



# Deep Valley Sun

Newsletter of the Betsy-Tacy Society

P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094

www.betsy-tacysociety.org



Vol. 1, Issue 2

May 2005

## From Lona's Pony Cart...

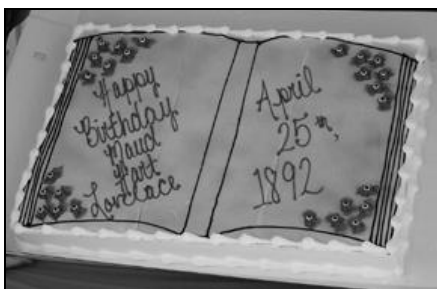
Greetings from Deep Valley!

Summer plans for BTS are to finish the exterior and have storm windows made for Tacy's house (estimated cost \$2,000). Work has begun to restore Betsy's front porch (estimated cost \$5,000). The Society is grateful to our local volunteers who have contributed greatly to our progress this spring and to our faithful membership who sustain our ongoing efforts to preserve these wonderful historic houses. A suggestion from Suzanne Nezin, a BTS and MaudL listserv member has called for special contributions to the BTS House Fund during the month of May - National Preservation month. BTS member Julie Chuba paraphrased Dr. Seuss, "a donation's a donation, no matter how small." Your help is deeply appreciated!

*Your Exhausted Ruler ~ Lona Falenczykowski*

## BTS Receives Grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Organizes JOIN HANDS DAY

Through the efforts of BTS board member, Barb Lamson, BTS received a \$1,000 grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans – Mankato Chapter for \$1,000. Thrivent board members Barb Lamson and Terry Kvittek organized a volunteer day for Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to help us celebrate Maud Hart Lovelace's 113<sup>th</sup> birthday. Story continues on page 5.



Maud's birthday was celebrated at Tacy's house in the afternoon and birthday cake was served to the public.

## Mankato Area Foundation Grant Received

The Betsy-Tacy Society was awarded a grant for \$3,450.00 to assist in completing the exterior siding and trim and the installation of an entry door at Tacy's House.

The Mankato Area Foundation was established in 1974 to provide a mechanism for groups and individuals to fund enhancements of the Greater Mankato area's quality of life.

The Society wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Foundation.

## News from Tacy's Gift Shop

Tacy's House and Gift Shop is open every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. As reported in the February issue, we are continuing to build our shop's inventory of book titles by MN authors. Our "Meet the Author" guest authors have been Lisa Bullard, Kathryn Adams Doty, John Rezmerski, John Koblas, Joan Claire Graham, Fred Netz and Teri Peppe. Book titles by these guest authors are now available in our gift shop.

Lisa Bullard – *Trick or Treat on Milton Street, Not Enough Beds*

Kathryn Adams Doty – *A Long Year of Silence*

John Rezmerski – *Counting Sheep, What Do I Know?*

John Koblas – *Jesse James Returns* (new young adult history mystery series) and books about Jesse James, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Sinclair Lewis.

Joan Claire Graham – *Minnesota Memories #1-4*

Fred Netz – *Wally the Walleye*

Terri Peppe – *Marysburg Chronicles: Critical Mass*

Becky Davis – *Jake Riley*

For more information about these authors and their books, please visit our website.

We are proud to announce that Applauze Magazine(www.applauze.com) has partnered with the Society to sponsor the "Meet the Author" events.

## The Betsy-Tacy Society

Est. 1990

P.O. Box 94  
Mankato, MN 56002-0094  
507-345-8103  
www.betsy-tacysociety.org

Our mission is to promote and to preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's books, encourage continued publication and distribution of the books, and restore historical literary landmarks in Mankato.

### Board of Directors

President - Lona Falencykowski  
Vice President – Dolly Blomquist  
Secretary – Dr. Louisa Smith  
Treasurer – Penny Banwart

### Board Members

Peggy Bartelt Sarah Beiswanger  
Denise Billington-Just Genie Hedlund  
Barb Lamson Carol Lee  
Kelly Reuter

Director/Newsletter Editor: Julie Schrader

Membership/Website: Michele Franck Blake

Journal Editor: Dolly Blomquist

Grants Co-ordinator: Sarah Beiswanger

Catalog Orders/Shipping: Joan Nikolay

### Membership Levels

\$15.00	Regular
\$25.00	Patron
\$200.00	Lifetime
\$20.00	Canada
\$25 & up	Europe, Asia, Africa

### Contact information:

Mail: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094  
Membership: membership@betsy-tacysociety.org  
Shop: shopkeeper@betsy-tacysociety.org

Tours: Call Lona - 507-345-8103 or lonaf@charter.net

For a 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 is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato and Betsy's House is located at 333 Center Street.

