Message from the President…

Greetings from Deep Valley!

It’s an exciting time in Mankato! The Hometime show has been here again and major work has been done on Betsy’s House. Lots of interesting artifacts have been found. We are so grateful to the whole crew for their help. Thanks also goes to our director, Julie Schrader, for performing tasks too numerous to mention. And of course, we could not survive without our members, who sustain us so loyally and generously.

Although we will not have a convention this summer due to the restoration work and area construction, we invite you to come and visit us anytime, individually or in small groups. There is so much to see and do here!

To arrange house tours, please call us at 507-345-9777.

Lona Falenczykowski  ~  BTS Board President

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2006 Betsy-Tacy Drawing Contest

Grand prize winner – Cayla Collier - Grade 9 - Pompano Beach, FL

Cayla wrote: “I think the historical preservation of Betsy and Tacy’s homes is important because their stories have delighted girls of all ages for many years. Saving them would give readers the opportunity to visit the settings that inspired these stories and perhaps inspire them also in some positive way.”

The Betsy-Tacy Society received many wonderful and creative entries for our 2006 Drawing Contest. Our judges felt all the entries were WINNERS! Cayla Collier from Pompano Beach, Florida, was chosen as the Grand Prize winner. Other drawing entries are pictured on pages 12-14 and are featured on our website: www.betsy-tacy.org. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Message from the Director …

A Happy New Year to you all! Because you haven’t received a newsletter since last spring, you may be wondering what is happening at the Betsy-Tacy Society. We apologize for the long silence and have instead made this issue a larger one. 2006 was a very busy year for the BTS and we have so much news to share! You will see in the following pages that we’ve been kept very busy organizing events, preparing for grants and working on restoration projects. In this issue we’ll review what happened in 2006 and tell you what’s in store for 2007.

Thank you for your patience as we continue our work and our mission. We invite everyone to visit Deep Valley and see the progress we’ve made. The Betsy-Tacy homes belong to you. If at any time you have comments or concerns, please contact us. We love to hear from you!

ANNOUNCING the 3rd and 4th episodes of Hometime/Betsy’s house: tentatively scheduled to air in our area on April 8th and May 5th. Please check your local listings for exact airdates and times or visit www.hometime.com for more information.

Julie Schrader  ~  Executive Director
Annual Membership Levels

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Contact information:
Mail: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002
Membership: membership@betsy-tacy-society.org
Shop: shopkeeper@betsy-tacy-society.org

Tours: Call 507-345-9777
For group tours: reservations are requested two weeks in advance of the tour.
Shop Catalog: send a SASE 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.

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Donations

The BTS would like to gratefully acknowledge donations received from February 15, 2006, through December 31, 2006, from the following:

In Memory of Shirley Liske:
Baxter, Kathleen
Carter, Barbara
Griffith, Helen
Jordan, Mary
Lieske, Harlan & family
Maud Hart洛velace Society
Tostenson, Geraldine
Bailey, Cathy – In Memory of
Nancy Bailey
Brewster, Erin – In Honor of
Julie Chuba
Canavan, Colleen – In Memory of
Craig Roberts, Ron Troolin
Confer, Richard - In Memory of
Ogdin P. Confer
Madsen, Ann - In Memory of
Millie Hartwick
Moore, Susan – In Honor of
Elaine Flathers
Neals-Bates, Carol – In Memory of
Edith Neuls
O’Neil, Colleen – In Appreciation to
Rita Allen & Jan Sasser
Utermohlen, Bob – In Memory of
Mary Utermohlen
Wagenhals, Susan – In Memory of
Ronald Eugene Chessen

Donations up to $49
Alberti, Theresa
Albrecht, Susan
Angell, Allison
Anderson, Judy
Anthony, Joelle
Atwood, Jill
Auble, Janet
Banks, Cheryl
Banwart, Penny
Bonello, Sarah
Campbell, Mona
Chuba, Julie
Conlin, Christopher & Patti
Dunn, Jancee
Fahling, Connie
Fee, Ann Rosenquist
Fletcher, Linda
Gorrell, Betsy
Green, Septima
Gunnison, Katherine
Hendershot, Alice
Ingram, Charlene
Johnson, Gina
Johnson, Marilyn
Jones, Karen
Knudson, Mona
Kounter, Monica
Kvitke, Lois
Lee, Carol
Lilly, Judith
Luhring, Sharon
Mt. Olive Lutheran School
Macari, Joy
Malins, Mary
Mapleton Women’s Study Club
Marzahn, Gladys
Marzahn, Rachel Marie
Mohr, Harley & Ruth
Moll, Karla
Motherwell, Winifred

Donations $50-$99
Allen, Rita
Beiswanger, Sarah
Berg, Ken & Marilyn
Bethlehem Women of the ELCA
Burford, Stacey
Burns, Inella
Canavan, Colleen
Fectau, Barb
Gibson, Teresa
Graham, Patricia
Huntley, Mary
Irons, Sheila
Jorday, Mary
Karotkin, Mikki
Kase, Arlene
Knowles, Sallie
Kossack, Joan
Landes, Mary
Laven, Doug & Candy
Paskal, Mari
Polzin, Barb
Schmidt, Lisa
Schatz, Jo
Smith, Stephanie
Tanghe, Mary
Topjon, Ann
Tucker, Kelly
Vanta, K. Sandra
Vosbeck, Elizabeth
Voss, Hannah
Watson, Linda
Whiting, Rhonda
Young, Mary Pat
Youel, Alan & Marilyn

