



# 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. 5 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2009

## Betsy-Tacy Days Maud Hart Lovelace honored in Mankato in 1961



Maud Hart Lovelace, famed author of the Betsy-Tacy series of book for girls, is in Mankato this weekend to take part in Betsy-Tacy day. Seen with Mrs. Lovelace, who is sitting, are (left to right) Mrs. Marjorie Gerlach Harris of Chicago, who is the character of "Tib" in the Betsy-Tacy books; Mrs. Charles Kirch of Buffalo, N.Y., who is "Tacy," and Mrs. Ruth Williams of Port Orchard, Wash., "Alice" in the series. This is the first time the group has met in nine years. (Free Press Photo)  
[Editor's note: Photo and caption from Free Press, October 6, 1961]

In June 1961 the Mankato Free Press reported "Betsy Tacy Day' is planned for October." The Mankato

Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) had been working on plans to bring Maud Hart Lovelace to Mankato, her childhood home.

The idea for the event was suggested at an AAUW board meeting that was held at the home of the board president, Kathryn Hanson, in May 1961. Ellen Skibness, a professor at Mankato State University, proposed the

group sponsor a Betsy-Tacy weekend because Maud had grown up in Mankato and was writing about Mankato and most of the major characters were still living. The proposal was quickly accepted and it was decided that Dr. Anna Wiecking, who lived in the house across the street from the Gerlach house (Tib's house) and knew many of the people involved, would be the general chair for the event.

The AAUW group was active all summer making plans and preparations. On August 19, 1961, the Mankato Free Press reported: "Mankato and the surrounding area will have a literary 'treat' this fall due to the efforts of the American Association of University Women, Mankato Branch. Maud Hart Lovelace, who lives at Claremont, California, and is famous for her Betsy-Tacy stories throughout the United States, will come to Mankato October 6 and 7 to speak to her admirers and friends."

Betsy-Tacy Days was made official by a proclamation by Mankato Mayor Rex Hill, who said Mrs. Lovelace's visit to Mankato "would be of great interest to Mankatoans since the author was born and reared in our community."

### Betsy-Tacy Author Planned Only 1 Book Mankato Free Press- Friday, October 6, 1961

"When I wrote my first Betsy-Tacy book I never planned to write another. But the children wanted more of them," related Maud Hart Lovelace, author of the Betsy-Tacy series of books for girls.

Mrs. Lovelace is the guest of honor this weekend at Betsy-Tacy Day in Mankato, an event sponsored by the Mankato branch of the American Association of University Women.

"The Betsy-Tacy books have been rewarding to me because of the correspondence from children in every state in the Union," said Mrs. Lovelace, a native of Mankato. "The children ask me about characters in the books and they tell me what books they want next."

Mrs. Lovelace wrote her first Betsy-Tacy book in 1940 and 11 others in the series have followed. Other children's stories have also been written by her since the advent of the Betsy-Tacy tales.

"I've always written. I sold my first story when I was 18 years old to the Los Angeles Times while visiting my grandmother in California. 'No. 8' was the title of the article. It was the number of a streetcar somebody was murdered on. That's all I can remember about it. It sold for \$10.

"My second story was called 'Three Roses.' My husband always said it should have been 'Four Roses.'

"I married Delos Lovelace in 1917. He wrote short stories for The Saturday Evening Post and other magazines but I wasn't good at short stories.

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**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

President - Penny Banwart  
 Vice President - Joan Brown  
 Secretary - Laurie Pengra  
 Treasurer - Barbara Schnoor

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 Patti Sjulstad, Bryce Stenzel

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 Newsletter layout: Elyse Anderson  
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Regular - E \$15.00  
 Patron - E \$25.00  
 Business - E \$30.00  
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 Patron - P \$35.00  
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 Foreign - P \$40.00

Lifetime Membership

Lifetime - E \$200.00  
 Lifetime - P \$250.00

Contact information:

Mail:  
 P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002  
 Membership:  
 membership@betsy-tacysociety.org  
 Shop:  
 shopkeeper@betsy-tacysociety.org

Shop Catalog:

Shop our online catalog: www.betsy-tacysociety.org. 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

Open every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Tacy's House is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato and Betsy's House is at 333 Center Street.  
 There is no admission charge during these hours.

Special House Visits: Call 507-345-9777

For special house visits, advance reservations are requested 2 weeks in advance.  
 Admission for special appointments: \$20.00 - up to 5 people. Over 5 people, additional \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for ages 5-16.  
 This fee applies to members and non-members of the BTS. Special rates available for bus tours or school visits. Contact us for more details.

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**Welcome New Members**

Oct. 1, 2008 - Jan. 31, 2009

Braulick, Julia  
 Greenwood, Mary  
 Haist, Alvyta  
 Kalz, Jill  
 Kane, Susanna & Cecelia  
 Kirch, Robert Kenney  
 Murphy, Penny  
 Okin, Mary  
 Powers-Postel, Michael Ann  
 Suk, Letitia  
 Ylvisaker, Marguerite

**New Lifetime Members**

Oct. 1, 2008 - Jan. 31, 2009

Baxter, Kathleen  
 Goodman, Katherine  
 Wagenhals, Susan

**Donations**

The BTS gratefully acknowledges donations received from Oct. 1, 2008 to Jan.31, 2009 from the following:

**Donations to \$49**

Arends, Carole  
 Baughman, Jean  
 Braulick, Julia - *Memory of Jane Schultz*  
 Chamberlain, Mary  
 Eng, Kathleen  
 Fleurichamp, Dena  
 Gellott, Laura  
 Gipson, Linne  
 Huntley, Mary  
 Kenny, Carole  
 McGraw-Hill Company (*matching gift/Susan Rutledge*)  
 Maheras, Frieda - *Memory of John Maheras*  
 McKeever, Regina  
 Parnell, June - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Piwowarski, Janet  
 Sandleback, D'Lene  
 Sathre, Darla  
 Shanahan, Susan  
 Smith, Stephanie  
 Tugwell, Pauline  
 Wagenhals, Susan - *Memory of Robert Frayseth*

**Donations \$50 - \$99**

2009 Betsy-Tacy Convention Committee - *Memory of Margaret Chuba*  
 Cox, Janie  
 Davis-Kay, Jennifer - *Memory of Margaret Chuba*  
 Faber, Audrey - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Jacks, Colleen  
 Landis, Mary  
 MacCulloch, Susan  
 "Miss Bangeter's Shakespeare Class" - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Rozier, Hilah  
 Woizeschke, Sharon

**Donations \$100 - \$499**

"A Fish Out of Water" Book Club - *Burn the Mortgage-Memory of LaVeda Petty Aston & Honor of Children's Literacy*

Banwart, Roger & Penny - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Batten, Brenda  
 Freymuth, Patricia - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Halligan, Sue  
 Masters, Lee, Wendy & Tacy - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Parnell, June - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Schrader, Ken & Julie - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Stark, Amy - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Sullivan, Peggy - *Burn the Mortgage*

**Donations \$500 - \$1,000**

Brown, Bob & Susan - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Edwards, Bill & Ginny - *Lamppost for Betsy's House*  
 Johnson, Janine L. - *Burn the Mortgage*  
 Thomas, Richard & Jean - *Burn the Mortgage*

**Paver Fundraiser**

Oct. 1, 2008 to Jan.31, 2009  
 2009 Betsy-Tacy Convention Committee  
 Corbett, Monica  
 Doering, Helen  
 Gibson, Teresa  
 Goff, Janet  
 Kastner, JoAnn  
 Laven, Candace & Doug  
 Nathan, Marianne  
 Nowell, Katie  
 Possin, Linda  
 Poythress, Diane  
 Sasser, Janice  
 So. California Chapter Betsy-Tacy Society  
 Stollenwerk, Kathy  
 Sullivan, Peggy  
 Wilson, Nancy

