



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. 10 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2014

Chris and the Great World



Maud Hart aboard the S.S. Columbic in 1914. ©Estate of Merian Kirchner

By Chris Christie

In 1914, in *Betsy and the Great World*, Betsy traveled on the S.S. Columbic to Europe. She spent some time in Paris. 99 years later, I flew to Paris with a friend with the intention of following in Betsy's footsteps. My name is Chris Christie and I live in Deep Valley (aka Mankato, MN) as did Betsy. When Betsy traveled, she was dressed in a smart suit and hat, while carry-

ing her "Complete Guide to Europe" in her handbag. My friend Barb and I were casually dressed in sandals jeans, carrying functional shoulder bags jammed with passports, Euros, credit cards, hotel information, and cameras.

"Betsy had to visit the American Express Company on Onze Rue Scribe to pick up money wired by her father. She rode in a horse-drawn hack." (p. 300-301) We walked two blocks from our hotel to St. Germain Boulevard and used a debit card at a "hole in the wall" in front of a bank to get more Euros.

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"Betsy waved to the statue of Henri Quatre on Pont Neuf as she was pondering how she might be able to get in touch with Joe again. Henri sat on horseback overlooking the Seine." (p. 304) I walked the few blocks from our hotel to Pont Neuf and took a photo of Henri. I then walked

down to the River Seine and listened to a group of young musicians, all wearing pink coveralls and playing upbeat music. Later on, Barb and I enjoyed an hour's river cruise on the Seine.

"After her hack driver pointed out the Louvre, Betsy looked down a long row of statues and glimpsed the Venus de Milo." (p. 304-305) We walked around The Louvre, which is just across the Seine from Pont Neuf. It is a massive art museum which took seven centuries to complete. It was originally used as a palace by the kings of France. Now it is one of the largest museums in the world which includes Da Vinci's famous Mona Lisa.

During Betsy's visit to Notre Dame, she imagined "Victor Hugo's little dancing girl among the bells" and "had seen the Hunchback lurking in the shadows". (p. 305) We were pleasantly greeted by Notre Dame in spring attire. It was surrounded by cherry trees bursting with blossoms. Parisians and others enjoyed the ambiance while relaxing on benches and chatting with friends and family. I was able to feed the birds right from my hand!

"The hack passed through the Place de la Concorde, spacious and brilliant, with the obelisk in the center surrounded by fountains. It swung down the tree-lined Champs Elysees; and the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, came into full view" (p. 306) We walked through the elegant Tuileries Gardens,



Chris Christie

then down the busy Avenue des Champs Elysses to reach the Arc de Triomphe. We walked through a tunnel taking us under the street

See 'Great World' page 12

The Betsy-Tacy Society

Est. 1990

P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094
(507) 345-9777
or (507) 345-8903
www.betsy-tacysociety.org
501(c)3 organization

BTS Staff

Susan Orchard, Executive Director

Board of Directors

Lona Falencykowski, President
Chris Christie, Secretary
Tom Salisbury, Treasurer

Board Members

Michelle May
Eileen Wells
Pam Kind

Annual Membership Levels

Basic..... \$25.00
Patron..... \$50.00
Silver..... \$100.00
Gold..... \$250.00
Lifetime..... \$500.00

Contact information:

Mail:
Betsy-Tacy Society
P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002
BTSMankato@gmail.com
Membership:
membership@betsy-tacysociety.org
Shop: shopkeeper@betsy-tacysociety.org

Shop Catalog:

Shop our online catalog:
www.betsy-tacysociety.org.
Credit cards & PayPal available.
For a catalog: send a self-addressed,
stamped envelope to P.O. Box 94,
Mankato, MN 56002-0094 and
mark CATALOG on the front of the
envelope.

Tacy's House and Gift Shop

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

Special House Visits:

Call (507) 345-9777 or (507) 345-8903
For special house visits, advance res-
ervations are requested 2 weeks in
advance. See the BTS website for cur-
rent rates for special tours, group tours,
or school groups. Or, call for more
details.

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New Members

March 21 - Dec. 31, 2013

- Julie Abdo
- Anne Aby
- Judy Ahlstrom
- Stephanie Andrews
- Karen Bajpai
- Staci Banks
- Barbara Bates
- Kevin Berg
- Steve Berg
- Alyssa Carnahan
- Joyce Celinski
- Nancy Driver
- Monique Flasch
- Jennifer Foote
- Cheryl Foote
- Sandra Freburg
- Mari Gainer
- Sharon Glotzbach
- Anne Goolsby
- Susan Hackman
- Ruth Hanley
- Sara Heck
- Harshi Hettige
- Donna Hunt
- Marcela King
- Therese Mulhern
- Klopfenstein
- Annalisa LaBarge
- Anja Larsen
- Stephanie Lucianovic
- Denise Murphy
- Aniko Nagy
- Darlene Oughtred
- Allison Padecky
- Nancy Phares
- Mary Raber
- Margaret Rieser
- Rich Robinson
- Helen Rodgers
- Barb Rosenstock
- Tom & Cindy Salsbery
- DLene Sandleback
- Elizabeth Scheeler
- Emily Scolnick
- Danelle Starkenburg
- Sharry Swart
- Cara Todd
- Lauren Topazian
- Geraldine Tostenson
- Eileen Wells
- Sarah Wentker
- Sarah Ressler Wright

