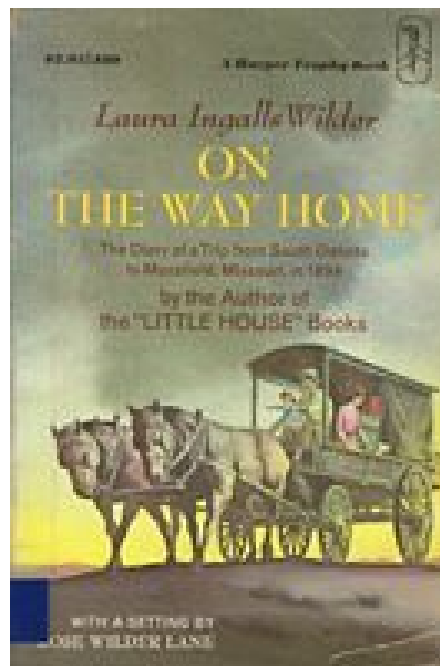




On the Way Home: The Diary of a Trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894

Laura Ingalls Wilder , Rose Wilder Lane (Contributor)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

On the Way Home: The Diary of a Trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894

Laura Ingalls Wilder , Rose Wilder Lane (Contributor)

On the Way Home: The Diary of a Trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894 Laura Ingalls Wilder , Rose Wilder Lane (Contributor)

In 1894, Laura Ingalls Wilder, her husband, Almanzo, and their daughter, Rose, packed their belongings into their covered wagon and set out on a journey from De Smet, South Dakota, to Mansfield, Missouri. They heard that the soil there was rich and the crops were bountiful -- it was even called "the Land of the Big Red Apple." With hopes of beginning a new life, the Wilders made their way to the Ozarks of Missouri.

During their journey, Laura kept a detailed diary of events: the cities they passed through, the travelers they encountered on the way, the changing countryside and the trials of an often difficult voyage. Laura's words, preserved in this book, reveal her inner thoughts as she traveled with her family in search of a new home in Mansfield, where Rose would spend her childhood, where Laura would write her Little House books, and where she and Almanzo would remain all the rest of their happy days together.

On the Way Home: The Diary of a Trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894 Details

Date : Published October 20th 1976 by Harper & Row (first published 1962)

ISBN : 9780064400800

Author : Laura Ingalls Wilder , Rose Wilder Lane (Contributor)

Format : Paperback 101 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Classics, History, Autobiography, Memoir, Biography

 [Download On the Way Home: The Diary of a Trip from South Dakota ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online On the Way Home: The Diary of a Trip from South Dakot ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online On the Way Home: The Diary of a Trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894 Laura Ingalls Wilder , Rose Wilder Lane (Contributor)

From Reader Review On the Way Home: The Diary of a Trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894 for online ebook

Angela Newton says

This was an excellent book. I am an avid Laura fan and this charming book did not dissappoint. Fascinating story about the Wilder's trip, with some wonderful passages by Laura's daughter, Rose, as well. VERY interesting pics as well. Laura"s charm, good humor, spunk and tenacity shown forth, as always. A must read for any Laura fan or anyone who enjoys American pioneer history.

Jean says

A friend of mine loaned me a thin hard cover book of the diary of a trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri in 1894 by Laura Ingalls Wilder 1867-1957). The forward of the book is written by Rose Wilder Lane (1886-1968) the daughter of LIW. There are a number of pictures in the book which I found most interesting.

In 1894 South Dakota was stricken by a severe drought and the depression of the 1890s was under way. Laura and Almanzo Wilder decided to move to the Ozarks. Laura kept a day-to- day diary of the trip. Their daughter, Rose Wilder, was seven years old during this trip. Wilder wrote the Little House on the Prairie (eight books in all) for children in the 1930s using her diaries as reference. They traveled in a covered wagon pulled by two horses. Laura describes the towns passed through; there are pictures of Schuyler, Nebraska; Marysville, Kansas; Topeka, Kansas; Fort Scott, Kansas and Mansfield, Missouri. Laura also included information about crops, birds, fruits and flowers seen along the way. I think it would be fun to drive this route from De Smet, South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri following the route they took as closely as possible, taking photographs to compare with those in the book. I found the photograph of a lap desk made of wood with a lid to keep writing supplies inside most interesting. Almanzo made it for Laura so she would have a comfortable way of writing. We are having our drought problems today in California so I could relate to the song Laura wrote about being sung in South Dakota in the 1890s. The words are as follows:

O Dakota land, sweet Dakota land,
As on thy burning soil I stand
And look away across the plains
I wonder why it never rains,
Till Gabriel blows his trumpet sound
And says the rain has gone around.
We don't live here, we only stay
'Cause we're too poor to get away.

