

**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  | \$12.99 |       |
|      | Carney's House Party/Winona's Pony Cart   | \$13.99 |       |
|      | The Black Angels – Maud's first novel published in 1926. Story set in Minnesota and opens in the days before the Civil War. | \$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 |       |
|      | Gentlemen from England – Fictionalized story of real 19th century English colony near Fairmont, MN.                         | \$22.95 |       |
|      | Betsy-Tacy Book Set (4 volumes containing 10 books in the series)   | \$55.00 |       |
|      | Deep Valley Book Set (2 volumes contain Emily of Deep Valley, Carney's House Party, Winona's Pony Cart)                     | \$24.00 |       |

**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 |       |
|      | Lois Lenski Storycatcher – By Bobbie Malone  | \$26.95 |       |
|      | Home for the Holidays – By Heather Vogel Frederick. From the Mother-Daughter Book Club series featuring the Betsy-Tacy books                                       | \$7.99  |       |
|      | From Little Houses to Little Women – By Nancy McCabe – Journey to the houses of Laura Ingalls Wilder, Maud Hart Lovelace, Louisa May Alcott & Lucy Maud Montgomery | \$29.95 |       |

**Note Cards/Holiday Cards (Blank inside with white envelopes – 5 1/2 x 4 1/4 Package of 6)**

| Qty. | Item   | Price  | Total |
|------|--|--------|-------|
|      | <b>Choice of Note Cards</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's Trunk <input type="checkbox"/> Being Good <input type="checkbox"/> Immortal Trio <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's 10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party <input type="checkbox"/> The Maple Tree <input type="checkbox"/> MHL Deep Valley<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maud Hart Lovelace Home & Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Deep Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Maud and Delos <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Morning <input type="checkbox"/> The Brass Bowl<br><input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Shopping <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas in Deep Valley by Cheryl Harness (Inside: Happy Holidays From Deep Valley, Tea Length Red Envelope) | \$8.00 |       |

**Ephemera**

| Qty. | Item  | Price                        | Total |
|------|---|------------------------------|-------|
|      | <b>Photo Postcards</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Maud Hart Lovelace (Portrait by Marian Anderson) <input type="checkbox"/> Maud with daughter Merian at age 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's House<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tacy's House <input type="checkbox"/> Maud and Bick (Betsy & Tacy) <input type="checkbox"/> Midge (Tib) <input type="checkbox"/> Maud and Delos Lovelace <input type="checkbox"/> Maud Hart Lovelace (1940)<br><input type="checkbox"/> The Immortal Trio <input type="checkbox"/> Mankato High School (Deep Valley High) <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy-Tacy (1940 Book Cover)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Betsy-Tacy and Tib (1941 Book Cover) <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy-Tacy Go Over Big Hill (1942 book cover)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Betsy-Tacy Go Downtown (1943 book cover) | \$1.00 each or 10 for \$9.00 |       |
|      | Trio Photo "Betsy-Tacy Days" in Mankato, MN 1961 & Betsy, Tacy & Tib Illustration by Lois Lenski – 2-sided, 5x7 card  | \$1.50                       |       |
|      | Betsy & Joe's Wedding Invitation – Reproduction of an original promotional card printed for the release of "Betsy's Wedding" in 1955  | \$2.00                       |       |
|      | Maud Hart Lovelace Booklet – Reproduction of an original publication published by Thomas C. Crowell Company.  | \$5.00                       |       |
|      | Journals – Hardcover, 112 lined pages Betsy Tacy Friends Forever Forget-Me-Not  | \$5.00 (each)                |       |
|      | Journal Gift Set – Choice of journal with matching bookmark and two Betsy-Tacy Pencils<br><input type="checkbox"/> Betsy-Tacy Journal <input type="checkbox"/> Friends Forever Journal <input type="checkbox"/> Forget-Me-Not Journal   | \$10.00                      |       |
|      | Laminated Bookmark with brass book charm<br><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                  |       |
|      | Betsy-Tacy Bookmark – Reproduction from the publisher of the BT Bks Thomas Crowell Co.  | \$2.00                       |       |
|      | Maud's Signature Bookplate – (1) Reproduction autographed bookplate   | \$5.00                       |       |
|      | Betsy and Tacy Bookplate (Set of 5) This Book belongs to _____  | \$2.00                       |       |
|      | Bookplate Set - This Tome Belongs To _____ Betsy, Tacy, Tib Bench/Betsy All Grown Up  | \$1.50                       |       |
|      | I Love Betsy-Tacy Note Pad  | \$2.75                       |       |



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

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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. 12 ISSUE 1

FALL 2016

## Maud's Iowa Roots and the Washington Prairie Methodist Church



The historic Washington Prairie Methodist Church, located between Decorah and Ossian, Iowa, 2015. In 1980 the Washington Prairie Methodist Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The church was built by members of the immigrant congregation using limestone in the area.

By Julie Schrader

On a beautiful sunny October day in 2015, we were traveling along a quiet country road southeast of Decorah, Iowa in search of the historic little church that Maud's father, Thomas W. Hart, and grandparents, James A. and Arosamond Hart, attended.

The story of the Hart family and the Washington Prairie Methodist Church can best be told by Maud herself. Found in the files at the Iowa Historical Society are letters Maud wrote in 1964-65 in

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which she inquires about the possibility of donating family documents. Maud wrote about "another sort of manuscript which has come into my possession, a great, great treasure of the Hart family." Along with this correspondence Maud included her recollections:

"My grandfather, James Adolphus Hart, left Canada in the mid-eighteen-fifties and came to Calmar Township in Winneshiek County, Iowa to homestead land. He left behind him, teaching school in St. Williams, Canada, Arosamond Price, to whom he was engaged. In 1857 he returned to marry her and took her by railroad train and covered wagon out to the Iowa prairies. Arosamond brought with her six silk dresses, a sewing machine and her mahogany melodeon.

After a few years the growing family moved to Frankville Township, to a farm near Ossian. Pioneer life was hard, as we all know, but Arosamond had a gay spirit which was not quenched. She was a very determined person, too. She resolved that her children should have a gentle upbringing and instilled fine manners into every one of them. When the country school was not in session, she taught them herself at home; and she brought them up to be deeply religious as she and James both were. The Methodists met in an old log building but there was no Protestant church in the vicinity and Arosamond made up her mind that there should be.

In June of 1876 she got out a sheet of paper and James headed the subscription list for a "church house", pledging \$100. Thomas, my father, then a boy of thirteen, hitched a team of horses to a wagon and drove his mother out to raise the rest of the money. Tolver Holvorson and Phineas Banning matched James's pledge and others gave varying amounts. My father never forgot that summer and told my



James A. and Arosamond Hart gravestone in Greenwood Centennial Cemetery in Winneshiek County, Iowa. Photo taken October 2015.

See 'Maud's Iowa Roots' page 16

### 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.

### 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.

Check out our online shop; your purchases support our missions!

[www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org)**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 3,559 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)



**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

**Board of Directors**  
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 Stacy Lienemann  
 Ann Swartz-Beckius

**BTS Staff**  
 Anna Anderson, Executive Director  
 BTSmankato@gmail.com  
 Leila Boulester, Operations Manager  
 Betsy.Tacy@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Julie Schrader

Member benefits include an annual issue of the Deep Valley Sun newsletter, e-newsletters, online access to Members Only specials, and free admission to the Betsy-Tacy houses. Higher membership levels offer more support to the BTS.

**Annual Membership Levels**  
 Basic.....\$25.00  
 Patron.....\$50.00  
 Silver.....\$100.00  
 Gold.....\$250.00  
 Lifetime.....\$500.00

**Shop Catalog:**  
 Shop our online catalog:  
 www.betsy-tacysociety.org.  
 Credit cards & PayPal available.

For a catalog: send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094 and mark CATALOG on the front of the envelope.

**Tacy's House and Gift Shop**  
 April – December:  
 Open every Saturday 12 noon – 3 p.m.  
 Closed: January – February – March  
 Tacy's House is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato and Betsy's House is at 333 Center Street. Check the BTS website for current admission fees. NO admission to gift shop only. BTS members are admitted free during regular hours.

**Special House Visits:**  
 Call (507) 345-9777 or (507) 345-8903  
 For special house visits, advance reservations are requested 2 weeks in advance. See the BTS website for current rates for special tours, group tours, or school groups. Or, call for more details.

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## Message from the President...

### Greetings Members and Friends of BTS

2016 has been a busy and blessed year in Deep Valley. As you can see from the articles in this newsletter, the BTS has sponsored many successful events this year. As part of the Deep Valley Homecoming and as a joint project with Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery, two limited edition labelled wines were introduced and are available for sale. A portion of the sales of these wines is donated to the BTS. Please consider serving these wines at your gatherings and parties this holiday season or giving them as gifts. Another gift idea is the “Listening for Your Song” CD from Maud Hixon. We were honored to have a concert, which served as the release of this CD, as part of the opening event for DVH.

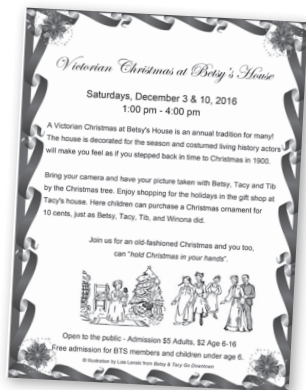
Thanks to your generous response to our letter requesting funds to help pay for a redesigned and updated website, we met our goal and the website is under construction. It is anticipated that it will be up and running very soon. Look for it soon.

If you are looking for something special to do this Christmas season, please come to the **VICTORIAN** Christmas – two full weekends of events for you and your family to enjoy.

None of these events would be possible without our many volunteers willingly donating their time and talents. If you would like to join us, we welcome volunteers for all our events.

Thank you for your support.

Eileen Wells  
 President, Board of Directors



## Join the New B.T.T. Club

(The Betsy, Tacy, and Tib Club)



This special Youth Membership is exclusive for kids ages 0–17. For just \$10 a year, you'll receive a special membership card, quarterly newsletters full of games, history about the time when the Betsy-Tacy series took place, an advice column, and all kinds of writing, polls and artwork from Betsy-Tacy fans! You will also join a community of other Betsy-Tacy fans, be invited to enter all of our youth contests, and more! Present your membership card when you visit the Betsy's and Tacy's houses and receive free admission.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society

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

THANK YOU!

Staff purposes only: Paid by  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card

## Betsy-Tacy Society Annual Membership Form

Membership runs from January 1st - December 31st

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New  Renewal

I would like:  Mailed Newsletters

Electronic Newsletters

Choose electronic newsletter – save money for the BTS and save a tree!

### Membership Levels

\$25 Basic (Foreign members receive electronic newsletters – if mailed are preferred move up to the next level.)

\$50 Patron

\$100 Silver\*

\$250 Gold\* (Gift Choice circle one): A or B

\$500 Lifetime (Gifts A and C)

Pay in 4 installments of \$125

\*Denotes business memberships

Please do not send my gift. I want my full contribution to support the BTS.

### GIFTS

Gift A: Winona's Pony Cart – hardcover

Gift B: Immortal Trio notecards

Gift C: Betsy's House ornament

### Donations

I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ above my yearly membership dues.

I would like to allocate my gift to:

General Fund

Restoration Fund

Endowment Fund

No acknowledgement for donation required

Donation in Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation 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

|   |         |  |
|---|---------|--|
| 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 (To color and cut)  | \$4.00  |  |
| Betsy, Tacy High School Paper Dolls (To color and cut)  | \$7.50  |  |
| Maud's Deep Valley Poster (11 1/2 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 |  |
| 2017 Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley Calendar – supplies limited                             | \$15.00 |  |

### CD, DVD & Songbook

| Qty. | Item  | Price   | Total |
|------|---|---------|-------|
|      | Hometime DVD – 2-volume set – Syndicated home-improvement show, Betsy's house restoration   | \$5.00  |       |
|      | 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 |       |
|      | Listening For Your Song: A musical companion to the BT books. By Maud Hixon and Rick Carlson  | \$15.00 |       |
|      | Betsy-Tacy CD (Audiobook)   | \$17.95 |       |

### Betsy-Tacy Fashions

| Qty. | Item  | Price   | Total |
|------|---|---------|-------|
|      | Forget-Me-Not T-Shirt – (white) Adult Sizes: SM, MED, LG, XL, 2XL, 3XL Please circle size                                   | \$10.00 |       |
|      | Onesie – I Love Betsy-Tacy – Sizes 3-6 mo., 6-12 mo., 12-18 mo. Please circle size  | \$9.00  |       |
|      | Bib – I love Betsy Tacy   | \$5.00  |       |
|      | Everything Pudding Apron (red with black ink)   | \$15.00 |       |
|      | I Love Betsy, Tacy & Tib T-Shirt – (Pink or Gray) Children Sizes: XS, S, M, LG Circle size and color                        | \$12.00 |       |
|      | I Love Betsy, Tacy & Tib T-Shirt – (Pink or Gray) Adult Sizes: SM, Med, LG, XL, 2XL, 3XL Circle size and color              | \$15.00 |       |
|      | Deep Valley Homecoming T-shirt – (Lime Green or Carolina Blue) Children Sizes: XS, S, M, LG Circle size and color           | \$12.00 |       |
|      | Deep Valley Homecoming T-shirt – (Pistachio Green or Carolina Blue) Adult Sizes: SM, Med, LG, XL, 2XL Circle size and color | \$15.00 |       |

### Specialties

| Qty. | Item   | Price          | Total |
|------|--|----------------|-------|
|      | Keepsake Gold Ornament <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's House <input type="checkbox"/> Tacy's House  | \$18.00 (each) |       |
|      | Betsy-Tacy Canvas Tote Bag – Quote from Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown and illustration by Vera Neville. 10.5" x 14"   | \$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 – Choice of: <input type="checkbox"/> The Bench <input type="checkbox"/> (Book) Betsy-Tacy <input type="checkbox"/> Betsy's House  | \$1.00 (each)  |       |
|      | Deep Valley Afghan – Full color afghan 42" x 60" plus 2" fringe  | \$60.00        |       |
|      | Little Glass Pitcher – replica of the little glass pitcher Tacy gave to Betsy on her 5th birthday  | \$10.00        |       |
|      | Betsy-Tacy Pin – a heart pin with a emerald stone in the middle that says "Betsy-Tacy, Deep Valley"  | \$12.00        |       |
|      | Winding Hall of Fate Mug – features Neville illustration from Betsy in Spite of Herself  | \$8.95         |       |
|      | Deep Valley Homecoming mug – color image from Betsy-Tacy on front and MHL quote on the back  | \$8.95         |       |
|      | Silicone Bracelets – (hot pink "I Love Betsy-Tacy" or green "Deep Valley Homecoming") Circle your choice   | \$2.00         |       |
|      | Mrs. Chubbock's Candy Store mini canvas bag – features Lois Lenski illustration from Betsy-Tacy. 6.75" x 6.25"   | \$5.00         |       |
|      | Child's Porcelain Tea Set for two in wicker basket – (Betsy's Violets or Tacy's Pink Rose) Circle your choice  | \$35.00        |       |

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

Shipping Address (if different from billing address):

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

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

Special Instructions:

| Shipping Charges:              | Merchandise Total                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| \$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 |                                     |
|                                | Sales Tax (MN residents add 6.875%) |
|                                | Shipping                            |
|                                | Donation (Tax Deductible)           |
|                                | Total Amount Enclosed               |

## Message from the Director.....

**Greetings, members!** I hope this newsletter finds you well. My name is Anna Anderson and I have been honored to accept the position of Executive Director with the Betsy-Tacy Society in May of this year. I hit the ground running with the final planning and execution of this year's Deep Valley Homecoming which took place June 24-27. I had the privilege of meeting some of you there as we enjoyed an eventful weekend in Maud's Deep Valley.