Donations

March 21 - Dec. 31, 2013

\$5 - \$50

- Anne Aby
- Cathy Ann Bailey
- Krista Barrett
- Paula Becker
- Doris Berger
- Michele Blake
- Sarah Bonello
- Stacey Burford
- Mary Calabrese
- Martha Carroll
- Mary Chamberlain
- Julie Chuba
- Linda M. Dial
- Leah Drury
- Connie Fahling
- Lona Falencykowski
- Dena Fleurichamp
- Sarah Geiger
- Dawn Grage
- Marnell Herzfeld
- Carole Huber
- Colleen Jacks
- Karin Johnson
- Susan Kavulich
- Kristeen Koebler
- Mary Landis
- John Levin
- Margaret Martin
- Janet Menzer
- Sherri Newhouse
- Mike and Sally Olander
- Dorene Reed
- Anne Rickert
- Aggie Rose-Chavez
- Melissa Roselle
- Linda Rouzer
- Eunice Sassenberg
- Kathleen Seaton
- Robert Shellenbarger
- Rachel Smoka-Richardson
- Janet Stanfield
- Helenrachel Swenson
- Charity Tahmaseb
- Deanne Tolzmann
- Janette Trofimuk
- Kathleen Turner
- Helga Visscher
- Laura Whisney
- Rhonda Whiting

Marilyn Williamson
Cecilia Wirth

\$51 - \$100

- Mary Ann Gilbertson
- Dawn Grage
- Carolyn Hinz
- Mary Huntley
- Mary Jordan
- Mary Kivimaki
- Candice Laven
- Cheryl Mills
- Margaret Olearczuk
- Cornelia Pepoy
- Jennie Rose
- Julie Schrader
- Jo Schultz
- Kathy Stollenwerk
- Noel Van Tol
- Linda Watson
- Rose Marie Yudiskas

\$101 - \$250

- Colleen Ann Canavan
- Courtney Crepeau
- Kathryn Hanson
- Hilah Rozier
- Norma Thomas

\$251 - \$1000

- Kathy Baxter
- Susan & Robert Brown
- Nate and Lori Gardner
- Rich Robinson

\$1001 - \$3000

Helen Gift



Pavers

Pavers purchased from
April 1st - December 31st

BTS Members/Volunteers/
Staff - In Memory of Carol
Knutson, Judy Timmer-
man, Colleen Ann Cana-
van, Nancy Roberts, Neil
Ruddy (3 Pavers), Eileen
Wells, Sara Beach and
Steve Wilson.

2013 Volunteers

Gardening

Chris Christie
Barbara Lamson

Tour Guides

Kathryn Hanson
Susan & Bob Brown
Penny Banwart
Sharry Swart
Lona Falencykowski
Candy Laven
Michelle May

Shop

Lauire Pengra
Chris Christie
Eileen Wells
Norma Thomas
Candy Laven
Renata Olson
Michelle May

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Susan Hynes
Leah Klammer
Julie Schrader
Hallie Blais
Isabella Stading

Young Writer's and Artist Conference

Susan Brown
Bob Brown
Chris Christie
Susan Orchard

Betsy's Birthday Party

Susan Hynes
Michelle May
Leah Klammer
Hallie Blais
Isabella Stading
Bob Brown
Susan Brown
Estee Kopischke
Michelle May
Kara Schmedding
Spencer Scheler
Candy Laven
Sharry Swart

Tacy's Birthday Party

Susan Hynes
Isabella Stading
Halle Blais
Leah Klammer
Breigha Kolulski
Michelle May
Kelly Reuter
Lona Falencykowski

Lawn Party

Susan Hynes
Michelle May
Isabella Stading
Halle Blais
Leah Klammer
Breigha Kolulski
Tom Salsbery
Chris Christie
Sharry Swart
Kara Schmedding

Mankato River Ramble

Lonesome Ron (Musician)
Susan Hynes
Susan Brown
Lona Falencykowski
Doris Berger
Chris Christie
Susan Orchard

Christmas Decorating

Lisa Wolf
Sharry Swart
Chris Christie
Susan Orchard
Richard Orchard

Victorian Christmas

Minnesota Valley Chorale
Minnesota Heritage
Publishing - Julie Schrader
Susan Hynes
Leah Klammer
Halle Blais
Isabella Stading
Breigha Kotulski
Bob Brown
Sharry Swart
Richard Jaqua
Lisa Wolf
Susan Brown
Michelle May
Candy Laven

Eileen Wells
Kathy Mork
Steve Mork
Abby Jacobs
Michelle Jaqua
Peggy Mueller
Susan Orchard

Restoration

Candy Laven
Doug Laven
Lona Falencykowski

In Kind Donations

Chris Christie
Lona Falencykowski
Mark Buck
Candy Laven
Julie Schrader
Kathy Mork
Michelle May
Eileen Wells
Tom Salsbery
Susan Brown
Sarah Jacobs
Susan Orchard

Piano Box

Chris Swart

Artifacts and Archive Donations

Jack McGowan - Piano
(Betsy's House)
Kathryn Hanson - Butter
Churn - Mixing Bowls
- Crocks - Match Box -
Fork - Scale
Tom & Cindy Salsbery
- Hosier Cupboard - Toy
Wagon - Chess Game
Cheryl Ellstrom -
Minneapolis Tribune
November 9, 1952
Randy Zellmer -
Magazine short story
by Maud Hart Lovelace
BTS received other items
such as: Linens, fruit jars,
spice jars, enamel wash
tub, milk jar, Sears and
Roebuck catalog, coffee
grinder & more.

