

# The ROCKY RIDGE REVIEW

Spring 2017

Laura Ingalls Wilder - Rose Wilder Lane Home Association, Mansfield, Missouri 65704

## *The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association (1957-2017)*

On a Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 1957, the Wilder Home was opened to visitors for the first time after Laura Ingalls Wilder's death. There were 500 who came to the Open House that day. Now in our 60<sup>th</sup> season, we welcome visitors from all over the world to tour the Wilder's home. We anticipate a wonderful season as we celebrate the Wilder's Legacy, as well as the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Laura Ingalls Wilder's birth.

If enough people think of a thing and work hard enough at it, I guess it's pretty nearly bound to happen, wind and weather permitting.

*By the Shores of Silver Lake*

## *Thank You*

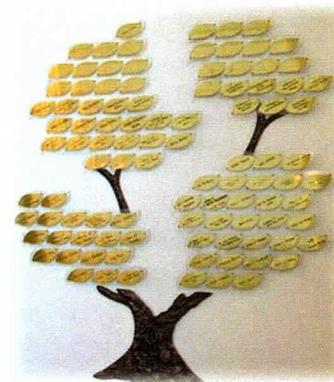


The Association would like to take a moment and thank our members. Each level of Membership is important in the preservation of the Wilder Homes and Museum.

One way that we recognize those who have a Lifetime Patron Membership is to place a brick in their honor. This spring, we were able to start our brick area at the new museum location.



We have relocated the Giving Tree to our new lobby. Each gift of \$200 receives an inscribed leaf.



## **Celebrating Laura Ingalls Wilder's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**- February 7, 2017**



We were able to celebrate Mrs. Wilder's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Wilder Elementary, located in Mansfield, Missouri. Longtime Director and President of the Association, Mrs. Jean Coday, talked with the students in the library about Mrs. Wilder's life and the values she held dear. A cake was made in Mrs. Wilder's honor and was

served to all the students at lunchtime.

Plans are being made for a fall celebration here at Rocky Ridge Farm.



### 16 Years of Service

Vicki Johnston, Lead Docent, presents Virginia Housley with an award for 16 years of Commitment and Dedication to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum. The award was presented at the staff dinner, held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## Home of the Week: The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home

This last September, the Farmhouse was featured in the **News-Leader**, a local newspaper out of Springfield, Missouri. You can read this wonderful article and view over 60 beautiful photos of the Farmhouse at the following link. The Columnist and Photographer did a fantastic job of portraying the Wilder's Home.

<http://www.news-leader.com/story/life/home-garden/2016/08/31/home-week-laura-ingalls-wilder-home/89531568>

## ***Coming Soon to the Bookstore!***

A New China Shepherdess



### Curator Home/ Old Bookstore

In the early 1960's, Rose Wilder Lane had a home built for the Curator. Later, this home was turned into a Bookstore. Once the new Museum and Bookstore were complete, there was no longer a need for the old Bookstore building and unfortunately, it was in unrepairable condition. The Association would like to thank Board Member, Tim Hancock, for financing and providing an excellent team to help in the demolition of the old Bookstore.



## WHAT'S NEW?

### Video Room Changes

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum purchased several Garth Williams illustrations from *Farmer Boy* that we are happy to share in our video room by way of a J-track wall hanging system.

With this hanging art system, used in many art galleries and museums, we can easily change out different pieces for you to enjoy. This year we are featuring the progression of art found in *The First Four Years*.



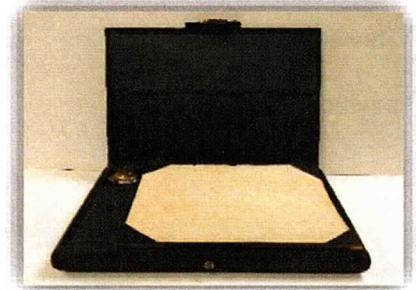
### Artifacts

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Association is proud to announce the acquisition of multiple new artifacts this year. This is always an exciting occurrence for both the staff and the guests since they contribute equally to the enjoyment and education of the public.

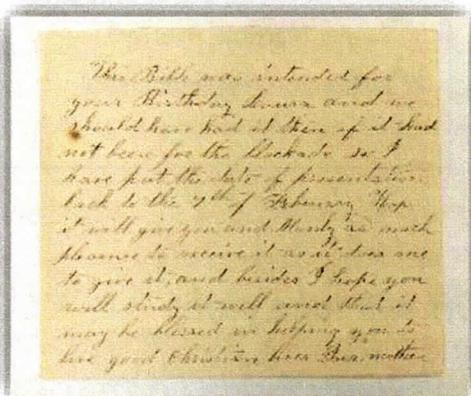


The Association would like to thank the Hartley Family for two very generous donations. During November of last year, the workbench that Almanzo used in his shop was donated to the museum. Almanzo would have used this bench for his many projects. The bench itself is constructed of old packing crates, evidence of which can be seen in the stamps still visible on the underside. Upcycling items, like packing crates, may be trendy to do now but during those days utilizing everything you had was a way of life.

The second donation acquired by the museum last fall was a lap desk. The lap desk, which is made of leather and comes equipped with an ink well, would have been used for making manuscripts while traveling. Both items will be available for public viewing in the future.



In addition to the items donated to the museum, we have also found some new pieces hidden amongst our collection! Two items were discovered inside Mrs. Wilder's family Bible while it was being inspected as part of updating its Condition Report.



