

# Missouri Road Trip 2015

## Every Hero Has A Story: Laura Ingalls Wilder

**D**id you know there's a farm in Missouri where you can go to learn more about the author of the "Little House" book series?

Laura Ingalls Wilder penned the classic books at Rocky Ridge Farm in Mansfield, where she lived with her husband, Almanzo, and daughter, Rose.

After moving to Missouri in 1894, Laura found herself an integral part of the Mansfield community. As the website for her family home notes, "She began giving back to her community and eventually the world. Laura excelled as a parent, teacher, cook, journalist, farmer, activist and a staunch democrat. She also served as the secretary treasurer of the Mansfield Farmers Loan Association, processing more than a \$1 million in government loans."

Laura got her start writing articles and columns for magazines. She wrote her autobiography about growing up in a pioneer family, but when she wasn't successful getting it published, she rewrote the story as fiction.

She published her first book, "Little House in the Big Woods" in 1932 when she was 65 years old. She published seven more books in the "Little House on the Prairie" series, as well as other books, solidifying her place in American literature.



The "Little House" book series became even more famous when it was reprinted in 1953 with artwork by Garth Williams, who had created the illustrations for "Stuart Little" and "Charlotte's Webb."

Laura's works have remained in print since first published in the 1930s. You may have even seen the TV show "Little House on the Prairie," which originally aired from 1974-83, based on Laura's books.

Laura's books shared her experiences on the American

frontier to children around the world. In 1993, the U.S. Postal Service honored "Little House on the Prairie," with a stamp, commemorating it as one of the top four American children's literature classics of all time.

Laura Ingalls Wilder died Feb. 10, 1957, just 3 days after her 90th birthday.

## Points of Interest

- ★ At the age of 15, Laura began teaching in a one-room schoolhouse.
- ★ In 1951, Mansfield's library was dedicated as the Laura Ingalls Wilder Public Library.
- ★ Laura was inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians in the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City in 1993.
- ★ Laura's daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, was a newspaper reporter, author and war correspondent, and edited her mother's stories.
- ★ Learn more about Laura's hometown of Mansfield in the community newspaper, the Mansfield Mirror, MansfieldMirror.com.
- ★ Learn more about Laura Ingalls Wilder from The State Historical Society of Missouri's Historic Missourians site, shs.umsystem.edu.

Source: Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum

## Win Prizes!

### Win Weekly

Gas Up and Go visit Mansfield with a \$50 gas card! Log on to [VisitMo.com/MoRoadTrip15](http://VisitMo.com/MoRoadTrip15) and enter the weekly code for a chance to win a \$50 gas card and the Summer Finale Prize. There are 11 weekly codes! This week's code is WILDER.

### Fan of the Week

Visit any of the destinations in our 11-week Missouri Road Trip 2015 series and share your photos on Twitter using #MoRoadTrip15. VisitMO will select a photo to share on our social channels each week!

### Summer Finale Prize

At the end of the summer, we'll award a family trip on Missouri's Highway 36, The Way of American Genius. Each Gas Up and Go weekly entry is automatically entered to win the Summer Finale Prize, a trip from Hannibal to St. Joseph, including lodging, attraction tickets and a \$150 gas card.

Official rules available at [VisitMo.com/MoRoadTrip15](http://VisitMo.com/MoRoadTrip15) • Parent must enter sweepstakes

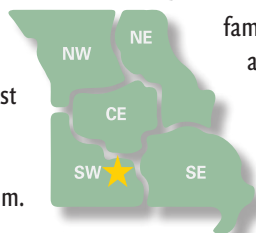


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enjoy the show

## Take A Road Trip to Mansfield!

Nearly all of the places Laura once lived now are National Historic Landmarks and have become tourist destinations. Rocky Ridge Farm is now known as the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum. During a visit there, explore the farmhouse, which Laura and Almanzo built, as well as the Rock House, which Rose built for them in 1928. Artifacts include Pa's fiddle, family keepsakes from both the Ingalls and Wilder



families, handwritten "Little House" manuscripts and other items that will delight readers of all ages. Every year, during the third weekend of September, the Mansfield community celebrates Wilder Days, commemorating Laura and pioneer life in the Missouri Ozarks. Another annual tribute to Laura's life is the Ozark Mountain Players' presentation of "Laura's Memories," an outdoor, musical theater. Learn more about that special production online at [LaurasMemories.com](http://LaurasMemories.com).



Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum  
3068 Route A, Mansfield • 877-924-7126,  
[lauraingallswilderhome.com](http://lauraingallswilderhome.com)

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# HOMETOWN Heroes

Heroes come in all different forms. Heroes can be grown-ups or kids, even pets. Most heroes are ordinary people who do extraordinary things or inspire others to be extraordinary.

Help us recognize local Hometown Heroes by nominating yours! We will feature some of our summer readers' Hometown Heroes in a special *Missourian* feature.

To nominate your Hometown Hero, tell us what makes your hero extraordinary in 200 words or less and send it to *The Missourian* by Aug. 15.

Visit [emissourian.com/hero](http://emissourian.com/hero) to nominate your hero online.

