



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. 3 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2007

Maud Hart Lovelace chosen for MN150 Exhibit

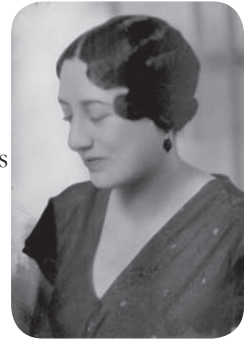
The Betsy-Tacy Society is pleased to announce Mankato born author, Maud Hart Lovelace was selected to be included in the Minnesota Historical Society's "MN150" Exhibit commemorating Minnesota's Sesquicentennial in 2008.

The new exhibit, presented by Best Buy, opened October 13 at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul and launches the 2008 celebration of 150 years of Minnesota statehood by exploring changes - changes wrought by powerful people and by ordinary citizens.

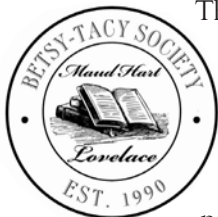
The exhibit was created from more than 2,700 nominations provided by Minnesotans. A committee of Minnesota Historical Society staff, community members and subject experts selected the final list of 150. Nominations included in the exhibit cover a wide range of categories, from sports events, to political figure and pop icons, to inventors and their inventions, to lasting examples of cultural traditions.

Lovelace is also featured in an accompanying book: "Minnesota 150: The People, Places and Things that Shape Our State" written by exhibit developer Kate Roberts and published by the Minnesota Historical Society.

More information is available online: www.mnhs.org/mn150.



New BTS Logo



This issue unveils the new Betsy-Tacy Society logo. It was designed for us by Barbara Bjelland, a freelance artist and designer. Barbara creates original paintings, illustrations,

portraits and commissioned artwork. She is also available for print design (logos, business cards, brochures, posters, invitations, birth announcements, etc.), web design, and school visits. Through her artwork, Barbara hopes to convey a sense of mystery and wonder at the world around us. Barbara is married and lives in Saint Peter, and has two children who share her love of books. Samples of her art and design work can be viewed on line at: www.festaldesign.com



The Family of Thomas and Stella (Palmer) Hart, ca. 1899.

Seated, L-R: Tom, Helen and Stella. Standing is Kathleen and Maud.

A small image of this photo was printed in the May issue. It was requested that we print a larger version. Enjoy!

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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

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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 during these hours.

Special House Visits: Call 507-345-9777
For special house visits, advance reservations are requested two weeks in advance.
Free for members. Adults: \$3.00 Children ages 5-16: \$1.00

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Welcome New Members

Alexander, Patricia
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Bernhard, Kristin
Gebben, Mary
Gifford, Debbie
Hampson, Ella
Huizing, Jordan
Huizing, Mary Kaye
Kalman, Christina
Lang, Emily
McAfee, Kristi Jill
Larsen, Linda
Lewandowski, Laura
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Mott, Nancy
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Polythress, Diane
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St. Martin, Michele
Stevens, Emily
Sutherland, Kate

New Lifetime Members

Amster-Burton, Laurie
Barry, Maria
Crepeau, Courtney
Fox, Susan
Grod, Ellen
Hanson, Margie
Kozak, Carla
Martin, Rachel
Pasachoff, Eloise
Schmidt, Lisa
Sherman, Betsy
Thomas, Norma

Donations

The BTS gratefully acknowledges donations received from May 16, 2007 through October 15, 2007, from the following:

Gifts in Memoriam or Honor

Donations to \$49
Arth, Joan - In Honor of Lona Falencykowski
Canavan, Colleen Ann - In Memory of Ella Willows
Canavan, Coleeen Ann - In Memory of Jim Hermanson
Dean, Naomi - In Honor of Maud's birthday
Don Walker Fan Club - In Memory of Lloyd Alexander
Hawley, Suzanne - In Honor of Maud's birthday
Kozak, Carla - In Honor of Maud's birthday
Kozak, Carla - In Memory of Olga Champlin
Weissman, Jessica - In Honor of Maud's birthday
Wright, Laura - In Honor of Maud's birthday

