel from its confinement and, clutching our bag of candy, we tucked away the vanilla and the quart of milk that we'd been sent for, and waited by the large and impressive cash register, watching the grocer touch the various keys, loving the ringing of the brass drawer as it lurched open. As we grew older, we regarded the penny candy as too childish, and we went on to candy bars. They were all a nickel, and some have survived the years, others are no more. One that might now be gone was called "Fifth Avenue." During the war, chocolate was in short supply, but a concoction called Marshmallow Cups became a satisfactory replacement.



Photo courtesy of Patti Sjulstad

See 'Grocery store' page 13



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Did you know you don't have to be a member of Facebook to view the Betsy-Tacy Society Facebook page? The BTS now boasts more than 3,000 Facebook fans! Stay current on BTS events or simply join in the conversation. It's fun!

[www.facebook.com/BetsyTacy](http://www.facebook.com/BetsyTacy)



Follow us on  
**Instagram**

Get access to all the photos and fun from our events by checking us out on Instagram!

[Instagram@betsy\\_tacy](https://www.instagram.com/betsy_tacy)

### Visit the Betsy-Tacy Society website

Current and back issues of the *Deep Valley Sun* and other special features are available on the BTS website: There also are plenty of resources for parents, librarians and teachers interested in learning more about Maud Hart Lovelace and the Betsy-Tacy books.

Plus, check out our online shop; your purchases support our missions!

[www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org)

**The Betsy-Tacy Society**  
*Est. 1990*  
 P.O. Box 94  
 Mankato, MN 56002-0094  
 (507) 345-9777  
 www.betsy-tacysociety.org  
 501(c)3 organization

**BTS Staff**  
 Ann Swartz-Beckius--Operations and Outreach Coordinator

**Board of Directors**  
 Lona Falenczykowski, President  
 Julie Schrader, Vice President  
 Chris Christy, Secretary  
 Tom Salisbury, Treasurer

**Board Members**  
 Michelle May Eileen Wells  
 Anne Knewton Meghan Rodgers  
 Stacy Lienemann

**Annual Membership Levels**  
 Student (K-12)/Senior (62+).... \$20.00  
 Individual..... \$25.00  
 Household..... \$40.00  
 Maud's Club..... \$100.00  
 Writer's Guild..... \$500.00  
 Legacy Circle..... \$1,000.00

Member benefits include a 20% off gift certificate to Tacy's Gift Shop, E-newsletter, online access to Members Only specials, and free admission to the Betsy-Tacy houses. Higher membership levels offer more support to the Betsy-Tacy Society.

**Contact information:**  
 BTSMankato@gmail.com  
**Membership:**  
 membership@betsy-tacysociety.org  
 Shop: shopkeeper@betsy-tacysociety.org

**Online Gift Shop:**  
 Shop our online catalog:  
 www.betsy-tacysociety.org.  
 Credit cards & PayPal available.  
 A printable order form can be found on our website, or write to request one.

**Tacy's House and Gift Shop:** 332 Center Street in Mankato  
**Betsy's House Museum:** 333 Center Street in Mankato

Open Saturdays 1-4 p.m. from April-December and closed January-March.  
 Admission: \$5 for adults, \$2 youth 6-16 and children 5 and under free. NO admission to gift shop only. BTS members are admitted free during regular hours.

**Special House Tours:**  
 Reservations for special tours are requested 2 weeks in advance. See BTS website for current rates for special tours, group tours, or school groups. Or contact us for more details. Contact us by email or phone.

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## New Members

Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2014

- Rebekah Almond
- Jennifer Alvarado
- Karen Anderson
- Joelle Anthony
- Judy Arzdorf
- Annette Asplen
- Hayley Barrett
- Margaret Barry
- Julie Bell
- Anna Bogen
- Judy Brown
- Rochelle Brown
- Mary Costell
- James Davidson
- Anastacia Davis
- Nancy Eggen
- Judy Ehrenstein
- Christine Faust
- Linda Fletcher
- Sue Gagliardi
- Jodee Grau
- Margaret Griffin
- Denise Hamma
- Katherine Hughes
- Elizabeth Kirschner
- Kathy Knudson-Mestnik
- Kathy Lerfald
- Beryl Karen Levine
- Judith Lilly
- Lisa Mayotte
- Annie Melcher
- Jan Nagel
- Devon Neece
- Karen Nolan
- Molly Olson
- Elizabeth Peters
- Karen Philipson
- Betsy Phillips
- Rebecca Pollack
- Betsy Schwartz
- Katie Smentek
- Terri Sorem
- Cynthia Stevens
- Lurette Sundberg
- Renee Szostek
- Lilly Tange
- Helen Tidwill
- Kathryn Venezia
- Debbie Wakely
- Mary-Margaret Walker
- Adele White
- Jamie Wimble

## New Members

Jan. 1-July 31, 2015

- Mary Baumhoer
- Eileen Beha
- Ann Bremer
- Amy Causton
- Cindy Collins
- Susan Ellman
- Kristi Etter
- Isabella Jaye & Jeannen
- Prezyblyski
- Louise Kelley
- Anne Knewton
- Anne Kerr
- Nancy McCabe
- Allison Morley
- Arline Mues
- Sylvie Olson-Dorf
- Anne Scharfenberg
- Marilyn Simons
- Suzanne Weir
- Sue Knewton
- Laurie Young

## 2014 Donations

- \$5 - \$50**
- Jean Baughman
- Susan & Robert Brown
- Colleen Canavan – Endowment
- Bonnie Catron
- Mary Chamberlain
- Pamela Fassler
- Sarah Geiger
- Janice Geiger
- Mary Grams
- Bob & Kathy Hanson
- Mary Chaun Holland
- Carole Huber
- Erik Johnson
- Janet Menzer
- Susan Orchard – Endowment
- Genevieve Orr
- Mary Raber
- Linda Rouzer
- Kevin & Wanda Spading
- Renee Szostek
- Beth Walls
- \$51 - \$100**
- Cheryl Banks
- Bicycle Alliance of MN

- Colleen Canavan – Endowment
- Chris Christie
- Jammie Dennin
- Dena Fleurichamp
- Janet Goff
- Dawn Grage
- Sue Johnson
- Susan McCulloch
- Sherri Newhouse
- Randy Pidhayny
- Susan Shanahan
- Katherine Stollenwerk
- Thrivent Financial

- \$101 - \$499**
- Barnes & Noble
- Sharon Breegemann
- Lee & Ed Carpenter
- Bonnie Daly
- Rod Elbert
- Mary Ann Gilbertson
- Mary Kivimaki
- William Lee
- Pat Nelson
- Hilah Roizer
- Norma Thomas
- Linda Watson

- \$500 - \$999**
- Kathy Baxter
- Margaret Kirch
- \$1001 - \$3000**
- Nate & Lori Gardner
- \$5,000 - \$10,000**
- Helen Gift

## 2015 Donations

- \$0 - \$49**
- Kathleen Baxter – Memory of Colleen O’Neil
- Eileen Beha – Honor of Marcella Larsen
- Susan & Bob Brown
- Susan & Bob Brown – Endowment Fund/Memory of Rachel Rose
- Susan & Bob Brown – Endowment fund/Memory of Richard Orchard
- Stacey Burford

## New Members

Every new member receives a new member packet that includes the most recent newsletter, a history of the BTS, a Maud Hart Lovelace timeline, and much more.

As a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society you will:

- Be kept abreast of developments with the society and its outreach.
- Have access to the “Members Only” page on the BTS website, where society archives are available.
- Be an integral part of the BTS mission to preserve the Betsy-Tacy houses, which are historical literary landmarks.
- Help BTS reach a new generation of readers as it introduces the timeless works of Maud Hart Lovelace.
- Be a part of the movement that values history and appreciates literature.

## Great Gift Idea . . .

Membership to the Betsy-Tacy Society makes a great gift for that special person on your gift list. With each paid gift membership, we'll send a new-member packet and sign your name to a special card announcing your gift. Just fill out the membership form at right with the recipient's name and mailing address and tell us how to sign your card.



## Privacy Statement

The Betsy-Tacy Society is committed to respecting privacy of our members. Please be assured that we do not rent or sell our mailing list. If you have any questions about your member information and how it is used, please contact us at membership@betsy-tacysociety.org or (507) 345-9777.

## Address Changes

Please remember to inform us if your mailing address or e-mail address changes. Most of our mailings are sent via bulk mail to save on postage costs and keep membership rates low. Bulk mail is NOT forwarded even when a change-of-address card is left with the post office.

## Betsy-Tacy Society Annual Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Renewal

## Membership Levels

Member benefits include a 20% off gift certificate to Tacy's Gift Shop, E-newsletter, online access to Members Only specials, and free admission to the Betsy-Tacy houses. Higher membership levels offer more support to the Betsy-Tacy Society.

- \$20--Student (K-12)/Senior (62+)
- \$25--Individual
- \$40--Household (2 adults + up to 6 children under 16)
- \$100--Maud's Club
- \$500--Writer's Guild
- \$1,000--Legacy Circle

We LOVE our members! Your support proves you value the Betsy-Tacy Society and our mission to promote and to preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy and her work, encourage and support literacy and conserve historic Betsy-Tacy landmarks in Mankato.

## Donations

I want to support the Betsy-Tacy Society's mission by making a tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ above my annual membership dues.

This donation is in memory of/ in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues and monetary gifts cover a growing part of the BTS annual operating budget. Thank you for your support as the BTS preserves and promotes the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace.

Please return this form to:  
 BTS Membership  
 P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094

	I Love Betsy-Tacy Note Pad	\$2.75	
	Pink Parchment Stationary	\$7.95	
	Betsy's List Slim Note Pad	\$2.75	
	Betsy's Trunk Post-Its	\$1.50	
	Betsy, Tacy & Tib Paper Dolls ( <i>To color and cut</i> )	\$4.00	
	Betsy, Tacy High School Paper Dolls ( <i>To color and cut</i> )	\$7.50	
	Maud's Deep Valley Poster (11 ½ x 14) by Marian Anderson. Limited edition, signed by artist	\$15.00	
	Betsy-Tacy Coloring Book by Cheryl Harness	\$5.95	
	The Immortal Trio Poster (10 x 15) by Cheryl Harness	\$10.00	
	Lois Lenski Colorized Map of Hill Street Neighborhood (11 x 17)	\$10.00	
	Best Friends Poster – 8 ½ x 11 - Lois Lenski books covers of the first 4 books	\$3.00	
	License Plate Holder – I'd Rather Be Reading Betsy-Tacy	\$6.00	

### CD, DVD & Songbook

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
	Hometime DVD – Vol. 1 – <i>Syndicated home-improvement show, Betsy's house restoration in 2005, first two episodes</i>	\$10.00	
	Hometime DVD – Vol. 2 – <i>Syndicated home-improvement show, Betsy's house restoration in 2005, last two episodes</i>	\$10.00	
	Letters from Maud CD & Companion booklet – A visual collection of letters written to Thomas Edwards, 1940-1955. Includes 20 page booklet of the transcribed book reviews from the Mankato Free press	\$12.00	
	Maud's Music of Deep Valley: A Musical Tribute to Maud Hart Lovelace	\$16.95	
	Betsy-Tacy Songbook: Music from the Deep Valley books of Maud Hart Lovelace - 40 songs with scanned original vintage copies of the sheet music/covers and information about each song and where it appears in the Betsy-Tacy books.	\$25.00	