I noted the book was copyrighted in 1962 by Roger Lea MacBride (1929-1995). He called himself "the adopted grandson" of Rose Wilder Lane, the daughter of LIW. He copyrighted three additional books and a series about the childhood of Rose Wilder. He also co-produced the 1970s TV series "Little House on the Prairie." After his death a law suit was filed by the Mansfield, Missouri Library. They contended that Wilder's original Will gave her daughter ownership of the literary estate only for her life time and all rights reverted to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Library, the case was settled out of court.

Jessica says

I thought this book was very enjoyable. I've seen many reviews in which people went into it thinking it was going to be another Little House book, but what you have to remember is that when Laura wrote this she never meant to publish it. It was simply a little diary she kept on the 650-mile journey from De Smet, South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri that she wrote in a 5-cent notebook. It lacks the polish of her most famous works, but it's still fascinating for all Laura Ingalls Wilder fans. Lurking underneath the text you can catch glimpses of the little girl on the prairie that many of us read about in our childhood and the few pictures included in the volume are just plain neat. It's nice to be able to put a face on the characters we feel as though we already know intimately. Laura herself looks poised, but her eyes have a far away, dreamy look in them (no doubt inherited by her restless Pa) and quiet Almanzo was (dare I say it?) downright sexy! Little Rose looks the picture of a sophisticated young lady in her tiny pearls and carnelian ring that she was so adamant to display. The book has a forward and afterwards of sorts and footnotes to clarify certain points by Rose Wilder Lane, which are helpful in rounding things out and explaining bits of the life that us as modern folks are not well-versed in. In short, if you're a fan of the Little House on the Prairie books, you'll probably be very interested in this short book. If you're not a fan, you'll most likely be bored by it.

Missy says

I am such a Little House fan that I don't think I could ever give any of the books less than 4 stars. I'm not ashamed to say it: I am an adult, and the Little House books are still some of my favorites to read. This book is actually Laura's journal from her move to South Dakota to Missouri, which she wrote in everyday. The more I read these books, the more thankful I become that I was born when I was, rather than in the 1800's.

Emily Hunholz says

I read "On the Way Home" when I was a kid and just couldn't appreciate it like I do now. It is a travel log that Laura kept on her journey from De Smet to Mansfield. Most of the book is just a record of the Wilder family's daily activities with little of the beautiful prose I'm so used to in Laura's books. As a child, I couldn't hear Laura's voice, and I got bored with the seemingly monotonous details. Now, I can read between the lines a little more, and I find it fascinating.

I now can recognize the less than happy aspects of the Wilders' lives. There is a definite hopelessness in this family. They went through so much, and they were leaving their family for an unknown future in Mansfield. Rose, who contributes the prologue and epilogue, seems to harbor a lot of bitterness, and I don't know if I can blame her. It was jarring to see Laura in a less-than-shining light, but she doesn't seem to give her daughter much attention. Rose is only mentioned by name 3-4 times throughout the whole journal. She also seems very distant toward Rose. It was definitely a different glimpse of my childhood hero.

With my grown-up eyes, I can also now see that this really was the same woman who wrote the Little House books. Though the style is entirely different, there is still some humor. Here are a few examples: "I went to a house to buy milk. It was swarming with children and pigs; they looked a good deal alike." "We crossed 11 creeks today, or one creek 11 times, I don't know which."

Finally, I loved reading her descriptions of places that I know well and routes that I travel often. She describes Lamar as one of the nicest towns they passed. Springfield had four booming business blocks and was "simply grand." She described the squares of Seymour and Mansfield, and they don't seem to have changed all that much.

This book is definitely more raw and honest than the Little House books. It really helped me see a different side of Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Amy Edwards says

Although much of this book is merely diary excerpts from Laura's travel journal, it's fascinating to see what she jots down about her trip with Manly and Rose from DeSmet, South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri.