Fund Raiser Donations (Gift Baskets)

Chris Christie
Kathy Mork
Eileen Wells
Michelle May
Susan Brown
Candy Laven
Julie Schrader
Susan Orchard

Media Coverage

Mankato Free Press
KTOE
KYSM
KEYC-TV
HOME Magazine
Greater Mankato
Visitor Guide - V-Log/
Trekaroo - Paige Schuette
Blue Earth County Library
Blue Earth County
Historical Society
University of MN
Mankato
KSMQ Off 90 -
Kevin Hanson
Lincoln Park Association
First Presbyterian Church
- Mary Topp
Mankato River Ramble
Minnesota Heritage
Publishing-Julie Schrader
Maud Hart Lovelace
Society
Barnes & Noble Book Fair
Betsy-Tacy's Deep Valley blog
Give MN
Facebook
Maud-L Listserv
The Good Times
Sharry Swart

*Special thank you to the
following service providers:*

Lawn Care

Rod Elbert

Snow Removal

Josh Kleinschmidt

Message from the President...

Dear Friends,

As I leaf through the pages of this newsletter, I am reminded once again how important our members and volunteers are to the BTS and to preserving Maud's legacy. It is exciting to see the long list of new members (welcome!), the many donations that continue to keep our work going, and I am filled with appreciation for our many volunteers, who truly do labor with love and dedication. Our Board and Executive Director put in countless hours without complaint; we may be a small organization, but our needs are not.

Many thanks to those who have remembered the BTS with donations of artifacts. For example, the recent donation of a 1952 issue of the *Minneapolis Tribune* from Cheryl Ellstrom. Read about the 1952 reunion of Maud, Bick and Midge in Julie Schrader's blog below.

Also in this issue, you will read several wonderful stories of visits to Mankato and to the Great World; for those of you who have not been able to do so yet, just



open a Betsy-Tacy book, and immerse yourself in the world of Deep Valley. With the help of all of you, Betsy's and Tacy's houses will still be here so that one day you can make your own pilgrimage, or come back to visit us again.

Warmest Wishes from Deep Valley
Lona Falencykowski

A Reunion of the Trio

From Betsy-Tacy's Deep Valley blog, February 5, 2014

Three women stepped straight out of the storybooks and into Buffalo, New York, one sunny day this fall. But they hadn't met for so long (except on the printed page) that they scarcely recognized each other. Within minutes, however, they reached back across the years to the girlhood they have shared with a quarter of a million children. (Quote from "Three Heroines Meet for First Time [Except on Printed Page] in 34 Years" *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, Nov. 9, 1952)

Maud Hart Lovelace, Frances 'Bick' Kenney Kirch, and Marjorie Gerlach Harris met in Buffalo in November 1952. Although they had corresponded over the years, this trio of friends hadn't seen each other in 34 years.

The first thing the trio did was set off on one of the immortal picnics so often described in the Betsy-Tacy books. Marjorie (Tib), now a widow and business woman from Chicago, arranged the reunion. Bick (Tacy), now a mother and grandmother from Buffalo, had prepared the food. "From

the minute we met, each of us acted silly," Maud said.

At the hotel, they stayed in the dining room and reminisced beyond closing time each night. People stared at the three 60-year-old women laughing and having a good time. When they parted after three days, the women agreed that they had "laughed away 10 years apiece."

The paper reported, "Unlike most flesh-and-blood inspirations for fictitious heroines, Mmes. Lovelace, Kirch, and Harris don't deny the closeness of the relationship to their storybook doubles. Perhaps this is due to the tone of Mrs. Lovelace's books, brimming with the infectious high spirits of young people having a good time."



The Immortal Trio. L-R: Marjorie Gerlach, Maud Hart and Frances 'Bick' Kenney. Estate of Merian Kirchner.

California Group Visits Deep Valley

Four of us from the Southern California Chapter, Arline Mues, Peggy Keppel, Jamie Watson and I, traveled to Mankato to celebrate the reprinting of *Orange Blossoms Everywhere* and *One Stayed at Welcome* at a launch party on November 2, 2013.

Orange Blossoms Everywhere is the story of Maud and Delos in Claremont, California during their later years. Maud wrote *Betsy's Wedding* and several other books during her years in Claremont. The narrative is gleaned from Maud's diaries and captures her love of family and friends, love of beauty and spirituality, as well as her intelligence and work ethic.

Deep Valley showed us her fall colors in all their vibrancy: vivid reds, oranges and yellows. I highly recommend a trip there in the fall. The books were beautifully displayed in Tacy's house, and their artistic covers just invite you to open and read. It is absolutely thrilling to be inside the homes of the Rays and the Kellys, and to stand outside and look across the street where two little girls first spied each other, and then turn to see the bench up the hill. The shop in Tacy's house had new and interesting items and Betsy's house has acquired more period pieces to add to the decor and ambiance. Our room at the Hilton Garden Inn overlooked the river and the colorful trees reflected in the river; dinner with the Crowd at Olives was memorable as always. We were sorry to leave on Monday, feeling like we should have planned an extra day, but then snow was forecasted for Tuesday, so we were glad to get home ahead of snow.

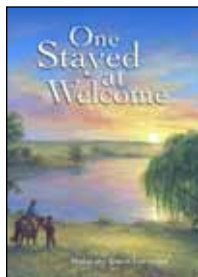


L-R: Krista Barrett and Peggy Keppel, members of the Southern California Chapter of the BTS, pose for a picture outside Betsy's House.