**In-Kind Donations**

Oct. 1, 2008 to Jan.31, 2009  
 Brown, Susan  
 Contents/Carol Hayes  
 Arnie Lillo  
 Ryan Painting/ Jay & Marilyn Ryan

\*If you prefer your name not be published as a donor, please advise us of your wish.\*

**Thank You, Volunteers!**

Oct. 1, 2008 to Jan.31, 2009  
 Elyse Anderson  
 Penny Banwart  
 Faith Beiswanger  
 Sarah Beiswanger  
 Halle Blais  
 Michele Blake  
 Kathy Bodelson  
 Bob Brown  
 Joan Brown  
 Susan Brown  
 Tom Hagen  
 Kathryn Hanson  
 Christina Harman  
 Leah Hasse  
 Carol Hayes  
 Hometime crew

Daryl Hrdlicka  
 Charlie Hurd  
 Peter Hurd  
 Susan Hynes  
 Tanner Kent  
 Carol Knudson  
 Candy Laven  
 Doug Laven  
 Arnie Lillo  
 Robbie Madison  
 Rollie Madison  
 Pat Nelson  
 Joan Nikolay  
 Ave Grace Noy  
 Jacque Noy  
 Jonathan Noy  
 Mariah Noy  
 Laurie Pengra  
 Shannon Rao  
 Barbara Schnoor  
 David Schrader  
 Julie Schrader  
 Justine Schrader  
 Ken Schrader  
 Betsy Sherman  
 Patti Sjulstad  
 Bryce Stenzel  
 Norma Thomas  
 Denny Weis

**Artifacts & Archive Donations**

Oct. 1, 2008 to Jan.31, 2009

Bob & Lois Bletcher - *Lincoln Elm print*  
 Richard Confer - *Computer*  
 Bonnie Daly - *Perfecscope with slides*  
 Susan Feasey - "*Petticoat Court*" and "*Gentlemen from England*" by MHL  
 Johanna Hurwitz - "*Petticoat Court*" by MHL  
 Mary Pat Young - *Piano stool*

**Wish list**

*Items or financial donations will be gratefully accepted.*

Antique library table for Tacy's parlor  
 Archival boxes & supplies for artifacts  
 Copy machine  
 LCD projector

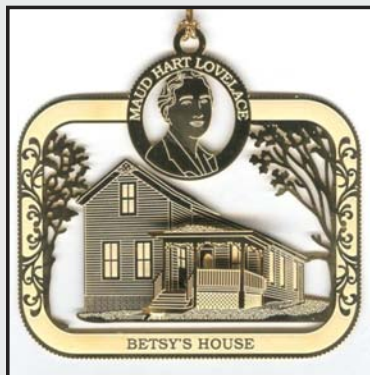
Books by Maud Hart Lovelace: *Black Angels, The Charming Sally, One Stayed at Welcome, The Tune Is in the Tree.*

**Wishes Fulfilled**

"Petticoat Court" by MHL  
 Piano Stool



## Shop Talk



### Betsy's House Ornament

Features author Maud Hart Lovelace and her childhood home - Betsy's House. This classically inspired ornament measures 2½" by 2¾" and is made of brass and finished in elegant 24-carat gold. Gift boxed with origin card. All proceeds from the sale of

this ornament benefit the restoration of Betsy's House. This is the first in a series of Betsy-Tacy ornaments. \$18.00

### Maud Hart Lovelace Home & Museum Note Card

Author's childhood home, known as "Betsy's House" - Pen/ink drawing by Barbara Bjelland Blank note card folded with envelope - 5-1/2" x 4-1/4" - white card stock. Back of card has narrative about the author and her childhood home. Available in package of 6 for \$7.50 or individually for \$1.50



### I Love Betsy-Tacy Note Pad

Keep your notes and lists on this note pad. Kids will love it for doodling and drawing. Illustration from "Betsy-Tacy" by Lois Lenski 5.5 x 8.5 \$2.75

### I Love Betsy-Tacy Pencil

Two #2 pencils with the inscription "I Love Betsy-Tacy" \$1.00 for 2 pencils

### Betsy-Tacy Crayon Pack of 4

Imprint of Betsy, Tacy & Tib (illustration by Lois Lenski) on the box containing 4 crayon colors: red, blue, green and yellow. \$1.00

### Special "Members Only" offer

All BTS members whose 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.

## Paver Fundraiser

This fundraiser will continue until the entire space is filled with engraved pavers! Blank pavers were laid and will be replaced by engraved pavers as the orders come in. There is still time to get your name in stone or to give this as a gift in honor or memory of your loved ones. Another group of engraved pavers will be laid in the spring.

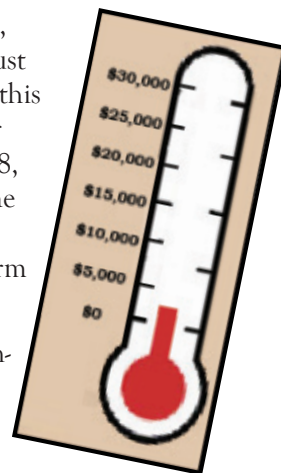


An order form can be downloaded from our website.

REMEMBER: the BTS is a non-profit organization and your donations may be tax deductible.

## Mortgage News

Thanks to the generous support of our members, we are pleased to report the mortgage has been reduced to \$2,548.00 as of January 31, 2009. If every BTS member donated just \$3.00, the mortgage could be paid off this month. We came close to reaching our goal of paying off the mortgage in 2008, but with your help we WILL pay off the mortgage in 2009! If you would like to help, you can find details on, and a form can be downloaded from our website.



The Betsy-Tacy Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible. Please mark "Burn the Mortgage Fundraiser" in the memo line of your check.

## Important Membership News

Check for your renewal date on the address label of this newsletter. If your membership has expired, please renew today.

**Change in Expiration Dates** (reported in the November 2008 issue of the Deep Valley Sun, p. 3)

In an effort to simplify record-keeping and make it easier for our members to know when their membership is due, the Betsy-Tacy Society has changed to a yearly renewal and expiration date. Effective January 1, 2009, all memberships will run from January 1 to December 31. If your membership is due to expire any time in 2009, it will now be due in January 2009. If you have already renewed your 2009 membership, it will carry over until December 31, 2009. We understand this may be confusing as we make the change, so if you have any questions, please contact [julie@betsy-tacysociety.org](mailto:julie@betsy-tacysociety.org).

## Your Membership Dollars And Donations Are Vital To The Betsy-Tacy Society.

During these difficult economic times, your membership contribution and special donations are even more vital to the Betsy-Tacy Society. As a non-profit organization, we operate solely on memberships, donations and shop sales. We receive no state or federal funding. Without your contributions we cannot operate as an organization and maintain the two historic childhood homes of Betsy and Tacy which have become a literary landmark in Mankato and recognized by Betsy-Tacy fans all over the world. Our faithful members are the backbone of the BTS!

**If every BTS member donated an extra \$12, we would raise \$10,000!  
Your membership dollars have allowed us to continue to fulfill our mission  
to promote and preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy and her work by:**

- Getting the Betsy-Tacy books back in print
- Acquiring the childhood homes of Maud Hart Lovelace and Frances "Bick" Kenney [Betsy and Tacy] - saving them from possible demolition.
- Nearly paying off the mortgages on both houses
- Continuing the restoration work on both houses
- Collecting, preserving and displaying Lovelace artifacts
- Offering educational and historical programs

**Please help us through these difficult times by renewing your membership today.**

You may pay your membership online using PayPal: [http://betsy-tacysociety.org/shopsite\\_sc/page15.html](http://betsy-tacysociety.org/shopsite_sc/page15.html) or mail the renewal application, found on page 11.

What is the difference between a **regular membership** and **patron membership**?

A patron membership offers more financial support to the Society. There is no difference in benefits to the member.