I moved to Mankato in 2011 with my then 4 year old daughter and we settled into a home a few blocks away from Tib's. We immediately felt how special our neighborhood was and began reading the Betsy-Tacy books. We devoured every tidbit of information we could find about the history of the neighborhood and about that special woman who gifted us all with the magic of her memories growing up here; Maud Hart Lovelace. It seemed such a natural thing for me to have the opportunity to do my part to carry on such a legacy.

I will graduate with a Bachelor's in Business Management this spring, and am pleased to be able to bring my professional knowledge and education to the Betsy-Tacy Society. I worked as an assistant-teacher with Mankato's ECFE since moving here and it is one of my goals to give the gift of Betsy-Tacy to children not only in Mankato, but everywhere.

I would like to extend my sincerest thank you to all of our volunteers, members, and donors. The hard work, dedication, and generosity you all show is palpable and vital to our success. The Betsy-Tacy Society and those who support it speak volumes to the depth and breadth of Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy and it is a joy to witness, and such an honor to be a part of. If I can ever be of assistance to you, please reach out to me at [btsmankato@gmail.com](mailto:btsmankato@gmail.com). I look forward to getting to know all of you!

## Treasurer Report

By Tom Salsbery

The Betsy-Tacy Society continues to search out new opportunities to earn revenue to further enhance our programs, maintain the houses and provide for the regular operations of the Society. At present, the Society has \$7,338 in checking and approximately \$38,900 in savings and certificates of deposit. Some of this is designated for specific causes. Our endowment fund has approximately \$28,500 in it. We look forward to a robust holiday season with our Victorian Christmas and, hopefully, many donations from our supportive members.

### Do you shop on amazon.com?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the Betsy-Tacy Society.

### Start Now!

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)
2. Choose "Betsy-Tacy Society" from the search menu.
3. Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) so that the Betsy-Tacy Society benefits every time you shop!

**amazon** smile  
 You shop. Amazon gives.  
[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

## DID YOU KNOW? BETSY-TACY TRIVIA

### Questions

1. When did Betsy go by her given name?
2. Which neighbor lent Betsy and Tacy fashion magazines for their paper dolls?
3. What park could almost be seen from the rim of the Big Hill?
4. In front of what building was the first horseless carriage sitting when Tib jumped in to take her famous ride?
5. When is a "magic horse" mentioned?
6. What are the school colors of Deep Valley High?

See page 21 for Answers





## Message from the Director.....

**Greetings, members!** I hope this newsletter finds you well. My name is Anna Anderson and I have been honored to accept the position of Executive Director with the Betsy-Tacy Society in May of this year. I hit the ground running with the final planning and execution of this year's Deep Valley Homecoming which took place June 24-27. I had the privilege of meeting some of you there as we enjoyed an eventful weekend in Maud's Deep Valley.

I moved to Mankato in 2011 with my then 4 year old daughter and we settled into a home a few blocks away from Tib's. We immediately felt how special our neighborhood was and began reading the Betsy-Tacy books. We devoured every tidbit of information we could find about the history of the neighborhood and about that special woman who gifted us all with the magic of her memories growing up here; Maud Hart Lovelace. It seemed such a natural thing for me to have the opportunity to do my part to carry on such a legacy.

I will graduate with a Bachelor's in Business Management this spring, and am pleased to be able to bring my professional knowledge and education to the Betsy-Tacy Society. I worked as an assistant-teacher with Mankato's ECFE since moving here and it is one of my goals to give the gift of Betsy-Tacy to children not only in Mankato, but everywhere.

I would like to extend my sincerest thank you to all of our volunteers, members, and donors. The hard work, dedication, and generosity you all show is palpable and vital to our success. The Betsy-Tacy Society and those who support it speak volumes to the depth and breadth of Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy and it is a joy to witness, and such an honor to be a part of. If I can ever be of assistance to you, please reach out to me at [btsmankato@gmail.com](mailto:btsmankato@gmail.com). I look forward to getting to know all of you!

## Treasurer Report

By Tom Salsbery

The Betsy-Tacy Society continues to search out new opportunities to earn revenue to further enhance our programs, maintain the houses and provide for the regular operations of the Society. At present, the Society has \$7,338 in checking and approximately \$38,900 in savings and certificates of deposit. Some of this is designated for specific causes. Our endowment fund has approximately \$28,500 in it. We look forward to a robust holiday season with our Victorian Christmas and, hopefully, many donations from our supportive members.

### Do you shop on amazon.com?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the Betsy-Tacy Society.

### Start Now!

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)
2. Choose "Betsy-Tacy Society" from the search menu.
3. Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) so that the Betsy-Tacy Society benefits every time you shop!

**amazon**smile  
 You shop. Amazon gives.  
[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

## DID YOU KNOW? BETSY-TACY TRIVIA

### Questions

1. When did Betsy go by her given name?
2. Which neighbor lent Betsy and Tacy fashion magazines for their paper dolls?
3. What park could almost be seen from the rim of the Big Hill?
4. In front of what building was the first horseless carriage sitting when Tib jumped in to take her famous ride?
5. When is a "magic horse" mentioned?
6. What are the school colors of Deep Valley High?

See page 21 for Answers



## A Fundraising Message from the Board of Directors...

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to those who donated so generously in the last year to help us launch our new website. As with many large undertakings, we have hit a few bumps in the road during this process but are confident that the new site will be ready for us to enjoy its many benefits soon.

The Betsy-Tacy Society has welcomed two staff members to the team this year! Their dedication and experience will help to extend the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace and Betsy-Tacy and ensure our organization can continue growing. Their hard work managing daily operations and outreach opportunities does require an ongoing financial obligation, however. We consider them a true investment in our future.

As our new team members began “cleaning house” and improving our gift shop at Tacy’s house it was discovered that our store computer is desperately outdated and needs replacing. Each visitor to Deep Valley or [betsy-tacysociety.org](http://betsy-tacysociety.org) uses this computer and it is vital that our sales and banking software is able to function effectively.

Please consider giving a year-end tax-deductible donation to help us meet our goals of ensuring an efficient gift shop and retaining our talented staff. You can mail a check or go online at [betsy-tacysociety.org/membership](http://betsy-tacysociety.org/membership) to make a single gift by using your credit or debit card, or PayPal.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we will sustain and honor the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace, Deep Valley, and Betsy and Tacy!

Join the Betsy-Tacy Society for Minnesota’s Day of Giving on November 17, 2016 at [www.GiveMN.org](http://www.GiveMN.org). Give to the Max



Day is an annual statewide giving holiday, but you don’t have to be from Minnesota to give. We hope you will join tens of thousands of Minnesotans in making a donation to your favorite non-profit on this day of giving. Thank you for supporting the Betsy-Tacy Society with your gifts.

## Betsy’s Bedroom Restoration



Candy and Doug Laven installing new sheet rock.

### BTS Museum Wish List

Items or cash to purchase items off this list

#### Kitchen

- 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 kitchen

#### Dining Room

- Telephone chair
- Dining Room wall pictures in frames

#### Front Parlor

- Small wall picture frames in which family photos can be hung

#### Main Floor Bedroom

- Bedroom wall picture frames with pictures
- ¾ Bed with Mission-style high head and foot boards

#### Upstairs Bedrooms

- Youth Bed
- Bed tables, wash stand
- Small Dresser
- Floor rugs
- Ceiling light fixture
- Framed wall pictures in children’s theme
- Small wooden tray to go inside small wooden trunk

#### Tacy House

- Heavy doorway drapes for bedroom doorway
- Violin on stand

## *Victorian Christmas at Betsy's House*

Saturdays, December 3 & 10, 2016  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

A Victorian Christmas at Betsy's House is an annual tradition for many! The house is decorated for the season and costumed living history actors will make you feel as if you stepped back in time to Christmas in 1900.

Bring your camera and have your picture taken with Betsy, Tacy and Tib by the Christmas tree. Enjoy shopping for the holidays in the gift shop at Tacy's house. Here children can purchase a Christmas ornament for 10 cents, just as Betsy, Tacy, Tib, and Winona did.

Join us for an old-fashioned Christmas and you too,  
can "*hold Christmas in your hands*".



Open to the public - Admission \$5 Adults, \$2 Age 6-16  
Free admission for BTS members and children under age 6.

© Illustration by Lois Lenski from *Betsy & Tacy Go Downtown*



# Wine and Song Fundraiser for BTS

We're proud to have partnered with Chankaska Creek Winery and Maud Hixson on two special fundraising projects in 2016.

Two special label wines, Deep Valley Red and Deep Valley White, are available for a limited time. The special labels feature a Lois Lenski illustration from one of the Betsy-Tacy books. This fundraiser is only good while supplies last, so hurry to get yours now. A bottle of wine makes a wonderful gift for the holidays!



Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery is located just a few miles north of Mankato on North Riverfront Drive to Hwy 22 No. Watch for the sign for Chankaska Creek Winery on Hwy

22 N. If you are from the following states, you can have the wine shipped to you: MN, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IA, and MT. The Deep Valley label wines are not listed on Chankaska's website – call to request.

Singer and BTS member Maud Hixson released a new CD, "Listening For Your Song" with a concert at the Chankaska Creek Winery for the 2016 Deep Valley Homecoming in June. Hixson, accompanied by Rick Carlson, recorded 20 songs that were referred to in the Betsy-Tacy books.



**L-R: Jane Schwickert (general manager) and Karen Berg (event and marketing manager) from Chankaska Creek Winery at the Deep Valley Homecoming wine tasting and CD release, June 24, 2016. (Photo by Rebecca Novak)**

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this CD is donated to the BTS. CD's sell for \$15 and are available in Tacy's House Gift Shop or online.



Thanks to Jane Schwickert from Chankaska Creek Winery and Maud Hixson and Rick Carlson for your generosity and support of the BTS!

**Maud Hixson accompanied by Rick Carlson perform at Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery for the kickoff and CD release party for the Deep Valley Homecoming, June 24, 2016. (Photo by Michelle May)**

**Listening For Your Song**  
A Musical Companion To The Betsy-Tacy Books By Maud Hart Lovelace



Vocalist Maud Hixson Presents songs from the 1890s through WWI that were referred to in Maud Hart Lovelace's series of books about growing up in Mankato at the turn of the century. Hear familiar favorites like "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and "In The Good Old Summertime" as well as some lesser-known gems from the era of parlor music. Available for presentation at libraries, schools, performing arts centers, and for parlor concerts! Contact Maud Hixson for more information: [maud@maudhixson.com](mailto:maud@maudhixson.com).

**Upcoming program dates:**

- March 14, 2017      Minnesota History Center  
10:30 am              St Paul
- March 30, 2017      LeSueur Public Library  
7:00 pm
- April 1, 2017        West St. Paul Public Library  
2:00 pm

## Hit Tunes A Century Ago

Review written by David Bittinger

Whatever types of popular music appeal to you, here's a reasonable guess about something you've not found appealing for many years: the way the music is commercially positioned and publicized. From payola and white covers of R&B records through ersatz acts (remember Milli Vanilli?), unmusical music videos, country and western supermodels, and (your choice here), pop music's growth as a business has been matched by its shrinkage in culturally intrinsic character and authenticity.

How did popular songs become popular a century ago? As phonographs were owned by many households, rich and poor, records were widely played. But songs were introduced primarily through performance, with professional concerts less common than "parlor music" home concerts using piano and widely distributed sheet music. New songs were lively word-of-mouth experiences that travelled easily through a culture not yet dominated by entertainment potentates and marketing. Compositions that resonated in people's experiences and emotions became hits; popularity was far less the product of commercial promotion.

In a new and appropriately novel CD, *Listening For Your Song*, accomplished vocalist Maud Hixson, accompanied by Rick Carlson's skillful arrangements and piano, presents songs from the early twentieth century that serve virtually as characters in books written by Maud Hart Lovelace. Beloved by a wide audience, these books vividly recreate experiences of her youth. Those experiences echo artfully in this recording partnership between Hixson and the Betsy-Tacy Society, which supports not just Lovelace's legacy but also songs worthy of crossing over a long bridge of popular culture.

The storylines of Lovelace's *Betsy-Tacy* books include the 20 songs in this CD (as well as many others) and were published between 1940 and 1955. Born in 1892, Lovelace wrote her last book in 1966 and lived to 1980.

Through the coming-of-age progression of these books, the songs performed and encountered by best-friend characters Betsy and Tacy serve as the soundtrack of an

adult world experienced by two sensitive and searching girls. The books follow the two growing up in the peaceful haven of a small Minnesota town during the century's first two decades—a peace abruptly interrupted by World War I.

One of this collection's songs, *It's A Long Way To Tipperary*, became, a couple years after its composition, a patriotic rallying cry of "The Great War" that reached from Europe to America's heartland. At a dinner party in Betsy's Wedding, the song plays on a phonograph as the guests dance.

" . . . but then in the midst of all the gaiety something pressed on Betsy's heart. For she had seen the British Territorials march off to war to that tune, just boys most of them, and many had not come back."

As Maud is an uncommon name today, one might wonder whether vocalist Maud Hixson was named for the author whose work inspired this CD. Hixson, a serious musical researcher as well as a prominent performer and recording artist in jazz and traditional vocals, apparently would prefer people focus elsewhere. She's noted that her mother grew up reading the Betsy-Tacy books, leaving the matter there.

If you recall, say, President Eisenhower or had parents who enjoyed singing old tunes, you'll recognize many of these expertly crafted, good-hearted songs. They range from enduring ballads like *Moonlight Bay* and *My Wild Irish Rose* to the jazzy *Alexander's Ragtime Band* and the droll domestic humor of *Everybody Works But Father*. One highlight is the moving *Tonight Will Never Come Again*; another is *You're Here and I'm Here*, an upbeat love tune by a young Jerome Kern.

The CD's opening vocal track, *The Cat Duet*, is singular, starting with its early 19th century origins. Its music drawn from a Rossini theme, the piece is performed with operetta-like enthusiasm by two "cats" (the second cat is performed by soprano Maria Jette). The only lyric is Mee-ee-ow! It's lots of fun but not easily described, though I can attest it's enjoyable even for people who hate cats.