### Betsy-Tacy Fashions

Qty.	Item	Size/Color	Price	Total
	Forget-Me-Not T-Shirt (white) <i>Adult Sizes: SM, MED, LG, XL, 2XL, 3XL Please circle size</i>		\$10.00	
	Onesie – I Love Betsy-Tacy – <i>Sizes 3-6 mo., 6-12 mo., 12-18 mo. Please circle size</i>		\$12.00	
	Bib – I love Betsy Tacy		\$10.00	
	Everything Pudding Apron (red with black ink)		\$15.00	
	I Love Betsy, Tacy & Tib T-Shirt (Pink or Gray) <i>Children Sizes: XS, S, M, LG Please circle size</i>		\$12.00	
	I Love Betsy, Tacy & Tib T-Shirt (Pink or Gray) <i>Adult Sizes: SM, Med, LG, XL, 2XL, 3XL Please circle size</i>		\$15.00	

### Specialties

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
	Gold Ornament <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's House <input type="checkbox"/> Tacy's House	\$18.00 (each)	
	Maud's Paper Clip – <i>from Maud Hart Lovelace Literary Estate. Used by Maud for her Betsy-Tacy manuscripts &amp; research notes.</i>	\$5.00	
	Canvas Tote Bag – <i>Quote from Betsy and Tacy go Downtown and illustration by Vera Neville</i>	\$14.00	
	Pencil (2) <input type="checkbox"/> I Love Betsy-Tacy <input type="checkbox"/> I Love Maud Hart Lovelace <input type="checkbox"/> Ray's Shoe Store <input type="checkbox"/> Heinz Restaurant <input type="checkbox"/> Carnegie Library	\$1.00	
	Maud Hart Lovelace Signature Pen	\$5.00	
	The Winding Hall of Fate Green 16 oz Travel Hot/Cold Mug	\$8.99	
	Magnets – <b>Choice of:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> The Bench <input type="checkbox"/> (Book) Betsy-Tacy <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's House	\$2.50 (each)	
	Deep Valley Afghan: <i>Full color afghan 42" x 60" plus 2" fringe</i>	\$60.00	
	Little Glass Pitcher: <i>replica of the little glass pitcher Tacy gave to Betsy on her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday</i>	\$10.00	
	Betsy-Tacy Pin: <i>a heart pin with a emerald stone in the middle that says "Betsy-Tacy, Deep Valley"</i>	\$12.00	
	Winding Hall of Fate Mug – <i>features Neville illustration from Betsy In Spite of Herself</i>	\$8.95	

### Order Information (Make Checks payable to Betsy-Tacy Society)

Shipping Address (*if different from billing address*):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions:

<b>Shipping Charges:</b> \$0.01 - \$10.00 = \$4.75 \$10.01 - \$30.00 = \$7.50 \$30.01 - \$50.00 = \$9.95 \$50.01 - \$75.00 = \$12.25 \$75.01 - \$99.00 = \$15.95 \$99.01 - and up = \$25.00 *Contact: btsmankato@gmail.com	<b>Merchandise Total</b>	
	<b>Sales Tax (MN residents add 6.875%)</b>	
	<b>Shipping</b>	
	<b>Donation (Tax Deductible)</b>	
	<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>	

## 2015 Donations cont.

Deborah Carpenter – Memory of Rachel Rose  
 Janie Cox  
 Julie Chuba  
 Anne Collins – Honor of Agnus  
 Gerrity Collins  
 Karen Dale  
 Kelly Dash  
 David Dobish  
 Leah Drury  
 Audrey Faber  
 Connie Fahling  
 Melissa Gaul  
 Janice Geiger  
 Greater NY BTS Chapter – Memory of Rachel Rose  
 Mary Grams  
 Barbara Hartwick  
 Mikki Karotkin  
 Jane Kauzloric  
 Suzanne Kleinbub  
 Sallie Knowles  
 Kristeen Koebler – “For all the girls who’ve loved these books”  
 Rachel Martin  
 Sara Martin  
 Abbey Mathera  
 Patricia McNamara  
 Cassandra Metzger – Honor of Angela Metzger  
 Allison Morley  
 R.F Newbegin  
 Mike & Sally Olander  
 Sabrina Peterson  
 Janet Picwowski  
 DM Poythress – Honor of Denise Weisenborn  
 Amy Rechner  
 Rachel Smoka-Richardson  
 Deanne Tolzmann  
 Susan Wagenhals  
 Beth Walls  
 Peggy Ward  
 Suzanne Weir – Honor of Rachel Olson  
 Susan Welsh  
 Rhonda Whiting  
 Jennifer Wilson

### \$50 - \$99

Cathy Bailey  
 Penny Banwart  
 Colleen Canavan – Endowment Fund/Memory of

Louise King  
 Colleen Canavan – Endowment Fund/Memory of Andrew Ehrmann & Mary Grams  
 Barb Fecteau – Memory of Colleen O’Neil  
 Cheryl Foote  
 Patricia Freymuth  
 Kathy Havins – in memory of Rachel Rose  
 Mary Huntley  
 Anne C Jones – Honor of her mother, Joan G. Jones  
 John Koger  
 Ivah Leemis  
 Mary Markland  
 Nancy McAvoy  
 Renee Menary  
 Sherri Newhouse  
 Margaret Olearczuk  
 Cornelia Pepoy  
 Aggie Rose-Chavez  
 Charity Tahmaseb  
 Linda Watson

### \$100 - \$499

So CA Chapter, BTS  
 Eugene Biewen  
 Michele Blake  
 Sharon Breegemann – Memory of Rachel Rose  
 Chris Christie  
 Courtney Crepeau  
 Bonnie Daly  
 Jammie Dennin  
 Mary Ann Gilbertson  
 Kathryn Hanson  
 Carolyn Hinz  
 Mary Holland  
 Katherine Hughes  
 Lani Jordan  
 Margaret Kirch  
 Mary Kivimaki  
 Penelope & James Lommen  
 Roberta Mello  
 Cheryl Mills – Endowment/Memory of Colleen O’Neil  
 Claudia Mills  
 Janice Sasser – Memory of Colleen O’Neil  
 Michael Sasser – Endowment/Memory of Rachel Rose  
 Betsy Sherman  
 Amy Stark  
 Mary Pat Young

## Volunteers

Ron Affolter  
 Marta Arch  
 AnaBrit Asplen  
 Penny Banwart  
 Jason Barkmeier  
 Krista Barrett  
 Kathleen Baxter  
 Patty & Les Biesterfeld  
 Joe Bidwell  
 LaRae Bisel  
 Halle Blais  
 Michele Blake  
 Kendra Braunger  
 Susan Brown  
 Bob Brown  
 Leslie Cady  
 Chris Christie  
 Hope Cook  
 Bernie Davey  
 Linda Dial  
 Alyssa Dieken  
 Dennis Dieken  
 Sharon Dieken  
 Annmarie Drake  
 Claire Duncan  
 Kristi Etter  
 Mya Etter  
 Lona Falencykowski  
 Sara Gilbert Frederick  
 Sherrie Hansen  
 Kathryn Hanson  
 Shelley Harrison  
 Lydia Helder  
 Myra Helder  
 Marnie Herzfeld  
 Maud Hixson  
 Carolyn Hovick  
 Daryl Hrdlicka  
 Barb Huebsch  
 Janet Husak  
 Susan Hynes  
 Denise Billington-Just  
 Arlene Kase  
 Anne Knewtson  
 Breigha Kotulski  
 Aidan Klammer  
 Emily Klammer  
 Holly Klammer  
 Leah Klammer  
 Maggie Klammer  
 Anne Kusilek  
 Jaci Lageson  
 Candy Laven  
 Doug Laven

Stacy Lieneman  
 Bjorn Linder  
 Michelle May  
 Nancy McCabe  
 Brooke Melius  
 Bryce Melius  
 Kevn Michaels  
 Pat Nelson  
 Alex Oldenburg  
 James Olson  
 Eric Page  
 Jennifer Page  
 Michelle Parsneau  
 Richard Reisdorf  
 Kelly Reuter  
 Meghan Rodgers  
 Patty Rodgers  
 Tom Salsbery  
 Cindy Salsbery  
 Lindsey Schaffer  
 Melanie Schmidt  
 Annaliese Schrader  
 Elsa Schrader  
 Julie Schrader  
 Justine Schrader  
 Ken Schrader  
 Christine Schulz  
 Molly Smith  
 Pete Steiner  
 Bryce Stenzel  
 Deb Thomas  
 Norma Thomas  
 Destiny Truebenbach  
 Tessi Truebenbach  
 Mary Topp  
 Sarah Urban  
 Molly Vouk  
 Susan Wagenhals  
 Grace Webb  
 Eileen Wells  
 Ted Williams  
 Jacqui & John Woodwick  
 Kim Youngerberg  
 Lucas Youngerberg

Why do you re-read the Betsy-Tacy books? We received many responses to this question posted on Facebook recently. Throughout this newsletter you will find some of them.

## Message from the President...

Dear Friends:

I am still happily remembering the Deep Valley Homecoming in June, when we were delighted to welcome both locals and out-of-towners for five festive days of celebrating Maud Hart Lovelace and her books. From the “Betsy-Tacy Goes Downtown” play to the closing band concert in Lincoln Park, it was wonderful to see so many old friends and to make new ones. Thank you to everyone who attended all or part of the DVH, and made it a resounding success. Our deepest gratitude goes to Julie Schrader for coordinating the events with her impeccable eye for detail; it was a mammoth job but not too much for Julie! One would think Ann Swartz-Beckius, our new Operations and Outreach Coordinator, had been part of the BTS for years, so ably did she help keep things going. Of course we couldn’t have done it without our board and dedicated volunteers, who worked so hard to make the experience such a good one for all who attended. A huge thanks goes to them for all they did, and continue to do.

As always, we greatly appreciate the support of our members and visitors, whether financial, in-kind or participatory in some other way. We hope you won’t wait until the next Deep Valley Homecoming to come visit us; you are always welcome on Hill Street!

Lona Falencykowski

## Meet our Staff and Board Members

### **Ann Swartz-Beckius, Operation and Outreach Coordinator**

“Since the beginning of April, I have had the great pleasure and privilege of working as the Operations and Outreach Coordinator with the Betsy-Tacy Society. Previously I worked as a librarian as the outreach coordinator and I managed the local Bookmobile. Here is where I first was introduced to the Betsy-Tacy books. I was an avid reader of all of the Maud Hart Lovelace book award nominees and began to learn more about Maud Hart Lovelace.

“Having also spent seven years working in higher education and providing experiences for college students, and local non-profits, I know the importance of being able to look at situations with an open mind. Both of these professional experiences lead me to this amazing position. I have enjoyed learning more about Maud Hart Lovelace, her books and her passion for writing. She has provided girls with true ‘Girl Power’ before it was even known.”

**Tom Salsbery, Treasurer**, is a semi-retired CPA who spent 36 years in public accounting. My focus during those years was individual and corporate tax, small business consulting, and non-profit organizations. I have served on several non-profit boards over those years.

“My interest in the Betsy-Tacy Society began when I would take my 3 children to the Blue Earth County Library and the Maud Hart Lovelace Wing where they would enjoy story time and selecting books to take home. When asked to serve as BTS treasurer, I felt this was a good way to give back to the Mankato Community where we have lived since 1979.”

**Anne Knewton** is new to the Board of Trustees, joining in May, 2015. Having loved the Betsy-Tracy books as a girl, she is “tickled pink” to work with the Betsy-Tacy Society to keep alive the stories and history of Maud Hart Lovelace. Anne admits that sometimes she goes out of her way just to drive by the former homes of Betsy’s crowd.

Says Anne, “My usual route for errands takes me past Carney’s house and I can almost hear the sound of girlish laughter from the house party.”