Donations $100 – $249
3M
Anderson, Marian
Angie’s Kettle Corn
Appraise Magazine
Banwart, Penny
Berg, Marilyn
Berger, Doris
Contents
Culver’s Frozen Custard
Drummer’s Garden Center
Falenzczewski, Lona
Goodrich Construction
Hometime
Hy-Vee Downtown & Hilltop
Ireland Electric
Jensen, Orr & Mary Ann
Johns Manville
Kinzler Construction
Lamson, David & Barb
Lubke, Keith
MAS Communications
McLean, Dennis & Sandy
Minnesota Valley Chorale
Peipho Moving & Storage
Schneider, Julie & Ken
St. Peter Food Co-op

Please support the businesses who so generously support the BTS

Contact information:
Mail: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002
Membership: membership@betsy-tacy-society.org
Shop: shopkeeper@betsy-tacy-society.org

Tours: Call 507-345-9777
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Volunteers (cont.)
Lona Falenczykowski
Scott Fee
Greg Ferguson family
Anna Fiorello
Laura Fiorello
Sue Goecke
Sara Folk
Carline Frisch
Shirley Grundmeier
Tom Hansen
Mark Halversion
Rachael Hanel
Cheryl Harness
Carol Hayes & Kay Hooker
Hometime Crew

Blake Honl
Susan Hynes
Emily Hynes
Jaci Kastner
Joseph Kent
Arn Kind
Paul & Terry Kvitek
David & Barb Lamson
Doug & Candy Laven
Sharon Luhring
Jack Madsen
John Mahoney
Jack McGowan
Mary McGrew
MN Valley Chorale
Julia Nephew
Joan Nikolay

Kris Norland
Becky Novack
Joan Pahl
Pavelka family
Kelly Reuter
John Rezmerski
Jo Robbins
Joshua Rock
Donahue Sarff
Barbara Schroeder
Brendon Schrader
David Schrader
Ken Schrader
Barb Schmitz
Betsy Sherman
Patti Sjulstad

Molly Smith
Peter Steiner
Bryce Stenzel
Gabriel Stenzel
Matthew Stenzel
Mandy Stenzel
Eric Syvert
Roger & Kathy Taylor
Nathan Thompson
Mark Thuente
Hannah Voss
Susan Wagenhals
Joe Walsh
Dennis Weiss
Joe Winkelman
Dan Winkels

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talents during this period: Feb. 15 – Dec. 31, 2006.
Please let us know if your name was not mentioned. We apologize if anyone was inadvertently missed.

Artifact & Archive Donations
Feb. 15-Dec. 31, 2006
Sue Feasey – book jackets from older editions of Heaven to Betsy, Betsy In Spite of Herself, Betsy Was a Junior and Betsy & Joe
Joyce First – antique parlor stove
Patti Freymuth – Sheet Music: My Wild Irish Rose (Chauncey Olcott) and Moonbeams (Henry Blossom/Victor Herbert)
Eleanor Scholl Burbank – Collection of memorabilia from 1951 class trip to Chicago to interview Maud Hart Lovelace, including photos and letters from Maud.
Margaret Thomas – English bone china tea set (for 4) and various English bone chinese teacups and saucers
James & Norma Hines – 1949 Otaknam
David R. Evans Jr. – 1910 Mankato High School Yearbook (David’s father, David R. Evans Sr., graduated with Maud Hart in 1910).
Tom Hagen – dry sink hand pump, feather mattresses

WISH LIST
The following is a list of items needed by the Society. Donated items are tax-deductible.
Wooden porch rockers for Betsy & Tacy’s front porches
Portable DVD player – for programs/events
Area rug for Tacy’s gift shop
Braided rug for Tacy’s kitchen
Door mats for Tacy’s house
Lawn service for both houses
Archival boxes and supplies for artifacts
Library table
Grill/Barbecue
Parlor stove refinishing

Wishes fulfilled
Bookcases for shop – Penny Banwart, Carol Hayes, Doug & Candy Laven
Telephone answering service – Anonymous
32-Cup Coffee Maker – Anonymous

Grants Received in 2006
Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation
The Betsy-Tacy Society received a $10,000 grant from the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation in the spring of 2006. With these funds the Society was able to upgrade and replace old electrical wiring at Tacy’s house and install a new 100 amp service at Betsy’s house. A security system was installed at Tacy’s house that will protect the house from break-ins and alert us to smoke and fire. The kitchen in Tacy’s house was brought back to its original size by removing an add-on closet and a shower in the bathroom. The kitchen cabinets and woodwork were repainted and a new sink and toilet installed in the bathroom. All the original wood floors on the main floor of Tacy’s house were refinished and given a protective finish.

City of Mankato Beautification Grant
The Society received a $3,028.00 grant from the City of Mankato in the spring of 2006. With these funds the Society was able to put a final coat of paint on the new siding of Betsy’s house, purchase a lawn mower, a lilac bush and perennials, and plant a 12 ft. sugar maple tree at Betsy’s house to replace Thomas Hart’s 111-year-old sugar maple tree that was lost in a storm in 2003. Steve Erickson from Live Tree Nursery located a native sugar maple tree, paying careful attention that the color of the fall leaves was the same as Mr. Hart’s maple tree. The remainder of the funds from this grant will be used for custom-made signs for both houses to be installed in the spring of this year.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRAC)
A grant of $1,700 was received from the PLRAC for the Deep Valley Book Festival.