Donations \$50 - \$99

Canavan, Colleen Ann - In Memory of Elsie Hollmichel Kruse
Comfort, Jean - In Honor of Maud's birthday
Frost, Charles - In Memory of Cora Linder Thro
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Paskal, Marti - In Tribute to Tacy

Donations \$100

Dean, Gail - In Honor of Maud's birthday
Nezin, Suzanne - In Honor of Maud's birthday

Donations to \$49

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Chuba, Julie - Mortgage
Day, Kathleen
Downing, Nancy
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Jaye, Isabella
Jefferson Elementray School PTO
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Johnson, Karin
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Kirschner, Joan
Koenig, Fran
Kolibaba, Anne
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Martin, Tracey
Marzahn, Gladys
Morrison, Kathleen
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Alden, Angie
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Fahling, Connie
Frey-muth, Patricia
Gerhard, Christine
Grace Lutheran Church Women
Griffith, Helen
Knowles, Sallie
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Merrill, Tamara
Miller, Joy
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O'Neil, Colleen
Price, Cindy
Tucker, Kelly
Watson, Linda
Whiting, Rhonda

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Geiger, Janice
Grossberg, Blythe - Mortgage
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Howard, Carol Spencer - Mortgage
Johnson, Janine
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Parnell, June - Mortgage
Rokos, Sue - Mortgage
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Smith, Stephanie

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Edwards, Bill & Ginny
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In-Kind Donations

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Croce, Leslie
Hilltop Garden Center
Paul's Plumbing & Heating

Volunteers

May 2, 2007 - October 15, 2007

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Tim Berry
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Bryce Stenzel
Gabriel Stenzel
Matthew Stenzel
Mandy Stenzel
Norma Thomas

Artifact & Archive Donations will be reported in the next issue of the Deep Valley Sun

Wish list

- Dry Sink for Betsy's house
- Copy Machine
- LCD projector
- Antique library table
- Archival boxes & supplies for artifacts

Wishes Fulfilled

- Joan Kossack - portable DVD player
- Margot Dilmaghani - A new rug in the gift shop was donated by the family rug business of Margot Dilmaghani in New York (www.dkwh.com). Margot, who loves children's literature, is a life-long music activist who records classical piano music to benefit organizations addressing world crises. You can see her efforts at www.celebration1.org
- Carmen Melby - wool area rug

Burn the Mortgage Fundraiser

Help us reach our goal and pay off the mortgage! We've come a long way and with your help we can reduce our mortgage. As of October 15th, the principal remaining is \$26,768.88. By paying off the mortgage early, the Society will save money spent on interest and eliminate a large monthly expense.

Your gift will become a part of our history. As a donor, your name will be added to a special plaque honoring those who helped us pay off the mortgage. This plaque will be unveiled at a mortgage-burning party and will be on permanent display at Betsy's house.

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.



Donor Levels

- Silver \$100 - \$500
- Gold \$500 - \$999
- Platinum \$1000 +

Shop Talk



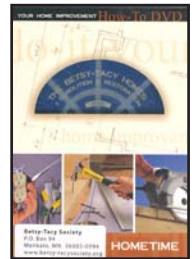
Now available in Tacy's Gift Shop and in our online catalog: www.betsy-tacysociety.org

HarperCollins released Betsy-Tacy with a new cover and an audio CD narrated by Sutton Foster.

- Betsy-Tacy - \$5.99
- Betsy-Tacy Audio CD - \$17.95

Hometime DVD Vol I - Episodes 1 and 2
Hometime DVD Vol II - Episodes 3 and 4

Your choice of Vol I or Vol II Hometime DVD's free with \$50 donation. Both Volumes are free with a \$75 donation. or \$10 each.



Maud's Music of Deep Valley

\$16.95 Taking orders now for Christmas delivery.