**Kristi Etter** is a speech-language pathologist working for Mankato school district.

“I have 2 children, an 11-year old girl and 9-year old boy. We live in the Lincoln Park neighborhood and have attended events over the past few years with my daughter. This is how I became involved with the board, as she is currently playing Tacy for events. In hind sight, it has come full circle, as the first Betsy Tacy book was my very favorite book as young child. My library must not have had any others in the series, because I remember reading that book several times in second grade!”

**Stacy Lienemann** is the Director of Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System and the daughter of a children’s librarian. Before her library career, Stacy spent ten years in book publishing and grew up reading the Betsy-Tacy books.

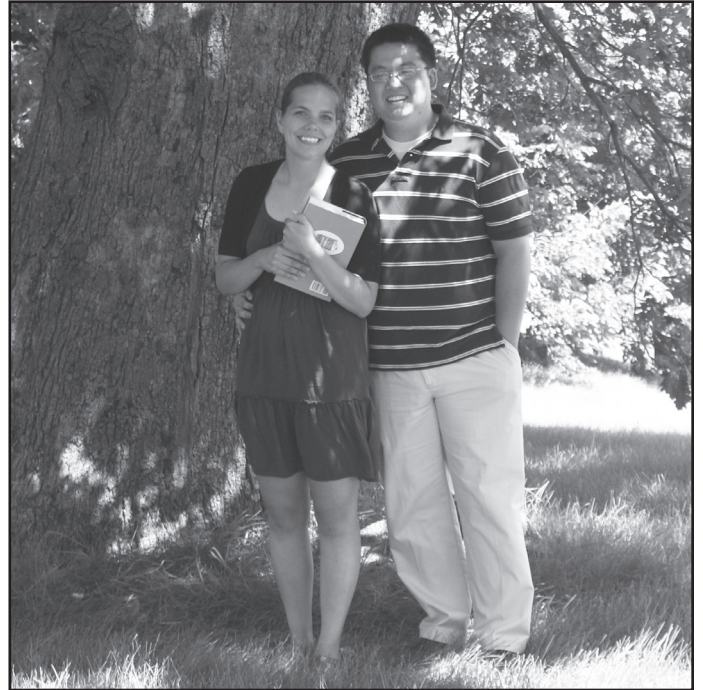
Meet the rest of the BTS board in the next newsletter.

# A Betsy-Tacy Proposal

by Jill Schmidt

It all started when Jason, my boyfriend of 3 years, suddenly expressed interest in reading Betsy-Tacy. He borrowed the tomes and soon after started pestering me to take a road trip to Mankato to see the houses. I became slightly suspicious when he suggested that I “dress nicely, as Betsy would have on a Sunday.” We had a lovely morning wandering Deep Valley, climbing the big hill, sitting on the bench, and visiting the homes of Betsy, Tacy, and Tib. Around noon he suddenly became very insistent that we *needed* to go out to Murmuring Lake. I told him that I was pretty sure Mrs. Ray’s home was private property, and I wasn’t sure that I’d be able to find it anyway, but he was a man on a mission! We pulled up to the driveway of the Hoehn farm and despite my protests at the “No trespassing, private property” signs he forged on! I agreed to get out of the car, but brought along my Betsy-Tacy Companion, just in case we needed proof that we were trespassing for a legitimate reason!

I soon discovered that we weren’t trespassing, and although the farm house is no longer there, we were met at the famed oak tree by former owners Sharon (Hoehn) and Kenneth Luhring, who told us about the sale of the farm and some of their memories of the area. They kindly served as our photographers as Jason proposed under the oak tree where Mrs. Ray hooked Mr. Ray! Of course I said yes, and in true BT style, Sharon and Kenneth brought us a picnic to share on the hillside overlooking the lake! It was a perfect day!



Jill and Jason under the oak tree on the Hoehn farm. – photo by Sharon Luhring.

## ...2015 Donations cont.

### \$500 - \$999

Kathleen Baxter  
Bonny Bolander  
Andrea Hopkins  
Mankato Area Derby Girls  
Maud Hart Lovelace Society

### \$1000 +

Kathleen Baxter  
Nate & Lori Gardner  
Helen Gift  
K.Kay Lewis  
Maud-L Group – Memory of Rachael Rose

O’Neil  
Linda Lyon  
Kelly & Marco Rosenstein-Hanson  
So CA Chapter, BTS  
Mary Lien  
Becky Kritz  
Maud Hart Lovelace Society  
Julia Nephew  
Pat Nelson

For more information about the engraved paver fundraiser and an order form, visit [www.betsy-tacysociety.org/membership](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org/membership).

### Engraved Pavers

Eileen Beha  
Barb Fecteau  
Maud-L – Memory of Rachel Rose  
Maud-L - Memory of Colleen



## Treasurer’s Report

by Tom Salsbery

Through the seven months ending July 31, 2015, the Betsy-Tacy Society had total income of approximately \$62,700, cost of sales of approximately \$22,150, and other expenses of \$38,050, resulting in a net profit of about \$2,500. Merchandise sales accounted for roughly 50% of total income with building expenses, utilities, payroll, and postage and shipping being the major other expenses. The exterior of Tacy’s house was repainted earlier this summer.

Checking and savings accounts total \$60,800 and the Endowment Fund, which was set up in 2014, is currently valued at \$29,213.

We continue to work at increasing membership and donations and to seek out potential new grant income. We are constantly reviewing our operating costs to hold them to budgeted amounts.

# Becoming Friends with Betsy-Tacy

By Helen Gift

How and when did I become friends with Betsy and Tacy?

Surely, it must have been a very good librarian who introduced me to Betsy-Tacy, but I have no specific memory about why that book jumped off the shelf and came into my hands at the end of the first grade in 1950. For example, I did not read any of the Little House on the Prairie books until I was an adult, and one would think those would have been choices at the time. I was an early reader, since I was the “baby” and participated in reading sessions with two older siblings and made trips to the public library for picture books before I started school (no kindergarten then). So, in any case, Betsy-Tacy was on the shelf in a grade school library in a small industrial town in east Tennessee 65 years ago, and the series became a part of my early reading life along with *The Bobbsey Twins*, *Nancy Drew*, and other chapter books. My approach was to reread the previously-read books each year (or more often) and then immerse myself in the next book. So in the second grade I reread Betsy-Tacy and then read Betsy-Tacy and Tib, and so on until I reached the point of waiting for the later books—alas, being published later, they were slow to get on the shelf for me. As an adult, I bought my own set, which I can reread in sequence at my pleasure.

So, it is logical to ask why a young hillbilly identified with the characters and stories in the Betsy-Tacy series. (One could make the argument that my family history is more relevant to Little House on the Prairie, since my grandfather was born on a homestead in Kansas in 1875.) My interest originally was not in the stories’ representations of the historic time period for the lives of the Deep Valley families, although that has become an interest as an adult, particularly after engaging in the conferences over the past 15 years. The appeal to me was the similarities I saw in the lifestyles and activities in Deep Valley to those I was experiencing growing up. The identification has always been much stronger with the children’s books than with the young adult books in which I found less with which to identify, regardless of the enjoyment of well-developed characters and their activities.

I, too, grew up on a dead-end street (paralleled by two other dead-end streets) in a time when free play and ready-access to neighbors’ houses and other parents was the norm. While there were several children my age on the street, I had (and still have at age 72) a best friend, Jane, who lived next door across a driveway. We played indoors and outdoors from infancy. I had (still have) an older sister who participated in activities with us, or not, much as Betsy and Julia (Both my sister and friend remember these books, as well.). Our mothers were around, encouraging our games and creative activities. There was a wonderful dogwood tree between our two homes that one of us could sit in and write (We did this only because of Betsy.). The neighborhood adults represented a variety of ages, religions, and occupations (including a farmer at the end of the street). The area might be

called suburban today (certainly not rural or urban), so we did have delivery vans, day workers, and the occasional “hobo.” We were expected to appreciate differences and respect individuals and families, as well as to be helpful to a stranger (with an appropriate wariness for safety). At the end of our street was the “big hill” where we went with older children or parents when we were very young to pick blackberries or to get a scrub Christmas tree. By school age, Jane and I would go up to the “big hill” alone to play—so many wonderful rocks, paths, hidden treasures, and places for picnics. We could go to the other side and look out over the town with its schools, industry where our fathers worked, and other neighborhoods.

If there is a theme linking these two oral traditions, separated by one-half a century, it is childhood opportunities for creative play and experimentation in a friendly neighborhood environment. The structure encouraged for children in the 21st century, in the interest of safety and required evidence of classroom instruction, may well be taking away the amazing opportunities that children in Deep Valley, Jane and I, and others had to learn through comfortable exploration in a supportive environment. The children’s books now often try to provide the imagination directly (e.g., Harry Potter). I think the Betsy-Tacy series helps children see how to enjoy life, imagine on their own, and learn by doing, and thus remains an important part of the reading preferences for all ages.

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## Louise Everett King: An Appreciation

by Amy Dolnick Rechner

May 9, 2015 was a beautiful spring day, one of those days where the blue sky, soft breeze and burgeoning lilacs make one feel slightly drunk with post-winter ecstasy. It was fitting that on this “sweet May morning” people gathered at Minneapolis’s historic Plymouth Congregational Church to celebrate the life of Louise Everett King, who had died in December after a long illness. She was 91.

Fans of the Betsy-Tacy books knew Louise as “Carney’s daughter”, and in many ways Louise was exactly what one would expect her to be. Her mother, Marion Willard Everett, had instilled in her daughter a love of classical music, nature, needlework and gardening. Louise had the grace, honesty and generosity of spirit that generations of readers associate with her mother’s fictional counterpart, Carney Sibley. Since the earliest days of the Maud Hart Lovelace renaissance, Louise was an enthusiastic participant, delighted and amused by her minor celebrity. As one of the earliest members of the Maud Hart Lovelace Society, she attended conventions in Mankato and events in the Twin Cities. She happily shared her memories of

...cont. on page 15

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# Gift Shop News

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## New in the Gift Shop

BTS is excited to announce a new keepsake gold ornament for the holidays. "Tacy's House" will match "Betsy's House" ornament and is being produced by the same company. This classically inspired ornament measures 2 ½" by 2 ¾" is made of brass and finished in elegant 24 karat gold. "Betsy" and "Tacy's" historic homes are designated National Literary Landmarks. Gift boxed with origin card. Order yours now and it will be shipped as soon as these are delivered and in stock. If you don't have "Betsy's House" ornament yet, a small quantity remains. Order yours now! \$18.00 ea.

Winding Hall of Fate mug features an illustration from "Betsy in Spite of Herself." \$8.95 ea.

Betsy's Tote Bag – Canvas tote bag features a Veran Neville illustration and quote from *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*: "Betsy returned to her chair, took off her coat and hat, opened her book and forgot the world again." \$14.00 ea.

*Iris Blossom and Boxing Gloves* by Avis Iris Wright. \$12.00 See article on page 19.

*From Little House to Little Women* by Nancy McCabe

A typical travel book takes readers along on a trip with the author, but a great travel book does much more than that, inviting readers along on a mental and spiritual journey as well. Includes a chapter on Maud Hart Lovelace. \$29.95

## Back in Stock by Popular Request

*Gentlemen From England* by Maud and Delos Lovelace – We were able to obtain a limited number of this title. Order yours while quantities remain. \$22.95

*Home for the Holidays* by Heather Vogel Frederick. This holiday season, join the mother-daughter book club as they dive into the Betsy-Tacy series and turn the page to a whole new chapter of adventures! \$7.99 Paperback

*Feeding Generations: Boarding House Fare and Family Oral Tradition, a collection of recipes* by Helen Gift \$10.00 – see article pg. 8.