It was especially moving to meet many of the volunteers from the Mankato-Minneapolis area who make the ownership and upkeep of the houses possible. The houses need maintenance, cleaning once in a while, and docents available for tours and shop sales, besides the myriad administrative tasks associated with running a non-profit. All Betsy-Tacy and Maud Hart Lovelace fans everywhere are deeply indebted to these committed volunteers.

~Krista Barrett, Member of the Southern California Chapter of the BTS

Lovelace Books Back in Print!



A book release party was held at Tacy's house on November 2, 2013. Hosted by Julie Schrader from Minnesota Heritage Publishing, the celebration was for the re-release of Maud and Delos Lovelace's first collaboration on a historical fiction novel, *One Stayed at Welcome*. First published by the John Day Company in 1934, it is back in

print after 79 years with new cover art and an afterword which includes historical information and references, as well as news articles from its original release. The story is set in Hennepin County, Minnesota in the 1850's when two young men from the East arrive in Minnesota there to plot out a town site. These early pioneers faced many

hardships, including harsh winters, claim jumpers, prairie fires, and Indian threats. Maud and Delos tell a wonderful story of this exciting time in our history. Three of the six Lovelace historical novels authored by the couple or by Maud alone are currently available in print: *The Black Angels*, *One Stayed at Welcome* and *Early Candlelight*.

Also re-released was *Orange Blossoms Everywhere: The Story of Maud and Delos Lovelace in California, 1953-1980*. The Southern California Chapter of the Betsy-Tacy Society first made this avail-



See 'Books' page 10

College Roommates take Road Trip to Mankato

By Julie Zauzmer

Isamar requested each of the books from libraries in her county in California until she had found every one.

Homeschooled in Connecticut, Heather devoured the first four books when they were included in her mail-order curriculum but had no idea that Betsy's adventures continued into high school.

Yearning to be a writer in Pennsylvania, Julie noted in her well-worn writer's notebook that if she wanted to be like Betsy, she needed experience in a bewitching place known as the Great World.

Nancy lived just miles from the real Deep Valley in Minnesota but had never heard of the books.

It wasn't the Betsy-Tacy books, exactly, that brought us together. Harvard did that, by assigning the four of us to be roommates our freshman year. But at first, we had trouble seeing just what we had in common. Nancy said she wanted to go to sleep at 9 p.m. and eat healthy food; Julie wanted to stay up until 3 a.m. and eat just the opposite. Isamar spoke numerous languages and had dreams of traveling the globe; Heather had hardly left the East Coast, let alone the country.

We came from different ethnicities and religions. As we found our places on campus, we realized we had different academic interests, extracurricular pursuits, and social circles.

We couldn't figure out why Harvard had put us together. But then one night, early on in our freshman year, one of us mentioned *Betsy-Tacy*.

"You read those books too?"

And there we had our answer. Three *Betsy-Tacy* fans and one Minnesotan—that must have been the logic when the housing wizards drew up our mismatched room. Soon we numbered four fans of Maud Hart Lovelace's novels, when Nancy quickly caught up on the books.

We realized that our shared fondness for these sweet stories was not just a coincidence but evidence of our mutual

values. Deep devotion to family, dedication to the pursuit of academic and creative excellence, faith in a girl's power to win prizes and see the world (and still catch a man while doing it)—these were the teachings at the heart of the Betsy-Tacy stories, and these beliefs resonated with all of us. And above all, these were books about friendship.



Photo: (back, from L) Heather Hawkes, Isamar Vega, (front) Julie Zauzmer and Nancy Chen.

Over the course of four years, we forged a bond that could rival even Betsy and Tacy's legendary closeness. We were roommates throughout our time in college. We shared shrieks and giggles and hugs and tears and flu germs. We survived long all-nighters, new ambitions, surprises, close calls, and bitter rejections. We experienced first kisses, spurned affections, unwanted admirers, tearful breakups, and new love. We counseled and cajoled and congratulated and comforted each other all along the way.

As the end of senior year loomed ahead of us, we dreaded the day we would leave each other after four years of living together. Headed to a diverse set of exciting new jobs, we would be living after graduation in totally different parts of the world—Boston, Washington, San Francisco, and São Paulo. Four different time zones and two continents would separate us.

We had talked idly since freshman year of taking a road trip together. The practical details always made it impossible—we never had the money to spend, or a time that all four of us were free, or the age required to rent a car. Still, we spent many a study break planning out the routes we would like to take. Maybe we could drive Route 66. Perhaps we could see the Grand Canyon. Or we could travel “from sea to shining sea,” starting and ending at a coast.

We could eat Southern fried chicken. We could try to hit as many states as possible that none of us had ever been to.

As we drew up and discarded map after map, only one spot stayed constant in our plans. Mankato, Minnesota, always made the itinerary. Not because it was near our other desired destinations, or because it boasted great food or gorgeous natural scenery, or because it was easily accessible by major highways. Certainly not because it was well-known.

Because the best place we could possibly imagine visiting together, all four of us, was the hometown of Betsy and Tacy.

We actually did it. After years of dreaming, we were a little bit stunned to realize we really could make our trip happen. But the day after we graduated, we hit the road, with a real itinerary printed out and Mankato in our sights.