## Donations

The BTS would like to gratefully acknowledge donations received during the months of February through April 2005 from the following:

### Memorial donations:

Colleen Ann Canavan – In Memory of John Hale Quinn	Suzanne Lieske Mary Lobbuono Elizabeth Mauro Alice Maxson
Sallie Knowles – In Memory of Katie Proud	Mt. Olivet Lutheran School Marti Paskal Charlotte Pendergast
Elizabeth Vosbeck – In Memory of Bunny Just	Karin Roscoe Rachel Rose Linda Rouzer Ann Rusanoff

Allison Adkins Betsy Aswad Cheryl Banks Jean Baughman Bethlehem Women of ELCA Sarah Bloedel Sarah Bonello Martha Carroll, Collegiate Middle School Connie Corley Jammie Dennin Clova Falencykowski Linda Fletcher Patricia Freymuth Mellissa Gajewski Betsy Gorrell Susan Hackman Jean Halbur Carole Kenny Peggy Kirch Sally Knowles	Naomi Shanks Kerri Spennicchia Michelle Thomas Kate V. Viola Alice Weed Rose Marie Yudiskas Barbara Zagrodnik
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New Hot Water Heater for Tacy's House was donated by Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. in Mankato

Office Desk was donated to the Society by RSVP Retired Senior Volunteer Program

*We apologize if we inadvertently omitted anyone, and if so, please contact us.*

*Every contribution helps!*

## Artifact Donations

**Julie Schrader:** Mankato High School plate. Back of the plate is stamped: Wheelock, Made in Germany for Leader Dept. Store, F. Kron, Prop. Mankato, Minn.

Mankato High School trinket tray. Back of tray is stamped: J.H.R. & Co., Made in Germany for Foe, Pugh & Brockmeyer, Mankato, Minn.

**Carlienne Frisch** – DVD and VHS

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## 2005 Events

- May 18** 7:00 pm "Outside the City: Rasmussen Slough in 1912 viewed through the writings of Maud Hart Lovelace."  
by Dr. Louisa Smith  
at Elks Nature Center in Mankato
- May 21** 1:00 pm Meet the Author - Becky Davis  
"Jake Riley"
- June 4** 1:00 – 4:00 Victorian Lawn Party in partnership  
with BECHS
- June 11** Noon Pot Luck picnic and Annual Meeting  
at Tacy's House
- July 23** 2:00 pm Meet the Author - Claudia Mills
- August 20-21** Chautauqua in St. Peter  
BTS will participate and have a booth
- October 6-8** History Fest - BTS will participate  
www.historyfest.com
- October 29** 1:00 pm Meet the Author - Marty Duncan  
"Iron Lake Burning"
- 6:30 pm Halloween Party at Tacy's House
- November 12-13** Deep Valley Book Festival –  
Midwest Wireless Civic Center  
Mankato
- December 3, 10 & 17** Christmas at Tacy's House

All "Meet the Author" events are held at Tacy's House  
Check our website for more information and updates  
See: [www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org)

### Group Tours Welcome at Tacy's House!

Reservations are requested two weeks in advance of the tour. Any questions or to book a tour, please call Lona – 507-345-8103.

## ~ Mark Your Calendar ~

### The Betsy-Tacy Society Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 11**

Potluck lunch ~ Noon

Program/meeting ~ 1:30 pm

Please bring your lawn chair and a dish to pass.



We have a special treat in store for everyone; the unveiling of a new Cheryl Harness original! Cheryl has painted a beautiful piece of artwork for us. We plan to have posters or prints made from the original available for sale at the gift shop and in our catalog. The print will be pictured in the next newsletter.

*"I did the painting for the same reason I've done all the Betsy-Tacy artwork over the last 13 years: out of gratitude for the books. They and Laura Ingalls Wilder books were my happy childhood." ~ Cheryl Harness*



### Minneopa State Park Centennial 1905 - 2005

Minneopa State Park, which Maud depicted in the book *Carney's House Party*, is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Minneopa is the third oldest state park in Minnesota. Maud's careful attention to historical detail in her writing is evident in the fictional name she chose to use – 'Two Falls Park'. The meaning of the word Minneopa in the Dakota language is water falling twice (two falls). Maud was 13 years old when Minneopa became a state park.