Midwest Wireless
A $500.00 grant was received from Midwest Wireless for the Deep Valley Book Festival.

Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grant
CAP provides a general conservation assessment of a museum’s collection, environmental conditions, and site. Conservation priorities are identified by professional conservators who spend two days on-site and three days writing a report. The report helps the museum develop strategies for improved collections care and provide a tool for long-range planning and fund-raising. The BTS received a grant award of $6,540.00 which funded two assessments – an architectural assessment completed by Jeff Oertel of Oertel Architects and a conservator assessment completed by Paul Storch of Minnesota Historical Society. These reports will guide us in the proper restoration of the houses and care of our collections and artifacts.

The BTS is grateful for the grant funds provided in 2006.

Kelsie’s Books
The Betsy-Tacy Society accepted donations through the month of June for Kelsie’s Books, a nonprofit fund set up by 11-year-old Kelsie Buckley of Mississippi. You may remember seeing Kelsie’s story on CBS. She has a disease causing her to slowly go blind and is raising money for books in response to the need of Mississippi libraries destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Thanks to the following generous donors, we raised $500 for Kelsie’s books and sent 160 copies of Betsy-Tacy books to Kelsie: Doris Berger, Stacey Burford, Mei-Mei Chang, Julie Chuba, Davita Kristen Curtis, Fred & Helen Doering, Ray & JoAnn Kastner, Jennifer Lindsay, Shirlee Ruble, LuAnn Schrader, Linda Sherwood, Mickie Steiner, Doris Woods and Kerry Wycoff.

Deep Valley Sun February 2007
IN THE NEWS

Carlienne Frisch, author and BTS member, wrote articles about the BTS and Maud Hart Lovelace that appeared in two Minnesota magazines. A New Chapter for Betsy-Tacy: Mankato Author’s Home Gets Historical Renovation appears in the Summer 2006 issue of Simply Minnesota. Maud Hart Lovelace immortalized turn-of-the-century Mankato in the “Betsy-Tacy” book series appears in the June/July issue of Womeninc. A link to both articles can be found on our website: www.betsy-tacysociety.org and click on News Bolts from the Blue. Thanks, Carlienne, for helping to promote the BTS!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The high school titles of the Betsy-Tacy books (books #5-#10) have gone out of print. HarperCollins has discontinued printing due to poor sales. At this point, HarperCollins is pleased with the sales of the first four books in the series. In order for us to keep the books in print, we need to promote and purchase the books for new readers.

You can help by joining a letter-writing campaign to HarperCollins. Tell them why you feel it is important these books stay in print. This effort was successful in the past and we hope it will work again.

Margaret Miller, Associate Editor
HarperCollins Children’s Books
1350 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

5th grade class holds bake sale fundraiser for BTS

Front (L-R): Ansley S., Madelyne A., Anna Lee W., Mary Grace S., Anna F., Frankie O.
Middle: Ellie S., Fine T., Emily H., Hannah M., Corinne B., Sarah C., Liza D., Madison S., Julia W.
Back: Dr. Kris Koebler, Meredith W., Martha P., Natalie B., Madalyn C., Olivia S.

The girls in Kris Koebler’s 5th grade class in Richmond, Virginia, held a bake sale in April to raise funds to send to the Betsy-Tacy Society for use in restoring Betsy’s house. This is the third year Kris Koebler’s class has done this. This year the class raised $205.00, making a grand total of $771.76 over three years.

Kris writes: “We are reading the books again this year, and it looks like this will be the first year EVER that we will finish all ten books! We are nearly finished with Betsy and the Great World -- should finish that one day next week -- and then have only the wedding book to read. This is a read-aloud that I do each year with my class. They are excited to see what happens -- Betsy has just said good-bye to Marco and left for Switzerland. They are, of course, all rooting for Joe and were not very nice to Marco while he was in the picture!”

Parlor Stove for Betsy’s House

BTS member Joyce First from Rocky River, Ohio, donated an antique parlor stove to the Society. Piepho Moving and Storage from Mankato generously donated their services to transport the stove from Ohio to Mankato.

The parlor stove arrived on November 2nd and is being stored until it can be refinished. The top of the stove has the name “Reliable” printed on it and on the bottom is engraved “Schneider & Trenkamp Co. Div. Cleveland & Chicago.” The stove needs general refinishing work as the nickel trim has a thin coat of rust and the isinglass will need to be repaired. We hope to have the stove restored and on display at Betsy’s house. Thanks Joyce and Piepho Moving & Storage!

3rd Annual Deep Valley Book Festival

The 3rd Annual Deep Valley Book Festival was held at the Midwest Wireless Civic Center in Mankato on November 11, 2006. Nearly 800 people attended the event this year, with over 600 books sold! Festival attendees came from as far away as Brookings, SD, Schroeder, MN and Watertown, WI. The number of authors and publishers that attended the event reached over 80, which is nearly double the amount of participants we had from the previous year. The silent auction raised $2,400 for the Betsy-Tacy Society. The book festival’s Young Writers Contest was also a tremendous success, receiving over 275 entries from children in grades three through twelve. For a list of the winners and their essays, visit www.deepvalleybookfest.com. Many parents and teachers commented on the importance and success of this program.