It took five days to travel the roundabout route we had planned from Boston to Mankato. Along the way, we picnicked by Niagara Falls, visited William Howard Taft’s home in Cincinnati and the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, hummed along to Motown music at the birthplace of the famed record company in Detroit, and gobbled up cheese in Wisconsin. As we drove, we listened to Sutton Foster’s charming recording of the first Betsy-Tacy book on CD, then read *Heaven to Betsy* aloud ourselves, taking turns reading each chapter as the miles rolled by. Revisiting the books we had read as children, we fell in love with them all over again. And the more we read and the more we drove, the more we could feel Deep Valley getting closer and closer.

We all screeched when we pulled up on Hill Street and saw the bench.

On our incredibly detailed tour conducted by knowledgeable, welcoming, warm members of the Betsy-Tacy Society, we oohed and ahed at the items on display. Mrs. Ray’s brass bowl! The addition that Mr. Ray built onto the

house, when Betsy and Tacy sold the colored sand! Photos of The Crowd! The very window through which Betsy first saw Tacy!

The most striking artifact of all, though, was not one we recognized from the books. It was a photograph taken many years after the stories were set.

It showed Maud (Betsy) and Bick (Tacy) when they were in their seventies. The little girls from Hill Street had grown up, launched careers, married, had children, and moved to opposite coasts. They had lived full lives, and they had lived them thousands of miles away from each other. But here they were, elderly women, with their arms still linked as they had been when they climbed the big hill together so many years ago. They were standing in front of the palace of the King of Spain.

Stories always seem to end with grandiose moments of closure—with wedding bells, with a move to a bigger and better locale, maybe even with a graduation. But the real-life Betsy and Tacy, we saw with swelling hearts that day that we visited Mankato, lived on outside their storybook. Despite the miles, they remained just as close. And they continued to travel together, just as we were doing that week on our road trip.

The Betsy-Tacy books weren’t exactly what brought the four of us together, if you look at it literally. But the lessons we drew from them – the inestimable importance of true and loyal friendship that we learned as children reading the books, and the endurance of such friendship that we saw demonstrated in that photograph as we stood on the brink of our own separation – those teachings we have absorbed from Maud Hart Lovelace may be what keeps us together.

We know from Betsy and Tacy that the end of the story doesn’t happen when we leave our own Deep Valley (in Cambridge, not Mankato, for us). It doesn’t happen at a graduation, or even on a glorious day when we conclude our long-planned pilgrimage to Betsy and Tacy’s beautifully preserved houses.

No, the end doesn’t look like the last page in a book. It looks like two women whose arms have been linked for seven decades, holding onto each other still in front of a palace in Spain.

It looks like happily *ever after*. And as we look back gratefully on our years together and our perfect trip to cap them off, ever after gives us an awful lot to look forward to.

A Year of Fun with the Betsy-Tacy

Here are some of the events and activities that took place in 2013. Follow us on Facebook to learn of upcoming events in 2014.

March 12 & 13 - Young Writers & Artists Conference, Bethany College: Susan Brown and Chris Christie taught a Betsy-themed journaling and scrapbooking class and Su Orchard promoted the Betsy-Tacy books.

April 6 & 7 - Barnes & Noble Book Fair. Costumed young actresses portrayed Betsy and Tacy.



Betsy's Birthday Party



Lincoln Park Lawn Party

April 27 - Maud's Birthday Party: May Day baskets and a special cake made by Candy Laven.

May 25 - Mankato Tweed Ride: Bikers stopped and heard a story from Betsy-Tacy by a costumed reader.

June 22 - Lincoln Park Lawn Party: Music on the lawn, tours, children's games, ice cream, stories on the bench.



Tacy's Birthday Party



Mankato River Ramble

July 13 - Tacy's Birthday Party: Cupcakes, games, colored sand crafts.

October 6 - Mankato River Ramble - Music on the lawn, tours, apples, a costumed "scorcher" with information about the first female bicyclists.

Do you have a special story to share about Betsy-Tacy? Have you created your own Betsy-Tacy club and/or events? BTS wants to hear your stories and experiences. We may even ask if we can share your stories in our e-newsletter publications. You can also share your stories on our website: www.betsy-tacysociety.org/stories. You can reach us at betsy-tacy@gmail.com.

y Society

Written from Tacy's Bedroom Window...

By Susan Orchard, Executive Director

We have ended an exciting year in 2013 and once again, the Betsy-Tacy Society experienced the houses filled with visitors, their stories, favorite "quotes" from the books and memories of reading the Betsy-Tacy books as a child.

The Betsy-Tacy Society appreciates our local radio stations KTOE, KYSM, KEYC-TV, Mankato Free Press and The Old Times, for their coverage of author Maud Hart Lovelace, and her beloved Betsy-Tacy book series. We remain extremely grateful for the support from our members, donors, volunteers and fans who realize their value to the society. "Thank you" for liking us on Facebook sharing your Betsy-Tacy experiences, your Blogs, Maud's listserv, Pins and for bringing Betsy-Tacy into your own communities and taking them on new adventures.

As we move into the New Year the Betsy-Tacy Society's goals to achieve as a non-profit will be to increase revenue with new memberships, donations, endowment funding and the encouragement of Leaving a Legacy. We will continue to promote our new website <http://betsy-tacysociety.carlsoncraft.com>, share information referencing Employer/Employee Contribution Match Programs, GiveMN.org and seek individuals interested in serving on the Betsy-Tacy Society Board along with the ongoing recruitment of volunteers. All of which support our mission to secure the opportunity for future generations to hear Maud's story, read the Betsy-Tacy books and preserve the childhood homes, literary landmarks in Mankato, MN.

