



## Before the Prairie Books: The Writings of Laura Ingalls Wilder 1911 - 1916: The Small Farm

*By Laura Ingalls Wilder, Dan L. White*

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### **Before the Prairie Books: The Writings of Laura Ingalls Wilder 1911 - 1916: The Small Farm** By Laura Ingalls Wilder, Dan L. White

Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote the American classic *Little House on the Prairie*, from which the award winning television show was taken. Her first book was published in 1932 but long before that Laura wrote magazine articles on small farming and country living. She and her husband Almanzo lived on a small farm near Mansfield, Missouri from 1894 until their deaths, his in 1949 and hers in 1957, and it is from that happy life that the spirit of her books sprang. Laura's articles are full of merriment, country lore, and old fashioned wisdom. They are the seed stock of the *Little House*® books.

“There is no place like a farm for raising children, where they can have in such abundance the fresh air and sunshine, with pure living water, good wholesome food and a happy outdoor life.”

“More than any other business, that of farming depends upon the home and it is almost impossible for any farmer to succeed without the help of the house. In the country the home is still depended upon to furnish bed and board and the comforts of life.”

“Life is often called a journey, “the journey of life.” Usually when referred to in these terms it is also understood that it is “a weary pilgrimage.” Why not call it a voyage of discovery and take it in the spirit of happy adventure?”

“The true way to live is to enjoy every moment as it passes and surely it is in the everyday things around us that the beauty of life lies.”

These nearly 40,000 words of Laura's writings are accompanied by setting and notes by Dan L. White, a fellow Ozarker who has lived for the last quarter century in Laura's neck of the woods and has authored several books on Laura, including *Laura's Love Story*, *Laura Ingalls' Friends Remember Her* and *Devotionals with Laura*.

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