Betsy-Tacy Afghan - Full color afghan, 42" x 60" plus 2" fringe, in blues, greens and shades of rose and burgundy. \$60.00

Bench T-shirts child (\$12.00) and adult (\$15.00) sizes – choice of gray or pink.

Order online at [www.betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog) or by mail order using the enclosed order form. (Note: *Iris Blossom and Boxing Gloves*, *From Little House to Little Women*, *Home for the Holidays* and *Feeding Generations* books are not listed on the enclosed order form. To order by mail, just make a note on the order form and add to the total amount due.)

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## Orange Blossoms and Iris Blossom

By Krista Barrett

Other characters in the Ray family and Betsy-Tacy books have long interested me. While proofreading the reprint of *Orange Blossoms Everywhere*, I became immersed in Maud's 1954-57 diaries, and particularly her mention of Helen (Margaret) and Frank Fowler and their adopted son, Al. When Maud moved to Claremont, California, Helen had multiple sclerosis and she and Frank were living in Orange County. Maud mentions several times that Al and his wife Patsy and their children, Cathy and Frankie, were joining them for dinner or birthday celebrations, and that Helen was reading the children Betsy-Tacy.

Last year, on the Maud listserv it was mentioned that the orphanage in Owatonna, Minnesota was where Al and his sister Iris and brother Bruce had been placed, and that Iris has written a book about her experiences there. In her book *Iris Blossom and Boxing Gloves* she tells about Al being adopted by Helen and Frank, and Al's fondness for Helen.

Iris adds some letters at the end of her book. In one letter, Al writes to Bruce and Iris in 1944 and tells them "And say Bruce about seeing your mother I doubt if I'll ever see her again because I now have a new mother and dad and nothing to gain by my seeing her". In Maud's July 7, 1954 diary entry used in *Orange Blossoms Everywhere*, she writes "On to the trailer where Frank had the patio ready for a party. Patsy [Al's wife] and children came

cont. on page 11

## Feeding Generations: Boarding House Fare and Family Oral Tradition: A Collection of Recipes

by Helen Gift

I started a family cookbook project about 15 years ago to piece together memories of taste, smell, sensations, and family bonds. It was an effort to salvage piecemeal experiences with my mother while she was still alive, and of course to set-in-stone recipes for my favorite desserts. My intent was to preserve the “original” recipe and type a current/usable one. The process resulted in printing my tested and documented favorite family recipes and incidentally, and more importantly, created an understanding of the lives of the women and girls in one of my ancestral families. Food preparation is so important in family traditions that it serves as a wonderful focus for a memoir [think of Mr. Ray and the onion sandwiches]. For example, my actual earliest memory, probably age 2-3, is standing on a stool at the kitchen sink “helping” my mother sort green beans. Many conversations of my mother and aunts centered around cooking and eating. In other words, I had a lifetime of stimulation to move me forward on the project.

I never really thought about relating my experience preparing my family cookbook (focusing on my Great Grandmother and her family in the 1890-1920s with the Betsy-Tacy stories until Lona Falenczkowski asked me). We fans of the Deep Valley folk, however, are interested in the time period and curious about life seen in a variety of families.

Maud created her memoir through fictionalized stories for her daughter. Some of us want to create a memoir for ourselves or one of our ancestors, creating an experience from assumed memories, oral traditions and actual evidence. The fodder for memoirs is memory—a favorite cookie, for example. Mostly, we



begin with some bit of information (the sounds of a train coupling in the middle of the night when I was three years old) that wanders from the deep recesses of our brains through folds of storage by way of imagination and tricks of time to be words written down or spoken. But other routes of memory are equally important: eyes—a tree that reminds you of one previously climbed; ears—winds bringing forth the feelings of a comforting bed at camp in a storm; smell—a spring storm that creates the association of visits to your grandmother; taste—a blackberry making you smile thinking about picking with friends 50 years ago; touch—comfort from a pillow, associated with that being your only solace without pain killers when you had stitches when you were ten years old; or a dream bringing back a picture of high water coming up to the running boards of the family car driving over a bridge in a flood on the Mississippi River. If we’re lucky, memories come together providing pictures of events and people of our past—good or bad, important or insignificant. Having a focus, e.g., food preparation, for a memoir sets the stage for discovering other dimensions of life.

My project was based on a variety of sources: primarily recipes, notes on recipes, letters/diaries, and, to confirm context, printed materials, e.g. newspapers, local and general history books, and The Time Tables of History.

Recipes are interesting artifacts. Often they are only lists and not complete. Cooking depends on touch and feel, not just a combination of ingredients. Many of the recipes I found in my mother’s and aunts’ files were well-used, soiled, blurred, written over older versions. The oral history of most of the family recipes was that they came from my Great Grandmother’s boarding-house, or my Great Aunt’s Tea House in the time period from 1890-1930. As known to me, the recipes (mostly desserts) had survived the Great Depression, World War II, and the 1950s and 1960s. I suspected, or was actually told, that the recipes had been adapted (butter was not



available during World War II, so margarine was listed as an ingredient in many recipes-in-use, while the “original” recipe indicated lard or butter), so my curiosity led me to determine the “possibility” of the recipe in the 1890s. Was pineapple available in northern Alabama then? Was Crisco available?—we know not. What I know is that even after testing and confirming recipes, they will never produce the same final product as that in the 1890s. Our food processing and controls have simply changed a great deal resulting in alterations in taste. Also, these women did not write these recipes down; they were written later, in some form, for the next generation. The original cooks struggled to give a list of ingredients and amounts, e.g., a fist-full of flour. They did not include their substitutions or their quotidian processes and the tacit knowledge that resulted in a final meal, e.g. seasoning, using what was available.

Letters and diaries, if available, provide us impressions of reality at the time they were written, not facts, (as the rosy glow of a newly-wed will influence the description of the first dinner prepared).

Library Research: With a genuine interest in how women created a meal over 100 years ago, you need to think about growing, producing or buying components and understand transportation, storage, division of labor. Both my great grandmother and grandmother were widows at very young ages, each raised their children with their own wits and social support from the extended family. Given the time period around the turn of the century, other questions arise—how did these women provide for their families, where did their funds come from? Research on



women working at this time is fairly limited and primarily about conditions in factories where young single women went to work. Widows supporting children on their own has not been well researched, so finding out as much as possible about the lives of these women in absence of documentation was an interesting challenge leading to more fodder for a memoir. Through library research, I learned that refrigerated rail cars came into use in 1868, so knowing that the railroad came through my Great-Grandmother's town, I can assume that she could get refrigerated foods in 1890. Coconut was introduced in 1876 at the Philadelphia Fair, and bananas were imported in 1885, so both could have been in recipes from the late 19th century. Other evidence may show up from general history. For example, in addition to running a boarding house and being a mother to five children, my widowed Great-Grandmother was essentially a southern farm woman—a demanding life. The lives of such women were described based on a USDA survey in 1914:

“The routine work of the southern farm woman is about as follows: ...she is up at 5 a.m. preparing the breakfast, often building her own fire; milks the cows, cares for the milk—churns the cream by hand. Puts the house in order, gets the dinner, eats with the family at noon; leaves the house in disorder, goes to the cotton fields and picks cotton all the afternoon, often dragging a weight of 60 pounds along the ground. At about sundown she goes to the farmhouse, puts the house in order, washes the dishes left over from the noon meal, prepares the supper—most of the time too tired to eat; gets the children to bed, and falls asleep herself—and so it goes on from day-to-day. Somehow she finds the time to do the washing and ironing, mending, knitting and darning between times.”

My Great-Grandmother did not own a cotton farm, but she would have had gardens and livestock, and had tasks associated with running the boarding house, with several teenagers to help with some chores. Maintaining rooms and preparing meals for guests was a significant effort. One report shows the extent of meals at a boarding house in New York in the 19th century:

**All Meals:** meat, hot vegetables, hot “new” bread, rolls and butter

**Breakfast:** hashed or minced left-over meat with cold vegetables, “served hot”: pork or mutton chops, beef-steaks or sausages, occasionally salt mackerel, shad or other fish, apple sauce, sometimes peach sauce, seasonal radishes, peppergrass, onions, cucumbers, boiled beet-root plain or in vinegar, coffee

**Dinner:** stewed meat joints with fish or poultry, many and many and diverse vegetables including sweet potato, squash, Indian corn, eggplant, pies, puddings, tarts, apple sauce, sometimes peach sauce, seasonal radishes, peppergrass, onions, cucumbers, boiled beet-root plain or in vinegar, coffee (never beer)

**Tea:** cold meats from dinner, dried or smoked beef, salt fish, Sweet cakes, sweetmeats, stewed peaches, pears and other fruits apple sauce, sometimes peach sauce, seasonal radishes, peppergrass, onions, cucumbers, boiled beet-root plain or in vinegar, tea

Examining newspapers is one of the most exhilarating approaches in documenting a memoir. I started looking at newspapers with the intent of establishing social context, but found several issues of 1894-96 newspaper with stories describing events at my Great-Grandmother's Boarding House (one time when I definitely was not quiet in the library!) The descriptions, the “evidence” for the food/recipes, the list of “characters” was rewarding beyond expression. One transcribed example which sounds like some of the Betsy-Tacy events:

“A Most Delightful Entertainment: The young gentlemen of Leighton tendered a most enjoyable entertainment to the visiting young ladies of Leighton, at the Cribbs Hotel on last Monday evening. Delicious ice cream and cake were served in abundance for all. Mrs. Cribbs and Miss Gazelle having the entertainment in charge, exerted themselves unceasingly to make their guest have a jolly good time and well did they succeed. Music, games, promenading, laughing, talking, courting, and goodness knows what all, were engaged in until an early hour (next morning)” (City Notes Leighton News 6/8/1894).

If you are interested in creating a memoir of earlier times in your family, you need only to do an evidence-based, progressive investigation of trails, following them as they develop. Genealogical approaches offer starting points; interviews with remaining family members and friends (importance of sharing stories over time in transmitting culture and skills) are helpful; library research is valuable to establish life-style and contexts; family records, letters and diaries are confirming; getting immersed in the local area provides context; role-play provides understanding—how would I have done this activity in that time period?—and so on.

Oral history is a value and a bane. If one accepts a diary entry as fact rather than an individual's perception or a recipe written down in 1950 as representing food preparation in 1890, then the story lacks depth. It is fun to discover historical support for your oral history. You may find that your story is as much fun as Betsy-Tacy.

*(Feeding Generations: Boarding House Fare and Family Oral Tradition, a collection of recipes, by Helen Gift is available in the BTS shop online or by mail order)*



# My Love Affair with Betsy-Tacy

by Monica Kennedy-Kounter

My introduction to Maud Hart Lovelace's Betsy-Tacy books was a very personal one. You see, my uncle was married to her daughter, Merian (Bettina). I met Maud when I was very, very young. Unfortunately, I don't remember. But, I do have an autographed copy of Betsy-Tacy from that meeting.

I truly believe my love of reading is a direct result of the Betsy-Tacy series. I was very close to my Aunt Merian and Uncle Bobby. I think I was the child they never had. Once I was old enough to travel by myself, I spent every spring break in NYC with my aunt and uncle, first in Greenwich Village, and later in Park Slope. And, every summer we would spend two weeks in August at their summer cottage in Fair Harbor, Fire Island. I loved listening to Merian talk about Maud and the books. It made me feel my connection to them even more strongly. And, without going into detail, the books helped me escape the real world. I was so unbelievably heart-broken when, first Bobby and then Merian died. I received many priceless mementos from Merian, including a complete set of books written by the Lovelaces; some are autographed and some are first editions.