The Betsy-Tacy Society will focus on capturing the history retold by our tour guides and preserving what captivates our visitors. We are evaluating OnCell as a mobile tour guide to support and enhance valuable documented information on author Maud Hart Lovelace currently shared by our tour guides. History is worth discovering and technology is valuable in bringing it forward. In order for us to make this both approachable and affordable, we will look for the availability of grants or a sponsor to move forward with this opportunity. Special tours and events will continue to welcome you into the neighborhood, walking you through the Betsy-Tacy childhood homes.

Our tours continue to surprise us such as "The Tweed Riders" who bicycled to the front porch at Betsy's to hear a

See 'Bedroom Window' page 10



Mankato River Ramble



Victorian Christmas

December 7 & 14 - Victorian Christmas: Gift baskets and cookies donated by board members, carolers, book signing, tours, and story times.

Endowment Fund Update

The Betsy-Tacy Endowment Fund was officially created and funded on December 23, 2013! It has taken over two years of hard work to make this a reality. We are grateful to the Betsy-Tacy Board of Directors who recognized the importance of an Endowment Fund to help keep our houses in good repair, the current finance committee who wrote the investment policy for the fund and the current Board of Directors who approved adding monies from a prior year donation to the endowment fund. When I became treasurer in Aug. 2011, the endowment fund balance was less than \$500. Thanks to the generosity of donors, we were able to open our fund with \$26,000! The fund is set up to protect your investment in the Betsy-Tacy Society, while earning money that can be used for maintenance projects on the homes. The finance committee chose Curian Capital as our investment advisors and have the capacity to keep our monies invested based on our investment policy. Oversight of the investments and approval of expenditures from the Endowment Fund will be the responsibility of the finance committee.

The Endowment Fund is only a part of the funding necessary to operate the houses. It is not intended to cover our day-to-day expenses of water, heat, electricity, garbage pickup, snow removal, etc. An undesignated gift allows the Betsy-Tacy Society access to that gift to pay our regular bills. Thanks to all our donors who have helped support the Society in 2013 and prior years. We rely on you and appreciate your generosity!

A contribution to the Endowment Fund is a wonderful way to commemorate a birthday, holiday, wedding or other significant milestone. You can also celebrate the memory of a loved one through a gift to the Endowment Fund. You can note your wishes on your check

Another way to donate to the Endowment Fund is to include language in your will or estate plan, designating the remainder of your estate, a percentage, a specific amount or specific assets to the Betsy-Tacy Society. Or name the Betsy-Tacy Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of your life insurance or pension. You may also make charitable gifts to the Endowment Fund during your lifetime. Talk to your attorney, accountant or financial advisor to learn more.

Thanks to all who made this possible. We'll keep you posted!

Kathy Mork, Treasurer

Bedroom Window continued from page 9 ———
chapter read from *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*.

The Mankato River Ramble added a side trip up the "Big Hill" with bicyclists who came to tour and listen to a performance by Susan Hynes as "The Wreckless Swagger" sharing what it is like to dress and ride a bicycle in the days of Betsy and Tacy.

Places to visit...

Betsy-Tacy Homes – You Tube. Uploaded by Greater Mankato/Paige from Visit Mankato V-logs featuring the Betsy-Tacy Homes, literary landmark childhood homes of author Maud Hart Lovelace and her best friend, Frances "Bick" Kenney.

Check our website at <http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org> and our Facebook page for special events planned throughout the year.

Follow blog: Betsy-Tacy's Deep Valley

All things Maud Hart Lovelace ~ Betsy-Tacy's Deep Valley
posted by Julie Schrader: betsytacysdeepvalley.wordpress.com

Coming in 2014

We are excited to be chosen as the **Mankato Area Roller Derby Girls** local non-profit for an upcoming bout in 2014. This is another great opportunity to be engaged in our community with spotlights on the Betsy-Tacy Society. Let the New Year roll in.

Books continued from page 5 ———

able in 1997 as a spiral-bound edition, but it has been out of print for a number of years. The new edition, published by Minnesota Heritage Publishing, is a bound soft-cover book with a full-color cover, updated material, and new pictures. Joining us for the release party were four women from the Southern California Chapter of the Betsy-Tacy Society who spearheaded the reprint, Krista Barrett, Peggy Keppel, Arline Mues and Jamie Watson. Joan Redlich (president of the SCCBTS) was also instrumental in making the republication possible, but was unable to make the trip.

Don't miss this opportunity to add these books to your Lovelace library!

Books are available from the Betsy-Tacy shop: <http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog> or from Minnesota Heritage Publishing: <http://www.mnheritage.com>.



Restoration Committee Work Report

The Betsy-Tacy Restoration Committee is happy to have finished the walls and electrical work for two upstairs bedrooms in Betsy's house. This restoration was made possible through the City of Mankato Community Grant Program. The next steps are to paint the trim woodwork and the plank floors. The

paint has been chipped down to the original colors, a beige-y color for the trim and a camel brown for the floors. The Ryan family, who wallpapered the Betsy House main floor rooms, has agreed to help with the bedroom wallpaper project. They have chosen a pattern that is very similar to the original wallpaper design and are in the process of preparing a quote for materials and labor for the Betsy-Tacy Society to consider.



Delivery of Story & Clark Piano



The Betsy-Tacy Society still has the shipping receipt for the Story & Clark piano delivered to the Hart family over a century ago. When the opportunity arose to get an antique Story & Clark piano for the Betsy House, the Society grabbed on to it, literally.