The park will be hosting an old-fashioned picnic on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with root beer floats, banjo music, sack races, three-legged races, spoon toss and other old-fashioned games.



Pictured L-R: Eleanor Johnson [*Winona*], Maud Hart [*Betsy*] and Bob Hughes [*Dave*] at Minneopa Park in 1909. Taken from *Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley*, 2002

**Outside the City:  
Rasmussen Slough in 1912 viewed through the  
writings of Maud Hart Lovelace**



Presented by Dr. Louisa Smith,  
English Professor Emeritus, Minnesota  
State University, Mankato

May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Elks Nature Center  
555 Stoltzman Road

Dr. Smith will be speaking on the book "*Emily of Deep Valley*" by Maud Hart Lovelace and its relation to the Rasmussen Slough area of Mankato.

In this book, which is set in 1912-13 in Mankato (Deep Valley), we meet Emily Webster, an orphan who lives with her grandfather of the edge of the Indian Lake Slough. Lovelace writes about the slough, which was beyond the city limits, and the population of the Syrians, who were outside the dominate culture of Mankato.

Long considered an eyesore, a liability and a dumping place, the Indian Creek slough (now part of the Rasmussen Woods) separated Mankato from West Mankato and attracted suggestions for draining or for creating lakes. Writing in 1950, a low time in conservation, Maud Hart Lovelace describes the virtues of the slough. In "*Emily of Deep Valley*," she presents the vegetation, the birds, the sounds, the flowers, and the people living on the edge of Mankato as beings to be cherished.

Learn more about author Maud Hart Lovelace, her books and Mankato history.

*This event is sponsored in partnership with Betsy-Tacy Society and the Elks Nature Center*

### **Wish List For Tacy's House**

Here is a list of items needed for Tacy's House.

If you wish to donate any of these items to the BTS or know anyone who does, please contact us. (see page 2)

Cast iron parlor stove with isinglass doors (as described and pictured in "*Betsy-Tacy*" - for pictures see our website.)

Apartment size refrigerator

New kitchen entry door with deadbolt

Office supplies – electric typewriter, copy machine, printer

Bookcases for shop

Security System for Tacy's house

For programs/events - small music CD player,  
portable DVD player

Vacuum cleaner

Fireproof safe or cabinet for archival materials

1905-1930 Otaknam Yearbooks

Energy Efficient Hot Water Heater for Betsy's house



## *Lincoln Park Historical Marker Dedication*

Saturday,  
May 21<sup>st</sup>

11:30 am ~ *Dedication*

12:15 pm ~ *Reception*

Lincoln Park between Lincoln, Broad  
& Grove Streets in Mankato

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery, headquartered in Red Wing, MN, the New Ulm Battery and the American Legion Lorentz Post 11 color guard will be present for the dedication of a historical marker located in Lincoln Park. Bryce Stenzel, as a costumed Abraham Lincoln will deliver Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address. The text on the new marker details the history of Lincoln Park, made famous by author Maud Hart Lovelace. Funding for the marker was approved by the City of Mankato and the text was researched and written by local historian, Bryce O. Stenzel.

Mankato's Lincoln Park was established in the mid-1880s to honor the memory of our fallen Civil War soldiers. In 1893, "Boy in Blue" a bronze monument of a Civil War soldier standing on guard, was erected in the park. At one time a mortar gun, a short cannon used in the Civil War, was also a part of the park. Author Maud Hart Lovelace grew up in the Lincoln Park neighborhood and she later wrote the popular Betsy-Tacy series of children's books that take place in Mankato (*Deep Valley*).

After the dedication, a reception will be held at the park. Hot dogs, refreshments and cookies will be served by the Betsy-Tacy Society and the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

After the program, Julie Schrader will be signing copies of "Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley." Stenzel will be signing copies of his new book, "Lincoln for the Stages," which is a collection of dramatic plays on the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. BTS will also have Lovelace books available for purchase.