I studied acting in college and dreamed of creating a Betsy-Tacy television show. (Alas, it never came to fruition). Later, when I was studying for my masters' degree in early childhood education, I based my final student teaching integrated curriculum plan on the books. It was a wonderful experience to introduce the books to a new generation of second graders and see them fall in love with the characters as I had.

Upon graduation, life threw me a curveball. There were no teaching jobs in my area. I became a Nanny. Originally, I told myself it was just for one year. One year turned into 13. Then, I got married, and while expecting a child, I gave a presentation on the Betsy-Tacy books at a children's library. It was wonderful to see the excitement regarding the books on those children's faces. I had intended to continue to do so after my baby was born.

But, once again, life had other plans for me. My son was born in October 2006. He was 4 weeks premature and immediately had issues. I had no time for anything, outside of caring for my son.

As he approached his first birthday, I had him evaluated by early intervention and confirmed my suspicions that he had some developmental delays, all across the board. In 2009, my family relocated to upstate NY for my husband's job, and then my son was diagnosed with High-Functioning Autism.

A year ago, I pulled my son from public school and began homeschooling him. I have learned a great deal about him and myself over the last year. I love teaching him. Now eight, he is learning and thriving in a way in which he never had in school.

I also learned that the Betsy-Tacy series is a favorite among homeschoolers. This revelation made me nostalgic and I revisited the series. I had tried to introduce my son to the books before I had begun homeschooling. He was unable to comprehend the stories. Because he has made such great progress this past year, and has grown to love books as I do, I am going to try again.

Once a week, I co-teach with another homeschooling mother and her eight year old daughter. I want to read the first book to both of them, and see if they are ready to love them as much as I still do. It would be magical for me to share this love with my son.

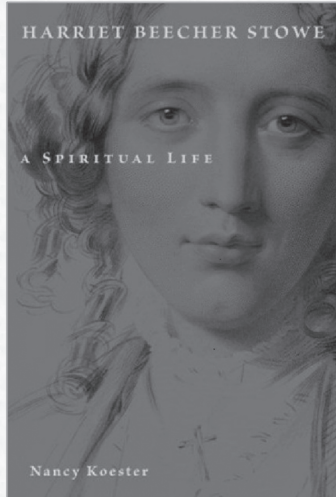
In my spare time (???), I plan on revising and expanding that old integrated unit and creating a unit study on the books for homeschooling. It is an ambitious project, but I know it will be a labor of love. Eventually, I would like to publish it as a companion to the books.

I imagine Maud and Merian are looking down from heaven, watching the love affair all of us have and continue to have with Betsy-Tacy. I am certain they are beaming with delight!

***"Betsy-Tacy was the first chapter book I read as a child, and to reread the books is like visiting with old friends."***

*--Aubrey Wetzel*

Sponsored by the Betsy-Tacy Society...



**Author Nancy Koester  
presents  
Harriet Beecher Stowe,  
Author of Uncle Tom's Cabin**

**Saturday, November 7, 2015  
2 pm**


**Blue Earth County Heritage Center  
424 Warren St. in Mankato**

This program is open to the public.  
Author autograph session following program.  
Books will be for sale at the event.  
Free will donations accepted.


Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, became the best-seller of the century. In an age when women could not vote, Stowe's 1852 novel changed history.

What kind of person could write such a book?  
What moved this Yankee woman to challenge slavery?  
Why was the book so powerful?  
Meet Harriet Beecher Stowe, the most famous American woman of the 19th century.

*"Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Spiritual Life"* won the 2015 MN Book Award for general non-fiction.



For more information:  
507-345-9777 or 507-345-5566 Email:  
BTSMankato@gmail.com  
www.betsy-tacysociety.org



## “One Stayed at Welcome” By Maud and Delos Lovelace

The Eden Prairie Historical Society announces several upcoming events to celebrate Maud and Delos Lovelace’s book, *One Stayed at Welcome*. Discover the characters related to real pioneers that settled in Eden Prairie, Minnesota! The Eden Prairie Historical Society invites Betsy-Tacy Society members to attend these events. If you don’t already have this book in your Lovelace collection, books can be ordered online at [www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org) or [www.mnheritage.com](http://www.mnheritage.com) or purchase at Tacy’s House or the Eden Prairie Historical Society.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
AT THE HISTORIC  
**Cummins-Phipps-Grill House**  
SPONSORED BY THE EDEN PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AND THE MAUD HART LOVELACE SOCIETY

**JOIN US** in reading this wondrously written historical fiction novel, first published in 1934, by Maud and Delos Lovelace

**YES! “Welcome” is Eden Prairie!**  
Discover the characters related to real pioneers that settled in Eden Prairie!  
The first pre-empted land in Eden Prairie IS the CPG House site!

Attend any or all **THREE** special events!  
All events are at the  
**CUMMINS-PHIPPS-GRILL HOUSE**  
13600 Pioneer Trail • Eden Prairie  
(ACROSS FROM FLYING CLOUD AIRPORT)  
[www.edenprairiehistory.org](http://www.edenprairiehistory.org)  
email: [cumminshse@edenprairiehistory.org](mailto:cumminshse@edenprairiehistory.org)

<p>EP Historical Society Members only</p> <p><b>BOOK EVENT</b></p> <p>SUNDAY September 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 1:30 - 4:00 PM</p> <p><i>One Stayed at Welcome</i> BY MAUD AND DELOS LOVELACE Join us for a lively discussion!</p>	<p>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</p> <p><b>GHOST WALK</b></p> <p>SATURDAY October 24<sup>th</sup> 2015 7:00 - 9:00 PM CONTINUOUS TOURS</p> <p>Characters from <i>One Stayed at Welcome</i> make a ghostly appearance!</p>	<p>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</p> <p><b>TROLLEY TOUR</b></p> <p>SATURDAY May 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 Noon - 4:00 PM</p> <p>Meet at the CPG House Tour the sites from the book!</p>
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**Rent The CPG House in 2015-2016 for your BOOK CLUB for FREE!**  
Call Ann Rorem for details: 612-219-3720

### ...Orange Blossoms cont. from page 7

over—and later Al. Patsy brought a birthday cake and we had a lovely party for Helen who was radiant as the grandchildren played around her.”

*Iris Blossom and Boxing Gloves* is a lovely book, with an authentic recounting of the displacement of five siblings, and their subsequent reunion and how they made lives for themselves.

*(The books Orange Blossoms Everywhere and Iris Blossom and Boxing Gloves are available in the BTS shop, online or by mail order)*

### In Kind Donations

Deep Valley Players  
American Legion Post 11  
Minnesota Heritage Publishing  
South Central College  
Minnesota Valley Model T Club

Children’s Museum  
Barb Huebsch  
Peddler of Rapidan  
Roberta Jensen

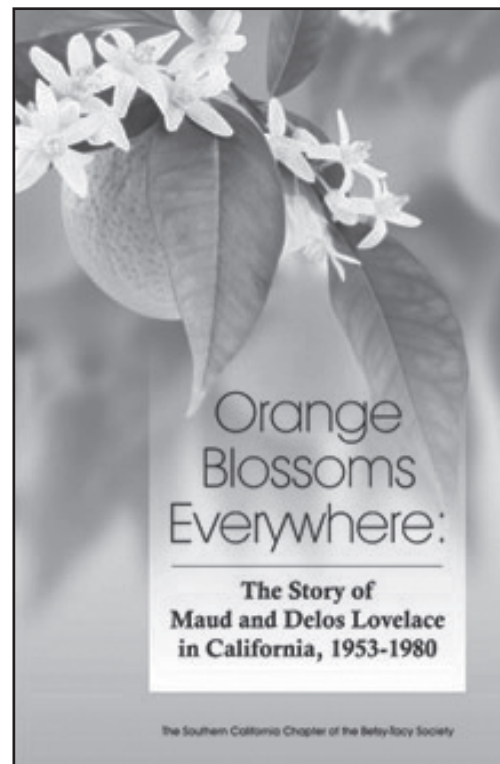
### Deep Valley Homecoming Sponsors

River City Quilts  
Beans Coffee Company  
Keepers RV Center  
Blue Earth County Historical Society  
Peddler of Rapidan  
[Bookologymagazine.com](http://Bookologymagazine.com)  
Barnes & Noble, River Hills Mall  
Blue Earth County Library System  
Fine Arts School of Ballet  
South Central College  
Minnesota Heritage Publishing  
Children’s Museum of So. MN  
Consolidated Communications  
Merely Players Community Theatre

Mr. Monogram  
Stones Throw Gallery  
Generations Antiques  
Cactus Tatoo  
Deep Valley Swing  
Zonta Club of Mankato  
Mom & Pops  
Voyageur Web  
Corporate Graphics  
Angie’s Kettle Corn

*“I am almost 64 and I reread the books at least once a year. I was an only child and had few friends in school. My books were my friends, I suppose. I loved Betsy’s parents and sisters and friends as if they were my own!”*

-Sue Roy



## Restoration Report

by Candy Laven

**The steps to the 2nd floor bedrooms in Betsy's house** were originally located in the back parlor and the pattern on the floor where the stairway attached is still visible. When Tom and Stella Hart were expecting their 3rd child, they realized that they needed more space, so the addition of the main floor bedroom and kitchen were constructed. The new floor plan incorporated the relocation of the back parlor stairway to the area between the new kitchen and new bedroom and the space under the stairway became a much needed bedroom closet for Mrs. Hart—a luxury in those days. However, when the stairway was moved, it didn't properly fit the new space. The stair risers are not the same height and the pitch is very steep. The Betsy-Tacy Society is working to redesign the steps and add railings to make the stairway safe for visitors. Watch for updates as Betsy's stairway is restored.



## Wish List

### **Betsy House items**

#### **Kitchen**

Wooden Bread Bowl, wooden spoons and spatulas  
 Small metal bath tub (child size)  
 Wooden Butter Churn  
 Enamel Splatterware pans  
 Wall-mount holder for kitchen bar soap  
 Small wood box for Kitchen stove wood  
 Small Coffee grinder  
 Old hand-made broom  
 Kitchen wall pictures  
 Old baskets, crockery  
 Kitchen jars, spice or dry ingredient tins  
 Small wooden butcher block on legs  
 Ceiling light for center of kitchen

#### **Dining Room**

Telephone chair

Dining Room wall pictures in frames

#### **Front Parlor**

Small wall antique frames for family photos

### **Main Floor Bedroom**

Bedroom wall frames with pictures  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  Bed with Mission-style high head and foot boards

### **Upstairs Bedrooms**

Youth Bed  
 Bed tables  
 Small dresser w/drawers and wash stand  
 Floor rugs  
 Ceiling lights

### **Tacy House items**

Heavy doorway drapes for bedroom doorway  
 Violin on stand

### **Other**

Small Tools, devices of the late 1800s – early 1900s period, child-size play tables, child's porcelain tea sets, small wooden trunk for programs, and shop vac.

**Cash donations are appreciated to allow us to purchase some of these items from the Wish List. Thank you!**

## Grocery Store continued from page 1

Back in the '30s and '40s, these stores were scattered throughout Mankato and North Mankato neighborhoods. They were of modest size and proportion, without the warehouse ambience of today's huge markets. They carried modest supplies of Wheaties, Corn Flakes, and Rice Krispies alongside canned vegetables, with jars of coffee, sacks of flour and sugar, not on aisle ten, half a block away in today's supermarkets, but on the adjoining shelf. Although they may have been varied in size and shape, some larger, some with a meat counter, some without, they were alike in that they had a sort of intimacy about them. No one was a stranger once you walked in the door.