Actually, several volunteers and their husbands helped lift the heavy piano from the truck and push it down the street and into the perfect place in Betsy's front parlor. The keys sound lovely and it just needs a bit of work to restore it to the condition that Julia would have been proud to play and fill the parlor with sweet music.



Thank you to Jack McGowan for donating this beautiful piano and giving the gift of Story & Clark music to the Betsy-Tacy Society.

Mankato's Blue Garter Gals Visit BT Homes

Submitted by Mary Hesla Huntley

During their annual gathering, this year in Mankato, seven of the Blue Garter gals visited the Betsy-Tacy homes. They were in Mankato for their 55th Mankato High School Reunion. Those visiting on September 21, 2013, traveled from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area as well as the states of California, Illinois, and Ohio. Most remembered their junior high English teacher, Miss Flathers who lived in Tacy's home. All grew up reading the stories of Betsy, Tacy, and Tib. Three of the gals lived in the neighborhood of these favorite girl friends and can relate many of their own growing up years as being similar.

The Blue Garter gals graduated from Mankato High in 1958. They formed the Blue Garter Gang following their first semester of college during their December holiday vacation. All wore the sweatshirts representing their selected college setting and gathered at the home of Liz Nelson Shriver who lived on Lewis Street, one block away from Tacy's home. Their high school days were well remembered years of great fun and they enjoyed each other's friendship immensely. In order to retain that bond, 36 gals formed the Blue Garter Gang which represented the opportunity to stay together and join with each other at their

See 'Blue Garter Gals' page 13

Great World continued from page 1

in order to reach the Arc itself. After walking around the Eiffel Tower and eating a gelato, we meandered along the lovely Seine, soaking up the spring air. We were among joggers, roller bladers, parents pushing strollers, children running, and lovers holding hands. All in all, it was a beautiful "April in Paris"!



"The tea gardens and Punch and Judy shows were crowded; the nursemaids and charming French children were out in full force among the strolling crowds." (p. 306) The marionette shows still take place in Luxembourg Gardens. We saw Patachan. It was a delightful variety of characters and short skits. The theater was packed with children and their families. This was one of the highlights of the trip! It was a Wednesday, and a day off in the French schools. The Jardin du Luxembourg was filled with families, friends, and couples enjoying the lovely weather, picnicking, reading, and floating boats in the pond. We ate dinner at the Pavillon de la Fontaine in the Garden. It was simply lovely!

"Betsy stopped at a kiosk to buy a Paris edition of the Herald." (p. 308) I spotted an International Herald Tribune at a stand next door to our hotel.

"Mrs. Main-Whittaker asked Betsy if she had been to Montmatre where her Bohemian friends were gathering those days." (p. 309) One morning we walked for two hours until we came to Place St. Pierre and then took the funicular up to Montmartre. We wandered the wiggly streets and enjoyed watching the many artists at work. We bought some souvenirs at a small shop.

"Mrs. Main-Whittaker suggested to Betsy that they have lunch together at a sidewalk cafe and then they could talk shop." (p. 310) We ate most of our meals at sidewalk cafes. We loved them! One of them, Les Deux Magots, was a hang out for Ernest Hemingway and his friends.

"When they finished their crepes suzettes and were lingering over coffee..." (p. 314) We bought "crepes sucree" from a kiosk on the corner where we watched the chef make each one. They were big, hot, and deliciously sweet!



"The next morning after crescent rolls and cafe au lait..." (p. 317) We indulged in buttery, flakey croissants and cafe au lait. What a perfect way to begin the day!

Obviously, I am not an accomplished writer nor do I have an expensive camera. However, I hope you enjoyed my down-home version of Betsy's visit to Paris in 2013.

BTS Volunteer Spotlight-Kathryn Hanson

by Sharry Swart



Kathryn Hanson

I had the opportunity to interview Kathryn Hanson, Betsy-Tacy tour guide, volunteer and historian extraordinaire. I wanted to ask her some questions about her long history with the Betsy-Tacy Society and have her share some of her most notable experiences.

In 1961 the American Association of University Women had a weekend in honor of Maud Hart Lovelace. Kathryn was serving as the president of the AAUW at the time, and she was greatly involved in the event. Maud, Bick, and Midge all attended as well as many other people who were portrayed in the books. As president, Kathryn had the opportunity to speak with each of them over the course of the weekend, and she shared that she was able to chat extensively with Beulah Hunt, the inspiration for the grade school version of Winona Root, and of course, *Winona's Pony Cart*.

Kathryn heard about the development of the Betsy-Tacy

Society in 1990, and decided to become involved. She holds the distinction of serving as an officer on the first board. Over the years she has dedicated her services as a volunteer and tour guide where she gives tours to both large and small groups.

Kathryn went on to share with me that she thinks the books are still so beloved and relevant today because of the 3 "F's": family, friendship, and following a dream. Maud had a dream of becoming a writer, and she never wavered in following through on that dream.

I asked Kathryn to share a touching experience that she had while giving a tour. She went on to tell me that several years ago a mother from Los Angeles came to Mankato and each of our her four grown daughters came from all over the country to meet their mother at "Betsy's" (Maud's) house. Kathryn enjoyed getting the opportunity to witness this reunion, and the mother shared with her that she used the Betsy-Tacy books as a guide for raising her daughters.