# BAKE SALE HELD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR BTS

BTS member Kristeen A. Koebler's fifth grade class from the Collegiate Middle School in Richmond, Virginia held a bake sale to raise money for the Betsy-Tacy Society's renovation of author Maud Hart Lovelace's childhood home in Mankato. Koebler says she reads the Betsy-Tacy books to her class every year because of the history and traditions they teach the children.

The Betsy-Tacy Society was presented with a check in the amount of \$310.41 which was the total amount the class earned with their baked goods. They were delighted to beat last year's total raised of \$256.35.

The Society wishes to thank you all for your efforts!



Back: Caroline Cooke, Zakea Wyatt, Laura Davia, Lucy Gordon Smith, Charlotte Robins, Susannah Wheat, Carter Wilson

Middle: Carolyn Mitchell, Austin Spivey, Anna Clarkson, Caitie Cosby, Austin Pruitt, Lauren Fraizer, Anna Jones

Front: Emily Flippo, Kendall Berents, Annie Stettinius, Zoe Raine, Kirsten Daniels, Sarah Romer

## JOIN HANDS DAY

(continued from pg. 1)



Help and materials for Join Hands Day were provided by: MN River Valley Master Gardeners, RSVP – Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, Valspar Paints and Mankato Appliance & Recycling. Providing food for the volunteers were Hy-Vee, Papa Murphy's and Midtown Foods. Paper products from Julie at

Habitat for Humanity. Pictured at bottom left: MSU students Kelly Frieberg and Amanda Mahn. Helping with publicity were Pete Steiner from KTOE radio, Z99 radio, and the Free Press.



Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. in Mankato donated a new A.O. Smith 40 gallon energy efficient, natural gas hot water heater for Tacy's house. Paul Kvittek (left) from Paul's

Plumbing & Heating donated his time to install the new unit. Thank you!

Jobs included cleaning out Tacy's garage, separating lumber, taking off paneling from front parlor at Betsy's, removing interior walls from Betsy's porch, scraping and painting Betsy's garage. We wish to thank our



wonderful volunteers who helped us accomplish a

tremendous amount of work in one day: David & Barb Lamson, Paul & Terri Kvittek, Amanda Mahn, Kelly Frieberg, Susan Goecke, Dennis Weis, Ryan McMahan, Dan Duffy, Mary McGrew, Ted Waknitz, Bethany Lutheran College students: Rebecca Suckow, Mary Finck, Elizabeth Gullixson and Sandra Gale (pictured below L-R)



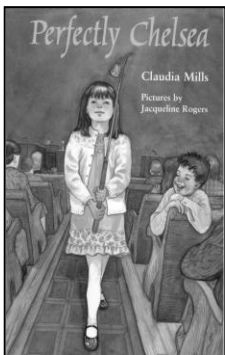


## Author Claudia Mills Will Visit Deep Valley in July

Author and Betsy-Tacy Society member, Claudia Mills, will be our special guest at Tacy's House on July 23 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Claudia, author of many children's and young adult books, will be speak and sign books. Her books will be available for purchase at the signing.

Claudia was born in New York City in 1954. Her mother was an elementary school teacher who loved to write. "When I was six years old she gave me a blank notebook and told me that this was to be my poetry book. So I began to write poetry.

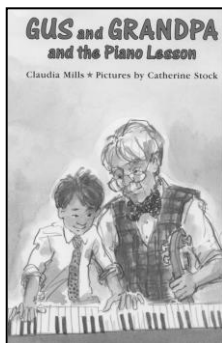


"This was the beginning of my life as a writer," said Claudia. "I wrote dozens of poems in elementary school, as well as stories and plays. By the time I was in junior high school, I was writing love sonnets to one poor, persecuted boy I called "Apollo." My major literary effort in those years was a hundred-page-long autobiographical book about my eighth-grade year, called T is

for Tarzan (my nickname in those days was Tarzan). I still draw heavily from my own life in my books, but at least now I change the names. And I've learned that I can change the stories, too -- to make them funnier, sadder, better -- to make them turn out the way things should have turned out, but didn't, in real life."

"I began writing professionally when I left graduate school impulsively in mid-year to take a secretarial job at Four Winds Press in New York City. I had a two-hour commute each way by bus, and I used that time to write novels and picture books."