Sieberg's Grocery on Byron Street was named for its owner, as were Devlin and Kiffie on the corner of Fifth Street and Warren, Aumonds on Van Brunt Street, Eckhardts and Ewalt's on North Front Street and Farhos on Byron and So. Front in Mankato. In North Mankato on Belgrade Avenue, Deignaus' and Roxins stood a few doors apart and each prospered. These were just a few of the 49 grocery stores that were once sprinkled throughout Mankato.

Alike in many ways, each store had its own stamp or personality. Pete Sieberg's store across from Lincoln School was known as Mrs. Chubbock's in Maud Hart Lovelace's Betsy-Tacy books. Typical of its times, it was a small, intimate, and very convenient place to shop for those necessary items one needed for baking, after-school treats, and a great many other purposes. It was the store frequented by housewives, school children, and the casual shopper who needed something from the store, be it a ten-cent bag of walnuts, a popsicle, or a loaf of Silver Cup bread. The smooth, concrete steps leading into the store were bordered by iron railings that we swung on and performed a sort of somersault routine before we entered. It was attached to the kitchen of the Sieberg's home, with steps leading down from the house into the back of the store. Pete had a good meat counter, with a big butcher block and sharp knives to slice steaks or chops. Wieners lay in their porcelain trays in the meat display, and we loved them for our "weinie roasts" that we held in the Slough, come the cool days of fall. He often "threw in" a big soup bone for the dog. If we weren't there on an errand for mother, an ice cream cone or popsicle was a must for the hot summer days. Would it be, instead of the predictable chocolate or vanilla, strawberry, locally grown and made by Model Dairy down on Cherry Street? Or maybe peach, made in August at the Dairy? As we stood debating and consulting, we watched in fascination as Mrs. Sieberg generously scooped out the ice cream, made with fresh strawberries or fresh peaches available only in June and August. She used an ice cream scoop, rinsing it from time to time in a bowl of milky water, and always took care to pack in the ice cream fully to the bottom of the cone.

Farho's was run by the sisters Jo and Ann. In the front window hung a huge stalk of bananas, and, wielding a sharp, machete-type knife, they cut off a single banana or a bunch with one slice. Their big Persian cats, marvelously equipped with six toes on each paw, lay comfortably in the sunny front window by the display of fruit, or twined themselves about our legs as we bought a popsicle or an ice cream cone. Jo and Ann were usu-

ally in the back of the store, an area enclosed by a curtain, and didn't emerge until they heard the door open. Emigrants from Syria, they lived in Tinkomville where their mother had a smaller, darker store. She didn't speak English, and we were not sure just how to speak to her, but Ann and Jo spoke perfect English and talked and laughed with us as we petted and admired their big cats.

The Aumond brothers' store

on Van Brunt Street was a quiet, dim store pervaded by the smell of elderly men and tobacco. They were our conspirators in that we brought empty milk bottles to them to be redeemed for a nickel each (our mothers suspected our illicit trade, I think, but tolerated it). Sieberg's, Farho's, and the Aumond brothers were within six blocks of one another, yet each made a living for their owners, as did the other stores throughout Mankato.

Some were set in the middle of block, others in a more prominent position on a corner such as Devlin and Kiffie, on a triangle formed by Warren Street, Fifth Street, and Glenwood Avenue. Their store was a bit more up-scale with delivery of earlier-ordered items. Patrons called the store, chatted pleasantly with the owner, usually Mrs. Devlin, and then placed their order, conferring and selecting with her help. Later that afternoon, the groceries were delivered by a quiet, efficient young man who, after knocking at the back door, entered and placed the items carefully on the kitchen table.

Some stores dotted North and South Front Street. Ewalt's at the North end had the advantage of being next to two good bakeries, and when one ordered groceries from them one could request a bakery item and one of the employees would pick up the bakery goods as well as the usual groceries. They delivered as well as Devlin and Kiffie, and both were in business for years. Farther on down Front Street was Hanson's, tucked in-between two saloons. They were two brothers who had emigrated from Norway and always had good cheese and lutefisk at Christmas time.

In the middle of the downtown area was Eckhardt's, run by the two Eckhardt sisters. Theirs was a dark, long and narrow store that had a faint musty air to it. The sisters rarely spoke to one another; the atmosphere was somewhat tense and apprehensive,



Pete Sieberg in his store. Courtesy of Patti Sjulstad

...cont. on page 23

# Deep Valley Homecoming 2015

By Julie Schrader, DVH event coordinator



Trolley rides were offered to visitors.

The BTS hosted the 2nd annual Deep Valley Homecoming from June 26 – 30th. This 5-day event, to celebrate author Maud Hart Lovelace and her books, brought fans from 13 different states and across the state of Minnesota.

For some attendees this was the first time they had visited the Betsy-Tacy sites in Mankato. Some local attendees knew nothing about Maud Hart Lovelace, her books or the historic literary homes until this event. It was great see old friends and meet new ones!

The event took place in various locations in Mankato including the “Betsy” and “Tacy” houses, Kato Ballroom, Lincoln Park, Carnegie Art Center, First Presbyterian Church, Sibley Park Pavilion, Old Main Village, Blue Earth County Heritage Center, Elks Nature Center, Children’s Museum of Southern MN, and the Blue Earth County Library. Activities ranged from a mystery dinner theater play, “Betsy and Tacy Go Downton,” “Maud Sings Maud” concert by Maud Hixson, narrated horse-drawn trolley rides, guided house tours, young artist competition, Deep Valley Book Festival, Victorian Tea,



Models from the fashion show



The cast of “Betsy-Tacy Go Downtown”

speakers and special guest authors Melissa Wiley and Nancy McCabe, vintage car show, living history exhibits, and much more.

Many volunteers are needed to host an event such as this and we’re grateful to everyone who helped. Thanks to the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council for grant support to help us bring this event to you. Thanks also go to our sponsors listed on page 11.

For more photos, visit our facebook page, click on photos and there is an album for the Deep Valley Homecoming 2015.

The 3rd annual Deep Valley Homecoming is planned for June 2016. We hope you will join us! Registration forms will be posted online in January 2016.



Anne Kusilek demonstrates a treadle sewing machine.

*“I read these books over and over as a child. Now, whenever I’m feeling blue or life gets rough, I read them again for the sense of peace they give me. The characters are warm and loving and not perfect.”*

*-Kelli Austin*

*...cont. from page 6*

by her minor celebrity. As one of the earliest members of the Maud Hart Lovelace Society, she attended conventions in Mankato and events in the Twin Cities. She happily shared her memories of all the real people behind the Betsy-Tacy books, as well as her mother’s scrapbooks and photo albums. Every person who wrote a book about Maud Hart Lovelace and her writing (including me) benefited from her generosity.

Louise focused her energy and enthusiasm on many other organizations as well, chiefly the Friends of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Bach Society. It was fitting that her memorial service featured a program of Bach organ music, performed by internationally-acclaimed organist Philip Brunelle and noted soprano Maria Jette. She was also a proud alumna of Vassar College, and compared her college years - largely free of male visitors due to World War II - with her mother’s experiences in the 1910s. They both “represented Vassar on every occasion.”

From the first day I met Louise, I spent the rest of our acquaintance earnestly hoping she would continue to like me. I needn’t have worried – not because I’m so gosh darn likable, but because Louise always intended to like everyone, unless they proved themselves unworthy. She was always gracious, polite and smiling. However, like Miss Marple, the sweet-old-lady veneer hid an intellect that was lethally sharp and curious, as well as a strong sense of fair play. I am so very grateful that I had the chance to know her.

Whether you knew Louise personally or not, you will have a connection to her in your shared love for the Betsy-Tacy series. The next time you read Carney’s House Party – and you do know that there will be a next time – you will find her there. Read the scene with Grandma Hunter more closely than usual. Four generations later, her great-granddaughter Louise could have answered to that same description.

Goodbye, Louise. We’ll see you the land of dreams.



Louise and Caroline King.

## In Memoriam

Colleen O’Neil  
June 11, 1947 – May 28, 2015



It is with much sorrow that we acknowledge the death of Colleen O’Neil, who was instrumental in organizing and running the silent auction for the Betsy-Tacy Convention in 2009, which raised a considerable amount of money for the BTS. She was also an integral member of the 2012 Convention committee. A talented and dedicated teacher and an inveterate traveler, Colleen’s bright personality and infectious good humor brought joy to all who had the good fortune to know her, whether in person or through the Maud-L list-serv. We are deeply grateful for her efforts on our behalf. She will be greatly missed.

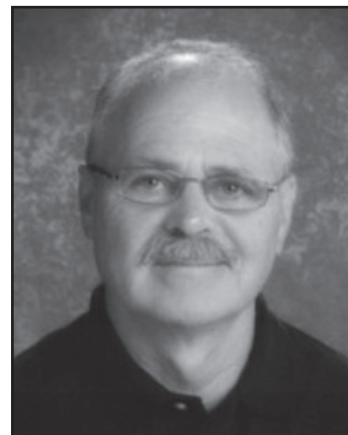
Roderick Elbert  
February 21, 1941 – July 30, 2015



We are saddened at the loss of our faithful volunteer and friend, Rod Elbert. For many years, Rod volunteered his time to mow the lawns at the Betsy and Tacy houses. He took pride in his work and kept the landscape well manicured. Rod always had a smile on his face and will be missed by many.

Richard Orchard  
April 24, 1951 – July 18, 2015

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Susan Orchard (past BTS director) and her family on the death of her husband, Richard. As his obituary said, “He lived his life rooted in faith, family, and friends.” He often stopped by Tacy’s house to get Susan at the end of her work day. His support of Susan and her job meant he sometimes volunteered behind the scenes for the Society. Richard was a quiet and gentle man ~ plus a Minnesota Twins fan, “Papa” to his grandchildren, and Susan’s husband for 42 years. Richard is truly missed by those who knew him.



## The Present of a Friend: Rachel Rose

The world of Betsy-Tacy fans has lost a true and wonderful friend. Rachel Rose of Maplewood, New Jersey, died in May at age 75.

Rachel was an active and prolific contributor to the Maud-L e-mail list, an online “coffee klatch” and free-wheeling discussion group devoted to the Betsy-Tacy books. She introduced herself to the List on October 10, 2008:

*“I started reading the BTT books when I was 9, and tomorrow I’ll be 68½! Can’t believe it—the numbers get funnier and funnier. But you can see I have been a big fan of BTT for decades.”*

A favorite List tradition is “calling roll” at the beginning of each school year, and Rachel joyfully participated in her first roll call in September 2009:

*I joined The Violent Study Club in NYC about ten years ago, I think, after seeing the article in the New York Times about book clubs; you can’t imagine how excited I was to know there was a group about an hour from where I live!!!*

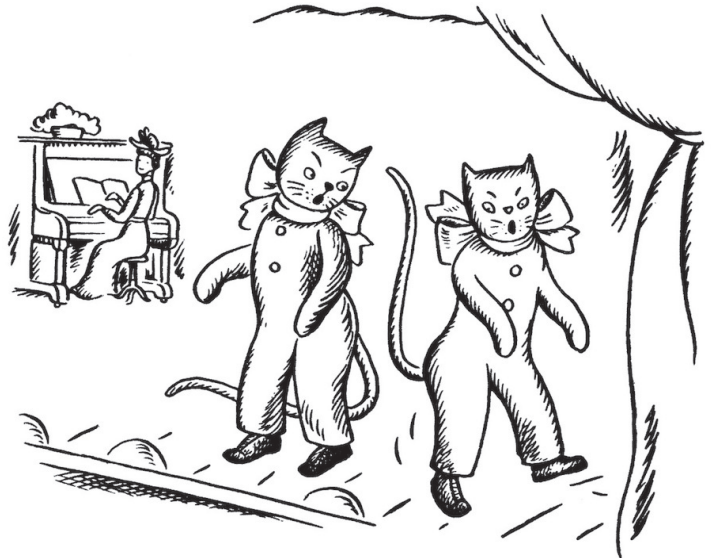
Over the years, we got to know her family: husband Marvin (“who patiently accepts the role of BTT in my life, though he and my sons do roll their eyes occasionally!”), sons David and Jonathan (to whom Rachel read all the BT books), and granddaughters Jessica and Emma, who accompanied Rachel to the 2009 Convention and sang the Cat Duet!