The Betsy-Tacy Society invites you to attend...

### Pub 500 Breakfast Buffet Fundraiser for the BTS

All You Can Eat Breakfast Buffet



March 28, 2009, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
at Pub 500 located at 500 So. Front St. in Mankato  
Adults - \$10 advance, \$12 at the door  
Children 12 & under - \$5 advance, \$6 at the door

Invite your friends and family for a delicious breakfast and help the BTS raise much-needed funds at the same time! Proceeds to benefit the Betsy-Tacy Society Restoration Fund. Help restore Mankato's historic literary landmark - the childhood home of author Maud Hart Lovelace.

#### Tickets can be purchased in advance at:

Tacy's House Gift Shop (located at 332 Center St. in Mankato on Sat. afternoons 1p.m. - 3p.m.)

Twin Rivers Center for the Arts (located at 523 So. 2nd St. in Mankato Mon.-Fri. 1p.m. - 5 p.m.)

Pub 500 (500 So. Front St.)

By Mail: Send checks to BTS, P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we'll mail your tickets.

### 2009 Convention News



As reported in the November 2008 issue, a group of volunteers from across the country have organized the "Deep Valley Convention Planning Committee" and have been busy planning a Betsy-Tacy convention to be held in Mankato July 17-20, 2009. The committee is offering this event as a fundraiser for the BTS with all proceeds to benefit the restoration fund. For more details see insert in this issue.



### NEW - Betsy-Tacy Book Club

The first meeting of the Betsy-Tacy Book Club was held at Tacy's house on January 17th. The club is open to children ages 7-12 with club size limited to 10. Meetings are once a month for 5 consecutive months and members will read the first four books in the Betsy-Tacy series. There are book discussions, as well as crafts and snacks all taken from the Betsy-Tacy books. Currently we have a waiting list for a second club and when the list is filled we'll add more dates. To register or for more information, visit the website: [www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org), or call 507-345-9777 or email: [julie@betsy-tacysociety.org](mailto:julie@betsy-tacysociety.org). If you don't live in the area and want to begin your own Betsy-Tacy Book Club, just contact us for ideas and we'll help you get started.

Make plans to attend the  
*BTS Annual Meeting and Victorian  
Lawn Party June 20, 2009*



Annual meeting will be held at Tacy's house at 10:30 a.m. with the Victorian Lawn Party beginning at noon. We plan to have a "BURN THE MORTGAGE" ceremony during the annual meeting. Watch our website for more details as they become available.

**Coming Soon - Reserve your copy now!**  
*Black Angels by Maud Hart Lovelace*

Minnesota Heritage Publishing and the Betsy-Tacy Society are excited to announce the reprint of *Black Angels* by Maud Hart Lovelace. *Black Angels*, published by the John Day Co. in 1926, was Maud's first adult novel. Maud describes this novel in a letter published in the November 2008 issue of the Deep Valley Sun, p. 8-9.

This soft-cover re-print will be a limited edition. In order to help us determine the number of books to print, we're asking members to place an advance order. When the book goes to print, you'll be notified of the cost and given instructions for shipping or pick up. No money is required for your advance order. The estimated cost of the book is \$12.95. If we receive enough advance orders, plans are to have the book available at the annual meeting in June. To reserve your copy, send name, address, phone number, email address and number of books you wish to reserve. Send to Betsy-Tacy Society, P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094 or email [julie@betsy-tacysociety.org](mailto:julie@betsy-tacysociety.org).

**Don't miss this chance to own this limited edition book!**

## *Message from the President...*

As I write this column today it is sunny and 17 below zero here in Deep Valley. We are experiencing a "real Minnesota winter" for the first time in several years and we have abundant snow.

2008 was another busy year for the BTS as the restoration work at Betsy's house continues. We hosted many successful events and welcomed hundreds of visitors from across the country. We're so happy that many of you who live beyond the hills of Deep Valley could join us! Thank you all who have supported us through membership, donations, shop sales and volunteer hours. Without you none of this would have been possible!

Just as in other areas of the country, we're feeling the effects of the recession. Once again, it is necessary for us to ask for your continued support. We are thankful that our mortgage will be retired in April. Again...many thanks to all who have contributed to our "Burn the Mortgage Fundraiser"! Because of a drastic reduction in revenues, down approximately 23% at this time, we are concerned about whether we will continue to meet our monthly expenses. As you may know, many non-profits across the country have been forced to close their doors. We sincerely hope this is not in our future. After all that has been accomplished in recent years this would be tragic. Your board of directors realizes its fiduciary responsibilities and will soon need to put together a contingency plan, in case it is faced with the worst-case scenario.

How can you help? Renew your membership, purchase from the BTS gift shop, attend one of our fundraisers or make a donation if you can. Each and every dollar goes a long way. We thank you in advance!

We remain hopeful that 2009 will prove to be a better year and we're up for the challenge! By joining together we can make anything happen! We wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year and hope to meet you here in Deep Valley one day soon.

*Penny Banwart, Betsy-Tacy Society President*

### **CORRECTION**

A correction to the article "The Books of Maud Hart Lovelace" that appeared on page 7 of the November 2008 Deep Valley Sun. Early Candlelight was published in 1929, not 1939.

*continued on page 6 . . . . .*

## Meet the Betsy-Tacy Society Board of Directors



**Betsy-Tacy Society Board of Directors** - Standing: Doug Laven, Bryce Stenzel, Penny Banwart. Front: Patti Sjulstad, Joan Brown, Candy Laven, Susan Brown, Laurie Pengra. Missing: Barbara Schnoor. Photo taken 2.3.09 in Betsy's back parlor

**Penny Banwart**, BTS Board President is a longtime secondary teacher of German and history, now an adjunct instructor of German at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. She is married with two sons and three grandchildren and enjoys traveling and learning about and experiencing other cultures. She's lived in "Deep Valley" for 45 years and appreciates the rich history we have here in our valley.

**Joan Brown**, BTS Board Vice President, grew up in Mankato and lived three blocks from Hill St. where Betsy and Tacy lived, and many of the places in Lovelace's books are well-known to her. Unfortunately, many homes and buildings that were a part of our history no longer exist. She believes that it's important to preserve the best of the past. Having taught English for a number of years, she feels that it's in large part through literature that we learn about the past. By being involved in the many activities of the Betsy-Tacy Society, she can contribute to the effort to keep the best of the past alive.

**Laurie Pengra**, BTS Board Secretary, retired in Mankato after nearly 26 years as a navigator in the Air Force. She enjoys reading, yoga, and living in one place long enough to put down roots. Laurie became involved in the Betsy-Tacy Society when she retired and was looking for a volunteer opportunity. Helping to preserve the Lovelace legacy and this historic literary site is challenging and rewarding.

**Barbara Schnoor**, BTS Board Treasurer is a retired accounting teacher from Minnesota State University, Mankato. "I grew up in Southern Minnesota and have lived in Mankato for 50 years. As a child it was always an adventure to come to Mankato to shop or go to concerts or plays. I enjoyed the Betsy-Tacy books as a child and even more when I shared them with my daughters and granddaughters. It has been interesting to see the Betsy-Tacy houses come alive again. Hopefully, we can continue to see progress in this restoration."

**Susan Brown**, a retired elementary school teacher, read Betsy-Tacy books to her third-graders when they studied Mankato history. She has seen firsthand how these books make history come alive for children and adults. Susan enjoys reading biographies, writing letters to family and friends, and substitute-teaching. She and her husband, Bob, love to travel and also spend time with their family, which includes five grandchildren. Bob, a member of the BTS restoration committee, and Susan have lived in Mankato since 1966. They both believe it is important for a community to preserve its history ~ just as Maud Hart Lovelace did when she wrote about living in Deep Valley many years ago.

