

## Topic Page: [Wilder, Laura Ingalls, 1867-1957](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/wilder_laura_ingalls_1867_1957)

Summary Article: **Wilder, Laura (Elizabeth) Ingalls (1867–1957)**

From *The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide*

US children's novelist and pioneer. Her 'Little House' series, beginning with *Little House in the Big Woods* (1932), vividly describe her homesteading childhood and the life of the American West. Sequels include the classic *Little House on the Prairie* (1935). Wilder's family farmed in a number of states, and their experiences, adventures, and problems, including blizzards and destructive grasshoppers, are evocatively pictured in her work. The stories were televised in the 1950s, bringing them an international audience.

Born in Pepin, Wisconsin, Wilder moved soon afterwards to Missouri, and then to Kansas, where her father took up land under the Homestead Act (1862). The family returned to Wisconsin in 1870, where they had relatives, but Wilder's father still longed to be out west. In 1874, they went to Minnesota, then moved to Iowa, before finally settling in Dakota Territory. Wilder taught in the Dakota Territory (1882–85) and married Almanzo Wilder in 1885; they farmed in De Smet, South Dakota, until 1894, then moved to Mansfield, Missouri.

Wilder started writing articles for a variety of magazines, including the *Missouri Realist*, drawing on the pioneering experiences of both her own and her husband's family. Her daughter Rose suggested that she write her autobiography in 1930, and helped her to find a publisher for the first book. Its instant success encouraged Wilder to develop her memories into a classic series that continues to remain popular.

Others in the 'Little House' series include *By the Shores of Lake Silver* (1939), *Little Town on the Prairie* (1941), and *Those Happy Golden Years* (1943). By the end of the series, Wilder is married and a mother herself.

### **APA**

Chicago

Harvard

MLA

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## APA

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## Chicago

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## Harvard

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## MLA

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