Like Betsy Ray, Rachel changed her name, from Rochelle to Rachel, though unlike Betsy she waited until age 50 to make the change. Also like Betsy, Rachel was the middle girl of three sisters.

*“My sisters and I once made Everything Pudding when we were little. I emphasize the word ONCE.”*

Rachel’s sister Sheva remembers this well: “Hot chocolate, ketchup . . . oh, it was awful.” She also remembers going to the library as girls, climbing the stairs to the second floor, and then walking 10 blocks home carrying a heavy stack of books (“No one thought of backpacks back then!”). While Sheva read the Betsy-Tacy books as a child and then stopped, Rachel read them over and over, well into adulthood.

Throughout her life, Rachel had many brushes with



literary greatness. Sydney Taylor (who wrote the All-of-a-Kind Family books) was her camp counselor, and Rachel also met Harriet Stratemeyer (who wrote the Nancy Drew books—the Stratemeyer family lived in Maplewood). Rachel owned several Nancy Drew hardcovers, signed by “Carolyn Keene”! But the event that will mean the most to BT fans occurred on August 18, 1975, when Rachel wrote the following letter:

*Dear Mrs. Lovelace,*

*My family and I had occasion this summer to visit Mankato, Minn., for me a childhood dream come true! With the help of the librarian, we received a “Deep Valley” map, and thoroughly enjoyed our tour of Betsy-Tacy land. As a child, my friends and I loved your books, and now I hope my children will too. After 25 years of loving your books, I finally decided to write and tell you how much they meant to us! To this day, my friends and I still slip into the children’s room at the library and read through all the books. Just thought you might enjoy knowing—we often did many of the things you did—but T.C.K.C.—we made T.J.K.C.—J for Jewish!*

*Sincerely yours, with affection,  
Rochelle Rosenberg Rose*

On August 25, Rachel received this reply:

*Dear Mrs. Rose,*

*Thank you very much for your kind letter. I was delighted to hear about the T.J.K. Club, added to the B.H.M. Club and the C.K.C. Club. No doubt you saw my old home, 333 Center Street, with Tacy’s across the road. My father put in the maples on the front lawn; my desk was in one of them toward the back of the lawn, in a cigar box. I hope you saw Tib’s beautiful home on Byron Street. Happy wishes to you and yours.*

*Maud Lovelace*

Always the soul of generosity, Rachel distributed copies



of these letters to each attendee of the 2012 Betsy-Tacy Convention. Rachel attended two Conventions, in 2009 and 2012, and those of us who were fortunate enough to meet her were delighted to find her “real” self to be as charming as her online persona.

Those who only knew her through their computer screens nonetheless felt like they knew her intimately, as Rachel’s vibrant spirit always came through in her cheerful and upbeat posts to the List. Some examples:

*The New York Times ran an article about ideas and events that changed the world. Long ago I had decided that the three most important life-changers were flush toilets, eyeglasses, and eyelash curlers. But two years ago in Ireland I met a wonderful lady who named the best and most important changer of all: TAMPAX!!!!*

*My puffy ankles went down slightly. They had told me that they may NOT go down. I know it is frivolous of me to worry about the ankles, but they and my feet are the last of any of my features to still look really good. Sigh. I feel like Ruby Gillis in Anne of Green Gables, but still, I did want to keep my nice ankles and feet.*

*Favorite food from the tomes? So hard to choose! Fudge? picnics? Sunday Night Lunch? coffee “mit Schlag”? unfrosted cake? fried potatoes? Good grief, I love them all, and that explains why I look the way I do.*

*That reminds me of the time my husband and I went to a Salvation Army store looking for cheap bookcases we could paint and add to our “collection”; we didn’t find any bookcases, but we came home with two big bags of books.*

*I thought The Fighter was excellent, with superb acting from the whole cast, and this is from someone who hates boxing even more than I dislike football. Now don’t laugh at me, but it took me two or three scenes of seeing Christian Bale smoke a cigarette stuck into a plastic container before I realized this was not a nice polite way of smoking and not letting the smoke get into the room to bother others . . . ! I guess I move in the wrong circles. In college, I had long straight hair, down to my waist. My parents truly thought that if I didn’t cut it, I wouldn’t be asked to marry. To those who observe, Well Over the Fast. It took me a long time to realize that the Rabbi was including ME when he said that if you are ill or on certain meds, etc. etc., you of course should NOT*



*fast. “Marvin,” I said, “he means me!” Duh. Well, at least I skip deserts . . .*

As one Maud-Ler noted, “Every time someone asked for vibes or reported a positive event in her life, Rachel was there with vibes or a wish of Mazel Tov.” She was a true friend, quick to celebrate with us or to send a virtual hug when needed.

After another Maud-Ler told the List that she and her boyfriend were moving in together, she and Rachel had this exchange:

*“Mazel tov—that is lovely news! Much happiness to you in this life-changing event! (Just be careful how you light the oven . . .)”*

*“Thank you, Rachel! At first with the oven comment, I thought you were gently reminding me not to accidentally get pregnant, but then I realized you meant Margaret’s eyes! The latter is much, much more apt to happen!”*

*“!!!! I am dying laughing and shrieking out loud that you thought I was gently reminding you not to accidentally get pregnant!!!!”*

Rachel often spoke about much the List meant to her:

*I echo all those who say how wonderful and important the List is in our lives. We are a splendid and loving and supportive group.*

In February of this year, Rachel let us know that her health was failing:

*I am sorry to have to tell you that on January 23 I had a massive heart attack and have been in hospital ever since. This Wednesday I am scheduled for major heart surgery. It is all extremely serious and I just have to hope for the best. Love you all. You have brought great pleasure and fun and love to my life. I don’t want to be overly grim, but the truth must be faced—my condition and the operation are very serious indeed.*

We hoped against hope that that valiant little heart of hers would keep beating forever, but it was not to be. Rachel lost her fight on May 5, 2015.

Rachel once wrote:

*I have friends from infancy and early childhood; from elementary and high schools; from camp and college and trips to Israel; from work; from the old neighborhood; from the new neighborhood; from synagogue; friends who are relatives and relatives who are friends; from study groups; friends nearby and in far-away states and in further-away lands; and the BTT List. I can’t imagine my life without all these friends. I’ve been very very blessed.*

According to Sheva, Rachel’s funeral was attended by friends from her elementary school days all the way through college and beyond.

We loved her, we miss her, and we always will. As one Maud-Ler said, “She had the gift of sharing her true self with her friends, and somehow, all of us became her friends. What a wonderful woman she was!” Another added, “It’s hard to explain to people that I am crying because I miss a woman I never met in person so much.”

May her memory be for a blessing.

—by Jennifer Davis-Kay, who is honored to share a name with Rachel’s “Grandma Jennie Davis.”



## *Maud Sings Maud* A Musical Betsy-Tacy Companion

The Betsy-Tacy Society is asking for your help with the production of musical companion to Maud Hart Lovelace's Betsy-Tacy books.

Maud's series of books about growing up in Deep Valley (Mankato, Minnesota) at the turn of the 20th century documents a now-vanished way of life. At their center is a rich trove of family traditions, social customs and popular culture of the day, including the songs that their characters enjoyed. The Betsy-Tacy books have been beloved by readers since the 1940s, but most of the songs have faded from memory, so there is a need for an annotated musical companion to further illustrate the music so prominently featured in these stories.

The Betsy-Tacy Society is eager to be able to offer just such an aid to further education and enjoyment. Twin Cities singer Maud Hixson and pianist Rick Carlson have created a program of this music along with brief narratives from the Betsy-Tacy books. Maud and Rick recently performed at the Society's Deep Valley Homecoming in Mankato, and we have asked them to record a CD of this material. As an added enticement, soprano Maria Jette will lend her talent for a cameo appearance on the Cat Duet.

How can I help, you ask? We're launching a KickStarter online fundraiser. For the next 60 days we're accepting pledges to raise the money to pay for the recording, design and manufacturing costs. No money changes hands unless the goal is reached, so there is no risk to you. Our financial goal is the minimum amount needed to produce this project. Any funds pledged beyond this number will go toward the promotion and marketing of the CD.

Rewards for your pledge range from an advance copy of the recording with exclusive updates for a minimum pledge of \$20, to a parlor concert in your own home for a \$1000 pledge. For more information and to make a pledge, go to [www.kickstarter.com/projects/maudsingsmaud](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/maudsingsmaud).

**Hurry, this fundraiser is only good for 60 days. If the goal is not reached this project will not happen. Please join us in adding a soundtrack to the Betsy-Tacy stories!**





## Book review: *Iris Blossom and Boxing Gloves* written by Avis Iris Wright (Iris Avis Segelstrom)

reviewed by Julie Schrader

This memoir is a series of essays that tell the story of life for siblings Iris, Bruce and Alfred Segelstrom living in separate cottages at the State Public School Orphanage at Owatonna, MN in the early 1940s. The Segelstrom family fell on hard times after the Great Depression and a series of unfortunate events led to the three of the youngest children being taken from their parents and sent to live in the orphanage.

The author shares her memories and those of her siblings in their own words. Their stories will touch your heart. Of particular interest to Maud Hart Lovelace fans, is that Alfred Segelstrom was adopted by Frank and Helen (Hart) Fowler. Helen is Maud Hart Lovelace's youngest sister and the character of Margaret Ray in the Betsy-Tacy books.

Alfred was nearly 10 years old when he was taken to the orphanage and remembers spending his 10th birthday there on March 10, 1939. He shares his memories of home life, foster homes and living in the orphanage.

In March 1943, Alfred went to live with Frank and Helen Fowler in Forest Lake, MN and was adopted by them in 1944. I wrote to Iris after reading her book and asked what she remembered about Frank and Helen. She replied; "The Fowlers owned two movie theaters and a roller rink. Frank was a brusque, harsh person, as I recall. Helen was a slender, very fragile-appearing person and was so kind and good to Bruce and me. Helen must have been a wonderful mother to my brother Alfred. He wanted Frank and Helen to adopt Bruce and me, but our foster parents, Ralph and Elfie Sutherland, would not give us up, though they never adopted us."

"Bruce and I were invited to visit Alfred and his parents, Frank and Helen Fowler, at one time. I still remember seeing a movie. "Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life at Last I Found Thee" was the theme song. (ed note: this movie was Naughty Marietta from 1935). I still remember Alfred, at age 16, flying a Piper Cub Airplane from Forest Lake, MN to the Sutherland farm near Fountain, MN and landing the airplane in our farm field. He was checking on his younger siblings. His living situation was very different from the Sutherlands, who did not have indoor plumbing or electricity, when Bruce and I went to live with them."

Helen Fowler was soon diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and she and Frank moved to Florida and then to California. When they moved to Florida, Alfred (age 15) went to live with Frank's parents in Minneapolis and finished high school.