"I have always had another job while writing my books. In fact, I have two other "jobs" right now, because I am a philosophy professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder and I am the mother of two boys. This means that my writing never seems like a job to me. It is the special, secret work that I love best. I write early in the morning, while the rest of my family is still sound asleep. I lie on the couch upstairs, with a mug of Earl Grey tea or hot chocolate beside me, and scribble away with my favorite felt-tipped pen on a narrow-ruled pad, as I watch



the rising sun cast a rosy glow on the Rocky Mountains beyond my home. It's a lovely way to start a day. And I love thinking that on some other couch far away, someone will be reading my stories and sharing the characters and worlds I have created."



Claudia is an associate professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is married to Richard W. Wahl, a natural resources economist and they have two sons, Christopher and Gregory Wahl. She lives in Boulder, Colorado. To read more about Claudia and her books see: [www.childrensbookguild.org/mills.htm](http://www.childrensbookguild.org/mills.htm)



## In Remembrance of Sarah Ferguson

Sarah Ferguson was a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society and a great fan of Maud Hart Lovelace. Sarah, a student at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, was inspired by Maud, loved to write and had a bright future ahead of her. Unfortunately, Sarah lost her battle with cancer two years ago. One of Sarah's last requests to her parents, Gregg and Laura, was to get on with their lives and consider adopting a child. Since Sarah's passing, the Fergusons have adopted three twelve-year-old girls from Russia. To read more about their inspiring story please visit: [www.caringbridge.org/mn/joh](http://www.caringbridge.org/mn/joh). To learn about the adoption agency the Fergusons used please view that web site which will describe the situation of 600,000 orphans in Russia and what can be done about it: [www.ecasus.org](http://www.ecasus.org). The following poem was written by Sarah after her freshman year of college.

### Delayed Maturity

Once upon a time  
I loved a boy but  
That boy turned sixteen.  
He teased me and used me  
Ignored me and bore me  
But my love continued to grow  
Once upon a time  
I loved a teen but  
That teen turned into a man.  
He commanded me and scolded me  
Left me then came back to me  
But my love continued to grow  
Once upon a time  
I loved a man and  
Finally he matured  
With gray in his hair he became a prince.  
He respected me and cherished me  
And our love continued to grow.

Written by Sarah E. Ferguson  
Aug. 30, 2002

### 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 Fact Sheet 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 and Journal.
- 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.

### Volunteers Are Always Welcome

If you are interested in volunteering some of your time to help the society, please give us a call. We can find a project to suit your interests and skills. Some examples are:

- Participating on committees/help with programs
- Data entry
- Tour Guides or helping during tours
- Stuffing envelopes/Mailings
- House and yard maintenance
- Packaging/Shipping catalog orders
- Mailings, stuffing envelopes, applying labels, stamps
- Fund Raising
- Journal layout/production
- Grant Writing

## Betsy-Tacy Society Membership Form

(Form may be photo-copied)

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

#### Membership Levels

- \_\_\_ Regular \$15 (1 yr.)
- \_\_\_ Patron \$25 (1 yr.)
- \_\_\_ Canada \$20 (1 yr.) (Please send money order in US Funds)
- \_\_\_ Europe, Asia, Africa \$25 and up (1 yr.)
- \_\_\_ Lifetime \$200
- \_\_\_ This is a Gift Membership – please sign gift card

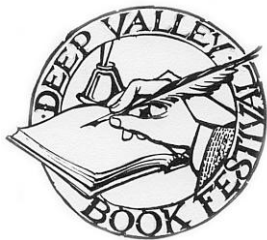
#### Additional Information

- \_\_\_ New Member
- \_\_\_ Renewal
- \_\_\_ If renewing, is this a new address?
- \_\_\_ Tax-deductible donation – Betsy-Tacy House Fund  
in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ No acknowledgment for donation required

From: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
NewMember Packet sent \_\_\_\_\_



# Deep Valley Book Festival

Nov. 12-13, 2005

At the Midwest Wireless Civic Center in Mankato. See [www.deepvalleybookfest.com](http://www.deepvalleybookfest.com) for news on authors, publishers, and programs as it becomes available.



## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please remember to inform us if your 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.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES

You will find your expiration date on the mailing label. If you mailed your membership dues after April 30<sup>th</sup>, the new expiration date will not be reflected on this mailing label.

The Betsy-Tacy Society  
P.O. Box 94  
Mankato, MN 56002-0094

Non Profit Org. Bulk Rate U.S. Postage PAID Mankato, MN Permit No. 697
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