Maud's Music of Deep Valley is a collection of songs taken from the Betsy-Tacy books. Close your eyes and imagine the Hart family and friends singing around the piano, rolling up the rugs and dancing in the parlor.

This compilation of music from the turn of the century features Minnesota pianist Craig Timmerman and is produced by Cellar Sounds Studio of Mankato. Lyrics for the music will be included with the CD.

Song titles include: Annie Laurie, Bedelia, Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Your Charms, Blue Bell, Hiawatha, I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now, I'd Love to Live in Loveland with a Girl Like You, I'm Afraid to Come Home in the Dark, In My Merry Oldsmobile, In the Good Old Summertime, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, Meet Me To-Night in Dreamland, Merry Widow Waltz, Morn-

ing Cy, My Wild Irish Rose, Navajo, Oh Promise Me, School Days, The Moon Has His Eyes On You, and Peg O' My Heart.

Message from the New President....

Greetings from your new President!

It was a hot and humid summer in Deep Valley and we were faced with a drought for much of the summer. Though the little perennial bed surrounding the porch at Tacy's house looked lovely in June, it's looking a bit weary these days. Along with the drought, the "Hill Street" neighborhood has been dirty and noisy, as Lewis Street (going up the "big hill") has been under construction since early June. Finishing touches were finally put on the sidewalks and things are looking much better.

It was a busy summer here in the valley for all involved with the Society. A well-attended annual meeting was held on the shores of "Murmuring Lake" in June. Our public television stations aired the third and fourth tapings of the Hometime restoration project at Betsy's house. Drawings were completed and work begun on signs to be placed at each house. Our volunteer docents have been kept busy all summer as guests from across the country paid us a visit.

Please allow me to digress a bit and introduce myself. My name is Penny Banwart and I succeeded Lona as president of the Betsy-Tacy Society in June. I became involved with the Betsy-Tacy Society five years ago, after retiring from teaching in our local school district. I have served as BTS treasurer and vice-president. It's been an exciting and interesting five years and I look forward to the continued success of the Society.

If you are in the area, do stop by and see the progress we're making.

Penny Banwart
BTS Board President



Penny Banwart (new BTS president) presents Lona Falenczykowski (retiring BTS president) with flowers at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Message from the Retiring President...

Dear Friends,

As always, it is a very exciting time for the Betsy-Tacy Society. We continue to work on the restorations with the help of Hometime and our devoted volunteers. The Lewis Street re-construction and sidewalk work is complete. We've added a number of interesting artifacts to our collections, such as Maud's prayerbooks, Christmas ornaments, and Thomas Hart's razor. We've also obtained some of Maud Hart Lovelace's unpublished recollections, which give us many insights into the lives of her family and friends, the Mankato community and the world she lived in. There are also great details as to how our house at 333 Center Street appeared during the time the Hart family lived there.

This is my last letter as BTS President, as I now leave that role in Penny Banwart's capable hands. I particularly want to thank Julie Schrader for all she has done and continues to do. I want to extend a special thanks to Michele Franck Blake who has been with the BTS since close to the beginning. She has stuck by us through thick and thin, the mush to my milk.

I've enjoyed getting to know so many people through the love of Maud. I am looking forward to the future of the Society, to maintaining the wonderful friendships I have made throughout the years, and to the new friends I will meet in the future. I'm not going away; I'm just going to reread.

Thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,
Lona Falenczykowski

Stewart & Holmes was a bookstore on South Front Street that Maud and her friends visited on their annual Christmas shopping trip. It was most likely an inspiration for Cook's Bookstore in the Betsy-Tacy books. Ad from the Mankato Free Press - Dec. 11, 1893



Vera Neville

by Teresa Gibson

Vera Neville, the illustrator of the “high school” Betsy-Tacy books, was born Vera Maude Neville on April 2, 1904 in New York City. Her parents were Albert Havelock Neville and Hannah Sponenberg Neville, both natives of Ontario. Albert was a teacher and school principal in Windsor, Ontario before he changed careers and became a real estate investor. A son, Albert Jr., was born on October 2, 1911. The Neville children grew up in Interlaken, New Jersey, and enjoyed an affluent childhood and education. As a child, Vera studied art, piano, and horsemanship.