Some of the places she traveled through are familiar to us, so that makes it especially interesting.

However, I have to say that the "Setting by Rose Wilder Lane," as the book states it, is almost what makes the book. Laura's diary is introduced by her daughter Rose, who provided photos and captions, and also wrote an epilogue that gives the rest of the story, since Laura's diary abruptly ends upon their arrival in Mansfield. It was a pleasure to read aloud to my son (ten years old). He seemed to be hanging on every word, actually, as I read Lane's description of the Wilders' camp in Mansfield, Manly's hunt for property, their careful preparation for the momentous outing to the bank, and the ensuing catastrophe. It's no wonder Laura didn't like to think about that time. And yet Rose, who was eight when they arrived in Mansfield, gives us a vivid picture of what it must have felt like for Laura and Manly. Nice writing by Rose Wilder Lane.

Elizabeth says

Still struggling to catch up with my backlog of Laura Ingalls Wilder-related reading that I did last summer in preparation for our tour, which I'd also like to record eventually!

This diary of Laura's trip from South Dakota to the Ozarks, as a young woman with a small daughter, in the wake of many domestic disasters that prompted the move, is one of the things that makes me totally discount the notion that Rose Wilder Lane (Laura's daughter) "wrote" the Little House books for Laura, a currently fashionable notion. Laura's voice in this diary is so strong and so honest, as is her ability to tell a good story, to capture character, and to set an incredible scene. The most frustrating thing about the book is its sudden end - explained in Rose's afterword by the emotional and financial crisis of the assumed loss of the \$100 bill that was supposed to be the down-payment for the Wilder's new property. I would *love* to have more of this diary. (I also love Rose's memories of the trip that frame the diary entries, and wouldn't mind more of them, either.)

Here's a thing from Laura's diary:

We all stopped and looked back at the scene and I wished for an artist's hand or a poet's brain or even to be able to tell in good plain prose how beautiful it was. If I had been the Indians I would have scalped more white folks before I ever would have left it. (23 July, 1894, p. 23-24)

I love the palpable longing in her feeling of inadequacy to describe the beauty and emotional impact of what

she sees. I love the glimpse we get at her understanding of the political issues that have brought her to this place, and her uncomfortable sympathy for the people who have been displaced and scapegoated in order to give her the freedom of being here. And I love that in fact she *is* up to the task of describing it, and does so for generations to come.

Here's another thing, from Rose's afterword, when the 5-year-old Rose has inadvertently spoiled a small surprise her father had wanted to give her mother:

You do such things, little things, horrible, cruel, without thinking, not meaning to. You have done it; nothing can undo it. This is a thing you can never forget. (p. 94)

And it's so amazing to me that this hard piece of small-child wisdom can still have power to hurt and instruct, so many years later. And it's for this reason that I love the individual writings of Laura Ingalls Wilder, and of Rose Wilder Lane, and the collaboration of these women. There's still so much to learn from them.

Alyssa Nelson says

I was very much a fan of the Little House on the Prairie series, so I was interested to read a book that was simply a diary from Laura, rather than a children's story that was based on Laura's experiences as a little girl. Laura's daughter Rose provides context and notes to explain what's going on, and this book also includes pictures so that the reader can get an idea for what Laura and her family saw and experienced on this trip.

On the Way Home is a super short read — I read it in one sitting, and it provides a nice snapshot for how Laura and her family really lived — much more realistic than the children's books, at least. It's much more honest and shows a different side of the Ingalls/Wilder family than is portrayed in the books — their situation seems a lot more difficult and harsher than I ever realized as a child reading the children's books. I really enjoyed Rose's commentary throughout, and I loved being able to read what Laura observed during her trip. Her entries are short, so by seeing what she includes, you can get a sense of what she cares about and what she worries about. It's so interesting to see what the midwest was like during those times, and I kept bugging my husband while I was reading to share fun facts as I read through the book.

I would definitely recommend this for Little House on the Prairie fans. It's written in diary form, so it's different than the books, but the pictures are fantastic and it's worth a read. I don't think smaller children would be very interested in it, but older children might like it.

Also posted on Purple People Readers.

