

Betsy-Tacy Society

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Legal Name: Betsy-Tacy Society
Classification: Youth/Family/Community
Tax Status Determination: 501 (c) 3 Organization
Federal Tax ID#: 41-168-7744
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Mission: To promote and preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy and her work, encourage and support literacy and conserve the historic Betsy-Tacy houses in Mankato.

Organizational overview: Maud Hart Lovelace was born in Mankato in 1892 and is best known for her beloved series of Betsy-Tacy books, as well as her adult fiction. The books are "historical fiction" based on the author's childhood memories of growing up in Mankato. With over a million and a half books sold, they have drawn national as well as international attention to Mankato, Minnesota.



In an effort to preserve the history of Mankato as accurately portrayed in the Betsy-Tacy series, the Society purchased Maud's childhood home (Betsy's House - 333 Center Street) and the home of her lifelong best friend, Frances Kenney Kirch (Tacy's House - 332 Center Street) for future generations to enjoy. Betsy's House is being restored and furnished as a museum to look just as it did when the Hart family lived here from 1892-1906. Tacy's house is also being restored to its original period and is an interpretive center, archives and gift shop. Donations, membership and gift shop sales are our major source of revenue, as we receive no federal or state funding.

Benefits: Promoting literacy by keeping the Betsy-Tacy books in print and available to new readers. The books are intergenerational and promote family values and friendship. The books and BTS special programs are educational and teach about life at the turn of the century. The community benefits from having these historic literary landmarks preserved, each year attracting hundreds of visitors from across the country and abroad, promoting not only tourism in Mankato, but by preserving Mankato's history. We rely on many volunteers for our staff, programs, house restoration and maintenance - volunteerism opportunities are continually promoted at the BTS.

Accomplishments:

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

Goals:

- Promote and preserve Lovelace's work for current and future generations
- Support on-going restoration of Maud Hart Lovelace's childhood home, *Betsy's House*, and the home of her lifelong best friend, Frances Kenney Kirch, *Tacy's House*.
- Preservation and care of Lovelace artifacts
- Support special literary and historical events and programs