**Candy Laven** is a financial aid specialist at South Central College in North Mankato. She enjoys cake decorating, and refinishing furniture. Candy has been active in helping to restore several of the Victorian homes that she and her husband Doug share. She feels it is important to preserve Betsy and Tacy's homes so generations can come to know what life was like during the time that Maud Hart Lovelace and Bick Kenney lived in the Lincoln Park area of Mankato.

**Doug Laven** is a Mechatronics instructor at South Central College in North Mankato. He has a background in construction and enjoys woodworking. Together, he and his wife, Candy have restored their 1886 Victorian home in the Lincoln Park area, just two blocks from Betsy and Tacy's houses. They have also worked to restore Eleanor Wood's (character of Dorothy Drew in the Betsy-Tacy books) Victorian home. They feel an obligation to give back to their community by helping to save the homes of Betsy and Tacy for others to enjoy.

**Patti Sjulstad** was born and raised in Mankato. Her grandparents owned a neighborhood grocery store two blocks from the Betsy-Tacy homes, which at one time was Mrs. Chubbuck's candy store. She grew up reading the Betsy-Tacy books. Patti is married with two grown boys (one married) and was the branch manager for AAA Mankato until five years ago when she took the position of travel manager for Taylor Corp.

**Bryce Stenzel** was born and raised in Mankato. He has always had a strong interest in local history. He holds both a bachelor of science degree in teaching (Social Studies) and master's degree in history from Minnesota State University, Mankato. His personal connection to the Betsy-Tacy stories is that after reading several of them in school as a boy, he became interested in trying to match the places described in the books with the actual locations. Because so much of Mankato's unique architectural history has been lost to urban renewal, it has become more and more difficult to find the actual sites Maud described in her books. In Stenzel's opinion, that only makes the stories more meaningful. They also serve as a window back in time to remind readers what living in Mankato was really like at the turn of the 20th century. Stenzel was invited to become a board member after assisting in the effort to erect the historical marker outside Maud's childhood home. Seeing both of the Betsy-Tacy houses restored to their original splendor in a community that often takes its history for granted is an exciting proposition for this native son of "Deep Valley."

# Betsy's House Restoration News

Since the printing of the November 2008 issue of the Deep Valley Sun, we can report the following work has been completed at Betsy's house:

The walls and ceilings of the front and back parlors and the back bedroom have had wallpaper applied and it looks fantastic! Thank you to Jay and Marilyn Ryan and Corrine Seymour from Ryan Painting! Hometime filmed the wallpaper application and this will be featured in an upcoming episode this spring.



Corrine Ryan Seymour and Marilyn Ryan cut and prepare the wallpaper for application.



Jay Ryan and Corrine Ryan Seymour hanging the ceiling wallpaper in the front parlor.

Toppers Plus applied UV window protection to all the main-floor windows in Betsy's house, and Gopher Alarms installed the security system. Arnie Lillo completed the restoration of the parlor stove which was donated by BTS member Joyce First from Ohio in 2006. Thanks, Arnie!



Parlor stove – Before



Parlor stove – After Arnie Lillo delivers the restored parlor stove.



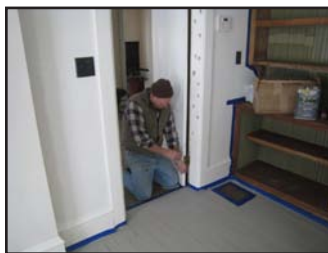
Thank you to Bill and Ginny Edwards who donated funds for a lamppost that was installed in front of Betsy's house. The lamppost appears in the Lenski illustrations from Betsy-Tacy.



Denny Weis installed the antique kitchen cupboard.



Candy Laven stripped the many layers of paint and refinished the cupboard.



Bob Brown continues to work on stripping and repainting the interior doors.



Doug Laven putting the final coat of paint on the kitchen floor.



The Hometime Crew. *Standing, L-R:* Chris Balamut, Tom "Bucki" Weckwerth, Dave Hart. *Front:* Miriam Johnson and Dean Johnson. *Missing:* Judd Nelson, Dan "Lenny" Laabs, Jeff Lyman, Bill Gibb, Mark Gutzmer. Photo taken in Betsy's back parlor 2.3.09

Hometime returned on February 3rd to wrap up the final filming of Betsy's house restoration. BTS restoration committee members, board members and volunteers gathered at Betsy's house to thank Hometime and to celebrate the progress we've made over the past few years.



Hometime co-hosts Miriam Johnson and Dean Johnson in Betsy's kitchen. Of course we celebrated with a cake!



BTS Restoration Committee. *Standing, L-R:* Tom Hagen, Bob Brown, Denny Weis, Lona Falencykowski, Doug Laven. *Front:* Penny Banwart, Patti Sjulstad, Julie Schrader, Candy Laven. Taken in Betsy's back parlor, 2.3.09

A huge debt of gratitude goes to our dedicated restoration committee who not only serve by planning, decision-making and grant-writing, but by doing much of the hands-on work of sanding, scraping, painting, cleaning and labor for this restoration project. Their work is done behind the scenes and often goes unrecognized. We're deeply grateful to Denny Weis, Patti Sjulstad, Doug & Candy Laven, Bob Brown, Tom Hagen, Julie Schrader, Penny Banwart, and Lona Falencykowski.

The restoration progress made in 2008 was funded in part by grants received from the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation and the City of Mankato. The work would not have proceeded without these funds and the help of Hometime. We are grateful for their support!

continued on page 8 . . . . .

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The next phase of the restoration to the main floor will be the bathroom area off the kitchen. Grant funds are increasingly difficult to obtain, especially in light of the economy. Without sufficient funding, our project will be on hold until the money needed is raised.

Hometime DVD's of Betsy's house restoration are available from Tacy's Gift Shop for \$10 each. The sale of the DVDs help fund the restoration project. Volume 1 features Hometime episodes 1 and 2 and Volume 2 features episodes 3 and 4. Order yours now - these are available only while supplies last!

Watch our website for air dates of the new Hometime episode #5.

## Our Wish List for Betsy's House

You can be an integral part of making dreams come true by donating needed items to the Betsy-Tacy Society. Maud's fans have always been so supportive of our organization, which is why we turn to you - her fans - as we take some giant steps toward creating a museum you will be proud to visit. There are many 1900-period items needed for "Betsy's House" that would enhance the authenticity of the museum to complete the unique experience. Actual items or monetary donations to purchase specific items on the wish list are greatly appreciated.

ALL DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY ARE 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.

- Lamps with plain and/or painted shades
- Wicker table
- Chairs or rockers
- Bookcase
- Coat tree
- Rattan curtain in doorway between two parlors
- Overstuffed couch
- Overstuffed chair
- Round parlor stove with horse-head nickel trim
- Dining room table and chairs
- Sideboard
- Period kettles, teapot, kitchen dishes and utensils, etc.
- Rain barrel outside kitchen door
- Decorated washbowl, pitcher, chamber pot
- Washstand
- Enameled kitchen washbasin

..... continued from page 1

He suggested I write novels," remarked Mrs. Lovelace.

Mrs. Lovelace did write novels, six of them. Two were written with her husband. The first was "The Black Angels," a book which was staged in Blue Earth county.

Ft. Snelling is in the background for "Early Candlelight." "One Stayed at Welcome" relates to Minneapolis and the Fairmont area is the setting for "Gentlemen from England." "Petticoat Court" and "The Charming Sally" were the novels written with her husband.

[Editor's note: Books co-authored by Maud and Delos Lovelace were "One Stayed at Welcome," "Gentlemen from England" and "The Golden Wedge: Indian Legends of South America."]

Mrs. Lovelace said she developed her interest in children's stories when she started telling stories to her daughter, Merian, who is now the wife of a magazine editor in New York City, N.Y., and also a short story writer.

Mrs. Lovelace's husband has continued his writing since retiring from the staff of the New York Telegram and Sun. He has written a biography of former President Eisenhower for children and two other juvenile books in recent years.