It is unknown if Vera attended college. It was earlier reported at the Betsy-Tacy Convention in July, 2002 that Vera matriculated at Vassar, but that has since been proven incorrect. A biographical note in one of Vera’s later illustrated works states that she attended the Art Students League in New York City, a prestigious art school established in 1875, located at 215 West 57th Street. During the 1920s, Vera moved to Greenwich Village and began her career as a fashion il-

lustrator. It was here that Vera met her husband, William Bates Hamaker (1895-1963), also an artist, and they married in December, 1928.

Not long after this, Vera began to write and illustrate children’s stories. Macmillan published her first book, *The Meddlesome Mouse*, in 1931. The book received good reviews from critics: “These unusual illustrations beautifully reproduced in soft grey and delicate shades of blue and yellow have grace and charm and a quaint humor.” (New York Times Book Review, November 1, 1931, p. 24)

Vera’s art distinguishes itself in several ways—graceful lines, motion, animation, life-like body poses, beauty of facial features, extraordinary detail, especially in clothing, and accurate depictions of nature. Her early children’s books focused on animals, and her depictions of squirrels, rabbits, mice, cats, and dogs, while realistic, also gave these creatures a mischievous liveliness.

Vera continued to illustrate a variety of children’s books and magazine stories throughout the 1930s and into the 1940s. One of her most notable works at this time was *Lazy Liza Lizard*, written by Marie Curtis Rains. The book about the naughty lizard is quite collectible today. Not long after this was published, Vera illustrated her first teenage novel, *Highway Past Her Door*, by Mary Wolfe Thompson.

During the 1940s, Vera and her husband lived in a studio apartment above a hardware store at 306 Bleecker St. in Greenwich Village. (This building still exists). The 1940s proved to be a busy and prolific time for both Vera and her husband, as they each illustrated several children’s books for Thomas Nelson & Sons. William Hamaker drew line illustrations for two juvenile historical fiction books in 1940: *Klondike Adventure* by Len Morgan and *A Boy of Salem* by Mildred B. Flagg. (Note: Vera assisted in the illustrations for *A Boy of Salem*; Hamaker drew the cover art). Vera wrote and illustrated two original works for Thomas Nelson at this time: *Little Bo* and *Safety for Sandy*. *Little Bo* is notable for its depictions of New York City, from the child’s eye view of looming, leaning skyscrapers to the ethereal night time view of the Brooklyn Bridge. Vera dedicated this book to her mother and father, and it is an example of her finest work.

The fairytale-like Peter Painter books showcased her whimsy. Vera showed that she excelled at color art as well as line drawings in the large board book version of “The Night Before Christmas.” Bright primary colors of reds, greens, and blues bring Santa Claus and his wide-eyed reindeer to imaginative life. Vera illustrated a teenage novel for Thomas Crowell, *Hope Hacienda*, in 1942, which emphasized her eye for detail and fashion.

In 1945, Vera was chosen to illustrate *Heaven to Betsy* by Maud Hart Lovelace, the first of the Betsy-Tacy “high school books.” Crowell editor Elizabeth Riley, in her address to the 1997 Betsy-Tacy Convention, stated that Lois Lenski (the artist of the first four Betsy-Tacy books) was offered the opportunity to illustrate *Heaven to Betsy*, but turned the job down, as she preferred to draw pictures for younger children’s books. Elizabeth Riley, familiar with Vera Neville’s work on *Hope Hacienda*, approached Vera about collaborating with Maud Hart Lovelace on the high school books. It was an inspired choice to pair Vera’s art with Maud’s words, as Vera was able to bring the turn of the century teenagers to life. One criticism often launched at the Neville illustrations is that all of the characters look alike. It is true that while the facial characteristics of Neville’s girls are similar, she was able to bring the characters to life through her ability to animate still drawings. The heading above chapter nine in *Heaven to*