Brittany R says

This book is interesting for a few reasons. It's a categorical account of the Wilder's trip from De Smet, SD to Mansfield, MO, including the cost for various work tasks and the number of wagons traveling both ways down the trail. Now, I know that sounds kind of boring and a lot of people think it is. But I found it really fascinating. It's chock full of information that historians and history nerds find fascinating about that time. As a farm wife, the cost of labor and its products were fascinating to Laura. The fact that it fascinated her,

fascinated me as well. It's also interesting reading Rose's thoughts.

Published after Laura's death, Rose wrote the introduction and the postscript – an eye-opening read for anyone in love with Laura, especially a young kid, to happen across. Rose is simultaneously generous and vitriolic toward her parents.

The vitriole is, of course, difficult to read. After reading eight books and reconnecting with Laura, I don't want to read any negative thoughts about her. Also, throughout those eight books, Laura was very clear about her own shortcomings. I definitely didn't want to read someone else's negative thoughts about her.

Rose used her position to point out how perfect and precocious she was. There's the photo of her as a two year old, which she clearly recalls posing for. Then she states that she was far too advanced for De Smet elementary (even as a second grader). Anyone, particularly Laura, insinuating that she wasn't perfect or simply reminding her of the rules as any attentive parent would, was subject to her indignation.

This fact is evidenced in the events that happened when the family arrived in Mansfield. The down payment money they'd saved for months was missing. Laura and Almanzo were frantic. Laura asked Rose several times if she'd touched the money, showed it to anyone or told anyone about it. Rose was adamant that she hadn't and so mad at the implication that as an adult she was still traumatized by the incident. It's understandable that she'd be upset about this as a child, but to be upset enough to remember it into adulthood with such bitterness is just bizarre.

Again, I will state that this book shouldn't be shelved as children's lit. It's far too dry and confusing. But as a look back at the time for an adult, it was definitely fascinating.

Connie D says

This should be fascinating to anyone, like me, who is interested in American history and/or family history from this area and/or Laura Ingalls Wilder. This trip takes place when Laura and Almanzo and their 7-year-old daughter Rose give up farming in South Dakota and travel by covered wagon to Missouri and hopefully a better life. I enjoyed, as in regular the Laura Ingalls Wilder books, the details of life at the time.

If you're not interested in American history or geography or LIW, you probably won't enjoy it that much.

Jennie says

I have far too much emotional attachment to rate this objectively, but I did like reading a more candid piece of writing from her.

????? ????? says

???????????????????? ?????????????????????????????????????
???????????????????????? ?????????????????????????????????
????????????????????????????????????

???????? ??????????????????????
????????? 8 ??????

sabisteb aka callisto says

Nachdem das junge Paar Laura und Manly Wilder mehrere Jahre in Folge nur Missernten eingefahren haben, beschließen die beiden 1894 mit ihrer Tochte Rose von DeSmet nach Mansfield in das Land des großen roten Apfels zu ziehen. Mit der befreundeten Familie Cooley ziehen Laura, Manly und Rose mit einem Pferdegespann in die Ozarks in Missouri. Während dieser Reise führt Laura Tagebuch, damit sie den Lieben daheim getreulich berichten kann, was sie auf dieser Reise erlebt hat.

Dieses Buch ist der Abschluss der „Little House Series“, da viele Fans der Reihe wissen wollten, wie es mit Laura und Almanzo (Manly) weiterging, nachdem Laura nach Almanzos Tod nicht mehr an der Reihe weiterschreiben wollte. 1962 gab Rose Wilder Lane, Lauras Tochter, dem Bitten der vielen Fans nach und tippte das Tagebuch ihrer Mutter über die Reise von DeSmet nach Mansfield zur veröffentlich ab. Es ist eigentlich nicht ganz korrekt, dass Laura Ingalls Wilder als Autor des Buches angegeben ist, denn Rose versah die Aufzeichnungen mit einem Vor- und Nachwort in denen sie die Ereignisse abrundet, wie sie sie als Kind erlebt hat und sich an sie erinnert. Man sieht diese Reise also aus zwei Perspektiven, der der erwachsenen Laura Ingalls Wilder und durch die Kinderaugen von Rose. Abgerundet wird dieser Bericht mit Fotos aus der damaligen Zeit. Das Tagebuch befindet sich im „Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum“ in Mansfield, Missouri.