The next Maud Hart Lovelace book will be entitled, "Betsy's Bettina." "I have done some work on the book but it really hasn't started rolling." The latest in the Betsy-Tacy series will be about the child of Betsy and her husband.

Mrs. Lovelace has not visited Mankato since 1953. She moved to Minneapolis from Mankato in 1910, the year she graduated from Mankato high school, but still recalls what the city was like then.

"I lived at 333 Center Street. At that time the hills at the end of Center were completely wild. We called it the Big Hill. Now it is called Summer Hill. There were only one or two houses on the hill then.

There is another great change. The slough is gone. The high school is on it.

"We drove up Front Street last night. The only change I notice is the traffic. My father had a shoe store on Front street. He sold it to Wood and Sterling. The rest of the town looks

quite natural to me," she commented.

"The college was the Normal school then with only two or three buildings. The second house I lived in during high school in Mankato is now the journalism house at Mankato State college.

"I can't imagine a more wonderful place than Mankato for children to grow up. There is something about it that is friendly. I've always loved it. Being large won't change it," said Mrs. Lovelace.

With Mrs. Lovelace, who is Betsy in her series of books, are other persons who are the basis for characters in the stories.

They include:

Mrs. Frances Kenney Kirch (Tacy), of Buffalo, N.Y.; Mrs. Marjorie Gerlach Harris (Tib) of Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Beulah Hunt Ingenfritz (Winona) of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Mrs. Ruth Williams (Alice) of Port Orchard, Wash.; and Mrs. Mildred Oleson Cahill (Irma) of Waseca. Other characters in the books are Mankatoans, Mr. and Mrs. Jabez Lloyd (Cab and Irene) and Mrs. Eleanor Wood Lippert (Dorothy).

Also in Mankato is a life-long fan of the Betsy-Tacy stories, Libby Demp, of Philadelphia, Pa. Miss Demp has corresponded with Mrs. Lovelace since the first of the books appeared on the market. "I always wanted to be a writer. I admired the characters in the books," said Miss Demp, who is chairman of public relations for the Academy of Natural Science, the oldest natural history center in the country.

Miss Demp and another Philadelphia woman have written a book on secretarial careers for young women which will be published next year. "Mrs. Lovelace has been an inspiration in my writing. When I signed the contract for this book I phoned her first."

After leaving Mankato, Miss Demp will visit Minneapolis and Milwaukee, other settings for the Betsy-Tacy books, prior to returning to Philadelphia.

Mrs. Lovelace will speak at Lincoln school at 8 p.m. today. Saturday she will give a talk to children at the school at 10 a.m. She will autograph books at the Mankato public library from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday.

From 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday there will be a "turn of the century" exhibit of items



in use during the Betsy-Tacy period, including some personal items belonging to Mrs. Lovelace. The exhibit will be at the Blue Earth county museum.

Also, there will be foot tours of the locales of the Betsy-Tacy stories.

Monday, Mrs. Lovelace will visit friends in Minneapolis. Wednesday she will return to her home in Claremont, Calif

The weekend began with a program held in the auditorium of the Lincoln School. The Free Press reported on October 7, 1961:

**Large Crowd Welcomes Mrs. Lovelace**

A large crowd of men and women welcomed Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace, author of the Betsy-Tacy books, at the Lincoln school auditorium, Friday evening, the first of Betsy-Tacy Days in Mankato.

Mrs. Lovelace, guest of honor for two days in Mankato, under the sponsorship of the American Association of University Women, opened her talk by introducing some of the women who figured as characters in her series of children's books on Mankato.

These included Mrs. Marjorie Gerlach Harris of Chicago, (Tib), Mrs. Charles Kirch of Buffalo, N.Y., (Tacy), Mrs. Ruth Williams of Port Orchard, Wash., (Alice), Mrs. Beulah Hunt Ilgenfritz of St. Petersburg, Florida, (Winona), and Mrs. Mildred Oleson Cahill of Waseca, Minn., (Irma).

Pouring at the coffee table after the talk by Mrs. Lovelace, were Mrs. Jabez Lloyd, who was Irene in the Betsy-Tacy book, Mrs. Tom Edwards, Mrs. Elmer Lippert, and Mrs. J.W. Harty, all old-time friends of the author here in Mankato.

Mrs. Vernon Hanson, president of the Mankato branch of the A.A.U.W., presided at the meeting, and Mrs. Ellsworth Hansen of the new Jefferson School at James Fairfield [sic] introduced Mrs. Lovelace. This new school is on the site of Mr. Meecham's house which is mentioned in the Betsy-Tacy books.

Testifying to the great demand for the books was the fact that 170 were sold during the evening, with the first four



Maud Hart Lovelace addresses parents, teachers, librarians, and children in the Lincoln School auditorium on October 6, 1961. Seated are (L-R) Kathryn Hanson, President of the AAUW and Mary Lou Hanson, District #77 elementary school principal and daughter of Eleanor Wood Lippert [Dorothy]. Photo courtesy of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

of the series being the most popular. Many Mankatoans, especially children, who had not read the Betsy-Tacy series, over a dozen volumes in all, will be doing so during the coming months.

Dr. Anna Wiecking was general chairman for the Betsy-Tacy Days.

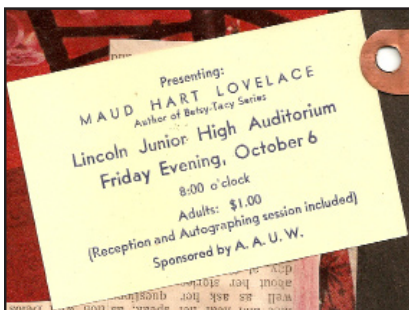
The event brought together many of Maud's childhood friends - friends that Maud used as characters in her books. Thomas Crowell Co., publisher of the Betsy-Tacy books, sent Marjorie Barr, promotion director of children's books, from New York.

Former AAUW president, Kathryn Hanson, now a Betsy-Tacy Society member, recalled, "While the Free Press photographer was taking the picture of Betsy, Tacy and

Tib outside Lincoln School on that beautiful October day, Beulah Hunt Ilgen-Fritz (Winona) stood and visited with me. I visited more one-on-one with her than with the others. Beulah had a sense of style in her dress and manners

and made you feel that she really knew her way around. Marjorie was a short little thing -and one could see her as

a dressmaker. Bick had a pleasant smile, but both of them let Maud be the center of attention. Maud was very gracious and friendly. She welcomed questions after her speech and when the children swarmed around her after her Saturday morning speech. She offered that I could send her books I would wish to give my youngest daughter for her to autograph, and I did that several times."



Courtesy of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

The Saturday festivities featured a 10 am program for children at the Lincoln School auditorium. Maud spoke to the children about her books, took their questions, and autographed books. On Saturday afternoon the Mankato Public Library hosted an open house, where Maud again spoke to the children and autographed books. Well-known illustrator Paul Galdone made the posters for the event which were displayed at the Mankato Public Library, Brett's Department Store and the Free Press stationary store. Brett's Department Store windows featured Betsy-Tacy-themed displays designed by John Turner. They consisted of period dresses and furniture.

**'Betsy-Tacy Days' Draw Huge Crowds of Children**

Enthusiasm for the Betsy-Tacy books and their author rose to a high pitch Saturday afternoon when a veritable flood of children rushed from their guided tours of the books' locale to the Mankato public library.

It was here that the popular writer of the Betsy-Tacy books, Maud Hart Lovelace, held court, autographing the many copies purchased by local school children. She also took time to chat with some of the parents present, at least 450 in all.

Hostesses at the library included Isadora Veigel, head librarian, and her staff and A.A.U.W. members Emma Weicking, chairman for the afternoon, Signe Sletten, Mrs. Al Roehl and Mrs E.J. Halling.