continued on page 6

. continued from page 5

Betsy shows the girls' wind blown hair and life-like movements of the horse-drawn carriage. The heavily detailed frontispiece of *Betsy In Spite of Herself* shows Neville's knowledge of fashion, the automobile styling, the realistic movements of the animals and nature. And Vera certainly recognized the importance of characterization in her drawings. The heading above chapter 23 in *Betsy In Spite of Herself* shows Neville's understanding of the close, tender friendship between Betsy and Tacy.



Around 1947-48, Vera and William Hamaker moved to Georgia. Family members have stated that Hamaker relocated in order to teach art at a university in Georgia. It was not the University of Georgia (Athens) as originally suggested. Research is still on-going to determine which college or university employed Hamaker during this time period. While she lived in Georgia, Vera illustrated two booklets for the State Department of Public Health to encourage dental visits for schoolchildren. Vera also continued to illustrate the *Betsy-Tacy* books at a rate of one per year for Crowell, as well as picture books for other publishers, such as *Muddy Paws* and *A Lion for Patsy*. In 1953, Vera had the opportunity to travel back in time with Betsy and Tacy as she drew the pictures for *Winona's Pony Cart*, which takes place when the girls were about eight years old. Vera's ten year working relationship with Maud Hart Lovelace came to an end in 1955 with the publication of the last *Betsy-Tacy* novel, *Betsy's Wedding*.


Vera illustrated her last children's book in 1956 (*Pigtail Pioneer*). About this time, she divorced her husband and moved to Roseville, Michigan to care for her ailing father. Although she worked in her father's real estate business, Vera continued to pursue her love of art by painting portraits of children. Vera Neville passed away in March, 1979, and was buried near her parents in Troy, Michigan.

In the News

In *Newsweek* magazine (May 21, 2007), author Laura Lippman lists her 5 most important books:

#5 The *Betsy-Tacy* novels by Maud Hart Lovelace, especially *Betsy in Spite of Herself*. She says "there are two kinds of women: those who know these books (including Anna Quindlen and Bette Midler) and those who don't."

MADE IN BERKSHIRE



Writing Paper for Christmas

No Christmas gift conveys a more delicate compliment to the recipient than a box of fine stationery.

But even more attractive is the gift if the stationery be put up in a box decorated in the Christmas spirit, which can afterward be used as a glove or handkerchief box.

Ask to see our "Eaton-Crane" Stationery. 25c to \$1.75 a box. On Saturday, Monday and Tuesday we will emboss any initial on our paper for 5c a quire.

BOOKS

Books are always acceptable for a Christmas gift. We have some of the most popular ones:

- "Mr. Crewe's Career"
- "Lewis Rand" "Post Girl"
- "Aunt Jane of Kentucky"
- "Little Brother of the Rich"
- "Together" "Red City"
- "The Riverman"
- "Heart of a Child"
- "Trail of Lonesome Pine"
- "Turc of the Mask"
- "The Firing Line"
- "Little Brown Jug of Kildare" Etc., Etc.,

Choice, \$1.20

"Little Women" finely illustrated 80c

"Alger Books" thirty titles, choice 25c

WARWICK'S

305 South Front Street
Nat'l Bank Bld'g

Warwick's was a bookstore on South Front Street that Maud and her friends visited on their annual Christmas shopping trip. It was most likely an inspiration for Cook's Bookstore in the *Betsy-Tacy* books.

Ad from the Mankato Free Press - Dec. 18, 1908

Lovelace Historic Plaque Dedicated



The Maud Hart Lovelace historic plaque has been installed and a dedication ceremony was held on September 29, 2007. The marker is beautifully done and is a wonderful commemoration of Maud's childhood home. The Betsy-Tacy Society acknowledges Bradford Smith and Sewah Studios in Marietta Ohio, Lois Lenski Covey Foundation, City of Mankato Community Grant, Tom Severns and the Mankato Parks Department, and Bryce Stenzel for their contributions.