See 'Hit Tunes' page 9



# Lovelace's scrapbook charming, humorous

by Anna Freyberg

Published by the Mankato Free Press, October 9, 2016



Maud Hart (Betsy Ray), 1910.

Sifting through a copy of a scrapbook kept by the famous Mankato native Maud Hart Lovelace, I felt as though I was transported into the mind of the quirky, precocious 16-year old Betsy Ray, the beloved main character in her series of books for children.

The scrapbook is filled with exactly what you'd expect from a recent graduate – cut outs from the list of names in the Junior-Senior Banquet, school play programs, notes from friends, parodies on popular songs, and a program from the commencement ceremony for the Mankato (Deep Valley) High School's Class of 1910.

Lovelace's simply bound, scruffy book, with the curly cursive letters "Scrap Book" on the cover, now more than 100 years old, reveals her choice of silly poems and mementos. She explained in the book's inscription that most of its items were compiled after she graduated high school and the scrapbook was "an incomplete record of the 'larks' enjoyed in that worthy institution."

Among its first pages is a bit of sarcasm written on a folded piece of paper: "My masterpiece was produced this early!" Inexplicably, that note is accompanied by a supper menu from a hotel.

Lovelace's listing of a "Revised Form of the Comandments in the Ear of Our Lord: 1907" reminds me all too much of a giggly, young teenager, cleverly conjuring up funny stories for her friends. Some of the rules she penned: "Thou shalt not sit upon the school-house steps even until thou takest cold." "Thou shalt not kiss any woman until

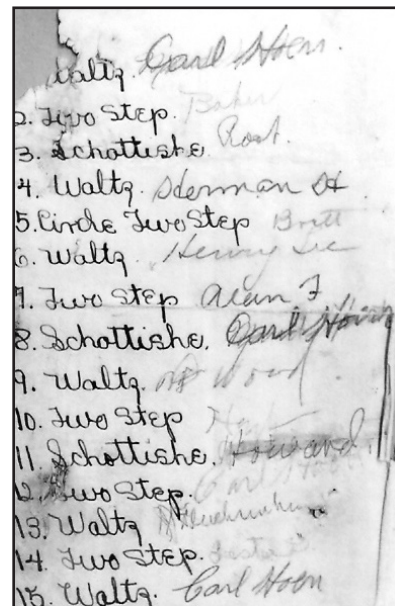
thy face be shaved and thy teeth cleaned." "Thou shalt not have a waist smaller than Eve whose measure was 12 inches." "Thou shalt not steal—a kiss." "Thou shalt not have two wives at once unless one be dead."

All of the achievements she's most proud of lie tucked within these pages. There are also the bits and pieces that would have tumbled out every time she opened the book: love letters and their envelopes, pressed flowers and newspaper clippings. A silly little slip of paper Lovelace found worthy of saving, reads. "We the under signed do here by request that Miss Maud refrain from making eyes at Zelona."

Among the names of girls who signed the petition, Frances Kenney (Tacy) stands out with the phrase "I am jealous" written next to her signature. Far from a Lovelace expert am I, for I am unsure whether Zelona was his real name or a code one. I like to think the latter.

It's hard not to fall for this charming young woman and all her endearing accomplishments and embarrassments before graduating. It is hardly difficult to picture a group of teenagers barely holding back bursts of laughter in class, teasing one another about boys, sharing everything when they were together, and laughing until they cried at nonsensical stories.

Lovelace's scrapbook reminds me of the very reason why her books are loved so very much. They are able to grant the reader a real connection, a good laugh or two, and a reassuring sense that the world we live in today really isn't too different from the world of Betsy and Tacy.



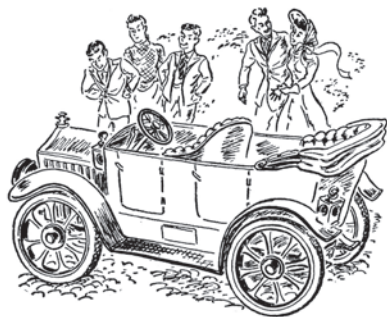
Copy of Maud's dance card from her scrapbook. Courtesy of the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

# From Our Guest Book

What an amazing year 2016 has been for us here at the Betsy-Tacy Society! We had such a lovely gathering for Deep Valley Homecoming, celebrating Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy with visitors from California to New York (and everywhere in between) joining us at Betsy's and Tacy's homes as well as other locations dear to us all. It was so wonderful to see you all and to meet many of you for the first time. We were also joined by friends near and far for private tours and public hours, welcoming many visitors whose love for Maud and the Betsy-Tacy books spans generations. The joy and happiness these visits produce is equally abundant for all ages. It is an honor for us to have the opportunity to give such a gift. Our 2016 guest book reveals that our visitors came from:

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Alberta, Canada      | Nebraska       |
| Arizona              | Nevada         |
| Arkansas             | New Hampshire  |
| California           | New Jersey     |
| Colorado             | New Mexico     |
| Connecticut          | New York       |
| District of Columbia | North Carolina |
| Dublin, Ireland      | Norway         |
| Florida              | Ohio           |
| Georgia              | Oklahoma       |
| Illinois             | Oregon         |
| Indiana              | South Carolina |
| Iowa                 | South Dakota   |
| Kansas               | Texas          |
| Maryland             | Utah           |
| Massachusetts        | Virginia       |
| Michigan             | Washington     |
| Minnesota            | West Virginia  |
| Missouri             | Wisconsin      |
| Montana              | Wyoming        |

*We look forward to many more of you coming to visit us here in the coming year!*



## Hit Tunes continued from page 7

Here's another example of how early-twentieth century popular songs significantly set the stage of Lovelace's stories. In *My Merry Oldsmobile* (published in 1905) is played at a dance in *Betsy In Spite of Herself*, as Betsy gambols with a fellow who owns a flashy Buick:

... the words of the song caused smiling faces to turn in their direction.

*"Come away with me, Lucille,  
In my merry Oldsmobile ..."*

"Only it isn't an Oldsmobile," he murmured in her ear.

With her youthful, bell-like soprano, Hixson performs these songs beautifully, glowing and gliding through the tales of longing, humor, success and loss. Carlson, a master of phrasing, melodic wisdom and shrewd asides, delivers understated arrangements that reflect the music's early-1900s sensibilities yet also have a contemporary jazz pianist's touch.

Listening For Your Song (a lyric from the CD's last track, *There's A Long, Long Trail*) can be heard as representing two appreciations of another era, from Lovelace's perspective and from ours today. Presenting these songs as fresh performance rather than nostalgic amusement, the production delivers something remarkable. It has the character of a confidant with valuable recollections and eloquence in their expression.

*David Bitteringer's commentary has appeared in All About Jazz, The Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Washington Post, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Los Angeles Times, (St. Paul) Pioneer Press, Palm Beach Post and other publications.*

Editor's Note:  
Also of interest is the *Betsy-Tacy Songbook: Music from the Deep Valley Books of Maud Hart Lovelace and Maud's Music of Deep Valley: Musical Tribute to Maud Hart Lovelace.*





# In Memoriam

## Inella Burns

April 9, 1917 – May 26, 2016

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Inella Burns. Inella was a long-time friend and supporter of the Betsy-Tacy Society. Inella Burns and Maud Hart Lovelace were connected, in spirit, both geographically and literally. In 1950 Inella and her husband Bert, with their daughters Kathleen and Janet, bought a big, brown house on Byron Street, just around the corner from the bottom of the “Big Hill”, Betsy and Tacy’s houses are two blocks up that hill. When the Burnses moved into the neighborhood, Lovelace’s books, written in the 1940’s, were already popular, but there were no physical traces of the girls and their friends. (It was not until 2001 that the Betsy-Tacy Society purchased and restored Betsy’s house; Tacy’s house was purchased in 1995.) Inella was a much beloved English teacher at Mankato High School (now Mankato West). In the years that she taught (1951–1976) there was just one high school in Mankato (as was true in Lovelace’s day), linking the whole town through the high school experiences of its children. In her books, Lovelace brought those shared experiences to life.



Inella Burns



In 1961 Janet Burns (then age 10) dressed as “Tacy” for “Betsy-Tacy Days.” This photo was taken at the Burns house by the Mankato Free Press.

## Andrea Shaw

May 19, 1954 – July 21, 2016

The Betsy-Tacy Society is very saddened to report the death, after a long illness, of Andrea Shaw, who co-founded the New York Chapter of the BTS with Maud’s daughter, Merian Lovelace Kirchner, and later served as Merian’s literary executor. Although they were initially

strangers, Andrea and Merian became very close, and when Merian’s health failed, she took on the role of caregiver and advocate.

Merian’s longtime friend Brenda Becker described Andrea this way: “she was an incredibly generous and gifted steward, who worked tirelessly for the Betsy-Tacy books as a

legacy and for our Merian as a beloved friend... whatever revival the beautiful books of Maud Hart Lovelace have had in the past decades, Andrea and [her husband] Alan were critical behind-the-scenes facilitators, and they together gave Maud’s most precious treasure, her daughter, the priceless gift of peace of mind.”

Andrea was also a gifted writer, who published a wonderful guide to film on video called SEEN THAT, NOW WHAT? After becoming a diehard Elvis Presley fan, she and Alan collaborated on an illustrated map of Memphis featuring Elvis-related landmarks and anecdotes about his life.

Even those Betsy-Tacy fans who never met her were affected by Andrea’s dedication to promoting Maud’s work after Merian was no longer able to do so. We are all the richer because of Andrea’s efforts, and she will be greatly missed.

## Andrea Shaw and Merian Lovelace Kirchner

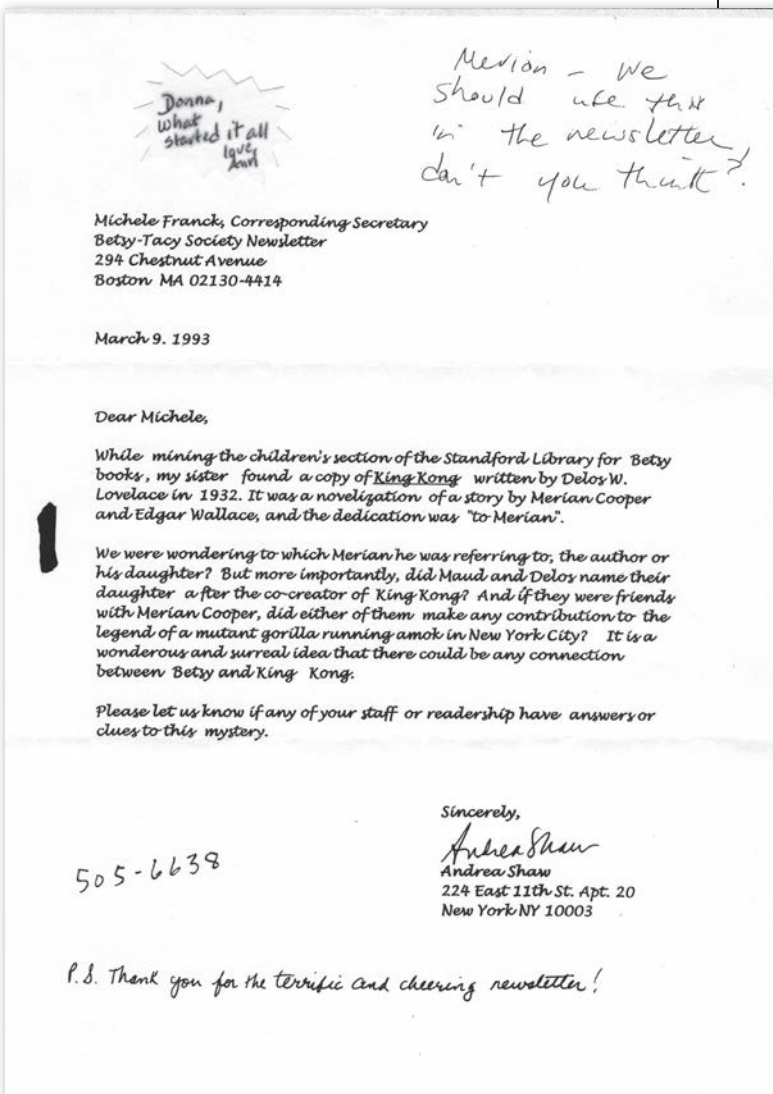
As remembered by Andrea’s sister, Donna Storey

Even though we lived in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our parents would often take us downtown to the grand Carnegie library in Oakland to choose books from their extensive collection. I loved the children’s room and still remember the day my middle sister Andrea pulled Heaven to Betsy from a small book shelf set on the circular table in the middle of the reading room. “This is a good book. I think you’ll like it.” I was only eight years old, but a precocious reader who loved historical novels. I also knew my sister’s recommendations were very reliable—and this time she outdid herself. I devoured the high school books and raced on to *Betsy’s Wedding*, my favorite. The library was missing its copy of Betsy and the Great World, which



Andrea Shaw

# In Memoriam



neither Andrea nor I read until I discovered a copy in my college roommate’s local library. I also didn’t read the books for younger children until decades later, but by then I was happy to have more Betsy-Tacy history to enjoy.

In any case, Andrea and I shared a love of the Betsy-Tacy books and over the years we often re-read them together—Christmas in Milwaukee and summers at Murmuring Lake and picnics with cocoa made over an open fire seemed like part of our own past. We were also a family of three sisters. The oldest of us was a beauty who left a string of broken-hearted beaux like Julia. Andrea had the independent spirit and charisma of Betsy. Like Margaret, I was younger (by seven years), bookish and dignified and loved our two

poodles like friends, but I also knew I wanted to be a writer, so I identified with Betsy, too.

And like many fans, Andrea and I thought we were the only ones who preferred Betsy to Nancy Drew.

Fast forward to December of 1992. I treated myself to a copy of *Victoria Magazine* to get myself in the old-fashioned Christmas spirit. There I found an announcement about the Betsy-Tacy Society, a group of Maud Hart Lovelace fans who thought they were “the only ones” who loved her books but had found they were a community. It was our family custom to try to outdo each other with clever stocking stuffers on Christmas morning, and I knew I had to get a membership for Andrea (and myself). She was surprised and delighted—and I was glad to be able to make my own contribution to our Betsy-Tacy legacy.

Then just a few months later, I decided to take a tour of my own grand local library in Berkeley (I was in graduate school and the university library had served my literary needs up to that time). I went to the children’s floor and thought I’d check if they had a full collection of Betsy-Tacy books. That’s when I saw a children’s version of *King Kong* by Delos W. Lovelace. Why had “Joe” written about King Kong? Today the question could be answered with a quick Google search, but in 1993 research was a little more difficult. Andrea was equally intrigued and decided to see if the Betsy-Tacy Society could help. I’ve attached a pdf of the letter she wrote, which she gave to me a few years ago with the note: “Donna, What started it all.”

(By the way, Andrea got the library wrong—my husband and I had helped her with the Japanese movie portion of her video guide *Seen That, Now What?* and we borrowed many of the videos from the Stanford library, hence her assumption that I saw Delos’ book there).