The Blue Earth county librarian, Gilford Johnson, also assisted in receiving the youngsters who assembled in the children's room. Attracting attention was the bride mannekin [sic] at the door, "Betsy," in her wedding finery complete with veil.

Circulating in the crowd were six little girls in costume— Lydia Sorenson, Kathy Frahm, Margaret Hanson, Cindy Cooper, Janet Burns and Marla

*continued on page 10 . . . . .*

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**Sugden.**

A highlight of the afternoon's festivities was a coffee party given by Mrs. Fred Marlow at her home, 332 Center street, the original "Tacy" house, where over 50 guests stopped.

Mrs. Marlow was assisted by Mrs. Orville Schwankl and Mrs. Harold Dickmeyer in entertaining the elementary teachers of Mankato who led the children's tours and the old-time friends of Mrs. Lovelace.

Adding interest to the Betsy-Tacy days were the displays of old-fashioned dresses and furniture in Brett's store windows created by John Turner, and many from out of town admired the antiques exhibited at the Blue Earth county museum on Saturday and Sunday.

General chairman for the "days," which drew a much larger attendance than expected, was Dr. Anna Wiecking

Mankato Free Press, October 9, 1961

Six girls had been chosen to dress as Betsy, Tacy and Tib for the weekend. "Nadine Sugden had much to do with finding the six girls to be Betsys and Tacsy," said Kathryn Hanson. "We had two redheads for Tacy, Cindy Cooper and Janet Burns, but we needed another one age 5 or 6. One day driving home on Willard Street, Nadine saw a cute little redhead, so she went to the house and asked her surprised mother if she could be included. After some checking, Mrs. Paul Frahm was convinced that no harm would come to Kathy, so we were set. I remember that my daughter, Margaret, wore my mother's confirmation dress and Marla Sugden wore another dress of my mother's. The girls sat in the front seats at Lincoln School auditorium for the Saturday morning program and Saturday afternoon at the library.

Margaret Hanson who was 10 years old at the time and recalled that she was fascinated with Maud's discussion of creating characters at the Lincoln School program. "I remember Maud said Tony wasn't based on one person like so many of them were," said Margaret. She also remembered being at the home of Bert and Inella Burns on Byron Street for the pictures of the six "Betsy-Tacsy" that appeared in the paper. "I was wearing my grandmother's confirmation dress and I was thrilled every time I got to put it on," she said.

The Blue Earth County Museum featured a turn-of-the-century exhibit. In 1961 the county museum was housed in the Hubbard House on South 5th Street. The curator, G.S. Petterson and a special committee selected articles from the museum and got others on loan that were in use during the period of the stories, from about 1897 to 1917. Maud loaned some personal items for the exhibit, such as pictures of herself, and her family and friends, and a Japanese version of a Betsy-Tacy book. Even the steam whistle from the "Big Mill" was on display.

The chairs of various committees for Betsy-Tacy Days were:

**Lincoln School Friday program at 8 p.m. – Chair:** Mrs. George Sugden Jr. – featured a talk by Maud Hart Lovelace, an autograph session and a reception. Admission \$1 for adults, students 50 cents.

**Lincoln School Saturday**



Maud Hart Lovelace  
This photo was found in the Free Press files for October 6, 1961. The photo was never published. Thank you to Free Press reporter, Tanner Kent, who located the two Free Press photographs for this article.

**morning program at 10 a.m.**

– **Chair:** Miss Ella Botolfson – featured a talk for children with question-and-answer period and autograph session. Admission 25 cents

**Mankato Public Library Saturday afternoon open house from 2 to 4 p.m.**

– **Chair:** Emma Wiecking – featured a talk for children and autograph session.

**Foot tours Saturday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m.– Chair:** Dr. Anna Wiecking – tours beginning at the Blue Earth County Museum to the places featured in the Betsy-

Tacy stories.

**Blue Earth County Museum exhibit – Chair:** Mrs. J. Hayden Jones – Saturday and Sunday afternoon exhibit of articles in use at the turn of the century with Mrs. Lovelace contributing some personal items.

**Publicity Chair:** Mrs. Delbert Hodgkins

**Hospitality Chair:** Mrs. Mary Lou Hansen (elementary school principal for District #77)

**Finance and Ticket Chair:** Marion Dubke (wife of North Mankato School principal)



**Find us on Facebook**

Visit the Betsy-Tacy Society page on Facebook and become a fan!

You can find us at: [www.facebook.com/pages/Betsy-Tacy-Society/50395727486](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Betsy-Tacy-Society/50395727486) or type "Betsy Tacy Society" into your Facebook search bar.

**New Members**

Every new member receives a new member packet which includes the most recent newsletters, a History of the BTS, Maud Hart Lovelace Timeline and much more. With each new paid Lifetime membership you'll receive a hardcover copy of Winona's Pony Cart and a Lifetime Membership Certificate.

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

- Receive our newsletters.
- Receive special "Members Only" gift shop discounts.
- Be informed of all upcoming events.
- Be part of an important effort to restore Betsy and Tacy's houses, historical literary landmarks in Mankato to educate future generations about the importance of the period.

**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 below with the recipient's name and mailing address and tell us how to sign your card.

**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 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 Email** - When sending an email, 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

**Privacy Statement**

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

# Betsy-Tacy Society Membership Form

(Form may be photocopied)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership Levels**

Annual Membership with Email Newsletters

- \$15 Regular - E
- \$25 Patron - E
- \$30 Business - E
- \$30 Foreign - E (Money order in US Funds only)
- \$200 Lifetime - E

Annual Membership with Printed & Mailed Newsletters

- \$25 Regular - P
- \$35 Patron - P
- \$40 Business - P
- \$40 Foreign - P (Money order in US Funds only)
- \$250 Lifetime - P

Additional Information

- Renewal
- New Member
- This is a Gift Membership - please sign
- Gift card from: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations

- Tax-deductible donation - Betsy-Tacy House Fund
- No acknowledgment for donation required
- Donation in Memory of In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here \_\_\_\_\_ if you would like your donation to be anonymous

**Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society and send this form to: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094**

.....  
For membership office use only: Invoice # \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ N/M Packet sent \_\_\_\_\_

## ***2009 Calendar of Events***

- March 10-12* Young Writers & Artists Conference  
([www.mnscsc.org/student\\_outreach/ywac.html](http://www.mnscsc.org/student_outreach/ywac.html))
- March 28* Breakfast Brunch Fundraiser
- April 4* Betsy-Tacy Easter Celebration
- April 25* Maud's (Betsy's) Birthday Party
- May 9* Stories from Tib's Porch (Tib's house)
- June 20* Annual Meeting (10:30 am) & Victorian Lawn Party (noon - 4:00 pm)
- July 17-20* Betsy-Tacy Convention  
(<http://web.mac.com/btconvention>)
- September 26* Betsy-Tacy Walk
- October 24* Betsy-Tacy Halloween Party
- December 5* Betsy-Tacy Victorian Christmas

Details for all events will be posted on our website when available. View photos of past events on our website.  
[www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org)

You can also see our event listings on the new Greater Mankato Events calendar: [www.greatermankatoevents.com](http://www.greatermankatoevents.com)

## ***Address Changes***

Please remember to inform us if your mailing 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.

## ***Important Membership Information***

You will find your expiration date on the mailing label. If you mailed your membership dues after January 31, 2009, the new expiration date will not be reflected on this mailing label. If your membership has expired, please consider renewing today! You are very important to us and we don't want to lose you as a valued member.



*Betsy-Tacy Society*  
P.O. Box 94  
Mankato, MN 56002-0094  
[www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org)

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## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Welcome to the 2009 Betsy-Tacy Convention, July 17–20! We have a wonderful weekend planned for you. In this packet, you will find information about the various Convention activities and events from Friday through Monday, and a two-page registration form for you to complete and return.