Our children’s keynote speaker, Mary Casanova, spoke about writing books that kids can’t put down and also offered a writing workshop. The day was filled with interesting panel discussions on various topics, such as memoir, fiction, history, mystery, children’s book
writers and more. The children’s area featured story times, face painting, Violet the Clown and “Zoo to You” programs. Visitors enjoyed live music as they strolled the aisles of authors and books.

Each year this event grows in popularity, drawing more and more interest from authors, publishers, and the public. The goal of the event is to celebrate MN authors, books, reading, and writing for all ages. The festival event will continue to raise awareness and funds for the ongoing restoration work of Maud Hart Lovelace's childhood home in Mankato.

This event takes months of preparation, 80+ volunteers and generous donations from sponsors and friends: Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, Midwest Wireless Civic Center, Applauze Magazine, the Free Press, Midwest Wireless, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, Osborne Hicks, LLC, Highland Hills, Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau, Corporate Graphics, Country Inn & Suites, HOME Magazine, Holiday Inn Mankato, and Static Magazine. Thanks to the members of the DVBF committee for their hard work and dedication: Jana Bouma, Rebecca Fjelland Davis, Sharon Diiken, Lillian Dolentz, Sara Gilbert Frederick, Carey McLaughlin, John Rezmerski, Brendon Schrader and Julie Schrader. Thank you all!

To read more about the book festival, visit our website: www.deepvalleybookfest.com.

Help Us Pay Off the Mortgage!

We’ve come a long way, but there’s much more work to be done! Your generous donations have allowed us to continue our preservation and education efforts over the years. With your help we can continue this progress. With a monthly mortgage payment of $962.00, the Society still owes $38,038.17 for the mortgage on Betsy’s house. By paying off the mortgage early, the Society will save money spent on interest and eliminate a large monthly expense.

Help us reach our goal and pay off the mortgage! 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.

Donor Levels
- Silver $100 - $500
- Gold $500 - $999
- Platinum $1000 +

The Betsy-Tacy Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible. Please mark “Pay off Betsy’s mortgage” in the memo line of your check.

SPRING FUNDRAISER!

Enjoy your most beautiful garden ever and contribute to the Betsy-Tacy Society!

The Betsy-Tacy Society is participating in a fund-raising opportunity with Dutch Gardens. This company is one of the nation’s oldest and most respected suppliers of top-quality flower bulbs.

The BTS will receive a percentage of the orders placed through the BTS from a Dutch Gardens special catalog featuring 13 varieties of summer-blooming bulbs and perennials. All the flower bulbs offered in this catalog should be planted in the spring for summer blooms. You receive the freshest, highest-quality flower bulbs available and success and satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. This is a great way to support the BTS and enjoy your summer garden!

It’s easy to order!

1. View the catalog and print a copy of the order form from our website: www.betsy-tacysociety.org. Or send a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to request that a catalog be mailed to you or pick up a copy at Tacy’s house on Saturday afternoons between 1 pm and 3 pm.

2. Fill out the order form. IMPORTANT: Please give us your email address and phone number so that we may contact you if needed.

3. To have your order shipped, add the following shipping/handling costs to the total.
   - Orders up to $25.00 Add $5.00
   - $25.01 - $50.00 Add $7.50
   - $50.01 - $75.00 Add $9.50
   - $75.01 - $100.00 Add $11.00
   - $100.01 and up Add 12%

   NO SHIPPING CHARGES for orders picked up at Tacy’s House.

4. Mail order or drop off at Tacy’s House with a check made to the Betsy-Tacy Society.

5. The BTS places the order with Dutch Gardens and the company ships the entire order to us. If you are picking up your order, you will be notified when it arrives. If we are shipping your order, you can expect to receive your bulbs by May 20th.

Orders must be received no later than April 6th

Please feel free to collect orders from your friends and family and send these to us as one order. The entire order will be shipped to you for distribution. Send one check for your entire order made payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society. Any questions can be directed to Lillian Dolentz: isabellapa@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY!

Volunteers Needed!

As always, we are in need of volunteers to assist with planning and organization of the 2007 events. Also needed are volunteers to help with general duties of the organization, serve on a committee, tour guides, grant writing, yard work or restoration work. If you have some time or a skill that you think could benefit BTS and you are willing to help, please let us know.
Announcing New Website Catalog!
Since July 2006 a small team of volunteers has been working to build an online catalog complete with PayPal for our website. By the time you read this newsletter the site should be live! There may be some fine tuning that still needs to be completed, but the site is ready to take your orders! Ours is a secure site and if you’ve never used PayPal, it’s easy to register an account online.

Not only will you be able to order from our online shop, but you can also pay for membership and/or make donations online.

IMPORTANT
Membership and Newsletter Announcement
The next feature we’ll be working on for our website is creating a member log-in so that our newsletters can be posted online. This will save us a lot of money in printing and postage costs and allow us to keep you better informed of what is happening in Deep Valley! For those who do not have email, we will still offer a paper copy mailed directly; however, the cost per membership will be higher to cover these costs.