Das Vor- und Nachwort sind unterhaltsam zu lesen, das Tagebuch jedoch ist eigentlich nur für Historiker interessant, die wissen möchten, wie hoch das Korn wo stand und wie viel gewisse Güter und Grundstücke damals kosteten. Minutiös listet Laura Ingalls Wilder jeden Tag auf, wann genauso sie losgefahren sind, die Temperatur wird exakt notiert, welche Strecke sie genommen haben, wie die Straßen waren, wie hoch das Korn stand, ... Zwischendurch gibt es durchaus einige Begegnungen und Ereignisse, die interessant zu lesen sind, das Meiste jedoch ist gähnend langweilig. Selbst Fans der Serie dürften nicht in Begeisterungstürme ob dieses Buchs ausbrechen und für Kinder ist es schon mal gar nicht geeignet.

Lynn says

This really sets the stage for the Little House books! Ah, the Dust Bowl/drought and a reminder that so many traveled back and forth and yon in "the Wild West" before settling down. Another reminder (in addition to The Jam on the Vine) that the west was settled by so many recent immigrants to the U.S., not just the Eastern European immigrants who first landed here--'cause they were all immigrants, after all! (Woe to the indigenous folks... :() The daunting task of purchasing land and then the need to "clear" it to make it suitable for tilling and pasture. So much hard labor required! You had to be hardy in both body and soul!

Sarah Sammis says

Last night I took a break from the heavier reading (Mr. Ripley) to read something short: On the Way Home by Laura Ingalls Wilder and Rose Wilder Lane. The heart of the book is a short diary of the Wilder family's migration from De Smet to the Ozarks during a crop failure in 1894. Laura's contribution is a diary of brief entries for each day, mostly noting where they had traveled, what they ate and how hot it was. Rose's

introduction, conclusion and periodic annotations flush this diary out to explain the hardships the family faced at that time.

The most poignant bit of the 115 page book is the disappearance of their nest egg, a single one hundred dollar bill hidden away inside a lap desk that Almanzo had built for Laura. Having traveled for six weeks and hundreds of miles on the hope of buying a new homestead in the Ozarks their dreams are nearly dashed when they arrive. The money isn't in the desk. Did their traveling companions take it? Did Rose play with it and lose it? Did it fall out? Read the book to find out what happened.

I can relate to this story of the secret bill. I'm currently carrying a secret bill of the same amount with me. It was a gift last Christmas and with our tight budget I don't want to spend it on the wrong thing. I'm still trying to decide what to spend it on. In the meantime I keep it close just in case I need it.

Emma says

Rereading this for the first time since I was a kid and found this on the shelf in the common room of the campground in New Glasgow, PEI where we stayed at every summer. The absolute horror of the missing \$100 bill incident is undimmed by the passage of time.

Great Book Study says

The most interesting part of this short book is meeting Rose Wilder as an adult, filling in the before and after story of her mother's journal. And yet still a nice little addition to your Little House collection if you are a fan. My review: On the Way Home.

Hannah says

A very good story of Laura's last pilgrimage, definitely interesting to read through for Little House fans but also to those interested in the early years of the Midwest. The details of the communities and the pricing of things was interesting; I'd have enjoyed it more if there were some way of knowing if the prices were low or high, but of course there's no clue for what reasonable wheat/coal/corn prices were back in that time.

Alana says

I hadn't heard of these last couple of Little House books until recently. It's not technically in the Little House series, but does continue to follow the Wilder family on their journey to Rocky Ridge Farm in Missouri, where Rose lived out her growing-up years.

The observations Laura makes in her diary along the way definitely show she's lived the previous years as a farmer's wife: there are notations about how good the crops and land look, how much wheat and other crops are selling by the bushel, how much land costs in various locations, etc. Though a bit tedious in places, it certainly shows her mentality and the urgency of finding a good piece of land, enough to survive upon.

Carmen says

Reading Laura's dry diary gave me much insight into this practical pioneer. I liked her as much as ever. I also enjoyed the way my mind had to build the details of the trip (Laura cooking at all these strange places, sleeping out in the open on others' property, sweating like crazy in ridiculous temps, how such a careful person could lose a thermometer). But this is for only two types of readers: hard core Little House people, and history buffs. All others will probably be underwhelmed.
