

# *The* ROCKY RIDGE REVIEW

Spring 2018

*Laura Ingalls Wilder – Rose Wilder Lane Home Association, Mansfield, Missouri 65704*

## A NEW ADDITION TO THE MUSEUM

In January of this year, work began on a new addition to the Museum, now in its third season. Initially, the space will be used to store large items that are currently in the Laura Ingalls Wilder Association collection. Doors leading off of the main gallery enable the space to be used for special exhibits in the future.



## A NEW TRAIL BEGINS



Work has begun on "Laura's Pathway", a new trail that links the Historic Farmhouse to the Rock House. This has been made possible through a grant from the Missouri Recreational Trails Program.



## LAURA INGALLS WILDER'S CRAZY QUILT RECEIVES CARE FOR BETTER PRESERVATION

The Wilder Crazy Quilt has been under the care of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home & Museum for over 60 years. During this time, thousands of visitors from all over the world have had the pleasure of seeing it on display, but like most things, time has taken its toll on the quilt. It was our duty, as the quilts caretakers, to seek out the best conservative treatment available in order to preserve the quilt for future generations. The Museum Textile Services of Andover, MA, came highly recommended for the task, which they gladly accepted.

The Crazy Quilt is composed of nine individual blocks with either pink or blue printed cotton fabric as a base. Scraps of silk, velvet, and cotton fabrics are arranged on the base, stitched together, and outlined in yellow silk feather stitching. Chinoiserie prints from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and aniline-dyed pink silks from the 20<sup>th</sup> century are among the types of fabric used. The nine blocks are seamed together and attached with the same feather stitching. The quilt is backed with a red and blue printed cotton. The fabrics range in date from the 1920's or 1930's, to as early as the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and represent several generations of garments.

The quilt is in fair to poor condition overall. Approximately 50% of the silk blocks on the front have significant damage. This damage is caused by inherent chemical instability accentuated by light exposure, with some of the fabrics being stained prior to assembly. Most of the cotton fabrics and backing is intact. The silk feather stitching is also intact.

The first step in conservation was to clean the quilt and arrange the loose threads. The quilt was laid out on a large flat surface and a HEPA vacuum was used to reduce particulate matter. The quilt was carefully vacuumed in one direction, along the nap or pile of the fabric. The second major step consisted of finding the right color of nylon net to blend with the colors of the quilt. MTS was able to find a single shade of antique gold net that blended with all of the colors on the quilt. Step three was to stretch the net around each of the nine blocks and pin it. (Continued on page 3)



Detail: Wilder Crazy Quilt Block  
American Midwest culture  
Early 1900's  
Cotton, Silk, Silk Velvet, L. 64 in x W. 65.5 in  
LIWM 58.1.1635



### FUNDRAISING DINNER

Friday Evening, September 14, 2018

We are excited to announce that Karen Grassle, Ma on the *Little House on the Prairie* TV series, will be joining us!

Please watch our website for more information [www.lauraingallswilderhome.com](http://www.lauraingallswilderhome.com)



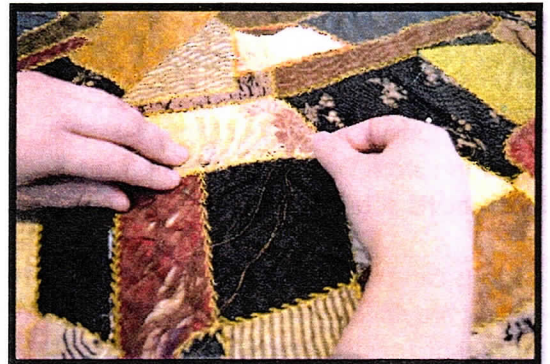
## PRESERVATION OF QUILT (Continued...)



Above & Right:  
Courtney Jason of  
MTS diligently  
hand stitches the  
nylon net to the  
quilt.



This was done along several lines within each square to mitigate movement of fabric fragments if they continue to deteriorate over time. The final step was to attach the nylon net to the quilt. This was done by hand stitching the net all the way through to quilt onto the sound backing. The stitches were made with a DMC cotton thread.



We would like to extend our gratitude to the Museum Textile Services for their hard work and professionalism. They not only did a wonderful job in helping us preserve the quilt, but they also completed the task much faster than anticipated.

*Are you a member and would like to conserve by receiving this newsletter through email? Please let us know.*

*[liwhome@getgo.in.net](mailto:liwhome@getgo.in.net)*

## ESTATE PLANNING

Information is available should you wish to include  
The Laura Ingalls Wilder  
Home Association  
in your estate planning.