This will change our membership structure as follows:
Annual Membership with Email Newsletters
Regular - E $15.00
Patron - E $25.00
Business - E $30.00
Foreign - E $30.00
Annual Membership with Printed & Mailed Newsletters
Regular - P $25.00
Patron - P $35.00
Business - P $40.00
Foreign - P $40.00
Lifetime Membership
Lifetime - E $200.00
Lifetime - P $250.00

We NEED your help to make this transition a smooth process.
1. Check your expiration date on the mailing label of this newsletter.
2. For expired membership or if you are nearing your renewal date, you may bring your membership up to date using the above membership levels. Take advantage of paying online or mail a check using the membership form printed in this newsletter.
3. If your membership is current, please advise us of your preference for e-newsletters or mailed newsletters so that we can update our records. You can email your choice to membership@betsy-tacysociety.org or drop us a note: Betsy-Tacy Society, P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to make changes for the benefit of our members and our organization. If you have any questions concerning this change, please contact Julie or Michele - membership@betsy-tacysociety.org or call 507-345-9777.

Bits and Pieces of News
The Betsy-Tacy Society is now a proud member of the Children’s Literature Network: www.childrensliteraturenetwork.org.

The Betsy-Tacy Society is a partner organization in the new Twin Rivers Center for the Arts: http://twinriversarts.org/about.php

Cultural, Arts and Community Enhancement Committee – The Mankato City Council has formed this committee to establish a plan to develop the arts downtown profile. Lona Falenczykowski and Julie Schrader are representing the Betsy-Tacy Society.

The Betsy-Tacy Society Vision for the Restoration of Maud Hart Lovelace’s Childhood Home
The goal of the Betsy-Tacy Society is to restore Betsy's house to period. Our purpose is to restore the house to look as it did when Maud Hart and her family lived there from 1892-1906. This house will be used as a museum. When visitors enter the house, we want them to feel like they've walked back in time and stepped into the pages of the Betsy-Tacy books.

In order to do this, a restoration planning committee was organized to work directly with Hometime. We’ve gleaned all information and clues to the interior of Betsy’s house from the first four books in the Betsy-Tacy series as well as documented references to the house from letters, etc. written by Maud Hart Lovelace. These notes will help us to be historically accurate in the restoration process.

All restoration work is documented by photographs and a written progress report is kept. Everything is done in stages, stopping to document what is found and continually looking for clues to the original construction of the house. Plans for restoration work may change as clues to the original construction are found.

Hometime Returns to Deep Valley
The Hometime crew returned in October 2006 to begin work on the interior of Betsy’s house. We’re grateful to the Hometime crew, Denny Weis and our volunteers for the many hours of work dedicated to this major restoration project. Since October, we’ve gutted the interior of Betsy’s house to the studs, revealing many interesting clues as to the original construction of the house. Many artifacts were found in the ceiling beneath the attic, including a letter written by Thomas Hart (Maud’s father) to Stella Palmer (Maud’s mother) in 1885, high button shoes, long black stockings, a shirtwaist, valentine, card tally, puzzle pieces, Lincoln Logs, checkers, porcelain doll arm, magazines and newspapers, etc. Once we’ve had time to transcribe the 1885 letter, it will be printed in a future newsletter for all to read! The Johns Mansfield Company donated new support beams and Ireland Electric donated the labor and materials to rewire the house.

The house was fully insulated on December 21st with an efficient type of insulation which will save us a lot of money in heating bills. Kinstler Construction Services from Ames, Iowa drove four and a half hours in winter weather to install the insulation. Kinstler donated the labor and the material was donated by Johns Manville. Hometime has worked with these companies to get materials donated for the project.

We would not be able to move ahead with the restoration project without the help and support of Hometime, our members and contributors. We know we undertook a big expenditure at this time and therefore our finances are very limited, but the opportunity Hometime presented was too good to pass up. Having the restoration documented on film and broadcast nationally is extraordinary and the donation of materials Hometime has been able to raise is invaluable to us. Even though thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of labor have been donated to the restoration, there are still many expenses we have to pay for ourselves.

Your donations are critical to the Society. No amount is too small. Remember that the BTS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Check to see if your place of employment matches donations. The Hometime DVD, which includes the first two episodes of the restoration work done in 2005, is available from our gift shop for $10.00 each or is free with a donation of $50 or more. Again we thank the many of you who have given so generously of your time and dollars. We hope you enjoy the pictures of our work in progress!
Steve Erickson from Live Tree Nursery plants Betsy’s new maple tree.
Oct. 2, 2006

Volunteers working in the dining room. Cleaning up the old plaster and insulation was a big job. We filled many dumpsters (provided by Goodrich Construction) with debris that was hauled to the landfill.
October 24, 2006

Hometime returns to work and film interior restoration at Betsy’s house.
October 24, 2006.

The ceiling was carefully removed in layers in each room.

(L-R) Patti Sjulstad, Denny Weis and Judd Nelson in the front parlor during demolition. The old plaster and insulation was removed from all the walls.

Denny Weis working on the dining room ceiling. The dining room and kitchen ceiling had many layers of old newspapers below the insulation. The newspapers were dated late 1930s and early 1940s.
Just a few of the artifacts that were found in the ceilings and walls.

As the work continues at Betsy’s house, a crew from 3M works on installing protective window film at Tacy’s house. October 31, 2006

(Kinsler Construction) Kinsler Construction insulates Betsy’s house. Dec. 21, 2006

(L-R) Chris Balamut and Tom Hagen looking for clues to original construction.

Joel Berglin removes the flooring down to the original floor. January 2007

View of the dining room before new insulation.
Memories of Maud

The Betsy-Tacy Society received a wonderful collection of Lovelace memorabilia from Eleanor Scholl Burbank. This donation consists of letters from Maud Hart Lovelace, newspaper clippings and photographs from her meeting and interview with Maud in 1951. The collection was transcribed exactly as written (complete with spelling errors) and printed below for everyone to enjoy. These were transcribed as originally written complete with spelling errors, etc.

