

Pioneers enjoyed a unique opportunity. As the first to arrive in a wild and undeveloped country, they faced a blank canvas on which they could build a new way of life. Though their hopes and dreams were often fraught with many hardships and disappointments the spirit of a true pioneer never wavered. Laura Ingalls had known no other life and the determination and strength of character that she developed has served as an inspiration to countless young girls.

Pioneer life demanded hard work, not an environment that supported the restrictive Victorian fashion of the time. Typically, prairie girls wore

simple cotton frocks covered with a simple cotton apron to keep them clean. The desire to be fashionable was still important to many women however, and copies of "Godey's Ladies Books" were treasured items. Sunday dresses were given special attention. Though silk fabrics and fancy trims were out of the question, the fashion plates in Godey's provided inspiration to dress up the simple cotton fabrics that were available. In the picture of Laura and her sisters, the girls wear dresses cut in the fashionable princess line style. During the 1870s and 1880s layered and draped skirts were very popular. These took up a lot of fabric,

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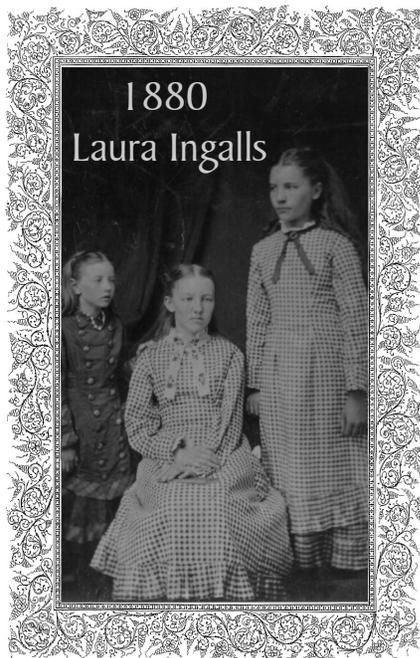
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Books By Laura Ingalls Wilder:

- "Little House in the Big Woods"
- "Little House on the Prairie"
- "Farmer Boy"
- "On the Banks of Plum Creek"
- "By the Shores of Silver Lake"
- "The Long Winter"
- "Little Town on the Prairie"
- "These Happy Golden Years"
- "The First Four Years"
- "The Way Home"
- "West From Home"

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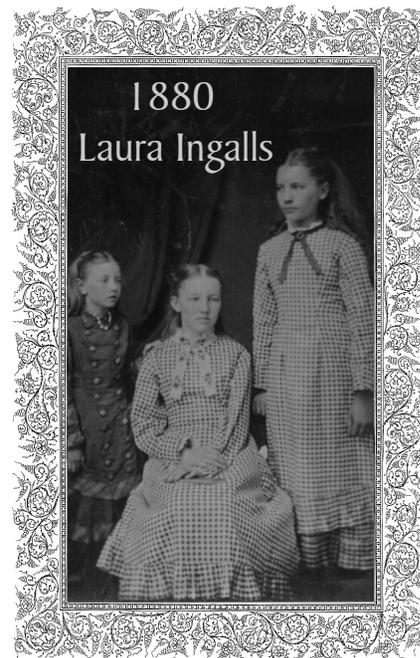


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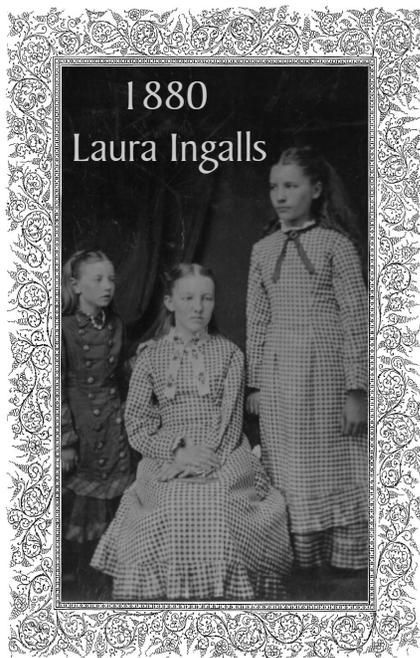


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