Maud Hart Lovelace
1892 - 1980

Born in Mankato on April 25, 1892, Maud Palmer Hart lived in this home at 333 Center Street until 1906. In 1897 Frances "Bick" Kenney moved into the house across the street, at 332 Center Street, and the two girls became lifelong best friends. They grew up surrounded by beautiful green hillsides, and from atop the hill behind her house, Maud could look down on Mankato and see Front Street, Sibley Park, and,

far away in the valley, the "silver ribbon" of the Minnesota River.

From the time she could hold a pencil, Maud was writing diaries, poems, plays, and stories. She graduated from Mankato High School in 1910 and attended the University of Minnesota. She was the author of many published short stories, 6 adult novels and 18 children's books. With the publication of Betsy-Tacy in 1940, she began the successful series known as the Betsy-Tacy books, which were based on the lives of Maud (Betsy) and her friend Bick (Tacy). The stories of her childhood in Mankato (the fictionalized Deep Valley), small-town life, family traditions, and enduring friendships continue to capture the hearts of her fans.

Maud married author and journalist Delos W. Lovelace in 1917, and they had one daughter, Merian. Maud died March 11, 1980, in California, and as she requested, she was returned to her beloved Mankato and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

Written & researched by Julie Schrader, Betsy-Tacy Society



Tacy's Victorian Christmas

332 Center Street in Mankato

Saturday, December 1st

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Costumed characters from the Betsy-Tacy books will greet you and at 1:30 pm will feature a dramatic reading from Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown by Maud Hart Lovelace.

Experience a traditional Victorian Christmas as you enjoy hot apple cider and cookies, browse the gift shop & sign up for the door prize. Join us and begin your Holiday Season in a style that transcends time!



Early Candlelight

By Maud Hart Lovelace

A Review by Joan Brown

Early Candlelight, published in September, 1929, was one of Maud Hart Lovelace's six historical novels. Most readers of the children's series of Betsy-Tacy are probably unfamiliar with her books of early Minnesota history and romance. Although this and other romances of Lovelace are not as well-known as her Betsy-Tacy works, they reveal an author who enjoyed narrating a good love story, as well as an author whose thorough researching of early Minnesota history is clearly evident. Unfortunately, these novels are little read today, but *Early Candlelight* gives a fresh perspective of the lives of soldiers, voyageurs, and the Sioux Indians during the mid-1800s at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. This novel received warm reviews in the Mankato Free Press, the Minneapolis Tribune and the New York Times. It speaks particularly well of her writing that the New York Times review reflects a keen appreciation of Lovelace's novel.

Lovelace's scholarly attention to historical detail is referred to in the Free Press review: "Renville, who lived at Lac Qui Parle, lived like some Arabian Prince...his horses, sheep, cattle had endless pasturage. Forty Sioux braves comprised his body guard. ... (and) the Sioux braves, naked and painted had never known a more fascinating figure than the voyageur." This description of the Sioux Indians in a manner unknown to most readers, then and now, as being one of friendly Indians guarding a white man, shows Lovelace's departure from the usual account of enmity between the Sioux and the white man, an account that gives a fresh appraisal of life at Fort Snelling in the mid-1800s.

Lovelace wrote, "To do the research for this novel, Delos and I moved into a St. Paul Hotel for the winter so that I could spend my days at the Minnesota Historical Society reading diaries and letters from the years 1800-1850." Later they moved to New York where she spent hours at

the American wing of the Metropolitan Museum to select from the displays of wallpaper, chairs, and other furnishings so that her descriptions of Jasper Page (Henry H. Sibley) would be accurate.