See ‘In Memoriam’ page 12



# In Memoriam

*In Memoriam* continued from page 10

The Betsy-Tacy Society secretary, Michele Franck, forwarded Andrea’s letter to Merian. I believe Merian wrote to the address Andrea provided in reply, and since they were both in the New York City area, they later spoke by phone (I wonder if the phone number on the letter was Merian’s writing?) and Merian invited Andrea to lunch. They had a wonderful time chatting about Betsy-Tacy and really hit it off. Andrea visited many times, both alone and for Betsy-Tacy Society meetings of the New York chapter. Once when I was back east, Andrea took me to meet Merian at her Park Slope apartment. It was a real thrill for me to meet her. She was gracious and very generous with stories about her mother and father. I felt very lucky to have the opportunity to meet her and felt in touch with the spirit of her parents, too.

Andrea and Merian became great friends. Near the end of Merian’s life in 1997, Andrea visited her every day in the hospital.

**Kathryn Adams Doty**

July 15, 1920 - October 14, 2016

Born Kathryn Hohn in New Ulm, MN, she attended Hamline University in St. Paul. As a sophomore in 1939, she won a trip to Hollywood, chosen the Mid-western winner in the “Gateway to Hollywood” talent contest. Kathryn was paired with another regional talent contest winner, Hugh Beaumont from New Orleans. Beaumont is best known for his role as Ward Cleaver in the “Leave it to Beaver” television series.

Movie director Gregory LaCava spotted Kathryn’s talent and he offered her a role in his new movie, “Fifth Avenue Girl”, starring Ginger Rogers. Known as Kathryn Adams during her days on screen, she went on to appear in 25 movies from 1939-1946, working with Lucille Ball, Kay Kyser, Bing Crosby and many others.



**Kathryn Adams Doty at Tacy’s House in Mankato, December 2004.** The BTS hosted a book signing for her new book, “A Long Year of Silence”. Kathy is holding a copy of Hamline University’s 1939 newspaper with the article announcing that she was chosen the Midwestern winner in the “Gateway to Hollywood” talent contest.

Kathryn married Hugh Beaumont in 1941 and chose to leave acting to begin a family. The couple later divorced after more than 30 years of marriage. In the years following her acting career she raised three children, taught school, earned a master’s degree in psychology and practiced for years in California. Kathryn later married Fred Doty, also a psychologist and they moved to Mankato, Minnesota.

Between the years 2003 and 2009, Kathryn wrote and published three books. She was a guest at Tacy’s House several times for book signings and events. The first time was in December 2004 when her first book, “A Long Year of Silence”, was released. Kathy and her husband Fred Doty (also a psychologist and author) were friends and supporters of the BTS and our mission. Our sympathy goes out to the family.



*“We have to build our lives out of what materials we have. It’s as though we were given a heap of blocks and told to build a house.”*

Emily of Deep Valley

# A Wonderful Holiday Gift Idea



The boys had engaged a hack. This unworldly gesture was a tribute to the elegance of the Melborn Hotel. Betsy felt unbelievably worldly as the hack, on its winter runners, slid along the snowy streets and halted at the illuminated entrance to the Melborn. They went through the swinging door into the lobby. It smelled of cigars and the fat red leather chairs. They crossed the room and ascended the grand staircase which rose at the far end. The ballroom was two stories high and overlooked the river. Here Deep Valley gave its most fashionable parties.  
—Betsy and Joe—



Hill Street was rightfully named. It ran straight up into a green hill and stopped. The name of the town was Deep Valley, and a town named Deep Valley naturally had plenty of hills. Betsy's house, a small yellow cottage, was the last house on her side of Hill Street.  
—Betsy-Tacy—

*January*  
— 2017 —

| Sunday       | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1            | 2      | 3       | 4         | 5        | 6      | 7        |
| New Year Day |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 8            | 9      | 10      | 11        | 12       | 13     | 14       |
| 15           | 16     | 17      | 18        | 19       | 20     | 21       |
| 22           | 23     | 24      | 25        | 26       | 27     | 28       |
| 29           | 30     | 31      |           |          |        |          |

**SAULPAUGH HOTEL**  
The large four-story Saulpaugh Hotel (Melborn Hotel), built by Thomas Saulpaugh, celebrated with an elaborate grand opening on November 6, 1889. The hotel had 80 elegantly furnished guest rooms, an office, barber shop, baggage and reception rooms, a large reading room, billiard hall and bar, telegraph room, and restrooms. It boasted one of the "best improved" passenger and baggage elevators. Designed with many parlors, wide corridors, and a grand ballroom overlooking the river, the hotel had no equal luxury. The original entrance to the hotel faced the Minnesota River, and many patrons arrived by riverboat or train.

*April*  
— 2017 —

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        |         |           |          |        | 1        |
|        |        | 4       | 5         | 6        | 7      | 8        |
|        |        | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14     | 15       |
|        |        | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21     | 22       |
| 25     | 26     |         |           |          |        |          |

**BETSY'S HOUSE**  
The childhood home of Maud Hart Lovelace, author of the Betsy-Tacy book series and the fictional Betsy Ray. Maud Palmer Hart was born on April 25, 1892, in Mankato, Minnesota. The Hart family (Thomas, Stella and daughters Kathleen, Maud and Helen) lived in this house from 1892 to 1906. It was here that Maud met her best friend, Frances "Buck" Kenney (Eck), who moved into the house across the street in 1898. This house at 333 Center Street is owned and operated by the Betsy-Tacy Society, is restored as a museum and was designated a National Literary Landmark in 2010.



## 2017 Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley Calendar

Full color calendar features 12 charming historical photographs from turn of the 20th century Mankato, MN (Deep Valley). Accompanying each photograph are quotes and history related to the Betsy-Tacy books. 12" x 24"

**Quantities are Limited • Only \$15.00**  
**ORDER NOW!**



# The Coffin House, Vassar and Me

By Kathleen Baxter

In the summer of 2013, I received an invitation to give a presentation in Poughkeepsie, New York. BOCES, the Board of Children’s Educational Services, had hired me to do several all-day talks about children’s books around the state. But - let’s get real! As much as I had enjoyed visiting the other locations depicted in *Carney’s House Party*, I had never been to Vassar, where part of the book takes place. I certainly had seen images of it, but actually being there was something else again. Although I had presented in Poughkeepsie before, I’d had no spare time to see it, having had to take a train to Manhattan and then out to Long Island to give another talk the next day. I had reveled at being in the Poughkeepsie train station, realizing it could not have been much changed since Carney’s time.

This time my husband Riley came along and we flew into Bradley Airport near Hartford. I wanted to go through Connecticut to get to Poughkeepsie and I had my reasons:



“In 1935 Lois even had the outbuilding south of the house that had once served as the Balch coffin shop renovated to serve as her studio.” Quote from *Lois Lenski Storycatcher* by Bobbie Malone  
This studio is where Lois created the illustrations for the first four Betsy-Tacy books. (Photo courtesy of Kathleen Baxter, 2013)

my four times great grandfather was a teenager in Litchfield, Connecticut when the Revolutionary War broke out, and on the day the local militia was formed, he and a bunch of other



Home of author and illustrator Lois Lenski Covey in Harwinton, Connecticut. In the early 1930s, Lois and her husband Arthur moved into this early American house on Harmony Hill Road. They called this old abandoned farmhouse and neglected outbuildings “Greenacres”. (Photo courtesy of Kathleen Baxter, 2013)

## The Coffin House, Vassar and Me (continued)



This is the north tower of Main. Carney's room is on the top right floor. Vassar College, founded as a women's school in 1861 in Poughkeepsie, New York. Pictured is the north tower of Main Building. Marion Willard's (*Carney Sibley*) room would have been on the top floor, right front. (Photo courtesy of Kathleen Baxter, 2013)

volunteers raced to the town green to enlist. I wanted to see that town green and learn more. I did know that the militia, 36 men from Litchfield, had a miserable time of it. In the battle of New York/Long Island, those who were not killed were captured by the British and put on a prison ship where they were fed almost nothing (a handful of wormy meal a day, he said in his petition for a pension). Although he also came down with smallpox, he was lucky—he was one of only six men who survived and went back to Litchfield.

By coincidence, I had read Lois Lenski's autobiography, *Journey into Childhood*, shortly before the trip. She had lived much of her life in Connecticut, and as I started looking at maps and planning our journey, I realized that Harwinton, her home for many years, was the next town to Litchfield! We were going to go right through it! And, by gum, we were going to see her house. I googled the address.

“For Sale” signs were on the property. We drove into the driveway. Clearly, no one was living there. The big

lot, with a few buildings and an old house, was a lovely, wooded place. We wandered around taking photos. I was hoping to see the building where Ms. Lenski did all of her illustrations for the *Betsy-Tacy* books: the coffin house! The coffin house was a small building where coffins had been made in previous centuries. As is pretty normal in New England, this house was older than any houses we have in Minnesota. Ms. Lenski's husband Arthur Covey was also an artist, but, at least in his own mind, he was the great illustrator and she was just a children's book creator, so he got the best studio.

While we were looking around, a car pulled up. The owner of the house had gotten a call saying people were walking around the property and he came to see if we were interested in purchasing the house. Alas, we were not, but he was pleasant and interested to hear that I was a Lenski fan. His parents had bought the house, which he grew up, from Lenski and her husband.

It was a lovely time, and I realized that “I think I am the only one” would not apply to this case. Who wouldn't want to see that coffin house where immortal pictures were created? *Betsy, Tacy and Tib* hypnotizing *Winona*? Great stuff! And we can all name many more illustrations, not to mention Lenski's own books. It was wonderful!



Later, when we arrived in Poughkeepsie, we headed straight for Vassar and visited the locations mentioned in *Carney's House Party*. Even though the book took place over a hundred years ago, much still looks as it was described. I, of course, took photos.

I love going to places where things happened. And I had gotten to two important ones on the same day!



*Maud's Iowa Roots* continued from page 1

sisters and me many stories about the drives with his mother and the fun of watching the list of pledges grow.

His mother was dainty, feminine, persuasive. While a farmer was explaining that times were hard, her eyes would rove over the barnyard and she would suggest “a pig from that fine new litter” or “that handsome calf, younder”. She always got one. I don’t find piglets or calves on the subscription list but I know they were given and can only assume they were translated into money pledges and marked paid. There were some atheists in that part of the county. My father always referred to them as ‘infidels’...but with the friendliest good will. He told how Grandma Hart would remind the infidels that they might like a church nearby ‘when your daughter is married’ or ‘when your time comes to die’.

The sheet of paper became three sheet sewn together. By August \$1153.25 had been pledged and the Articles of Incorporation of the Brethren Church were filed. (Later it became the Centennial Methodist Church). It was to be used by all Orthodox Christian denominations and to be open for all funerals.

Grandma Hart was buried there three years later. She was only forty-five. She had left her stamp on every one of her nine children, and her grandchildren and even her great grandchildren are aware of her. Many of us have been taken to Washington Prairie to see “Grandma’s Church”.

It was a great pride to my father that at his father’s death in 1913, he was given...by vote of his brothers and sisters... the old subscription list which I am now happy to put into the care of the State Historical Society of Iowa.”

The rest of the story...

Beside the Washington Prairie Methodist Church is a small cemetery where I expected to find the grave stones of James A. and Arosamond Hart. However, they are buried a few miles away in the Greenwood Centennial Cemetery. This remains a mystery...until next time.

*Betsy-Tacy Gift Shop News*

The holidays are rapidly approaching and soon we’ll all be caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. Don’t forget to add the Betsy-Tacy Gift Shop to your shopping list. We have something for Betsy-Tacy fans of all ages. Books, cd’s, 2017 calendar, apparel, tote bags, mugs, and more.

- “Betsy’s House” and “Tacy’s House” classically inspired ornaments made of brass and finished in elegant 24 karat gold make wonderful keepsake gifts and are gift boxed with an origin card. \$18.00 ea.
- Four versions of Betsy-Tacy Christmas cards are available and feature artwork by Lois Lenski, Vera Neville and Cheryl Harness and holiday quotes from the books. \$8.00 package of 6 cards
- Not sure what to give that special person on your gift list? Consider giving the gift of a BTS membership or a Betsy-Tacy gift certificate .



All BTS members whose gift shop order totals \$50.00 or more will receive a coupon for \$5.00 off your next shop purchase of \$25.00 and up. Your membership expiration date is required for this offer.

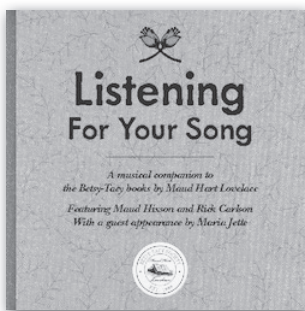
This offer is good at Tacy’s Gift Shop or our online gift shop at [www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org). For online orders, enter your membership expiration date in the Ordering Instructions box found in the checkout cart. This offer expires December 17, 2016.

# New in the Gift Shop



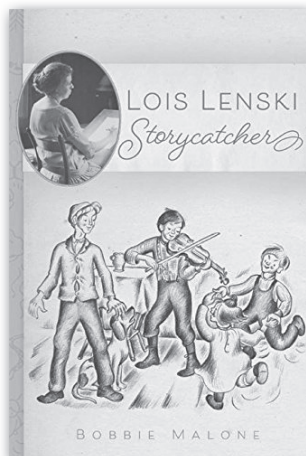
### 2017 Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley Calendar

Full color calendar features 12 charming historical photographs from turn of the 20th century Mankato, MN (Deep Valley). Accompanying each photograph are quotes and history related to the Betsy-Tacy books. Limited quantities available. 12" x 24" **\$15.00**



### Listening For Your Song CD by Maud Hixson – \$15.00

**I Love Betsy-Tacy bracelet**  
Show your love of the Betsy-Tacy books with a pink silicone bracelet. One size fits all. **\$2.00**



### Lois Lenski – Storycatcher by Dr. Bobbie Malone

Betsy-Tacy fans know Lois Lenski best as the illustrator of Maud's first four Betsy-Tacy books. But not everyone may be aware that author and illustrator of the Newbery Award-winning *Strawberry Girl* and numerous other tales of children from America's diverse regions and cultures, Lenski spent five decades creating stories for young readers. *Lois Lenski: Storycatcher* follows her development as a writer and as an artist. This first full-length biography tells how Lenski traveled throughout the country, gathering the stories that brought to life in words and pictures whole worlds that had for so long been invisible in children's literature. In the process, her work became a source of delight, inspiration, and insight for generations of readers. Hardcover **\$26.95**

**Mrs. Chubcock's Candy Store** mini tote is perfect for gift giving. Fill with candy or small gift items. Canvas bag features Lois Lenski illustration from Betsy-Tacy. 6.75" x 6.25". **\$5.00**



**Deep Valley Homecoming gifts** include t-shirts, tote bags, silicone bracelet and Deep valley Homecoming color mug.

**Porcelain Tea Set in Basket** Child's porcelain tea set for two. Available in Betsy's Violet or Tacy's Pink Rose. **\$35.00**



The Betsy-Tacy Society is joining with the Mankato City Center Partnership to celebrate "Small Shop Saturday" on November 26. This nationwide event encourages shoppers to shop local and support our small businesses. Watch for more information on our website and facebook pages.