On behalf of the BTS Board of Directors, I would like to say "Thank You" to Kathryn for her hard work and dedication. I am certain that Maud and Bick would be proud to know that their friendship and legacy is being shared passionately with young and mature fans alike to this day!

Blue Garter Gals continued from page 12

next expected milestone of bridal showers and weddings. Held together by the symbolism of the blue garter, given to each bride, they continue to gather annually and cherish the stories of who they have become. We now know that friendships are gaining more attention as a strong pathway to healthful living.

In their retirement years they decided to write the story of their friendship and aging. In 2009, their book, *Amazing Attributes of Aging: Silly & Sacred Stories of Blue Garter Friends*, led by co-authors Judy Strand Appel and Mary Hesla Huntley, was published by MN Heritage Publishing in Mankato. The book lifts up the importance of friends and documents their 50-plus year history of friendship. It tells of the legacy everyday women leave when they live an involved life style among family, friends, and the community. Their stories are an inspiration to women and men, young and older. Aging well among friends is a classical

value to be cherished. Learn more on their website: www.amazingaging.com.



Pictured L-R: Carole Meyer Hamre (Roseville), Lona Falencykowski, Jean Bond Comfort (Calif.), Judy Pyles Newhouse (Chaska), Mary Johns Miller (Chicago), Carolyn Meyer Petersen (St. Paul), Liz Nelson Shriver (Ohio). Not pictured, Mary Hesla Huntley (Mankato)

Boy in Blue Memorial Project Update



Ground pool base construction of the new "Boy in Blue" Blue Earth County Civil War Memorial in Lincoln Park, Sept. 2013.

Maud Hart Lovelace grew up several blocks from Lincoln Park in Mankato. The little park and the "Boy in Blue" fountain and monument were an important landmark in Maud's "Deep Valley". Maud and her friends stopped to play there when they walked downtown, and she referred to Lincoln Park several times in the Betsy-Tacy books, writing "*Lincoln Park was a pie-shaped wedge of lawn with a giant elm tree and a fountain on it.*"



Boy in Blue 1909

In 2011 a committee was formed to raise funds for the restoration of the "Boy in Blue". To date \$52,000 has been raised, and the first phase of the project was constructed during the summer of 2013. Phase II begins this spring and the first group of engraved pavers will be laid in June. A patriotic band fundraising concert will be held in the park on Tuesday, July 1st.

The goal is to raise an additional \$105,000, which is still needed to complete the fountain and monument by 2015, the end of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. You can help restore this important landmark from the Betsy-Tacy books and bring the fountain back to Lincoln Park. Donations are needed to make this happen. For more information on donations or about our fundraising events, please visit: www.boyinblue.org.

Sneak Peek...

As we roll out the New Year, the BTS is introducing an exciting way for you to help fund our mission. We're proud to partner with Carlson Craft (a local 'Deep Valley' company) to offer you a unique opportunity to fulfill your personal or business event printing needs with a portion of all sales supporting the BTS. This website, <http://www.betsy-tacysociety.carlsoncraft.com>, offers inspiring ideas and trends for making life's celebrations a moment to cherish or create an event with lasting impressions.

BTS Featured on MN Public TV Program

On January 19th, 23rd, and 25th, BTS and Maud's story was featured on the television program "Off 90" on KMSQ, which is based out of Austin, MN. You can watch the story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgmyhqFTa3g>

The Betsy-Tacy Society is Going Digital!

In 2013 the Betsy-Tacy Society began sending communications via eNewsletter. We will continue to publish, print and mail the *Deep Valley Sun* newsletter. However, due to costs we cannot print and mail the newsletter as often as we would like. The eNewsletter will allow us to communicate with our members between mailings.

Has your email address changed?

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

Membership Information

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

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

New Members

Every new member receives a new member packet that includes the most recent newsletter, a history of the BTS, a Maud Hart Lovelace timeline, and much more. With each new paid lifetime membership you'll receive a hardcover copy of *Winona's Pony Cart*, a Betsy's House ornament, and a lifetime membership certificate.

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

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

Great Gift Idea . . .

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



Privacy Statement

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

Address Changes

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

Betsy-Tacy Society Annual Membership Form

Membership runs from January 1st - December 31st

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

New Renewal

I would like: Mailed Newsletters
 Electronic Newsletters

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

Membership Levels

- \$25 Basic (*Foreign members receive electronic newsletters – if mailed are preferred move up to the next level.*)
 - \$50 Patron
 - \$100 Silver*
 - \$250 Gold* (Gift Choice circle one): A or B
 - \$500 Lifetime (Gifts A and C)
 - Pay in 4 installments of \$125
- *Denotes business memberships*
- Please do not send my gift. I want my full contribution to support the BTS.

GIFTS

- Gift A: *Winona's Pony Cart* – hardcover
- Gift B: Immortal Trio notecards
- Gift C: Betsy's House ornament

Donations

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

I would like to allocate my gift to:

- General Fund
- Restoration Fund
- Endowment Fund
- No acknowledgement for donation required
- Donation in Memory of: _____

Donation in Honor of: _____

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

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



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

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When contacting the BTS....

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

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

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

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

Visit the Betsy-Tacy Society Website

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

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

www.betsy-tacysociety.org



**Find us on
Facebook**

Did you know you don't have to be a member of Facebook to view the Betsy-Tacy Society Facebook page? The BTS now boasts more than 1,750 Facebook fans! Stay current on BTS events or simply join in the conversation. It's fun!

www.facebook.com/BetsyTacy