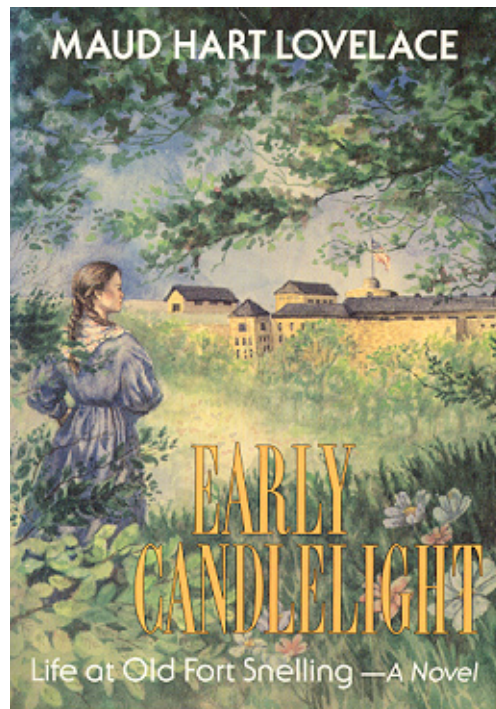
And interwoven with the historically account of life at the Fort, Lovelace tells a charming love story, that of Deedee Duguay, daughter of a French voyageur, who fell in love with a gentleman and an officer, Jasper Page, the fictionalized Henry Sibley, commander of Fort Snelling. Their differences of birth and station finally melted away when Page realized the value of Deedee's true love and loyalty.

The New York Times review, written on September 8, 1929, gives a warm review of her novel, praising Lovelace's characters as not being "two dimensional figures, but fully developed entities." The review continues, "The lyric beauty of expression and consummate skill in the recreation of a life long since vanished, which distinguish this novel, together with the quiet humor which seasons the narrative, make it a treat for all lover of the romantic." High praise!!

Lovelace's setting for the novel's conclusion is at what is today Sibley Park in Mankato. "When

they (Jasper and Deedee) reached the mouth of the Blue Earth River, the valley was diminished to a sandy strip of beach... The bluffs were high and grassy, dotted with stately trees...the Blue Earth, a bright rapid stream at the point where it enters into the St. Peter (Minnesota River)."

How fitting that Lovelace brings her love story, *Early Candlelight*, to a close at Mankato, the village that grew to become a city on the Minnesota River, and many years later became Lovelace's beloved "Deep Valley", the home of Betsy, Tacy, and Tib.



Minnesota Pioneers

EARLY CANDLELIGHT, *By Maud Hart Lovelace.*

322 pp. NEW YORK: The John Day Company.

\$2.50

Like a fresh wind sweeping in from her own breezy prairies comes this romance of early Minnesota, delightfully told by one of her native daughters. It is a colorful tale which Mrs. Lovelace has woven of those first settlers of the "land of the sky-tinted water," a story in which historic fact and picturesque fancy have been joined in a wholly charming union.

In the opening years of the last century, the period of which the author writes, the Sioux still roamed freely along the banks of the Minnesota. But the young country to the east had already thrust a tentative outpost into the western wilderness. The white towers of Fort Snelling crowned the bluffs above the river where it emptied into the mightier Mississippi; a tiny settlement of one-room cabins, later to become the city of St. Paul, was within comfortable reach of its sheltering walls, and scattered roundabout were the frequent shacks of the traders who bartered for furs with the Indians.

It was a crude community, but an energetic and happy one. The nearest settlement was a distance of several weeks travel down the Mississippi. Mail and news filtered through from the civilized world at rare intervals of months. Necessarily self-sustaining in its wholehearted fervor into the task of clearing sites for its homes and raising large families.

The story of "Early Candlelight" is the story of all of these; of the soldiers and officers and their ladies at the fort, of the blithe and carefree French-Canadian "voyageurs" and settlers who were the first colonists, and the dignified, blanketed braves who made treaties of friendship with the "White Father." But it is especially the story of the "devil DuGays" and of Delia DuGay, daughter of pioneers, and Jasper Page, scion of Boston aristocrats.