In a letter to the BTS dated August 16, 2006, Eleanor wrote: “Enclosed are the pictures and newspaper articles concerning my special time with Maud Hart Lovelace in November, 1951, on the Carnival of Books radio program on WMAQ in Chicago. My aunt, Edith Scholl, was not only the principal of our grade school, but also my teacher for half days during 6th, 7th and 8th grades. I was the last one to be chosen for ANYTHING because of this, so when it came time for the students to choose the student to be on this radio program during our 8th grade, they decided it was high time I WAS chosen for something! It was a glorious time of preparation for the LONG 100 mile train trip, staying over night in the Palmer House (I believe the charge was $2.50 each as I have the receipt!), and then the program itself. I was definitely not an outgoing type person, so I’m sure I was extremely nervous to be on a live program with Hugh Downs as the announcer.”

The following are transcribed letters Maud wrote to Eleanor Scholl Burbank:

November 19, 1949
Dear Eleanor,—
Thank you so much for writing to tell me that you like my Betsy-Tacy stories! I love writing them, for they are based on my own childhood and youth. You will be interested to hear that Tacy and her husband visited us just this week. She has four grandchildren! All boys! Tib lives in Chicago and is still very Tiblike and sweet (though not so mischievous as she was in “Betsy-Tacy and Tib.”).

It sounds to me as though you were having a wonderful book week at your school. I’m sorry my letter comes after it is over, but perhaps you will still be feeling bookish. Will you please give my kindest regards to your teacher and the boys and girls in your room, and thank you, Eleanor for calling me your favorite author.
Sincerely, with every good wish,
Maud Hart Lovelace

November 22, 1950
Dear Eleanor,—
How nice to hear from you again! And what fun that my “Tune is in the Tree” came right into your school room. Did you like it? As soon as I eat my Thanksgiving turkey, I am going to get to work on a new Betsy book. I think she’s going to get married in this one. My love to all my friends in Dixon, and to you.
Sincerely, Maud Hart Lovelace

November 19, 1949
Dear Eleanor,—
I was so glad to see your picture and the picture of your house. I’m enclosing them with this. I love the way you look. Are you and your friend cheerleaders, or drum majorettes? You look as though you were having fun.

Yes, I am on the Hobby House sometimes, and when I am on again I’ll let you know so that you can listen. Someone from your class wrote me that perhaps Dixon, Illinois would be on at the same time? That would be jolly; wouldn’t it?

I’ve laid my new book aside for the holidays, for Merian is home from college with a house guest (like Carney’s Houseparty) and there seems to be a party every day (like in Deep Valley, Minnesota). I love Christmas; don’t you? Our house is just bursting with it.

Please thank your aunt very much for the interest she takes in my books. I have thoroughly enjoyed all the lovely letters from Dixon. My love to you, and have a wonderful Christmas!
Maud Hart Lovelace

November 22, 1950
Dear Eleanor,—
I am pleased that you are going to be on CARNIVAL OF BOOKS on Saturday, Nov. 10 to interview Maud Hart Lovelace.

We are sending you a copy of The Trees Kneel at Christmas which I hope you’ll enjoy. When you’ve read it, will you jot down a half dozen questions you’d like to ask the author, and bring them to the studio.

Will you meet me on the 19th floor of the Merchandise Mart at 7:30 a.m. Nov. 10. You may invite your parents and your friends to come, will you tell them they must be on the 19th floor of the Merchandise Mart at 8:35 that morning. They will be invited into the studio shortly before 8:45. Please tell your librarian that we should be happy to have twenty or thirty children from your school come to the program.

The children always have fun being on CARNIVAL OF BOOKS and I’m sure that you will.
Cordially,
Ruth Harshaw

Undated
Dear Eleanor,—
I do congratulate you on being chosen for the Carnival of Books show. I know how happy it must make you feel to have your own classmates vote for just one and have that one be you. We’ll try to give them a wonderful show! Won’t we?

Lovingly,
Maud Hart Lovelace
Loveland Pupil to Interview Author on Book Carnival

In honor of National Book Week, Nov. 12 to 16, ten eighth grade girls from Loveland school, Dixon, have been invited to attend the Carnival of Books program on WMAQ. The girls will meet their favorite author, Maude Hart Lovelace, who will be there from Garden City, New York. Her latest book to be discussed is “The Trees Kneel at Christmas.”

Eleanor Scholl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elton Scholl, 1301 Long Avenue has been chosen to represent them on the panel of four who will interview Lovelace over the air.

After the broadcast Mrs. Lovelace has been invited to a breakfast with the girls at the Merchandise Mart.

Going to Chicago

The following girls are going: Sheila Martin, Barbara Wade, Jean Huyett, Judy Bryant, Carol Brainerd, Priscilla Carpenter, Carmella Harris, Jacqueline Ruppert, Eleanor Scholl, and Donna Villiger.

Miss Edith Scholl, principal of Loveland school and Miss Charlotte Brett, teacher-librarian of North Central school, will accompany the girls to Chicago. Also making the trip will be Martha Santee and Pat Nolte, pupils of North Central school.