**Shop at Tacy's Gift Shop**  
Online ([betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog](http://betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog))  
or at 332 Center Street in Mankato  
Open on Saturdays 1 pm – 4 pm  
through December 17th.

# Deep Valley Homecoming 2016



The BTS hosted the 3rd annual Deep Valley Homecoming to celebrate author Maud Hart Lovelace and her books on June 24-27, 2016. Activities narrated horse-drawn trolley rides, guided house tours, living history actors, Deep Valley book festival, Victorian Tea, Deep Valley wine release, “Listening For Your Song” cd release and concert by Maud Hixson, children’s activities and crafts, reader’s theater, dance lessons, “Betsy and Joe” dramatic play, Blue Earth County Courthouse and First Presbyterian Church tours, living history exhibits, guest speakers Teresa Mercier and Susan Haggberg-Miller, Young Artist and Young Writer Competition, a Betsy, Tacy & Tib Contest and more.

Visit our website to read the winning stories and see the winning illustrations.

Many volunteers are needed to host an event such as this and we’re grateful to each and every one of you! We appreciate the local businesses and organizations that partnered with us for this annual event. Thanks to the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council for grant support.

For more photos, visit our facebook page, click on photos and there’s an album for the Deep Valley Homecoming 2016.

See highlights from the 2016 Deep Valley Homecoming on our new video courtesy of Purple Torchlight Productions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fYW6jZOJUE>.

### Deep Valley Writers Competition Award Winners

1st Place (age 8–10 division) — Eva Madelyn James for “Ms Butter and the Big Rock”

1st Place (age 11–13 division) — Rachel Evans for “Courage to Speak”

### Young Artist Competition Award Winners

1st Place (age 7–8 division) — Aidan Klammer for illustration of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”

1st Place (age 9–10 division) — Kate North for illustration of “Betsy’s Desk”

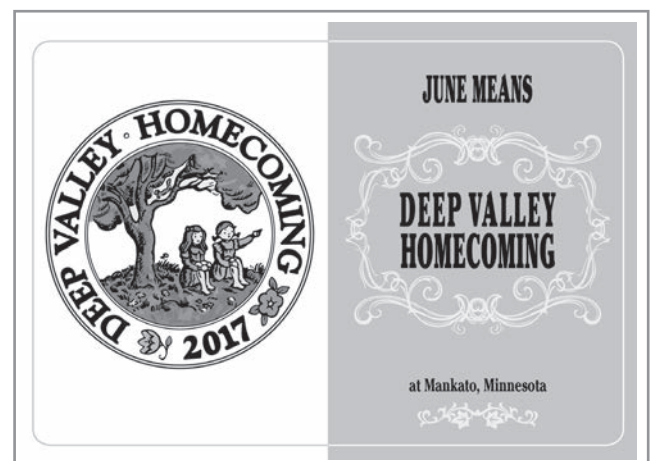
### Winners of the Betsy, Tacy & Tib Contest

Betsy Ray — Rosalita Jones

Tacy Kelly — Lily Geyer

Tib Muller — Clare Duncan

*We look forward to seeing you June 23-25, 2017!*





# Deep Valley Homecoming 2016



## Thank you To Our DVH 2016 Sponsors

Barnes & Noble, River Hills Mall  
Blue Earth County Courthouse  
Blue Earth County Historical Society  
Blue Earth County Library System  
Cactus Tatoo  
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HOME Magazine

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Peddler of Rapidan  
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River City Quilts  
South Central College  
Stones Throw Gallery  
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*Membership  
Makes a  
Difference*

**Welcome  
New Members**

**Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015**

Colin Barnacle  
Molly Cummins  
Molly Gallaway  
Shirley Hardy  
Mary Healy  
Kristen Hoel  
Julia Holden  
Kirsti Johanson  
Andrea Lerum  
Karen Nolan  
Leslie Owen  
Kristin Raymakers  
Laura Stoesz  
Meghan Sweeney

**Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2016**

Jean Brune  
Emma Casaudoumeccq  
Bernardine Codella  
Jean Costello  
Julia Cox  
Carolyn Davis  
Margaret Edmonston  
Brooke Ellman  
Debbie Fischer  
Colleen Gray  
Sue Hytjan  
Barbara Kohnke  
Fred Levitt  
Elizabeth Manzoni  
MaryJo Ruppert  
Susan Seltz  
Nancy Spika  
Jennifer Struss  
Sonja Werle

*Thank You!*



**2015 Donations**

Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015

**\$5 – \$50**

Lynne Baab  
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Sunniva Brady  
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*Endowment/Memory of  
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Carol Burger  
Colleen Canavan – *Endowment*  
Mary Chamberlain  
Judith Corson  
Dena Fleurichamp  
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Cleo Grosscup – *Website upgrade*  
Barbara Hartwick  
LeAnn & Richard Hufnagel  
Julia Holden –  
*Memory of Nan Soule*  
Vicki Newell  
Kris Norland  
Cornelia Pepoy  
Anne Rickert  
Truman & Jackie Ritchie  
Eunice Sassenberg  
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Thomsen Rueters Matching  
Cecilia Wirth  
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Emily Gold  
Dawn Grage  
Barbara Hartwick  
Kathryn Hanson  
Margie Hanson – *Honor of  
Kathryn Hanson*  
Carolyn Hinz  
Mary Huntley  
Mary & Dirk Landis  
June Parnell  
Ann Seigel  
Mary Sherman  
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Helen Gift  
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Sherry Lorentz  
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Family of Laurie Pengra –  
*In honor of Laurie Pengra*  
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**Donations**

**2016 Donations**

Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2016

**\$5 – \$50**

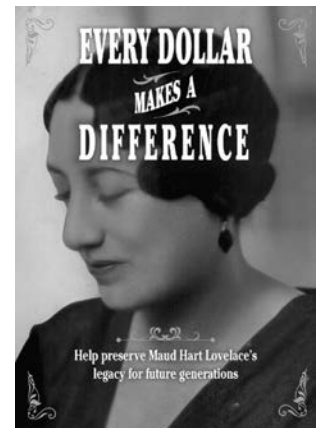
Rita Allen  
Krista Barrett  
Doris Berger  
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*Endowment/Memory of  
Kathleen Dorn*  
Bob & Susan Brown –  
*Endowment/Memory of  
Andrea Shaw*  
Chris Christie  
Colleen Gray  
Thomas Hagen  
Cheryl Hanson –  
*Memory of Inella Burns*  
Harshi Hettige  
Kristi Jalics  
Karin Johnson –  
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Susan Kavulich  
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L. Joy Lutzi –  
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Lucille Northenscald –  
*Memory of Inella Burns*  
Sandra O'Brien –  
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L. Peltola –  
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Joy Petzinger  
Janet Piwowarski  
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Jeanine Sallos  
Lisa Schmidt  
Julie Schrader – *Memory of  
Inella Burns and Andrea Shaw*  
Andrea Schwartz –  
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Pete Steiner  
Kathy Stollenwerk  
Colleen Sullivan –  
*Memory of Lorraine Carlson*  
Kathleen Turner  
Beth Walls  
Carol Welsch – *Website upgrade*

**\$51 – \$100**

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Mary Ann Gilbertson  
Kathryn Hanson  
Sherri Newhouse  
Susan Kavulich  
Linda Watson

**\$101 – \$499**

Christine Ho



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Rich Robinson

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*ALL DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED BY LAW. The Betsy-Tacy Society is a charitable nonprofit tax-exempt organization classified by the IRS as a 501(c) (3) organization.*

# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

*A heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who give their time, expertise and resources to guide tours, greet guests, shop staff and inventory, programs, committees and more.*

## Aug. 1, 2015 – Oct. 1, 2016

|                         |                       |                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
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| Kathleen Baxter         | Carolyn Hovick        | Julie Peck         |
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| Kendra Braunger         | Kayla Kahmann         | Lindsey Schaffer   |
| Cindy Broderick         | Indigo Kahmann        | Melanie Schmidt    |
| Susan Brown             | Breigha Kotulski      | Julie Schrader     |
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| Leslie Cady             | Dani Kroon            | Christine Schulz   |
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| Joanne Cochran          | Candy Laven           | Candace Smith      |
| Hope Cook               | Doug Laven            | Molly Smith        |
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## DID YOU KNOW? BETSY-TACY TRIVIA (CONTINUED)



### Answers

1. On Betsy's 10th birthday party (*Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill*). The girls decided that now that they had two numbers in their age, none of them should go by their nicknames.
2. Mrs. Benson (*Betsy-Tacy*)
3. Page Park (*Betsy-Tacy*)
4. The Opera House (*Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*)
5. In the chapter, "The Milkman Story" (*Betsy-Tacy*). The magic horse could talk and liked doughnuts.
6. Maroon and gold (*Heaven to Betsy*)



## Uncle Frank's (*Uncle Keith*) Oliver Typewriter

In a letter written to her cousin Marjorie Austin Freeman in 1964, Maud described her beginnings as a writer:

“Perhaps you would like to know that, preceding my novels, were dozens of published short stories, the first of which, called *Number Eight*, was written in San Diego when I was eighteen. This was in 1911 when I visited Grandma Austin for several months. Uncle Frank Palmer, who lived then at El Cajon, took a great interest in my constant writing of stories and their consistent rejection by the magazines. He suggested that perhaps they failed to sell because they were hand-written. He loaned me his old Oliver typewriter... He tried to give it to me, but I refused the gift because I knew he liked to write stories, too. On this, I pecked out *Number Eight* and sent it to the *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine*.”

A bit of history on the Oliver Typewriter...

Rev. Thomas Oliver designed his first typewriter, made from strips of tin cans, as a means of producing more legible sermons. He was awarded a patent in 1891 and after four years of development, a “crude working model” composed of 500 parts had been produced. The Oliver Typewriter Company began operating in 1895. At its peak the company’s labor force was 875 and was producing 375 machines daily. The British Oliver Typewriter Company bought the company in 1928 and that company made Oliver typewriters until 1959.



This typewriter is most likely what Uncle Frank’s Oliver Typewriter looked like. This model has been called “butterfly-style” because of its vertical type bars.

## New Members

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

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

- Be kept abreast of developments with the BTS 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 and literary landmarks.
- Help the BTS introduce the timeless works of Maud Hart Lovelace to a new generation of readers.
- 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 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](mailto: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.

## A Fundraising Message from the Board of Directors...

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to those who donated so generously in the last year to help us launch our new website. As with many large undertakings, we have hit a few bumps in the road during this process but are confident that the new site will be ready for us to enjoy its many benefits soon.

The Betsy-Tacy Society has welcomed two staff members to the team this year! Their dedication and experience will help to extend the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace and Betsy-Tacy and ensure our organization can continue growing. Their hard work managing daily operations and outreach opportunities does require an ongoing financial obligation, however. We consider them a true investment in our future.

As our new team members began “cleaning house” and improving our gift shop at Tacy’s house it was discovered that our store computer is desperately outdated and needs replacing. Each visitor to Deep Valley or [betsy-tacysociety.org](http://betsy-tacysociety.org) uses this computer and it is vital that our sales and banking software is able to function effectively.

Please consider giving a year-end tax-deductible donation to help us meet our goals of ensuring an efficient gift shop and retaining our talented staff. You can mail a check or go online at [betsy-tacysociety.org/membership](http://betsy-tacysociety.org/membership) to make a single gift by using your credit or debit card, or PayPal.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we will sustain and honor the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace, Deep Valley, and Betsy and Tacy!

Join the Betsy-Tacy Society for Minnesota’s Day of Giving on November 17, 2016 at [www.GiveMN.org](http://www.GiveMN.org). Give to the Max



Day is an annual statewide giving holiday, but you don’t have to be from Minnesota to give. We hope you will join tens of thousands of Minnesotans in making a donation to your favorite non-profit on this day of giving. Thank you for supporting the Betsy-Tacy Society with your gifts.

## Betsy’s Bedroom Restoration



Candy and Doug Laven installing new sheet rock.

### BTS Museum Wish List

Items or cash to purchase items off this list

#### Kitchen

- 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 kitchen

#### Dining Room

- Telephone chair
- Dining Room wall pictures in frames

#### Front Parlor

- Small wall picture frames in which family photos can be hung

#### Main Floor Bedroom

- Bedroom wall picture frames with pictures
- ¾ Bed with Mission-style high head and foot boards

#### Upstairs Bedrooms

- Youth Bed
- Bed tables, wash stand
- Small Dresser
- Floor rugs
- Ceiling light fixture
- Framed wall pictures in children’s theme
- Small wooden tray to go inside small wooden trunk

#### Tacy House

- Heavy doorway drapes for bedroom doorway
- Violin on stand

## *Victorian Christmas at Betsy's House*

Saturdays, December 3 & 10, 2016  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

A Victorian Christmas at Betsy's House is an annual tradition for many! The house is decorated for the season and costumed living history actors will make you feel as if you stepped back in time to Christmas in 1900.

Bring your camera and have your picture taken with Betsy, Tacy and Tib by the Christmas tree. Enjoy shopping for the holidays in the gift shop at Tacy's house. Here children can purchase a Christmas ornament for 10 cents, just as Betsy, Tacy, Tib, and Winona did.

Join us for an old-fashioned Christmas and you too,  
can "*hold Christmas in your hands*".



Open to the public - Admission \$5 Adults, \$2 Age 6-16  
Free admission for BTS members and children under age 6.

© Illustration by Lois Lenski from *Betsy & Tacy Go Downtown*



# Wine and Song Fundraiser for BTS

We're proud to have partnered with Chankaska Creek Winery and Maud Hixson on two special fundraising projects in 2016.

Two special label wines, Deep Valley Red and Deep Valley White, are available for a limited time. The special labels feature a Lois Lenski illustration from one of the Betsy-Tacy books. This fundraiser is only good while supplies last, so hurry to get yours now. A bottle of wine makes a wonderful gift for the holidays!



Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery is located just a few miles north of Mankato on North Riverfront Drive to Hwy 22 No. Watch for the sign for Chankaska Creek Winery on Hwy

22 N. If you are from the following states, you can have the wine shipped to you: MN, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IA, and MT. The Deep Valley label wines are not listed on Chankaska's website – call to request.

Singer and BTS member Maud Hixson released a new CD, "Listening For Your Song" with a concert at the Chankaska Creek Winery for the 2016 Deep Valley Homecoming in June. Hixson, accompanied by Rick Carlson, recorded 20 songs that were referred to in the Betsy-Tacy books.



L-R: Jane Schwickert (general manager) and Karen Berg (event and marketing manager) from Chankaska Creek Winery at the Deep Valley Homecoming wine tasting and CD release, June 24, 2016. (Photo by Rebecca Novak)

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this CD is donated to the BTS. CD's sell for \$15 and are available in Tacy's House Gift Shop or online.