The first of these finds is a manuscript written by Caroline Ingalls to her daughter, Laura. The letter, in excellent condition, starts out, "This Bible was intended for your birthday...". This is an astonishing discovery since it changes the provenance. The Bible, intended as a birthday gift, was backdated to February 7, 1888 on the presentation page by Caroline. She continues, "we should have had it then if it had not been for the blockade." The blockade references a winter storm that shut down the entire Midwest during the winter of 1888, in turn preventing Caroline and Charles from getting the Bible to Laura in time for her birthday. The Bible was previously believed to have been a wedding gift given to Laura and Almanzo.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Fiddle Off took place on Wilder Day, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The overall winner was Tom Weisgerber of Saint Peter, MN. Clint Jackson presented him with the Winner's Belt Buckle.



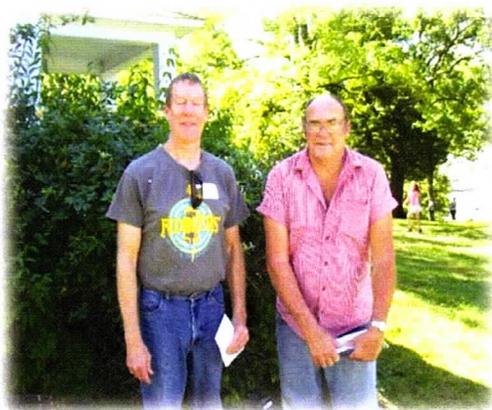
**Pee Wee Division:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Riley Butress, Summersville, MO
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Liessi Thompson, Ozark, MO
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Elizabeth Merritt, Greenwood, AR



**Junior Division:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kate Ward, Kentucky
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Elijah Baker, Birch Tree, MO
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Preston Marriott, Ava, MO
- 4<sup>th</sup> Carina Baker, Birch Tree, MO
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tanner Marriott, Ava, MO
- 6<sup>th</sup> Kaylee Downs, Ava, MO
- 7<sup>th</sup> Olivia Thompson, Ozark, MO
- 8<sup>th</sup> Baylee Sidden, Holt, MO
- 9<sup>th</sup> Makayla Byerley, Ava, MO
- 10<sup>th</sup> Truman Neumer, Argyle, MO
- 11<sup>th</sup> Katie Moore, Cabool, MO



**Senior Division:**

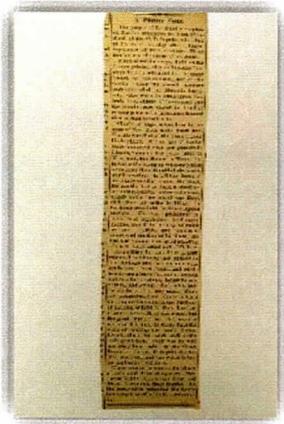
- 1<sup>st</sup> Gary Johnston, Nevada, MO
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Christensen, Harrison, AR

**Accompanist:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cody Marriott, Ava, MO
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Weisgerber, St. Peter, MN
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Stewart, Lebanon, MO
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tad Johnston, Nevada, MO
- 5<sup>th</sup> Elijah Baker, Birch Tree, MO
- 6<sup>th</sup> Tanner Marriott, Ava, MO
- 7<sup>th</sup> Justice Ross, Piedmont, MO

*This year's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Fiddle Off will take place on Wilder Day, Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, on the lawn of Rocky Ridge Farm.*

## WHAT'S NEW Continued.....



The second item of interest found within the Bible was a newspaper clipping titled, *A Pioneer Gone*. The clipping, also in pristine condition, is about the death of Charles Ingalls, who passed away June 8, 1902. The clipping is believed to have been taken from a newspaper that was published in De Smet, South Dakota.

Both of these items have been added to the museum archives.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fiddle Off Continued .....



### Open Division:

1<sup>st</sup> Cody Marriott, Ava, MO

2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Weisgerber, St. Peter, MN

3<sup>rd</sup> Trustin Baker, Birch Tree, MO

4<sup>th</sup> Alita Weisgerber, St. Peter, MN

5<sup>th</sup> Beau Johnston, Nevada, MO

6<sup>th</sup> Tad Johnston, Nevada, MO

7<sup>th</sup> Chris Stewart, Lebanon, MO

8<sup>th</sup> Sarah Stamper, Hartville, MO

9<sup>th</sup> Elsa Godding, Springfield, MO

**The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association is working together with the Mansfield Community Teachers Association to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to families within the Mansfield School District. Currently, 100 children, ages birth to five, receive a new book mailed to their home each month. Grant funds and donations pay for the children's books. Registration is open and ongoing for those within our community. We look forward to registering more children during preschool screening at the end of April.**

## The Laura Ingalls Wilder

### Home Association

#### "Wish List"

Financial Contributions for the following items would be appreciated:

- A Washer and Dryer for the Orchard House
- A Bagless, Upright Vacuum with Attachments

## BECOME A MEMBER

The Wilder Home Association is a not-for-profit organization with a 501-C3 classification, and your gift is a charitable contribution. You are welcome to contribute online, or feel free to contact us.

### Annual Memberships :

These levels of membership entitle bearer to a membership card, two issues of the Association newsletter, free admission on regular Home & Museum tours and a 10% discount on purchases over \$10.00 in the Little House Bookstore:

Student \$25.00

Individual \$50.00

Supporter \$100.00

### Lifetime Memberships:

Sponsor \$500.00

Membership entitles bearer to all benefits of annual membership, plus voting privileges in person or by proxy at yearly Association meetings.

Patron \$1,000.00

Membership entitles bearer to all the above benefits, plus a brick with member's name to be placed outside the new museum.

Benefactor \$5,000.00

Membership entitles bearer to all the above benefits plus, member's name to be placed on a permanent plaque inside the new museum.

*Laura Ingalls Wilder-Rose Wilder Lane  
Home and Museum*



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[www.lauraingallswilderhome.com](http://www.lauraingallswilderhome.com)

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