

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Montpelier Parks & Recreation

211 North Jonesville Street  
P.O. Box 148  
Montpelier OH 43543

Phone: 419-485-3496

Fax: 419-485-4947

E-mail: [park@montpelieroh.org](mailto:park@montpelieroh.org)  
[www.montpelierpark.net](http://www.montpelierpark.net)

### Montpelier Public Library

216 East Main Street  
Montpelier OH 43543

Phone: 419-485-3287

[www.montpelierpubliclibrary.oplin.org](http://www.montpelierpubliclibrary.oplin.org)

### Williams County Historical Society

611 East Main Street  
P.O. Box 415  
Montpelier OH 43543

Phone: 419-485-8200

E-mail: [wchs@williams-net.com](mailto:wchs@williams-net.com)  
[www.williamscountyhistory.org](http://www.williamscountyhistory.org)

*Laura Ingalls Wilder*

Montpelier Public Library  
Montpelier Parks & Recreation  
Williams County Historical Society

## EXPLORE THE LIFE OF LAURA INGALLS WILDER



LAURA CIRCA 1880

DURING THE BOOK  
*BY THE SHORES  
OF SILVER LAKE*

AT ABOUT AGE 13

## HISTORY

Being born in a log cabin in a big woods in Wisconsin 1867 was not an easy way to start life but over Laura Ingalls Wilder's 90 years she learned to overcome adversity and turn that life experience into memorable stories for children.

Charles and Caroline Ingalls married in 1860 in Wisconsin. Their first child Mary was born in 1865. When Laura was 2 years old the family moved to Independence, Kansas in the heart of lands that still belonged to the Osage Indian nation. A sister, Carrie, joined the family in 1870. The family was forced to leave the Kansas prairie in 1871 and return to the Big Woods in Pepin, Wisconsin.

Laura was 7 in 1874 when the family moved to Walnut Grove, Minnesota and settled in a sod

banks dugout on the  
But of Plum Creek.  
and life was hard there  
and the family sought  
better fortunes in Burr  
Oak, Iowa in 1876.  
Grace Ingalls was born  
there in 1877.



LAURA AT 18

The family returned to Walnut Grove in 1878 and after Mary went blind in February of 1879

they moved by the shores of silver lake in the Dakota Territory in the fall. There they stayed, and they experienced the long winter and the growth of the town of De Smet, South Dakota.

New York natives Almanzo Wilder, his brother Royal and his sister Eliza Jane settled in DeSmet in 1879. Laura married Almanzo there in 1885. She was 18 and he was 28. Their daughter Rose was born in De Smet in 1886 but after the loss of a son, a bout of diphtheria that left Almanzo's feet partially crippled, and their house burning down the Wilder's moved from De Smet to Florida in 1891 for Almanzo's health. The humidity and unfamiliar environment compelled them to leave Florida in 1892. They returned to De Smet but moved on to Mansfield, Missouri in 1894 where they farmed the rest of their lives.

Laura wrote her first Little House book, *Little House in the Big Woods* in 1932 at the age of 65. 8 other books would eventually follow. Almanzo died at the age of 92 in 1949 and Laura died at their Rocky Ridge farm in 1957 leaving her legacy behind.



# CALENDAR

IN 2011 THE WILLIAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MONTPELIER PARKS & RECREATION DECIDED TO COLLABORATE ON A YEAR OF LITTLE HOUSE THEMED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS.

LOCAL RESOURCES, BOOKS, MUSIC, AND WEBPAGE INFORMATION FROM THE TOWNS WHERE LAURA LIVED WERE USED TO PIECE TOGETHER PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ENLIGHTEN, EDUCATE, AND DELIGHT PARTICIPANTS.

THOUGH MODERN IN METHODS AND WITH MODERN AMENITIES, MANY OF THE PROGRAMS WOULD BE FAMILIAR TO LAURA AND HER FAMILY. AND YET, THEY ARE JUST AS RELEVANT TODAY AS THEY WERE NEARLY 150 YEARS AGO WHEN LAURA WAS BORN.

PLEASE JOIN US IN 2012 AS WE EXPLORE THE LIFE OF LAURA INGALLS WILDER.

## January

- 10 Junior Genealogy; Adult Genealogy
- 12 Junior Genealogy; Adult Genealogy
- 16 Book Club — *Farmer Boy* (Part 1)
- 30 Book Club — *Farmer Boy* (Part 2)

## February

- 7 Valentine Cookies & Candy
- 9 Chocolate Tasting
- 13 Book Club — *Little House on the Prairie*
- 27 Book Club — *Little House on the Prairie*

## March

- 6 Cornbread & Butter
- 12 Book Club — *Little House in the Big Woods*
- 13 Cinnamon & Dinner Rolls
- 26 Book Club — *Little House in the Big Woods*

## April

- 3 Brownie Sod Houses
- 16 Book Club — *On the Banks of Plum Creek*
- 19 Cheese Tasting  
(Brian Schlatter — Canal Junction Cheese)
- 30 Book Club — *On the Banks of Plum Creek*

## May

- 10 Gardening Class
- 14 Book Club — *By the Shores of Silver Lake*
- 15 Little House Garden @ WCHS

## June

- 4 Book Club — *By the Shores of Silver Lake*

## July

- 16-20 Summer Reading Week

## August

- 8 Little House Garden @ WCHS

## September

- 10 Country Fair @ WCHS
- 10 Book Club — *The Long Winter*
- 22 Food Fair @ Library
- 24 Book Club — *The Long Winter*

## October

- 8 Book Club — *Little Town on the Prairie*
- 9 Cross Stitch Letter Sampler
- TBA Quilt Sampler
- 16 Cross Stitch Letter Sampler
- 22 Book Club — *Little Town on the Prairie*

## November

- 5 Book Club — *These Happy Golden Years*
- 10 Pie Making
- TBA Herb Class
- 19 Book Club — *These Happy Golden Years*
- 26 Little House Christmas

## December

- 3 Book Club — *The First Four Years*
- 6 Basket Making Class
- 17 Book Club — *The First Four Years*

## TO REGISTER

*Sign up at the Montpelier Public Library.*

<i>Book Club</i>	FREE	ages 8-11
<i>Junior Genealogy</i>	FREE	ages 8-12
<i>Adult Genealogy</i>	FREE	ages 15 & up
<i>Valentine Cookies</i>	\$5.00	ages 5-12
<i>Chocolate Tasting</i>	\$5.00	ages 15 & up
<i>Cornbread &amp; Butter</i>	\$5.00	ages 5-12
<i>Cinnamon Rolls</i>	\$5.00	ages 15 & up
<i>Brownie Sod Houses</i>	\$5.00	ages 5-12
<i>Cheese Tasting</i>	\$7.00	ages 15 & up
<i>Little House Garden</i>	FREE	ages 5-12
<i>Gardening Class</i>	\$2.00	ages 13 & up
<i>Summer Reading</i>	\$5.00	ages 5-12
<i>Country Fair</i>	FREE	ages 5-12
<i>Food Fair</i>	FREE	all ages
<i>Cross Stitch</i>	\$5.00	ages 8-12
<i>Quilt Sampler</i>	TBA	ages 18 & up
<i>Pie Making</i>	\$5.00	ages 5-12
<i>Herb Class</i>	TBA	ages 18 & up
<i>Little House Christmas</i>	FREE	ages 5-12
<i>Basket Making</i>	TBA	ages 18 & up