### **Convention Hotel**

The Convention will be held at Deep Valley's beautiful, brand-new Alltel Center in Mankato, Minnesota. All events will take place at the Alltel Center, unless otherwise specified.

The Hilton Garden Inn, the Holiday Inn (former site of the "Melborn Hotel"), and other local area hotels are offering reduced rates for Convention attendees. For more information, visit our Convention Web site at [http://web.mac.com/btconvention/BT\\_Convention/Betsy-Tacy\\_Convention.html](http://web.mac.com/btconvention/BT_Convention/Betsy-Tacy_Convention.html).

### **Convention Meals**

Your registration fee includes the seven meals served at the Alltel Center:

- ❁ Friday evening: Ice cream at Heinz's (*dinner is on your own*)
- ❁ Saturday morning: Traditional Ray breakfast
- ❁ Saturday lunch: A Betsy-Tacy picnic
- ❁ Saturday evening: Dinner in the Great World
- ❁ Sunday morning: Continental breakfast
- ❁ Sunday evening: Betsy's Wedding reception and Sunday Night Lunch
- ❁ Monday morning: Waffles with the Hawthornes (*butter and syrup unlimited!*)

(Please note that Friday dinner and Sunday lunch are not included.) You may also purchase a meal pass for family members who will not attend the Convention, which includes all meals at the Alltel Center.

### **Helping at the Convention**

The Convention is entirely volunteer-run. If you would be willing to offer an hour of volunteer time during the Convention, we would be so grateful! You may indicate this on the registration form.

### **Convention Booths**

We plan to have many Betsy-Tacy-related items for sale during the Convention. If you would like to sell something at a booth or get more information, please contact Radhika Breaden at [breaden@dsl-only.net](mailto:breaden@dsl-only.net).

### **Willard's Emporium**

Among the many booths where Convention-goers may browse will be "Willard's Emporium," filled with items donated by Betsy-Tacy fans, with proceeds going to the Betsy-Tacy Society. Victorian and Edwardian era clothing; embroidered handwork, including tablecloths and napkins; Maud Hart Lovelace books and out-of-print items; sheet music of songs from the Betsy-Tacy books; fans for flirting; and many other items will be available for purchase. Some bigger-ticket items will also be available for auction. If you have B-T-related items that you are willing to donate, or if you'd like more information, please contact Colleen O'Neil at [colleen\\_o@comcast.net](mailto:colleen_o@comcast.net).

### **Convention Agenda**

The most current agenda appears on page 4, though it is still being fine-tuned. But this will give you an idea of some of the wonderful things in store for you! Some Convention highlights are described below.



### Essay Contest

In a change from previous years, the Essay Contest will be an open-book, take-home project. So get out your sharpened pencils and Ray's Shoe Store notebooks—this year's essay contest topic is: *The Woman in the Betsy-Tacy Series That I Most Admire*.

Focus on one or more of the following in your essay:

- ❁ Why she resonates with me
- ❁ How she reflects the role of women circa 1910
- ❁ How she affects the series as a whole

The essay length is 750–1,500 words, or approximately 3–5 pages. We prefer that the essay be submitted in electronic form (as a Word document attachment) but will accept typewritten, double-spaced paper forms as well. Essays will be judged on the following six criteria:

- ❁ Insightful point of view
- ❁ Appropriate examples, reasons, and evidence from the text
- ❁ Organization and coherence
- ❁ Skillful use of language and vocabulary
- ❁ Varied sentence structure
- ❁ A lack of mechanical errors (grammar, spelling, usage)

The winner will be announced at the Convention, so grab your Tomes and get to the Carnegie library! Please send submissions to Darsa Morrow, at [darsa@comcast.net](mailto:darsa@comcast.net), by May 1, 2009. For more information, please contact Darsa.

### Children's Program: "Have Fun with Betsy, Tacy, and Tib" – Saturday, 1:15–4:15 p.m.

For children ages 5–12. Enjoy some B-T-related crafts with former children's librarian Steffi Smith. Make your own bird mask—are you a Betsin, a Tacin, or a Tibbin? Create a passport so you can travel to the Big World in the evening festivities. Design your own calling cards—perhaps you'll find a new best friend named Tib! Parents are welcome to stay. (*Pre-registration is required—see p. 6.*)

### Great World Costume Party – Saturday evening

Back by popular demand! Dress to impress and amaze on Saturday night. Bring your favorite costume related to the books or to the Great World trip. Prizes awarded to the best costumes. Don't miss out!

### "A Visit to the Great World" by Julia Nephew – Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Travel with Maud Hart through Europe in 1914, through her personal photographs and letters home. Have your passport ready!

### "Betsy and Tacy Go Down the Big Hill" 5K Walk/Run – Sunday, 7:30 a.m.

Come join the early birds for a run, jog, walk, or stroll up (and down) the streets of Deep Valley on Sunday morning! Walkers and runners of all levels are welcome—you may go at your own pace. The 5K (3.1 mile) route will pass the houses of several Crowd members (including Betsy, Tacy, Tib, and Carney), among other Deep Valley landmarks. And although we will give a BIG shout-out to the first person to cross the finish line, victory really is crossing the *starting* line!

### Sunday Morning "Early Service" by Linda Gesling – Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Linda Gesling, a Methodist minister and devoted Betsy-Tacy fan, will explore topics on spirituality and religion in the Betsy-Tacy books.

*Note: You may also attend one of the many churches in Mankato, including the new Episcopalian church on the site of Betsy's former church, if you'd like to do so. Group sign-up sheets will be available at the Convention.*



### **Walking Tour of Mankato – Sunday, 9:30 a.m.**

If you've ever dreamed of walking the streets of Deep Valley as Betsy and the Crowd did, here's your chance! Starting at Convention headquarters at the Alltel Center, the tour will wind through the streets of Deep Valley, past famous as well as not so famous B-T sites. July weather can be warm and humid, so be prepared by wearing comfortable, breathable clothes and your best walking shoes, and bringing a bottle of water. Be ready to walk a few miles!

### **NEWBETSY Games Sessions – Sunday at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1:30 p.m.**

The NEWBETSYs (New England Women Boisterously Eating, Talking, and Sharing Youth-lit) are a fun-loving group of Betsy-Tacy fans, noted for their abundant appetites and love of party games. Games Mistress Jen Davis-Kay will share a few of the group's favorites, for adults and children ages 12+.

### **Murmuring Lake (Point Pleasant, at Madison Lake) Visit – 11 a.m. Sunday or noon Monday**

First stop: the Hoehn Family Farm, where Mr. and Mrs. Ray were married in front of the bay window. Next: Point Pleasant, the model for Murmuring Lake Inn, where you can dip your toes in Murmuring Lake and enjoy a typically sumptuous Inn meal of fried chicken and fish, corn on the cob, coleslaw, cornbread, Lady Baltimore Cake, lemonade, and iced tea. Imagine Betsy singing with Tony in a rowboat, or the Crowd swimming or playing croquet on the grounds, before heading back to Deep Valley.

### **Amboy Theater Presentation of "Betsy's Wedding" – Sunday, 5:30 p.m.**

Enjoy an excerpt from the full-length play *Deep Valley Vignettes—Betsy-Tacy On Stage*, created by Allegra and Kelly Reuter. The Amboy Area Community Theatre's premiere production featured scenes from each of the 10 Betsy-Tacy books, along with music, fashion, and accompanying illustrations and photos that brought Maud's own words of family, friendship, and faith to life on the stage.