The Wilder Home Association is a not-for-profit organization with a 501-C3 classification, and your gift is a charitable contribution.

## The Laura Ingalls Wilder Association

### Current Board Members

Jean Coday, President  
Alice Hartley, Vice President  
William Anderson, Secretary  
Jane Coday, Treasurer  
Pamela Young Lee  
Tim Hancock  
Vicki Blankenship  
Joe Coday  
Gayla Hancock  
Reverend Nicholas Inman



# Raising Funds to Preserve the Crazy Quilt

So far, there have been two events planned in which the proceeds benefit the preservation of Mrs. Wilder's Crazy Quilt.

## Cherry Blossom Festival Luncheon

A luncheon was held during the Missouri Cherry Blossom Festival in Marshfield, MO, to support the Wilder Home and especially, the work in preserving Mrs. Wilder's Crazy Quilt.

The luncheon, which welcomed over 200 guests, was the second time that the Wilder Home had joined forces with the festival. The Cherry Blossom Festival focuses on the preservation of American History and they have long supported the efforts of the Home and Association.

During the luncheon, a welcome was given by Director, Mrs. Jean Coday, and information about the Crazy Quilt preservation work was presented by Tana Redman. An informational board was displayed with pictures of the quilt, as well as specific details of its hand-stitched preservation work.

A delicious catered meal was served to guests and was made complete with recipes from Mrs. Wilder's own collection. Music was provided throughout the meal by the Finley River Boys. William Anderson, author and Wilder Association Board member, put together a program along with Alison Arnglim (Nellie Oleson, Little House on the Prairie) and Charlotte Stewart (Miss Beadle, Little House on the Prairie). During their presentation, the trio spoke about Mrs. Wilder and her legacy throughout the world and shared many memories from her books and the television show.

Following the program, a necklace was auctioned off for the benefit of the quilt preservation. George Cleveland, grandson of President Grover Cleveland, served as the auctioneer. Additionally, silent auction items were available to support the cause as well.

A special thank you to everyone who worked hard to make the event a success! Over \$3,000 was made toward the preservation efforts.

## Justamere Event - Painting for Preservation



The second event to raise funds for the cost of preserving the Crazy Quilt is planned for **Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm**. We are proud to announce this event as the first Justamere Event at the Wilder home since Laura hosted one herself. All proceeds will be used to help recover the funds that were used to pay Museum Textile Services. The attendees for this Justamere Event will participate in a guided painting session where they will make their own 16 x 20 painting. The painting is then theirs to keep. There will be a break with refreshments and Mrs. Elsa Godding, of Springfield, will be playing Pa's fiddle. Guests will then have the opportunity to tour both of the historic homes and the museum. After the tours, there will be a conservation activity where guests will learn about, and practice, basic painting conservation techniques. Cost of the tickets is \$60 per person and this covers the materials, training sessions, tours, and refreshments. Space is limited to 30 participants.

Mrs. Wilder started the Justamere Club in Mansfield, Mo, during the summer of 1919. The Justamere Club was a women's club that met every month, typically on a Tuesday afternoon. Membership was limited to eighteen women, each of which had to take a turn hosting the monthly meeting in her own home. (Continued on p. 5)

## **Justamere Event** (Continued...)

During these monthly meetings, the ladies would discuss serious topics such as economic world conditions, politics, new books, inventions, discoveries, music, and new fashions. Each lady was expected to come prepared with an article for discussion, save the hostess. The hostess was tasked with preparing refreshments for the group. These refreshments had to be something that the hostess had never before made and the ladies were expected to eat them joyfully. One such unusual refreshment was served by Mrs. Wilder herself and consisted of whale meat sandwiches, cheese and strawberry preserves served French-style, candies from Switzerland, checkerboard bread and butter sandwiches, and coffee to drink.

Justamere Clubs, such as this, popped up all over the country during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Information about the clubs can be found amongst old newspaper articles. The clubs were all similar in mission and organization. The club in Mansfield had three officers, with Mrs. Wilder serving as one their first year. No woman was allowed to hold the same office twice. The club colors were green and white, with the red clover being the official flower. The music for the club song was composed by Jean Jacques Marquis le Chateau of Lake Geneva Switzerland, who made a guest appearance while traveling from the west coast to New York. The lyrics to the song, "We are all Good Friends", were written by Mrs. Wilder.

**T**he life of the earth  
comes up with a *rush*

**in the springtime.**

- Farmer Boy

**Would you like to contribute to the preservation of the Crazy Quilt? Visit  
[www.lauraingallswilderhome.com](http://www.lauraingallswilderhome.com)**

## BOOKSTORE **F**EATURE

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

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*Home and Museum*



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