(Dixon, IL newspaper, Nov. 1951)

Dixon Girls Meet ‘Betsy’ of Stories

Twelve girls of the Loveland grade school, Dixon, Ill., met the heroine of their favorite books here Saturday.

She is Maude Hart Lovelace, author of the “Betsy, Tacey and Tib” and “Emily of Deep Valley,” books for girls.

“I am the Betsy of the stories, and this is Tib,” she told the girls. They had saved their babysitting money to come from Dixon to watch Mrs. Lovelace on the Carnival of Books radio show at WMAQ in the Merchandise Mart.

Tib is Mrs. Marjorie Harris, 5147 Lincoln, who grew up with Mrs. Lovelace in Mankato, Minn.

Mrs. Lovelace gave the heartwarming news that a forthcoming book in the “Betsy” series— which started with Betsy at 5 years old— will be called “Betsy’s Wedding.”

Barbara Wade, 13, of Dixon, received the news with excitement.

“She will marry Joe,” another character of the books, Mrs. Lovelace predicted.

Three of the girls, Jean Huyett, 12; Donna Villiger, 13; and Sheila Martin, 12, told Mrs. Lovelace that they once tried to make an “Everything Pudding,” just like Betsy, Tacey and Tib.

“We put in eggs, cinnamon and everything,” Jean said. “Even some hair tonic,”

“But we didn’t eat it.”

Miss Edith Scholl, principal of Loveland School, who accompanied the girls, said the 12 had been saving their earnings “for a couple of months” to make the trip here.

Carmella Harris, 12, said: “We came in Friday night and stayed at the Palmer House so we could be at the studio early.”

After the 8:45 a.m. radio show, the girls had Mrs. Lovelace as their guest at breakfast.

Other Dixon girls in the party were Carol Brainerd, 13; Jackie Ruppert, 13; Judy Bryant, 13; Priscilla Carpenter, 13; Janet James, 13; Martha Santee, 12; and Eleanor Scholl, 12.

(Chicago Daily News– Nov. 10, 1951)
Dear Eleanor,—

I am just this moment settling down to write my companions on the Big Show, although I have thought about all of you so many times since it was over.

Mrs. Harshaw sent me a record of our performance, so “Joe” heard it even before I got home, and I couldn’t wait to play it through, of course. Your voice sounds completely natural, and so clear. I heard many reports on the show in phone calls and letters. Isn’t it fun to think of people listening to us from ocean to ocean!

It was a great pleasure to meet you. You were more grown up than I expected. But I ought to know that girls grow up — our Merian a senior in college!

Love and happy memories of our fun together.

Maud Hart Lovelace

November 27, 1951

Thank you Eleanor for sharing your memories with BTS!

In Memory
The Betsy-Tacy Society is saddened to announce the passing of Shirley Lieske and Ken Berg. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to their families.

Shirley Lieske
Born: April 28, 1935 - Carthage, SD
Died: February 15, 2006 - Mankato, MN
Shirley Lieske worked as a librarian at Minnesota State University Mankato, North Mankato and Minnesota Valley Regional Libraries. She was well-known as “Miss Shirley the Library Lady.” She enjoyed sharing her love of reading and books with children of all ages. She kept the spirit of author Maud Hart Lovelace alive in Mankato when few others cared. Shirley and the Greater Mankato Area Camp Fire began the project to install a bench at the foot of Center Street as a memorial to Lovelace. The stone bench and plaque were dedicated on April 30, 1989. Because of her constant effort, visitors from all over the United States come to sit on the bench at the top of Center Street (Hill Street). She gave many tours to Betsy-Tacy fans over the years. Shirley passed away February 15, 2006, after a long battle with cancer.

Kenneth E. Berg
Born: June 28, 1925 - New Ulm, MN
Died: October 17, 2006 - Mankato, MN
Ken Berg was a 1943 graduate of Mankato High School, served in the US Army and received a BS degree from Mankato State University. He began his career as a sports writer/editor with the Mankato Free Press and later moved to Mason City, Iowa, to work as associate editor at the Mason City Globe Gazette. In 1966 he returned to Mankato to serve as editor with the Free Press, retiring in 1988. During his time as editor of the Free Press he came to know Maud Hart Lovelace. The Berg family visited Maud in CA in 1974. In 1994 Ken wrote “Maud Hart Lovelace, A Tribute to the Young at Heart,” which was published by Abdo & Daughters. Ken and Marilyn supported the BTS sharing recollections and entertaining stories, pictures, correspondence and other memorabilia. Ken is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and their four children: Julie, Steven, Kevin and Nancy and several grandchildren.

MINNESOTA OPEN HOUSE
A Guide to Historic House Museums
By Krista Finstad Hanson

Minnesota has a remarkable array of house museums, each with its own unique history and architectural significance. Minnesota Open House features nearly two hundred of these grand mansions, humble homes, log cabins, frontier forts, and pioneer villages that are open to the public.

The childhood homes of author Maud Hart Lovelace and her best friend, Frances Kenney, are featured in this new book. The homes in Mankato are better known as Betsy’s House and Tacy’s house and are owned by the Betsy-Tacy Society. The book is organized by region and includes site histories, photographs, and easy-to-follow maps. Available in April 2007 from the BTS Gift Shop $17.95 336 pages - paperback
2006 Drawing Contest Entries

Olivia Boyer
Grade 1
Waseca, MN

Save the Betsy and Tacy houses because they are landmarks and important to the town. Two best friends lived in them that makes them best friend houses.

