



Little House Site Tours Newsletter

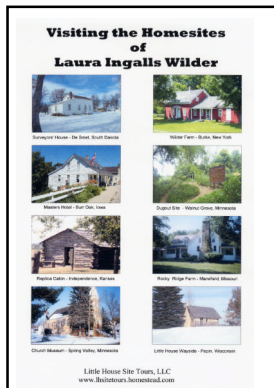
Visiting Places in the Life of Laura Ingalls Wilder

Summer 2005

www.lhsitetours.homestead.com

Volume 15

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE Season 8 & 9 DVD Collections Introduce “Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Site Tour” Created in part with photos provided by Little House Site Tours



More information is in newsletter.

When Little House actor turned producer, Dean Butler (Almanzo Wilder), set out to create the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Site Tour for the LHOP Season 8 & 9 DVD collections, he learned about Little House Site Tours from Merlene Brown, Director of the LIW Park & Museum in Burr Oak, Iowa.

“I felt like I had struck gold after speaking to Barb Hawkins,” said Butler. “She is not only a knowledgeable Little House historian, but she has photography and her “Visiting the Homesites of Laura Ingalls Wilder” DVD too. Knowing I wouldn’t be able to visit all the sites myself during the winter of 2005, I was incredibly grateful when Barb granted us permission to re-purpose some of her site photography in our project.”

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Site Tour debuts in the LHOP Season 8 & 9 DVD collections. Season 8, released in June 2005, features visits to Burr Oak, IA, Walnut Grove, MN, and the Ingalls Homestead in De Smet, SD. Season 9, coming in October 2005, will take viewers to Pepin, WI, Independence, KS, Burke, NY, and Spring Valley, MN. “The goal of the project is to encourage viewers to visit the places Laura lived and wrote about in her books,” said Butler. “We’re delighted that so many of the sites chose to participate, and we hope that Little House fans will call Barb Hawkins and Little House Site Tours when they’re ready to visit.”

2005 Caravan Tours Provide Great Fun

People from Japan and five different states took part in our caravan tours this summer. Our age range was 6 to 86. They continually remarked, “What a wonderful experience for all ages!”

Our tour participants enjoyed tremendous hospitality and wonderful guides. **Thanks to all of you who made us feel so welcome.**

Special Events at Little House on the Prairie, Independence, Kansas

Sept. 24, 2005 - Bluegrass on the Prairie Festival June 10, 2006 - Prairie Days Festival

Caravan Tour Highlights



A lesson at Sunnyside School

On the Kansas-Missouri Tour we enjoyed a picnic in Mansfield, after visiting Rocky Ridge Farm-built by Laura and Almanzo. We toured Rock House, where the Little House Books were begun. Lamar, Missouri is the birthplace of Harry S. Truman. In this home we noted so many things mentioned by Laura in the Little House Books.

The Prairie Days Festival was great fun-with two lessons in Sunnyside School, the one-room country school (pictured above). About thirty children dressed up for the Character Contest and a fiddler entertained with some old favorites!

Outdoor Pageant Tour



At Little House Wayside, Pepin, WI



Wading in Plum Creek, Walnut Grove, MN



Outside Masters Hotel, Burr Oak, IA

Our five vehicles traveled together to Spring Valley. There, Director Rose Kruegel gave a wonderful review of the Little House Books and the Wilder Years in Spring Valley, MN. At Burr Oak, Iowa, Director Merlene Brown provided many insights into the Ingalls Family, their years in this town, and life at the Masters Hotel. The Walnut Grove Museum with its many hands-on items and beautiful displays were enjoyed by all ages. We had a busy day in De Smet at the Ingalls Homestead, Surveyors' House, and Ingalls Home. The museums in Pepin provided a closer look at many things from Laura's era. All ages enjoyed the outdoor pageants in Walnut Grove and De Smet.

Malone, New York Tour



New Sign in Malone



Pumping water-Wilder Farm

We relived Almanzo's life in *Farmer Boy* with a tour of the Wilder Farm home, the reconstructed barns, and their museum, which has added many new items. A tour of Malone and time at the county fair took us back to Almanzo's era.

Edited by Barbara Hawkins
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lhsitetours@email.com

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