### **Monday Morning Breakout Sessions**

- ❁ *The Violent Study Club Examines, Reflects On, and Further Considers the Life and Work of Vera Neville.* An encore presentation from the 2002 Betsy-Tacy Convention! Teresa Gibson will present an updated account of what has been discovered about the high school books' illustrator, including previously unseen photographs and art.
- ❁ *From Frog Legs to Friendship: Deep Valley and Little Syria.* When our trio went over the big hill to Little Syria, a new world opened up for them—and for us, Maud's readers. Learn more about the history of the Syrian community in Mankato and about Syrian culture and customs. (Do they really eat frog legs? Have egg-breaking contests? Say, "This is my house. You may burn it"?)
- ❁ *"Muster Your Wits and Your Feet" Dancing Lessons.* Have you ever wanted to learn to dance like the Crowd did? Would you like to see a Turkey Trot up close? If so, then this session is for you! Learn dances from the Betsy-Tacy era and see demonstrations of some of your favorites. No dance experience needed, just a desire to have a great time and a love of Betsy-Tacy!
- ❁ *Grandma Slade's Stories of Mankato.* Gather cozily around Tom's grandmother, as she spins her tales of Indians going on the warpath in Deep Valley. You'll love her stories just as Betsy did.
- ❁ *Restoration of Betsy's and Tacy's Houses.* A behind-the-scenes look at these amazing transformations!
- ❁ *Book Discussion Groups.* Debate the great questions of our day: Purple or dove gray? Bonnie: Sinner or saint? Tony or Joe? Marco or Joe? Choose from a number of topics, and talk the morning away with others who love the books as much as you do.

For the most up-to-date Convention information, visit our Web site:  
[http://web.mac.com/btconvention/BT\\_Convention/Betsy-Tacy\\_Convention.html](http://web.mac.com/btconvention/BT_Convention/Betsy-Tacy_Convention.html)



## Agenda (subject to change)

### Friday, July 17

3-7:30 pm Registration  
 6:30 pm Ice Cream at Heinz's—meet and greet the Crowd!  
 7 pm Welcome address, and Keynote speech by Kathy Baxter  
 8 pm Introductory activities and games

9:30 am Walking tour of Deep Valley  
 (cont.)

11 am Lunch and tour of Murmuring Lake/Point Pleasant (*pre-registration required*)

Party games with the NEWBETSYs (*pre-registration required*)

### Saturday, July 18

7:30 am Traditional Ray breakfast  
 9 am Tours of Betsy's and Tacy's Houses, Mankato, and Cemetery begin  
 12:30 pm Betsy-Tacy Picnic  
 1:15-4:15 pm Children's Program (*pre-registration required*)  
 1:30 pm- Tours of Houses, Mankato sites, and Cemetery continue  
 6 pm Dinner in the Great World, including displays of the sites seen on Maud's tour of Europe, and Costume Party  
 7:30 pm "A Visit to the Great World" by Julia Nephew  
 9 pm Optional activities with the Perfectly Awful Girls!

1:30 pm Tours of Houses, Mankato, and Cemetery continue

Party games with the NEWBETSYs (*pre-registration required*)

5:30 pm Amboy Theater presentation of "Betsy's Wedding"

6 pm Betsy's Wedding reception and Sunday Night Lunch

7 pm Panel of descendants of the families of the Crowd

8 pm Silent Auction results and Essay Contest winners announced

### Monday, July 20

7:30 am Waffles with the Hawthornes  
 9 am Breakout sessions:

- Grandma Slade's Stories of Mankato
- From Frog Legs to Friendship: Syrians in Mankato
- The Violent Study Club Looks at Vera Neville
- Book Discussion Groups
- Restoration of Betsy's and Tacy's Houses
- "Muster Your Wits and Your Feet" Dancing Lessons

### Sunday July 19

7 am Continental Breakfast  
*Note: Sunday morning is considered "free time," which you may spend however you like—sleeping in, exploring Mankato, attending church, participating in one of the activities offered . . . etc.!*

7:30 am "Betsy and Tacy Go Down the Big Hill" 5K Walk/Run

8:30 am "Early Service" Betsy-Tacy Spiritual Talk led by Linda Gesling

9:30 a.m. Party games with the NEWBETSYs (*pre-registration required*)

Group games: Speed Scrabble, trivia contests, and more!

11 am Address by author and Lovelace fan Meg Cabot

12 pm Adjourn

Lunch and tour of Murmuring Lake/Point Pleasant (*pre-registration required*)



**Forget-Me-Nots**  
*Betsy-Tacy Family and Friends*  
 July 17-20, 2009



**REGISTRATION FORM**

(This form may be used for one adult and all children from the same address. Please complete and return **both** pages.)

Name (to be used on nametag): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: We will not use your name or other personal info for any purpose other than Convention registration.*

Would you be willing to offer an hour of volunteer time during the Convention? Yes / No

Will you require any special assistance that we should be aware of? We will make every effort to accommodate you:

Registration fee (includes all meals served at the Alltel Center):

Up to May 1, 2009: \$245 per attendee

After May 1, 2009: \$275 per attendee

Child (up to age 12): \$195 per attendee

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary needs/special food restrictions:

\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of children attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary needs/special food restrictions for children attending:

\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you would like to purchase a meal pass for family members who will not attend the Convention (the meal pass is \$100/person and includes all the meals at the Alltel Center):

Total (\$100 x # of people): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary needs/special food restrictions for meal pass purchasers:

\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional** trip to Murmuring Lake (includes meal and transportation—non-registrants are welcome to attend), \$18/person:

\_\_ Sunday, 10-1 (choose this option if you're attending the post-Convention Twin Cities Tour)

\_\_ Monday, 12-3 (choose this option if you're attending the Sunday Walking Tour of Mankato)

\_\_ No preference

Total (\$18 x # of people): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FEE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*Note: Due to unpredictable fluctuations in fuel costs, there may be a small additional fee, to be collected at the time of the Convention. Should this occur, you will receive a full refund if you choose not to attend the Convention.*

I have read and I understand the above. \_\_\_\_\_

(signature)

## REGISTRATION FORM, p. 2



Please note that some Convention events require pre-registration.

### **Pre-Registration Required**

**Children's Program (for ages 5–12), Saturday, 1:15–4:15 p.m.**

Please pre-register for this program by listing the name of each child who will attend: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEWBETSY Games Sessions, Sunday (three 90-minute sessions)**

*For ages 12+. Space is limited!*

Would you like to attend one of these sessions? Yes / No

Number in your party attending (you and/or your children ages 12+): \_\_\_\_\_

**Mankato Cemetery Tours, throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday**

This will involve a walk of 2–3 miles, including uphill areas, and the day is likely to be warm (80–95°). If you choose not to participate in this tour, you will instead have additional free time to spend as you like.

Please indicate whether you are interested in this tour: Yes / No

### **To Help With Our Planning**

Please indicate whether you *might* be interested in the following—you are not committing to anything.

**“Betsy and Tacy Go Down the Big Hill” 5K Walk/Run, 7:30 a.m. Sunday**

Are you likely to participate in the B-T Walk/Run? Yes / No

**Walking Tour of Mankato, 9:30 a.m. Sunday**

Please indicate whether you might be interested in this tour: Yes / No

**Monday Morning Breakout Sessions**

For space and room planning purposes only, please indicate which breakout session you are most likely to attend (you are not registering yet):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandma Slade's Stories of Mankato | <input type="checkbox"/> “Muster Your Wits and Your Feet” Dancing Lessons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Discussion Groups             | <input type="checkbox"/> From Frog Legs to Friendship: Syrians in Mankato |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration of the B-T Houses      | <input type="checkbox"/> The Violent Study Club Looks at Vera Neville     |

**Friend Requests:** Is there someone you would like to be grouped with on bus tours, etc.? If so, write that person's name here: \_\_\_\_\_. We will do our best to honor your request.

Please make your check or money order payable to “Betsy-Tacy Convention 2009.” Registration closes June 15, 2009. Refunds will not be available after July 1, 2009.

Return your completed registration form and payment to:

Michele Blake, Convention Registrar  
22 Pond Street  
North Easton, MA 02356

Confirmation will occur via e-mail unless otherwise requested.