Madalyn Crews - Grade 5 - Richmond, VA

I think it's important to save Betsy and Tacy’s Houses, because they have books about them and people want to see what their houses really looked like. They are kind of like historical artifacts except you only know about them if you have read the books or heard about them. They are a great series. My teacher reads them to us and I LOVE them. I’m going to bye the whole series so I can read them to my kids. (If I have any) I only have the first 3 books so far! We had a bake sale for the Betsy-Tacy Society and raised a lot of money for just 50 cents a piece. I’m pretty sure that everyone in my class enjoyed it, counting me! I really want to go see their houses, because their important. They are some of the last things we have of them and we need to take that chance and keep them. I hope you get to keep their houses, because they are important and lots of people come to see their houses because they enjoyed their books so much or maybe they were just visiting and saw their houses and then they started reading the books. Which ever way it happens it's for a good reason, so you should save their houses!!!

Destyni Gessner
Grade 1
Mankato, MN

I think Betsy’s books are the best and I would like to save her house. My mom reads the books before bed. But we got new books. But I never forgot her books.

Marina Cummiskey - Grade K-1 - Kodiak, AK

I think it is important to save Betsy and Tacy’s house because then we can remember Maud Hart Lovelace. She wrote some really great books that my grandma June sent me. My grandma lives in Mankato and my dad brought pictures back from his trip of the houses. I traced Tacy’s house on my tracing table and I drew the rest free hand. I love the Betsy-Tacy stories. I want to visit inside the houses in the summertime, so please save the houses!
Cecelia Droker – Kindergarten - Seattle, WA

I think we should save Betsy and Tacy’s houses because they are beautiful houses. I am having a Betsy and Tacy birthday. I also want to visit their houses sometime.

Lauren Hartman - Grade 2 - North Mankato, MN

It’s fun to see where Betsy and Tacy played and had birthday parties and played dress up. It’s fun for kids to go inside their houses. I went to the house at Christmas and it was BEAUTIFUL!

Josie Knapp - Grade 4 - Pittsboro, IN

I have never seen the houses but my aunt Nancy has (she lives in Mankato). I don’t think you should tear them down because when you read books like the Betsy-Tacy books it is fun to go see where they really lived and where all the stories took place. My Aunt Nancy sent me pictures of the houses and told me that next time I visit her she’ll take me to see the houses. It would be very disappointing to get there and find the houses gone.

Elizabeth Larson - Grade 10 - Lansing, IL

I believe that in saving Betsy and Tacy’s House we are helping to preserve the historical homes of some of our country’s most beloved children’s authors. Though Maud Hart Lovelace might not be such a recognized author as Laura Ingalls Wilder or Louisa May Alcott, her books and childhood home should surely be given the same due respect.
Priscilla Larson - Grade 5 - Lansing, IL

Maud Hart Lovelace’s books are the best books I have ever read. I have read each book three times, or more. The books hold humor, love, and tragedy, but more than that, the books hold dear friends. Other than my two sisters, Betsy, Tacy and Tib are the best friends I have, and to be able to go to Mankato or (Deep Valley) and walk around and go in their homes, knowing Betsy and Tacy or (Maud and Bick) were there is amazing. That is why I think it is important to save Betsy and Tacy’s House.

Sarah Larson - Grade 12 - Lansing, IL

I think it’s important to save Betsy and Tacy’s houses because my grandma, mom and I all love Betsy-Tacy and Tib books. When I visit Mankato, I enjoy driving by their houses and thinking about when Betsy-Tacy and Tib were my age. I think it is good for kids to learn about history, and the Betsy-Tacy houses can help with that.

Meredith Moore - Grade 2 - Worthington, MN

I think it’s important to keep Betsy and Tacy’s houses because my grandma, mom and I all love Betsy-Tacy and Tib books. When I visit Mankato, I enjoy driving by their houses and thinking about when Betsy-Tacy and Tib were my age. I think it is good for kids to learn about history, and the Betsy-Tacy houses can help with that.

Megan Rogers - Grade 5 - Mankato, MN

Betsy and Tacy’s House should never be torn down, because when girls and boys read Maud Hart Lovelace’s books they can relate to her stories about two girls who were best friends. Betsy and Tacy’s House is a Memory of a Great Author and her Best Friend.
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.
• Receive a 10% discount at Tacy’s Gift Shop or catalog.
• 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.

Betsy-Tacy Society Membership Form
(Form may be photocopied)

First Name ____________________________________________ Last Name _______________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________________ State ________________ Zip Code _________________________
Phone _______________________________________ Email Address _____________________________________________________

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 or 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>Meet the Author – C. Hyytinen @ 3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>Writing Retreat at Tacy’s @ 10 am - noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day Party @ 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 21</td>
<td>Maud’s Birthday &amp; Hat Making Party @ 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Annual Meeting at Murmuring Lake with music provided by Carol Gappa ~ TENTATIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>Tacy’s Birthday Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Ron Affolter – Tribute to Gene Autry program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Glenwood Cemetery tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>4th Annual Deep Valley Book Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Victorian Christmas</td>
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More details on upcoming events can be found on our website: www.betsy-tacysociety.org or for more information, call 507-345-9777.

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Check our website for updates for news, events and catalog items! www.betsy-tacysociety.org

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

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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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

You will find your expiration date on the mailing label. If you mailed your membership dues after Feb. 1, 2007, the new expiration date will not be reflected on this mailing label.