

C Wilder, Laura Ingalls (1867-1957), Papers, 1894-1943
3633 34 folders

RESTRICTED MICROFILM

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

Papers of the author of the "Little House" series of children's stories. Manuscripts, a diary, and some correspondence are included.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Papers were loaned to the University of Missouri for microfilming by the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association on 9 January 1981 (Accession No. 3417).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Papers contain manuscripts, a diary, and correspondence concerning the "Little House" series of children's stories. The papers contain published and unpublished manuscripts, an 1894 diary, and correspondence between Laura and her daughter, Rose Wilder Lane.

The first six folders contain the "Pioneer Girl" manuscript which appears to be the original from which the "Little House" series was taken. Written in first person, these tablets contain the story line for Wilder's books. Folders 7 through 32 consist of manuscripts and revisions for portions of the books. Some chapters are incomplete.

The diary contains an account of the Wilders' trip from DeSmet, Dakota Territory, to Mansfield, Missouri, in July and August 1894. Laura mentions traveling conditions, emigrants, weather, and crops along their route. The volume also includes a detailed account of a Russian settlement. Rose's book, *On the Way Home*, was based on this diary.

The correspondence concerns the manuscripts and books. Back sides of other letters in the collection were used as scratch paper on which various stories were written or revised. A calendar of them has been provided at the beginning of the film.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 *Little House on the Prairie* and *On the Banks of Plum Creek*
- f. 2 Second part of *On the Banks of Plum Creek*
- f. 3 *By the Shores of Silver Lake*
- f. 4 *The Long Winter* and *Little Town on the Prairie*
- f. 5 Second part of *Little Town on the Prairie*
- f. 6 *These Happy Golden Years*
- f. 7-9 *Little House in the Big Woods*
- f. 10-13 *Farmer Boy*
- f. 14-18 *Little House on the Prairie*
 - f. 14 Portions of a manuscript for chapters 2, 3, 5-19, 25, and 26
 - f. 15 Tablet begins after chapter 15, "Fever 'n' Ague," and contain portions of all succeeding chapters
 - f. 16-18 Later draft of *Little House on the Prairie*
- f. 19-24 *On the Banks of Plum Creek*
 - f. 19 Notes and correspondence between Laura Ingalls Wilder and Rose Wilder Lane working out details of the book manuscript
 - f. 20-24 Later draft of *On the Banks of Plum Creek*
- f. 25-32 *By the Shores of Silver Lake*- two manuscripts, neither of them the published version
- f. 33 Diary, 1894
- f. 34 Correspondence, 1933-1936

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