Thanks to Jane Schwickert from Chankaska Creek Winery and Maud Hixson and Rick Carlson for your generosity and support of the BTS!



Maud Hixson accompanied by Rick Carlson perform at Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery for the kickoff and CD release party for the Deep Valley Homecoming, June 24, 2016. (Photo by Michelle May)

## Listening For Your Song

A Musical Companion To The Betsy-Tacy Books By Maud Hart Lovelace



Vocalist Maud Hixson Presents songs from the 1890s through WWI that were referred to in Maud Hart Lovelace's series of books about growing up in Mankato at the turn of the century. Hear familiar favorites like "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and "In The Good Old Summertime" as well as some lesser-known gems from the era of parlor music. Available for presentation at libraries, schools, performing arts centers, and for parlor concerts! Contact Maud Hixson for more information: [maud@maudhixson.com](mailto:maud@maudhixson.com).

### Upcoming program dates:

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| March 14, 2017<br>10:30 am | Minnesota History Center<br>St Paul |
| March 30, 2017<br>7:00 pm  | LeSueur Public Library              |
| April 1, 2017<br>2:00 pm   | West St. Paul Public Library        |

## Hit Tunes A Century Ago

Review written by David Bittinger

Whatever types of popular music appeal to you, here's a reasonable guess about something you've not found appealing for many years: the way the music is commercially positioned and publicized. From payola and white covers of R&B records through ersatz acts (remember Milli Vanilli?), unmusical music videos, country and western supermodels, and (your choice here), pop music's growth as a business has been matched by its shrinkage in culturally intrinsic character and authenticity.

How did popular songs become popular a century ago? As phonographs were owned by many households, rich and poor, records were widely played. But songs were introduced primarily through performance, with professional concerts less common than "parlor music" home concerts using piano and widely distributed sheet music. New songs were lively word-of-mouth experiences that travelled easily through a culture not yet dominated by entertainment potentates and marketing. Compositions that resonated in people's experiences and emotions became hits; popularity was far less the product of commercial promotion.

In a new and appropriately novel CD, *Listening For Your Song*, accomplished vocalist Maud Hixson, accompanied by Rick Carlson's skillful arrangements and piano, presents songs from the early twentieth century that serve virtually as characters in books written by Maud Hart Lovelace. Beloved by a wide audience, these books vividly recreate experiences of her youth. Those experiences echo artfully in this recording partnership between Hixson and the Betsy-Tacy Society, which supports not just Lovelace's legacy but also songs worthy of crossing over a long bridge of popular culture.

The storylines of Lovelace's *Betsy-Tacy* books include the 20 songs in this CD (as well as many others) and were published between 1940 and 1955. Born in 1892, Lovelace wrote her last book in 1966 and lived to 1980.

Through the coming-of-age progression of these books, the songs performed and encountered by best-friend characters Betsy and Tacy serve as the soundtrack of an

adult world experienced by two sensitive and searching girls. The books follow the two growing up in the peaceful haven of a small Minnesota town during the century's first two decades—a peace abruptly interrupted by World War I.

One of this collection's songs, *It's A Long Way To Tipperary*, became, a couple years after its composition, a patriotic rallying cry of "The Great War" that reached from Europe to America's heartland. At a dinner party in Betsy's Wedding, the song plays on a phonograph as the guests dance.

" . . . but then in the midst of all the gaiety something pressed on Betsy's heart. For she had seen the British Territorials march off to war to that tune, just boys most of them, and many had not come back."

As Maud is an uncommon name today, one might wonder whether vocalist Maud Hixson was named for the author whose work inspired this CD. Hixson, a serious musical researcher as well as a prominent performer and recording artist in jazz and traditional vocals, apparently would prefer people focus elsewhere. She's noted that her mother grew up reading the Betsy-Tacy books, leaving the matter there.

If you recall, say, President Eisenhower or had parents who enjoyed singing old tunes, you'll recognize many of these expertly crafted, good-hearted songs. They range from enduring ballads like *Moonlight Bay* and *My Wild Irish Rose* to the jazzy *Alexander's Ragtime Band* and the droll domestic humor of *Everybody Works But Father*. One highlight is the moving *Tonight Will Never Come Again*; another is *You're Here and I'm Here*, an upbeat love tune by a young Jerome Kern.

The CD's opening vocal track, *The Cat Duet*, is singular, starting with its early 19th century origins. Its music drawn from a Rossini theme, the piece is performed with operetta-like enthusiasm by two "cats" (the second cat is performed by soprano Maria Jette). The only lyric is Mee-ee-ow! It's lots of fun but not easily described, though I can attest it's enjoyable even for people who hate cats.

See 'Hit Tunes' page 9



# Lovelace's scrapbook charming, humorous

by Anna Freyberg

Published by the Mankato Free Press, October 9, 2016



Maud Hart (Betsy Ray), 1910.

Sifting through a copy of a scrapbook kept by the famous Mankato native Maud Hart Lovelace, I felt as though I was transported into the mind of the quirky, precocious 16-year old Betsy Ray, the beloved main character in her series of books for children.

The scrapbook is filled with exactly what you'd expect from a recent graduate – cut outs from the list of names in the Junior-Senior Banquet, school play programs, notes from friends, parodies on popular songs, and a program from the commencement ceremony for the Mankato (Deep Valley) High School's Class of 1910.

Lovelace's simply bound, scruffy book, with the curly cursive letters "Scrap Book" on the cover, now more than 100 years old, reveals her choice of silly poems and mementos. She explained in the book's inscription that most of its items were compiled after she graduated high school and the scrapbook was "an incomplete record of the 'larks' enjoyed in that worthy institution."

Among its first pages is a bit of sarcasm written on a folded piece of paper: "My masterpiece was produced this early!" Inexplicably, that note is accompanied by a supper menu from a hotel.

Lovelace's listing of a "Revised Form of the Comandments in the Ear of Our Lord: 1907" reminds me all too much of a giggly, young teenager, cleverly conjuring up funny stories for her friends. Some of the rules she penned: "Thou shalt not sit upon the school-house steps even until thou takest cold." "Thou shalt not kiss any woman until

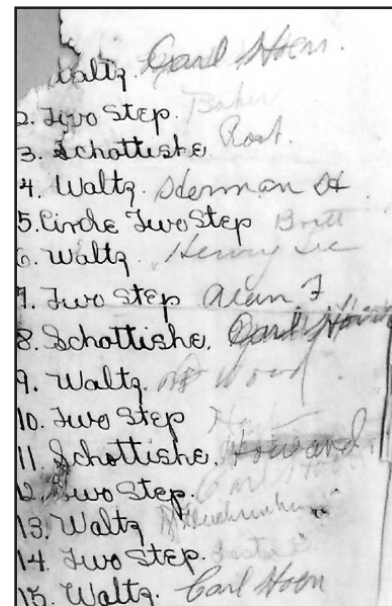
thy face be shaved and thy teeth cleaned." "Thou shalt not have a waist smaller than Eve whose measure was 12 inches." "Thou shalt not steal—a kiss." "Thou shalt not have two wives at once unless one be dead."

All of the achievements she's most proud of lie tucked within these pages. There are also the bits and pieces that would have tumbled out every time she opened the book: love letters and their envelopes, pressed flowers and newspaper clippings. A silly little slip of paper Lovelace found worthy of saving, reads, "We the under signed do here by request that Miss Maud refrain from making eyes at Zelona."

Among the names of girls who signed the petition, Frances Kenney (Tacy) stands out with the phrase "I am jealous" written next to her signature. Far from a Lovelace expert am I, for I am unsure whether Zelona was his real name or a code one. I like to think the latter.

It's hard not to fall for this charming young woman and all her endearing accomplishments and embarrassments before graduating. It is hardly difficult to picture a group of teenagers barely holding back bursts of laughter in class, teasing one another about boys, sharing everything when they were together, and laughing until they cried at nonsensical stories.

Lovelace's scrapbook reminds me of the very reason why her books are loved so very much. They are able to grant the reader a real connection, a good laugh or two, and a reassuring sense that the world we live in today really isn't too different from the world of Betsy and Tacy.



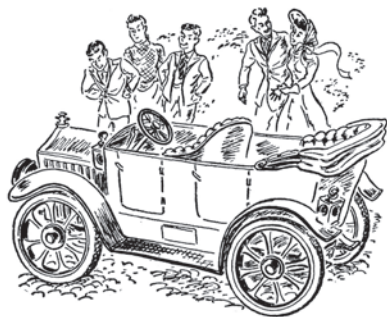
Copy of Maud's dance card from her scrapbook. Courtesy of the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

# From Our Guest Book

What an amazing year 2016 has been for us here at the Betsy-Tacy Society! We had such a lovely gathering for Deep Valley Homecoming, celebrating Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy with visitors from California to New York (and everywhere in between) joining us at Betsy's and Tacy's homes as well as other locations dear to us all. It was so wonderful to see you all and to meet many of you for the first time. We were also joined by friends near and far for private tours and public hours, welcoming many visitors whose love for Maud and the Betsy-Tacy books spans generations. The joy and happiness these visits produce is equally abundant for all ages. It is an honor for us to have the opportunity to give such a gift. Our 2016 guest book reveals that our visitors came from:

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Alberta, Canada      | Nebraska       |
| Arizona              | Nevada         |
| Arkansas             | New Hampshire  |
| California           | New Jersey     |
| Colorado             | New Mexico     |
| Connecticut          | New York       |
| District of Columbia | North Carolina |
| Dublin, Ireland      | Norway         |
| Florida              | Ohio           |
| Georgia              | Oklahoma       |
| Illinois             | Oregon         |
| Indiana              | South Carolina |
| Iowa                 | South Dakota   |
| Kansas               | Texas          |
| Maryland             | Utah           |
| Massachusetts        | Virginia       |
| Michigan             | Washington     |
| Minnesota            | West Virginia  |
| Missouri             | Wisconsin      |
| Montana              | Wyoming        |

*We look forward to many more of you coming to visit us here in the coming year!*



## Hit Tunes continued from page 7

Here's another example of how early-twentieth century popular songs significantly set the stage of Lovelace's stories. In *My Merry Oldsmobile* (published in 1905) is played at a dance in *Betsy In Spite of Herself*, as Betsy gambols with a fellow who owns a flashy Buick:

... the words of the song caused smiling faces to turn in their direction.

*"Come away with me, Lucille,  
In my merry Oldsmobile ..."*

"Only it isn't an Oldsmobile," he murmured in her ear.

With her youthful, bell-like soprano, Hixson performs these songs beautifully, glowing and gliding through the tales of longing, humor, success and loss. Carlson, a master of phrasing, melodic wisdom and shrewd asides, delivers understated arrangements that reflect the music's early-1900s sensibilities yet also have a contemporary jazz pianist's touch.

Listening For Your Song (a lyric from the CD's last track, *There's A Long, Long Trail*) can be heard as representing two appreciations of another era, from Lovelace's perspective and from ours today. Presenting these songs as fresh performance rather than nostalgic amusement, the production delivers something remarkable. It has the character of a confidant with valuable recollections and eloquence in their expression.

*David Bitteringer's commentary has appeared in All About Jazz, The Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Washington Post, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Los Angeles Times, (St. Paul) Pioneer Press, Palm Beach Post and other publications.*

Editor's Note:  
Also of interest is the *Betsy-Tacy Songbook: Music from the Deep Valley Books of Maud Hart Lovelace and Maud's Music of Deep Valley: Musical Tribute to Maud Hart Lovelace.*



# In Memoriam

## Inella Burns

April 9, 1917 – May 26, 2016

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Inella Burns. Inella was a long-time friend and supporter of the Betsy-Tacy Society. Inella Burns and Maud Hart Lovelace were connected, in spirit, both geographically and literally. In 1950 Inella and her husband Bert, with their daughters Kathleen and Janet, bought a big, brown house on Byron Street, just around the corner from the bottom of the “Big Hill”, Betsy and Tacy’s houses are two blocks up that hill. When the Burnses moved into the neighborhood, Lovelace’s books, written in the 1940’s, were already popular, but there were no physical traces of the girls and their friends. (It was not until 2001 that the Betsy-Tacy Society purchased and restored Betsy’s house; Tacy’s house was purchased in 1995.) Inella was a much beloved English teacher at Mankato High School (now Mankato West). In the years that she taught (1951–1976) there was just one high school in Mankato (as was true in Lovelace’s day), linking the whole town through the high school experiences of its children. In her books, Lovelace brought those shared experiences to life.



Inella Burns



In 1961 Janet Burns (then age 10) dressed as “Tacy” for “Betsy-Tacy Days.” This photo was taken at the Burns house by the Mankato Free Press.

## Andrea Shaw

May 19, 1954 – July 21, 2016

The Betsy-Tacy Society is very saddened to report the death, after a long illness, of Andrea Shaw, who co-founded the New York Chapter of the BTS with Maud’s daughter, Merian Lovelace Kirchner, and later served as Merian’s literary executor. Although they were initially

strangers, Andrea and Merian became very close, and when Merian’s health failed, she took on the role of caregiver and advocate.

Merian’s longtime friend Brenda Becker described Andrea this way: “she was an incredibly generous and gifted steward, who worked tirelessly for the Betsy-Tacy books as a



Andrea Shaw

legacy and for our Merian as a beloved friend... whatever revival the beautiful books of Maud Hart Lovelace have had in the past decades, Andrea and [her husband] Alan were critical behind-the-scenes facilitators, and they together gave Maud’s most precious treasure, her daughter, the priceless gift of peace of mind.”

Andrea was also a gifted writer, who published a wonderful guide to film on video called SEEN THAT, NOW WHAT? After becoming a diehard Elvis Presley fan, she and Alan collaborated on an illustrated map of Memphis featuring Elvis-related landmarks and anecdotes about his life.

Even those Betsy-Tacy fans who never met her were affected by Andrea’s dedication to promoting Maud’s work after Merian was no longer able to do so. We are all the richer because of Andrea’s efforts, and she will be greatly missed.

## Andrea Shaw and Merian Lovelace Kirchner

As remembered by Andrea’s sister, Donna Storey

Even though we lived in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our parents would often take us downtown to the grand Carnegie library in Oakland to choose books from their extensive collection. I loved the children’s room and still remember the day my middle sister Andrea pulled Heaven to Betsy from a small book shelf set on the circular table in the middle of the reading room. “This is a good book. I think you’ll like it.” I was only eight years old, but a precocious reader who loved historical novels. I also knew my sister’s recommendations were very reliable—and this time she outdid herself. I devoured the high school books and raced on to *Betsy’s Wedding*, my favorite. The library was missing its copy of Betsy and the Great World, which



# In Memoriam

poodles like friends, but I also knew I wanted to be a writer, so I identified with Betsy, too.