Old Denis DuGay and his invaluable fiddle were as sought after for the officer's balls as for the humbler feasts of the settlers. And his three eldest, Narcisse, Hypolite and Amable, swashbuckling and gay-sashed were acclaimed the best "voyageurs" on the river. But the brightest jewel in the DuGay crown was Delia, long-limbed and beautiful, with a frontier-bred courage and independence, and a quick wit which made her the natural leader of the numerous DeGay progeny.

It was Delia who patched up brotherly quarrels, who came to the rescue of wayward Narcisse, and to whom the family instinctively turned when a distant bureaucracy dispossessed them of the labor of years. And it was with Delia that the gallant, handsome Jasper Page, idol and benefactor of the settlement, finally learned the meaning of happiness and true love.

So human and entirely lifelike are those pioneers of Mrs. Lovelace that their varying fortunes, no less than the romance of Delia and Jasper, are followed by the reader with a sympathetic concern which never flags. These frontiersmen are no flat, two-dimensional figures, but fully developed entities whose joys and sorrows momentarily become those of the reader. The tragedy of Narcisse and his Indian sweetheart, and his ultimate adoption of the ways of the red man are among the most moving incidents in The lyric beauty of expression and consummate skill in the recreation of a life long since vanished, which distinguish this novel, together with the quiet humor which seasons the narrative, makes it a treat for all lovers of the romantic

Reprinted from the New York Times, September 8, 1929

Photo caption:

Maud Hart Lovelace honored at Fort Snelling in 1929.

"Thrilled when Lovelace was told that there would be a military ceremony at Fort Snelling, where she was to review the troops she commented: "I've begun to wonder if I'll be able to go through such an impressive ceremony. They tell me all I have to do is stand beside the colonel. And I think the glorious military music will help me."



2007 BTS Annual Meeting ~ Hoehn Family Farm on the shores of Madison Lake ~ June 23, 2007



Enjoying the afternoon at Murmuring Lake as Betsy, Tacy and Tib!



Maud's Trunk Talk presented by Susan Hynes (right) and her niece Emily Hynes (left).

Tacy's Birthday Party - July 2007



Everyone enjoyed Tacy's birthday cake made by Candy Laven.



Tacy's 116th birthday was celebrated with a Betsy-Tacy play performed on the lawn at Tacy's house. Cast of the Betsy-Tacy play: Back row: Zane Redfern-Hall, Emma Mathews-Lingen, Sabrina Patlan, Claire Donovan, Sophia Redfern-Hall Front row: Claire Mathews-Lingen, Cecilia Patlan, Gabriel Patlan, Abram Donovan, Zoe Redfern-Hall

Remembering Deep Valley ~ Glenwood Cemetery Walk ~ October 2007



Cast: Standing, L-R: Arn Kind, Pat Ryan, Larry Dunker, Tim Berry, Denise Billington-Just, Barb Dunker, Joan Brown, Penny Banwart, Kelly Reuter, Bryce Stenzel, Marilyn Sarff, John Boubel, Donahue Sarff and Bob Brown. In front: Susan Hynes. Photo by Jack Madsen

Gene Autry Program - Sept. 2007



Lonesome Ron (Affolter) presented a program celebrating the 100th birthday of Gene Autry.

New Members

Every new member receives a new member packet which includes the most recent Journal and newsletter, a History of the Betsy-Tacy Society, a Restoration Fact Sheet, Maud Hart Lovelace Timeline and laminated bookmark. 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.
- Free admission to special 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.
- Be informed of all upcoming events

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 _____

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 _____

Calendar of Events

- Dec. 1* Tacy's Victorian Christmas
Tacy's House from 1 pm - 3 pm
- Dec 8* Meet the Authors
John Gaterud and others from the
Blue Road Reader
Tacy's House from 1 pm - 3 pm

Details on upcoming 2008 events will be posted on our website when available: www.betsy-tacysociety.org
To see photos from past events visit: www.betsy-tacysociety.org/events.htm

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 October 15, 2007, 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

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