Iris wrote; "When I graduated from Chatfield High School in 1952, I worked at a Chatfield insurance company. Alfred, then married to Patsy O'Brien and living in Santa Ana, California, invited me to come visit them in the summer of 1955. Patsy is a very vivacious lady. I did learn to stand up for myself from Patsy. She also helped me to shop for clothes, as Patsy and Al owned "Patsy's Clothes Closet," a retail second-hand clothing store. So occasionally I did see Frank and Helen at that time. Helen was a gracious, gentle lady. I do remember that Frank had white, curly haired dogs—what breed I do not know. I can still see Helen in my mind's eye, so slender, so unassuming."

*Iris Blossoms and Boxing Gloves* is a story of hardship and the breakup of a family in the 1930s, and how they managed to reunite years later.

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### The Return of the Hitching Block



Many years have passed since there has been a hitching block in front of Betsy's and Tacy's house on Hill Street (Center Street) in Deep Valley (Mankato, MN). Those hitching blocks were a favorite meeting place for Betsy, Tacy and Tib. In the early 1900s, the horse and buggy was replaced by the automobile and streets were improved with boulevards, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. No longer needed, the hitching blocks were removed.

In October 2014 the hitching blocks were returned to these literary landmark houses! Two Kasota stone blocks were cut and handcrafted into period-looking hitching blocks. BTS board member, Julie Schrader worked on this project with Maryellen Coughlan, from the Coughlan Companies, Inc., who donated the stone. Each stone block weighs nearly 900 pounds! Local historians, Tom Hagen and Ken Ziegler were advisors for the project. Tom had an iron ring that was

...cont. on page 21

## Boy in Blue Civil War Memorial Dedicated

“Lincoln Park was a pie-shaped wedge of lawn with a giant elm tree and a fountain on it.”

-*Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill* by Maud Hart Lovelace



The new “Boy in Blue” memorial was dedicated on May 30, 2015.

On May 30, 2015, a replica of the fountain Maud Hart Lovelace referred to in the Betsy-Tacy books was dedicated to the memory of Blue Earth County Civil War Union soldiers. Hundreds of people packed the little park for the ceremony and to witness the unveiling.

The ceremony, planned by the Boy in Blue Memorial Project committee members, closely followed the original dedication ceremony that occurred on May 30, 1893 when Maud was just one year old. Imagine, Mr. and Mrs. Hart probably attended with their two young daughters.

A military parade began at the corner of Lewis and Center Streets in front of the Betsy and Tacy houses and marched to Lincoln Park. Costumed Civil War living history members from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th MN Volunteer Infantry Regiments and the New Ulm Battery were led by a fife player and drummer. They were followed by veterans from subsequent wars and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Civil War era patriotic music was played by Schell’s Hobo Band Quartet, and soloist Barb Dunker and the Mankato Children’s Chorus sang several songs that were performed at the 1893 ceremony. Following several speeches, the red, white and blue drape was removed from the Boy in Blue statue and the water began to flow from the fountain. Nearly 100 years later, the “Boy in Blue” has returned to

his post in Lincoln Park.

A paver walkway surrounds the fountain pool. Engraved pavers will continue to be sold until the walkway is filled. The Betsy-Tacy Society purchased two engraved pavers – one in honor of Maud’s grandfather, Solomon Palmer, a Civil War veteran, and the other for the society. All funds raised continue to go toward the cost of the memorial and future maintenance.

For more information about the project or to purchase a paver, visit [www.boyinblue.org](http://www.boyinblue.org) or to see more photos go to [www.facebook.com/BoyinBlueProject](http://www.facebook.com/BoyinBlueProject).

### We are looking for people for “The Crowd”!

The Betsy-Tacy Society is looking for people who are interested in becoming part of “The Crowd.” This is a great opportunity of people who are interested in celebrating the spirit of the Betsy-Tacy books and sharing the life of Maud Hart Lovelace.

The Crowd has many opportunities to fit anyone’s schedule.

Interested in a one time only event – come help us with special programs or events. Interested in a more regular opportunity - we are looking for individuals who are interested in serving as tour guides and shop staff. Or are you looking to play a bigger role in The Crowd? We have committees where you can help with programming, writing newsletters, marketing, and fundraising. We are also looking for new members for our board.

### Has your email address changed?

Contact us with your new email address at [betsy-tacy@gmail.com](mailto:betsy-tacy@gmail.com) to continue to receive the most up-to-date information from the Betsy-Tacy Society.

### Membership Information

As your membership expires, you’ll receive an e-mail reminder to renew. Please renew promptly to save the BTS staff time and postage for sending renewal notices via USPS. You can renew online at [www.betsy-tacysociety.org/membershippurchase](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org/membershippurchase).

The BTS is very grateful to all its members for their ongoing support.

# The Deep Valley Book Festival Brings Back Memories of Maud

by Anne Kerr

June 28, 2015 found me in Mankato at the Deep Valley Book Festival, part of the 2015 Deep Valley Homecoming weekend sponsored by the Betsy-Tacy Society. Mankato is known to Betsy-Tacy fans as Deep Valley. Maud Hart Lovelace, author of these well-known books, grew up in Mankato and wrote about herself as Betsy, an aspiring author. The Deep Valley Book Festival is an important part of each year's festivities, with many Minnesota authors and illustrators invited to attend. I was pleased to be invited.

As a child growing up, I fell in love with the Betsy-Tacy books. They were being published as I grew, so I received the latest Betsy-Tacy book each year for my birthday. As an added bonus, my friend Romie (Rosemund) Lundquist was Maud Hart Lovelace's niece. Romie and I have been friends forever. We attended Robert Fulton grade school and Southwest High School in Minneapolis, and belonged to the same Brownie and Girl Scout troops.

I was invited to Romie's house with several other friends one day in 1946 when Maud Hart Lovelace was visiting. Romie and I were 11-12 years old at the time. It was a thrill to meet Maud in person and be invited to ask her questions. We were all delirious. I spoke with Romie this week to ask for corroboration of dates and also to ask if any photos were taken that day. Romie currently lives in an assisted living facility in Boulder, Colorado and did not recall ever seeing photos of that day. She told me that 1946 was the last time she saw her Aunt Maud as well, although there were phone conversations and correspondence between them until Maud died in 1980.



We also were camp counselors at Lyman Lodge (YWCA Camp at Lake Minnetonka) in 1950. (Romie is on the far left and I am the third from left.)



We sang in the Southwest High School choir, pictured here on a choir trip in 1952. (Romie is on the far left and I am next to her.)

Romie told me something I hadn't remembered; that her mom helped Maud with several chapters of a manuscript about one of Maud's characters going to college, Carney's House Party. Romie's mom shared some of her Milwaukee Downer Col-

lege memories for Maud to use. About ten years ago Romie donated the original manuscript that Maud had hand-written, with Romie's mom's written notes in the margins, to the Betsy-Tacy Society.

Back to Mankato a month ago, imagine my delight to find author Faith Sullivan at the very next table. Faith is a very popular fiction writer. Her successful titles include *Cape Ann*, *Gardenias* and *The Empress of One*. Coming out this fall is her latest, *Goodnight, Mr. Wodehouse*.



We also enjoyed horseback riding at Shady Valley. (Romie is at the far right and I am next to her.)

Thank you to the Betsy-Tacy Society and your gracious and helpful volunteers for my great experience at the 2015 Deep Valley Book Festival. Keep up your important work. And heartfelt thanks to Maud for providing such wonderful reading as I was growing up.



Dan Sullivan, Anne Kerr author of *Fujiyama Trays & Oshibori Towels*, and Faith Sullivan at the Deep Valley Book Festival. Follow her blog or purchase her book at [www.ladyskywriter.com/blog](http://www.ladyskywriter.com/blog).

## ...Hitching Block cont. from page 19

originally used for an old hitching block; this ring was used by a blacksmith as a pattern to handcraft four iron rings for our reproductions. Ken shared his experience with the process of attaching the iron rings to stone using lead. Jason Reese from Jordan Sands (a division of Coughlan Company) installed the blocks at the houses. On October 25, 2014 the BTS dedicated the new hitching blocks that add one more historical feature to these literary treasures for visitors to experience. Thank you Coughlan Companies and all involved in this project!

Betsy watched a bluebird take off from the maple... "What can we do?" she murmured, watching him. "I know!" she said. "We'll learn to fly." ... "We'll begin with our hitching block," said Betsy, and she ran out to the hitching block and jumped off, waving her arms. "It's easy!" she cried.

(excerpts from Betsy-Tacy and Tib)

...cont. from page 13

not like the bustling feel of the other grocery stores. They also had cats, which one day went berserk and attacked the women. That was a scary conclusion to their grocery days!

Many farmers from the Madison Lake area and other rural areas did their big weekly shopping at Mocol's. After finishing their chores early on Saturday, families piled into cars and drove into town for the week's shopping, bringing eggs to trade or to pay for the groceries. It was a social event, and visiting and catching up on the news was a big part of the Saturday night getaway. The shopping completed, the eggs traded for groceries, the families hurried home to watch the free outdoor movies held in Madison Lake's town park.

Each store had its own personality and style, a clear reflection of its owner. Some were cleaner than others, some better stocked, some with fruit, others with the advantage of a nearby bakery. All of them were alike in that shopping there was always a friendly, neighborly event. It was a simple affair of the grocer, or his wife or brother, following you with a basket into which were put the items. Once the purchases were made, the grocer produced a pad with a carbon sheet, entered the items, and then placed the original on a metal frame that hung behind the counter. At the end of the month, having paid the bill, the shopper was given candy bars as a treat.

Over the years the grocery stores dwindled down to fewer and fewer, and now Mocol's could well be the last of a neighborhood tradition, a grocery store just a few blocks from home. Mocol's is a worthy, successful testimonial to the days before the Supermarket. In its own way it is a super grocery store, in the best definition of the word. Check it out sometime; it's across from Franklin School on North Broad Street. You'll like it!

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***"I like to reread [the books] to visit with old friends--I will pick up one of the books and dive right in, wherever the pages happen to fall open. The characters are real people who remind me of my childhood and of who I dreamed of becoming."***

*-Elizabeth Power*

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***"I re-read the Betsy-Tacy books because they continue to take me back to an enchanting time where youth managed to have a good time within the family household. The parties & celebration that are pictured always calm my spirit with the simple things of life & how they can actually be done."***

*-Nancy Lee McAvoy*



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Reviews on Amazon help authors sell more books! Readers choose books based on recommendations. Leaving an Amazon review is like telling your friends how much you enjoy a book. Did you know that after 20-25 reviews, Amazon includes the author's book in "also bought" and "you might like" lists? This increases visibility on the site and helps boost sales. After 50-70 reviews, Amazon highlights the book for spotlight positions and its newsletter. This is a HUGE boost for an author.

Write a review for the Betsy-Tacy books, Lovelace's historical novels, and books by other authors that have written about Maud. This shows others how much these books are loved and will encourage new readers and sell more books to ensure they will stay in print!

### *When contacting the BTS....*

**By Mail** – Always send mail to the following address:  
 Betsy-Tacy Society  
 P.O. Box 94  
 Mankato, MN 56002-0094

Do not use the address printed in the back of the older issues of the Betsy-Tacy books and do not address mail to us at the Center Street location. We do not have a mailbox at either house, and the mail carrier cannot deliver to these addresses.

**By E-mail** – When sending an e-mail, ALWAYS use "Betsy-Tacy" in the subject line. This will help ensure your message does not get caught in spam filters.

**By Phone** – Our phone number (507) 345-9777 – reaches an answering service. Please leave your message and it will be returned by someone with the society who can best help you.