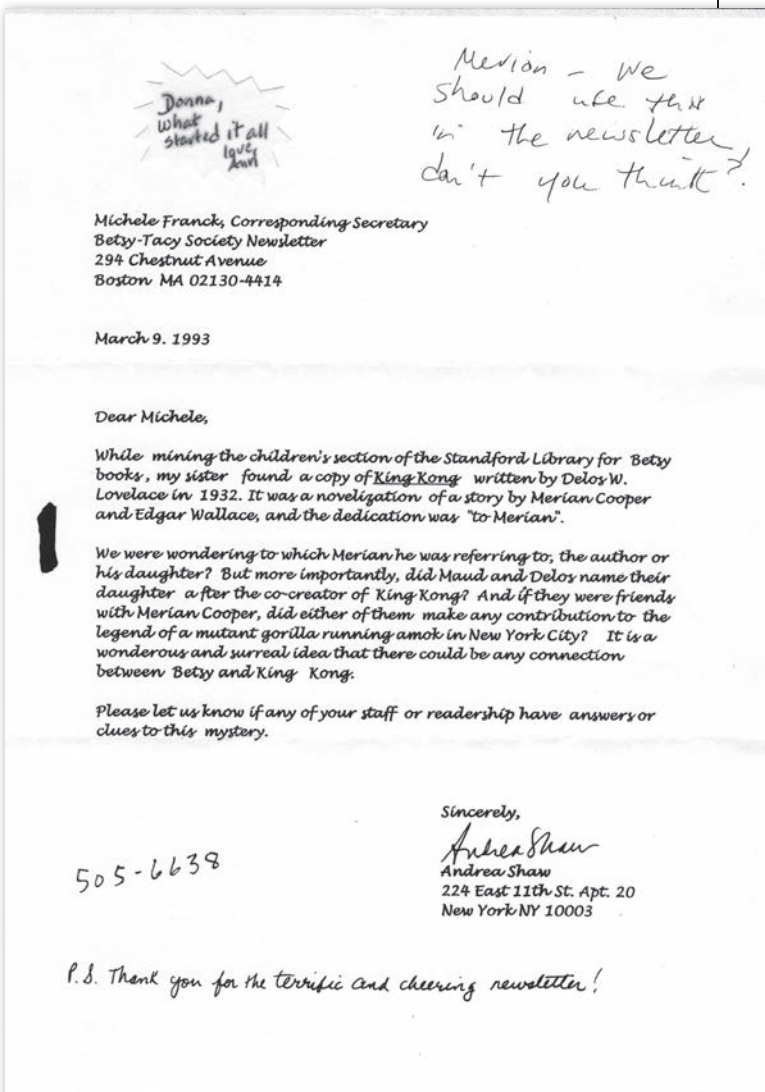
And like many fans, Andrea and I thought we were the only ones who preferred Betsy to Nancy Drew.

Fast forward to December of 1992. I treated myself to a copy of *Victoria Magazine* to get myself in the old-fashioned Christmas spirit. There I found an announcement about the Betsy-Tacy Society, a group of Maud Hart Lovelace fans who thought they were “the only ones” who loved her books but had found they were a community. It was our family custom to try to outdo each other with clever stocking stuffers on Christmas morning, and I knew I had to get a membership for Andrea (and myself). She was surprised and delighted—and I was glad to be able to make my own contribution to our Betsy-Tacy legacy.

Then just a few months later, I decided to take a tour of my own grand local library in Berkeley (I was in graduate school and the university library had served my literary needs up to that time). I went to the children’s floor and thought I’d check if they had a full collection of Betsy-Tacy books. That’s when I saw a children’s version of *King Kong* by Delos W. Lovelace. Why had “Joe” written about King Kong? Today the question could be answered with a quick Google search, but in 1993 research was a little more difficult. Andrea was equally intrigued and decided to see if the Betsy-Tacy Society could help. I’ve attached a pdf of the letter she wrote, which she gave to me a few years ago with the note: “Donna, What started it all.”

(By the way, Andrea got the library wrong—my husband and I had helped her with the Japanese movie portion of her video guide *Seen That, Now What?* and we borrowed many of the videos from the Stanford library, hence her assumption that I saw Delos’ book there).

See ‘In Memoriam’ page 12



neither Andrea nor I read until I discovered a copy in my college roommate’s local library. I also didn’t read the books for younger children until decades later, but by then I was happy to have more Betsy-Tacy history to enjoy.

In any case, Andrea and I shared a love of the Betsy-Tacy books and over the years we often re-read them together—Christmas in Milwaukee and summers at Murmuring Lake and picnics with cocoa made over an open fire seemed like part of our own past. We were also a family of three sisters. The oldest of us was a beauty who left a string of broken-hearted beaux like Julia. Andrea had the independent spirit and charisma of Betsy. Like Margaret, I was younger (by seven years), bookish and dignified and loved our two

# In Memoriam

*In Memoriam* continued from page 10

The Betsy-Tacy Society secretary, Michele Franck, forwarded Andrea’s letter to Merian. I believe Merian wrote to the address Andrea provided in reply, and since they were both in the New York City area, they later spoke by phone (I wonder if the phone number on the letter was Merian’s writing?) and Merian invited Andrea to lunch. They had a wonderful time chatting about Betsy-Tacy and really hit it off. Andrea visited many times, both alone and for Betsy-Tacy Society meetings of the New York chapter. Once when I was back east, Andrea took me to meet Merian at her Park Slope apartment. It was a real thrill for me to meet her. She was gracious and very generous with stories about her mother and father. I felt very lucky to have the opportunity to meet her and felt in touch with the spirit of her parents, too.

Andrea and Merian became great friends. Near the end of Merian’s life in 1997, Andrea visited her every day in the hospital.

**Kathryn Adams Doty**

July 15, 1920 - October 14, 2016

Born Kathryn Hohn in New Ulm, MN, she attended Hamline University in St. Paul. As a sophomore in 1939, she won a trip to Hollywood, chosen the Mid-western winner in the “Gateway to Hollywood” talent contest. Kathryn was paired with another regional talent contest winner, Hugh Beaumont from New Orleans. Beaumont is best known for his role as Ward Cleaver in the “Leave it to Beaver” television series.

Movie director Gregory LaCava spotted Kathryn’s talent and he offered her a role in his new movie, “Fifth Avenue Girl”, starring Ginger Rogers. Known as Kathryn Adams during her days on screen, she went on to appear in 25 movies from 1939-1946, working with Lucille Ball, Kay Kyser, Bing Crosby and many others.



**Kathryn Adams Doty at Tacy’s House in Mankato, December 2004.** The BTS hosted a book signing for her new book, “A Long Year of Silence”. Kathy is holding a copy of Hamline University’s 1939 newspaper with the article announcing that she was chosen the Midwestern winner in the “Gateway to Hollywood” talent contest.

Kathryn married Hugh Beaumont in 1941 and chose to leave acting to begin a family. The couple later divorced after more than 30 years of marriage. In the years following her acting career she raised three children, taught school, earned a master’s degree in psychology and practiced for years in California. Kathryn later married Fred Doty, also a psychologist and they moved to Mankato, Minnesota.

Between the years 2003 and 2009, Kathryn wrote and published three books. She was a guest at Tacy’s House several times for book signings and events. The first time was in December 2004 when her first book, “A Long Year of Silence”, was released. Kathy and her husband Fred Doty (also a psychologist and author) were friends and supporters of the BTS and our mission. Our sympathy goes out to the family.



*“We have to build our lives out of what materials we have. It’s as though we were given a heap of blocks and told to build a house.”*

Emily of Deep Valley

# A Wonderful Holiday Gift Idea



The boys had engaged a hack. This unworldly gesture was a tribute to the elegance of the Melborn Hotel. Betsy felt unbelievably worldly as the hack, on its winter runners, slid along the snowy streets and halted at the illuminated entrance to the Melborn. They went through the swinging door into the lobby. It smelled of cigars and the fat red leather chairs. They crossed the room and ascended the grand staircase which rose at the far end. The ballroom was two stories high and overlooked the river. Here Deep Valley gave its most fashionable parties.  
—Betsy and Joe—



Hill Street was rightfully named. It ran straight up into a green hill and stopped. The name of the town was Deep Valley, and a town named Deep Valley naturally had plenty of hills. Betsy's house, a small yellow cottage, was the last house on her side of Hill Street.  
—Betsy-Tacy—

*January*  
— 2017 —

| Sunday       | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1            | 2      | 3       | 4         | 5        | 6      | 7        |
| New Year Day |        |         |           |          |        |          |
| 8            | 9      | 10      | 11        | 12       | 13     | 14       |
| 15           | 16     | 17      | 18        | 19       | 20     | 21       |
| 22           | 23     | 24      | 25        | 26       | 27     | 28       |
| 29           | 30     | 31      |           |          |        |          |

**SAULPAUGH HOTEL**  
The large four-story Saulpaugh Hotel (Melborn Hotel), built by Thomas Saulpaugh, celebrated with an elaborate grand opening on November 6, 1889. The hotel had 80 elegantly furnished guest rooms, an office, barber shop, baggage and reception rooms, a large reading room, billiard hall and bar, telegraph room, and restrooms. It boasted one of the "best improved" passenger and baggage elevators. Designed with many parlors, wide corridors, and a grand ballroom overlooking the river, the hotel had no equal luxury. The original entrance to the hotel faced the Minnesota River, and many patrons arrived by riverboat or train.

*April*  
— 2017 —

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        |         |           |          |        | 1        |
|        |        |         |           |          |        | 8        |
|        |        | 4       | 5         | 6        | 7      | 15       |
|        |        | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14     | 22       |
|        |        | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21     | 28       |
| 25     | 26     |         |           |          |        |          |

**BETSY'S HOUSE**  
The childhood home of Maud Hart Lovelace, author of the Betsy-Tacy book series and the fictional Betsy Ray. Maud Palmer Hart was born on April 25, 1892, in Mankato, Minnesota. The Hart family (Thomas, Stella and daughters Kathleen, Maud and Helen) lived in this house from 1892 to 1906. It was here that Maud met her best friend, Frances "Buck" Kenney (Eck), who moved into the house across the street in 1898. This house at 333 Center Street is owned and operated by the Betsy-Tacy Society, is restored as a museum and was designated a National Literary Landmark in 2010.



## 2017 Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley Calendar

Full color calendar features 12 charming historical photographs from turn of the 20th century Mankato, MN (Deep Valley). Accompanying each photograph are quotes and history related to the Betsy-Tacy books. 12" x 24"

**Quantities are Limited • Only \$15.00**  
**ORDER NOW!**



# The Coffin House, Vassar and Me

By Kathleen Baxter

In the summer of 2013, I received an invitation to give a presentation in Poughkeepsie, New York. BOCES, the Board of Children’s Educational Services, had hired me to do several all-day talks about children’s books around the state. But - let’s get real! As much as I had enjoyed visiting the other locations depicted in *Carney’s House Party*, I had never been to Vassar, where part of the book takes place. I certainly had seen images of it, but actually being there was something else again. Although I had presented in Poughkeepsie before, I’d had no spare time to see it, having had to take a train to Manhattan and then out to Long Island to give another talk the next day. I had reveled at being in the Poughkeepsie train station, realizing it could not have been much changed since Carney’s time.

This time my husband Riley came along and we flew into Bradley Airport near Hartford. I wanted to go through Connecticut to get to Poughkeepsie and I had my reasons:



“In 1935 Lois even had the outbuilding south of the house that had once served as the Balch coffin shop renovated to serve as her studio.” Quote from *Lois Lenski Storycatcher* by Bobbie Malone  
This studio is where Lois created the illustrations for the first four Betsy-Tacy books. (Photo courtesy of Kathleen Baxter, 2013)

my four times great grandfather was a teenager in Litchfield, Connecticut when the Revolutionary War broke out, and on the day the local militia was formed, he and a bunch of other



Home of author and illustrator Lois Lenski Covey in Harwinton, Connecticut. In the early 1930s, Lois and her husband Arthur moved into this early American house on Harmony Hill Road. They called this old abandoned farmhouse and neglected outbuildings “Greenacres”. (Photo courtesy of Kathleen Baxter, 2013)

## The Coffin House, Vassar and Me (continued)



This is the north tower of Main. Carney's room is on the top right floor. Vassar College, founded as a women's school in 1861 in Poughkeepsie, New York. Pictured is the north tower of Main Building. Marion Willard's (*Carney Sibley*) room would have been on the top floor, right front. (Photo courtesy of Kathleen Baxter, 2013)

volunteers raced to the town green to enlist. I wanted to see that town green and learn more. I did know that the militia, 36 men from Litchfield, had a miserable time of it. In the battle of New York/Long Island, those who were not killed were captured by the British and put on a prison ship where they were fed almost nothing (a handful of wormy meal a day, he said in his petition for a pension). Although he also came down with smallpox, he was lucky—he was one of only six men who survived and went back to Litchfield.

By coincidence, I had read Lois Lenski's autobiography, *Journey into Childhood*, shortly before the trip. She had lived much of her life in Connecticut, and as I started looking at maps and planning our journey, I realized that Harwinton, her home for many years, was the next town to Litchfield! We were going to go right through it! And, by gum, we were going to see her house. I googled the address.

"For Sale" signs were on the property. We drove into the driveway. Clearly, no one was living there. The big

lot, with a few buildings and an old house, was a lovely, wooded place. We wandered around taking photos. I was hoping to see the building where Ms. Lenski did all of her illustrations for the *Betsy-Tacy* books: the coffin house! The coffin house was a small building where coffins had been made in previous centuries. As is pretty normal in New England, this house was older than any houses we have in Minnesota. Ms. Lenski's husband Arthur Covey was also an artist, but, at least in his own mind, he was the great illustrator and she was just a children's book creator, so he got the best studio.

While we were looking around, a car pulled up. The owner of the house had gotten a call saying people were walking around the property and he came to see if we were interested in purchasing the house. Alas, we were not, but he was pleasant and interested to hear that I was a Lenski fan. His parents had bought the house, which he grew up, from Lenski and her husband.

It was a lovely time, and I realized that "I think I am the only one" would not apply to this case. Who wouldn't want to see that coffin house where immortal pictures were created? *Betsy, Tacy and Tib* hypnotizing *Winona*? Great stuff! And we can all name many more illustrations, not to mention Lenski's own books. It was wonderful!



Later, when we arrived in Poughkeepsie, we headed straight for Vassar and visited the locations mentioned in *Carney's House Party*. Even though the book took place over a hundred years ago, much still looks as it was described. I, of course, took photos.

I love going to places where things happened. And I had gotten to two important ones on the same day!



*Maud's Iowa Roots* continued from page 1

sisters and me many stories about the drives with his mother and the fun of watching the list of pledges grow.

His mother was dainty, feminine, persuasive. While a farmer was explaining that times were hard, her eyes would rove over the barnyard and she would suggest “a pig from that fine new litter” or “that handsome calf, younder”. She always got one. I don’t find piglets or calves on the subscription list but I know they were given and can only assume they were translated into money pledges and marked paid. There were some atheists in that part of the county. My father always referred to them as ‘infidels’...but with the friendliest good will. He told how Grandma Hart would remind the infidels that they might like a church nearby ‘when your daughter is married’ or ‘when your time comes to die’.

The sheet of paper became three sheet sewn together. By August \$1153.25 had been pledged and the Articles of Incorporation of the Brethren Church were filed. (Later it became the Centennial Methodist Church). It was to be used by all Orthodox Christian denominations and to be open for all funerals.

Grandma Hart was buried there three years later. She was only forty-five. She had left her stamp on every one of her nine children, and her grandchildren and even her great grandchildren are aware of her. Many of us have been taken to Washington Prairie to see “Grandma’s Church”.

It was a great pride to my father that at his father’s death in 1913, he was given...by vote of his brothers and sisters... the old subscription list which I am now happy to put into the care of the State Historical Society of Iowa.”

The rest of the story...

Beside the Washington Prairie Methodist Church is a small cemetery where I expected to find the grave stones of James A. and Arosamond Hart. However, they are buried a few miles away in the Greenwood Centennial Cemetery. This remains a mystery...until next time.

*Betsy-Tacy Gift Shop News*

The holidays are rapidly approaching and soon we’ll all be caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. Don’t forget to add the Betsy-Tacy Gift Shop to your shopping list. We have something for Betsy-Tacy fans of all ages. Books, cd’s, 2017 calendar, apparel, tote bags, mugs, and more.

- “Betsy’s House” and “Tacy’s House” classically inspired ornaments made of brass and finished in elegant 24 karat gold make wonderful keepsake gifts and are gift boxed with an origin card. \$18.00 ea.
- Four versions of Betsy-Tacy Christmas cards are available and feature artwork by Lois Lenski, Vera Neville and Cheryl Harness and holiday quotes from the books. \$8.00 package of 6 cards
- Not sure what to give that special person on your gift list? Consider giving the gift of a BTS membership or a Betsy-Tacy gift certificate .



All BTS members whose gift shop order totals \$50.00 or more will receive a coupon for \$5.00 off your next shop purchase of \$25.00 and up. Your membership expiration date is required for this offer.

This offer is good at Tacy’s Gift Shop or our online gift shop at [www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org). For online orders, enter your membership expiration date in the Ordering Instructions box found in the checkout cart. This offer expires December 17, 2016.

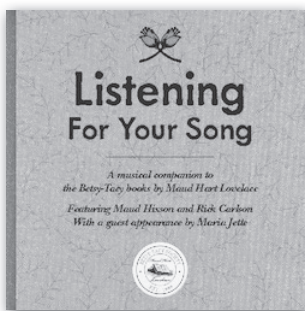


# New in the Gift Shop



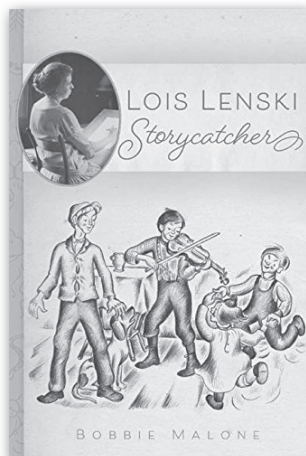
### 2017 Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley Calendar

Full color calendar features 12 charming historical photographs from turn of the 20th century Mankato, MN (Deep Valley). Accompanying each photograph are quotes and history related to the Betsy-Tacy books. Limited quantities available. 12" x 24" **\$15.00**



### Listening For Your Song CD by Maud Hixson – \$15.00

**I Love Betsy-Tacy bracelet**  
Show your love of the Betsy-Tacy books with a pink silicone bracelet. One size fits all. **\$2.00**



### Lois Lenski – Storycatcher by Dr. Bobbie Malone

Betsy-Tacy fans know Lois Lenski best as the illustrator of Maud's first four Betsy-Tacy books. But not everyone may be aware that author and illustrator of the Newbery Award-winning *Strawberry Girl* and numerous other tales of children from America's diverse regions and cultures, Lenski spent five decades creating stories for young readers. *Lois Lenski: Storycatcher* follows her development as a writer and as an artist. This first full-length biography tells how Lenski traveled throughout the country, gathering the stories that brought to life in words and pictures whole worlds that had for so long been invisible in children's literature. In the process, her work became a source of delight, inspiration, and insight for generations of readers. Hardcover **\$26.95**

**Mrs. Chubcock's Candy Store** mini tote is perfect for gift giving. Fill with candy or small gift items. Canvas bag features Lois Lenski illustration from Betsy-Tacy. 6.75" x 6.25". **\$5.00**



**Deep Valley Homecoming gifts** include t-shirts, tote bags, silicone bracelet and Deep valley Homecoming color mug.

**Porcelain Tea Set in Basket** Child's porcelain tea set for two. Available in Betsy's Violet or Tacy's Pink Rose. **\$35.00**



The Betsy-Tacy Society is joining with the Mankato City Center Partnership to celebrate "Small Shop Saturday" on November 26. This nationwide event encourages shoppers to shop local and support our small businesses. Watch for more information on our website and facebook pages.

**Shop at Tacy's Gift Shop**  
Online ([betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog](http://betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog))  
or at 332 Center Street in Mankato  
Open on Saturdays 1 pm – 4 pm  
through December 17th.

# Deep Valley Homecoming 2016



The BTS hosted the 3rd annual Deep Valley Homecoming to celebrate author Maud Hart Lovelace and her books on June 24-27, 2016. Activities narrated horse-drawn trolley rides, guided house tours, living history actors, Deep Valley book festival, Victorian Tea, Deep Valley wine release, “Listening For Your Song” cd release and concert by Maud Hixson, children’s activities and crafts, reader’s theater, dance lessons, “Betsy and Joe” dramatic play, Blue Earth County Courthouse and First Presbyterian Church tours, living history exhibits, guest speakers Teresa Mercier and Susan Haggberg-Miller, Young Artist and Young Writer Competition, a Betsy, Tacy & Tib Contest and more.

Visit our website to read the winning stories and see the winning illustrations.

Many volunteers are needed to host an event such as this and we’re grateful to each and every one of you! We appreciate the local businesses and organizations that partnered with us for this annual event. Thanks to the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council for grant support.

For more photos, visit our facebook page, click on photos and there’s an album for the Deep Valley Homecoming 2016.

See highlights from the 2016 Deep Valley Homecoming on our new video courtesy of Purple Torchlight Productions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fYW6jZOJUE>.

### Deep Valley Writers Competition Award Winners

1st Place (age 8–10 division) — Eva Madelyn James for “Ms Butter and the Big Rock”

1st Place (age 11–13 division) — Rachel Evans for “Courage to Speak”

### Young Artist Competition Award Winners

1st Place (age 7–8 division) — Aidan Klammer for illustration of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”

1st Place (age 9–10 division) — Kate North for illustration of “Betsy’s Desk”

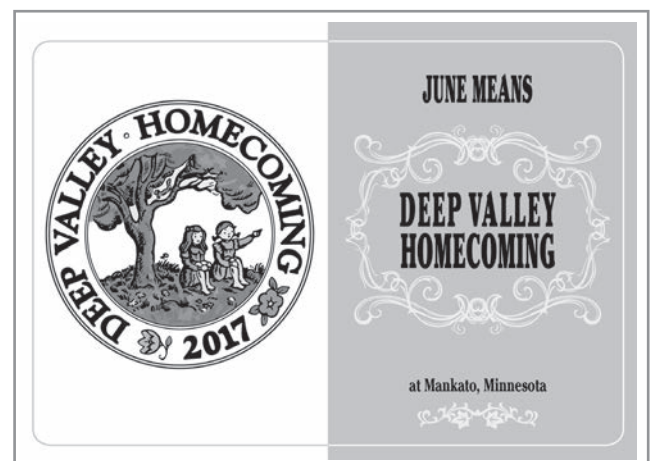
### Winners of the Betsy, Tacy & Tib Contest

Betsy Ray — Rosalita Jones

Tacy Kelly — Lily Geyer

Tib Muller — Clare Duncan

*We look forward to seeing you June 23-25, 2017!*





# Deep Valley Homecoming 2016



## Thank you To Our DVH 2016 Sponsors

Barnes & Noble, River Hills Mall  
Blue Earth County Courthouse  
Blue Earth County Historical Society  
Blue Earth County Library System  
Cactus Tatoo  
Chankaska Creek Winery  
Community Bank  
Consolidated Communications  
Corporate Graphics  
Curiosi-Tea House  
Deep Valley Swing  
Drummers Garden Center  
Gather 'Round the Table  
HOME Magazine

Mankato Free Press  
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Minnesota Heritage Publishing  
Mr. Monogram  
Old Fashioned Carpentry  
Old Town Escape  
Papageorge Restaurant  
Peddler of Rapidan  
Pub 500  
River City Quilts  
South Central College  
Stones Throw Gallery  
Voyageur Web



*Membership  
Makes a  
Difference*

**Welcome  
New Members**

**Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015**

Colin Barnacle  
Molly Cummins  
Molly Gallaway  
Shirley Hardy  
Mary Healy  
Kristen Hoel  
Julia Holden  
Kirsti Johanson  
Andrea Lerum  
Karen Nolan  
Leslie Owen  
Kristin Raymakers  
Laura Stoesz  
Meghan Sweeney

**Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2016**

Jean Brune  
Emma Casaudoumeccq  
Bernardine Codella  
Jean Costello  
Julia Cox  
Carolyn Davis  
Margaret Edmonston  
Brooke Ellman  
Debbie Fischer  
Colleen Gray  
Sue Hytjan  
Barbara Kohnke  
Fredri Levitt  
Elizabeth Manzoni  
MaryJo Ruppert  
Susan Seltz  
Nancy Spika  
Jennifer Struss  
Sonja Werle

*Thank You!*



**2015 Donations**

Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015

**\$5 – \$50**

Lynne Baab  
Lynda Barchard  
Sunniva Brady  
Bob & Susan Brown –  
*Endowment/Memory of  
Rod Elbert*  
Carol Burger  
Colleen Canavan – *Endowment*  
Mary Chamberlain  
Judith Corson  
Dena Fleurichamp  
Cheryl & William Foote  
Cleo Grosscup – *Website upgrade*  
Barbara Hartwick  
LeAnn & Richard Hufnagel  
Julia Holden –  
*Memory of Nan Soule*  
Vicki Newell  
Kris Norland  
Cornelia Pepoy  
Anne Rickert  
Truman & Jackie Ritchie  
Eunice Sassenberg  
Julie Schrader  
Thomsen Rueters Matching  
Cecilia Wirth  
Beth Walls  
Marilyn & Alan Youel  
Marilyn Williamson  
Cecilia Wirth

**\$51 – \$100**

Emily Gold  
Dawn Grage  
Barbara Hartwick  
Kathryn Hanson  
Margie Hanson – *Honor of  
Kathryn Hanson*  
Carolyn Hinz  
Mary Huntley  
Mary & Dirk Landis  
June Parnell  
Ann Seigel  
Mary Sherman  
Courtney Taulbee  
Thomson Reuters Matching

**\$101 – \$499**

Helen Gift  
Sharon Breegemann –  
*Memory of Colleen O'Neil*  
Sherry Lorentz  
Carol Pearson

**\$1001 – \$3000**

Helen Gift  
Family of Laurie Pengra –  
*In honor of Laurie Pengra*  
The K Foundation

**Donations**

**2016 Donations**

Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2016

**\$5 – \$50**

Rita Allen  
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Kathleen Dorn*  
Bob & Susan Brown –  
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Andrea Shaw*  
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Susan Kavulich  
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Lucille Northenscald –  
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Sandra O'Brien –  
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L. Peltola –  
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*Website upgrade*  
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Jeanine Sallos  
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Inella Burns and Andrea Shaw*  
Andrea Schwartz –  
*Website upgrade*  
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Pete Steiner  
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Colleen Sullivan –  
*Memory of Lorraine Carlson*  
Kathleen Turner  
Beth Walls  
Carol Welsch – *Website upgrade*

**\$51 – \$100**

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Mary Ann Gilbertson  
Kathryn Hanson  
Sherri Newhouse  
Susan Kavulich  
Linda Watson

**\$101 – \$499**

Christine Ho



**\$500 – \$999**

Rich Robinson

**\$1001 – \$3000**

Kathleen Baxter  
The Bersteins  
Nate & Lori Gardner –  
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Foundation*  
Helen Gift

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Purple Torchlight Productions  
rj graphic design  
South Central College

**Engraved Paver Donations**

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Maud List – *Memory of  
Rachel Rose*  
Maud List –  
*Memory Colleen O'Neil*  
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# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

*A heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who give their time, expertise and resources to guide tours, greet guests, shop staff and inventory, programs, committees and more.*

## Aug. 1, 2015 – Oct. 1, 2016

|                         |                       |                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
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| Mavis Gessner           | Alex Oldenburg        |                    |



## DID YOU KNOW? BETSY-TACY TRIVIA (CONTINUED)



### Answers

1. On Betsy's 10th birthday party (*Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill*). The girls decided that now that they had two numbers in their age, none of them should go by their nicknames.
2. Mrs. Benson (*Betsy-Tacy*)
3. Page Park (*Betsy-Tacy*)
4. The Opera House (*Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*)
5. In the chapter, "The Milkman Story" (*Betsy-Tacy*). The magic horse could talk and liked doughnuts.
6. Maroon and gold (*Heaven to Betsy*)

## Uncle Frank's (*Uncle Keith*) Oliver Typewriter

In a letter written to her cousin Marjorie Austin Freeman in 1964, Maud described her beginnings as a writer:

“Perhaps you would like to know that, preceding my novels, were dozens of published short stories, the first of which, called *Number Eight*, was written in San Diego when I was eighteen. This was in 1911 when I visited Grandma Austin for several months. Uncle Frank Palmer, who lived then at El Cajon, took a great interest in my constant writing of stories and their consistent rejection by the magazines. He suggested that perhaps they failed to sell because they were hand-written. He loaned me his old Oliver typewriter... He tried to give it to me, but I refused the gift because I knew he liked to write stories, too. On this, I pecked out *Number Eight* and sent it to the *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine*.”

A bit of history on the Oliver Typewriter...

Rev. Thomas Oliver designed his first typewriter, made from strips of tin cans, as a means of producing more legible sermons. He was awarded a patent in 1891 and after four years of development, a “crude working model” composed of 500 parts had been produced. The Oliver Typewriter Company began operating in 1895. At its peak the company’s labor force was 875 and was producing 375 machines daily. The British Oliver Typewriter Company bought the company in 1928 and that company made Oliver typewriters until 1959.



This typewriter is most likely what Uncle Frank’s Oliver Typewriter looked like. This model has been called “butterfly-style” because of its vertical type bars.

## New Members

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

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

- Be kept abreast of developments with the BTS 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 and literary landmarks.
- Help the BTS introduce the timeless works of Maud Hart Lovelace to a new generation of readers.
- 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 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](mailto: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.