

Chickadee Chatter

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Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

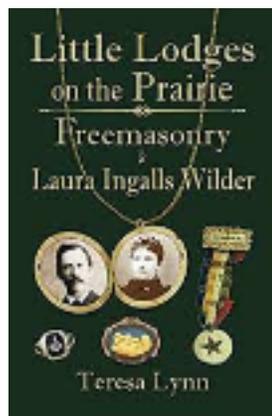
Brenda L. Hall, Worthy Grand Matron

David M. Cole, Worthy Grand Patron

Book Review

Little Lodges on the Prairie: Freemasonry & Laura Ingalls Wilder Paperback – Published July 27, 2014 – book review by Stacy Anthony.

Laura Ingalls Wilder is perhaps best known for her book series *Little House on the Prairie*. The tales told in these volumes became even better known when the series was adapted for television, running from the late 1970's to the early 1980's, and starring Michael Landon and Melissa Gilbert.



Wilder's stories of a rugged life on the American frontier appeal to people from all walks of life and different generations. Less discussed, however, is how Wilder's own life helped to influence the series, including her family's deep involvement in Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern Star. *Little Lodges on the Prairie* takes a deep dive into this topic, providing an excellent resource on how Freemasonry shaped the author's life.

Laura and Caroline Ingalls were both members of the Order of the Eastern Star. In fact, Laura herself served as Worthy Matron no less than three times. The book does a fantastic job of documenting the involvement of both the Ingalls and Wilder families involvement in the Craft, including the organizations with which they were affiliated, the offices they held, and examples how committed they were to the Fraternity.

Of particular interest are the scanned copies of minutes and other documents supporting the research, giving the reader a first-hand opportunity to see the source material. The book

is also filled with pictures of places and mementos, really helping the story to come to life.

The only down-side for a Fraternal reader is that the book does spend some significant page space discussing what Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern are. This might be a frustration for some, but we are reminded that not every reader is familiar with our Fraternity and may need some background information. This is a small price to pay for such a well-crafted and documented piece of historical research.

As we all find ourselves with more time on our hands due to current events, we heartily recommend this book to our members. It's an enjoyable read that helps us to see the influence of the Order of the Eastern Star on a piece of popular culture that is quite familiar. For this reviewer, it certainly helped to rekindle my love of our Order and makes me want to learn more.

You can purchase the book on Amazon by simply searching *Little Lodges on the Prairie*.

Quickie Questions

(Answers on page two)

1. What is the clue for the Warder as to when to make the raps?
2. What's the difference between a merger and a consolidation?
3. When the prayer circle is being formed, when do the sideliners assume the reverent attitude?
4. Do we applaud in Maine after giving Grand Honors?
5. How long should the Star Points sign be held?

The Three W's

1. Wash your hands
2. Wear a mask
3. Watch your distance

Heroines Wore Different Hats

Although in the Order of the Eastern Star we can't wear visible hats in the chapter room so that nothing is between us and our God, we all wear a variety of hats as we go through life. All of us have worn the hat of a son or daughter. Most have worn the hat of a sister or a brother and perhaps a mother or a father. We wear the hat of a cook, the chauffeur, the maid, the bread earner, the homemaker, and all have worn the hat of being a friend. The heroines of our Order also wore many hats, but we remember them especially for the hats of a daughter, the widow, the wife, the sister, and the mother.

Adah enjoyed the love of her father and family. It was the custom of that time for men to make a vow, and to keep the vow. Jephthah, her father, made a vow, and to keep him from dishonor she gave her life. In every generation, men and women have made vows and broken them. But there have been men and women who kept their vows in spite of all adversities. And in keeping the faith untarnished they have brought to human experience the glory of immortality. Adah wore the hat of a daughter.

When Ruth went with Naomi back to her homeland she left her relatives and friends to go into a strange land among strange people. After she left her kindred she became a gleaner in the harvest fields of Boaz. His love for her and her marriage to him brought about a new family. Out of that union was born Obed who was the father of Jesse, her grandson. Her great-grandson was David. And from that branch of Jesse of the House of David came Jesus. Perhaps the love and devotion that Ruth had for Naomi was handed down through her line into the life of Jesus. Ruth wore the hat of a widow.

Esther's love for her people was stronger than her love for her own life. When she appeared before the King to plead for the lives of her people, she knew if the King saw fit he could put her under the sentence of death. But she had decided that the life of her own people was worth more than her own and was willing to die to save her kindred and her race. The King forgave her for entering his presence with her plea and her people were saved. If she had not loved her people more than life itself, she would not have been willing to offer herself to the King. Esther wore the hat of a wife.

When Jesus visited Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, they often talked of things of which the world then little knew or dreamed. They knew that days of sorrow were ahead. Some of the things Jesus said to them, they did not understand the meaning. When Lazarus' death occurred, Martha knew that had Jesus been there her brother would not have died. But when Jesus came and spoke the words that brought Martha's brother, Lazarus forth from the tomb, many were filled with amazement. Martha wore the hat of a sister.

Electa was sure that had she lived in the time when Jesus walked the streets of Galilee her heart would have recognized Him as the Christ. When she heard the story from St. John her very soul melted within her. She humbly knelt at the foot of the glorified cross and wept her sins away. So the soldiers came. They knew she had been a pagan and had not always believed as a Christian. So they tried to frighten her. They threatened her and told her to trample the cross under her feet. They handed her a small cross so that she could really trample it in the dust. But in her heart she knew that what John had told her was true. And by holding the image of that cross of shame in her heart, it became a glorified cross for her. She could not deny her Lord. Electa wore the hat of a mother.

Worthy Matron, you too, will be wearing many hats as you serve your chapter as its Worthy Matron. Your officers and members will assist you in all you undertake and I know that you will have a enjoyable year.

Quickie Answers

1. When the Bible is open, the Warder makes the raps. When it is closed, no raps are needed.
2. A merger has one chapter giving up its name and number and going into another chapter. A consolidation, both chapters give up the name and number and form a new chapter with a new name and number.
3. When the Chaplain reaches the West side of the Altar. Ritual, Page 78
4. No. Tradition in Maine is the highest honor that can be given is Grand Honors anyone else can be applauded. Grand Honors explained on page 17 of Ritual
5. Until the Passes have been given, Ritual, Page 34

Thanksgiving Blessings Mix

- Bugles Shaped like little cornucopia or Horn of Plenty, a symbol of our nation's abundance.
- Pretzels Arms folded in prayer, a freedom sought by those who founded our country.
- Popcorn The sacrifices of the Pilgrims first winter – food was so scarce that settlers survived on just a few kernels of corn a day.
- Seeds Promise of a future harvest, one we will reap only if seeds are planted and tended with diligence.
- Dried Fruit Harvest gifts from our bountiful land.
- M & M's Memories of those who came before us to lead us into a blessed future.
- Hershey Kiss The love of family and friends that sweeten our lives.

Where Else —

- are we able to say the Pledge of Allegiance to our great nation's flag?
- are we able to sing the Star Spangled Banner?
- does the Holy Bible rest upon an altar we hold so sacred?
- is the Holy Bible opened with such reverent attitude?
- is a meeting opened and closed with prayer?
- are you sitting by the open word of God?
- do we have five heroines from the Bible in our midst?
- do we find Adah who surrendered her life to preserve her father's name?
- do we find Ruth who felt it her duty to care for her aging mother-in-law?
- do we find Esther, a Jewish damsel willing to risk life itself to save her people?
- do we find Martha putting her trust in Jesus our Savior?
- do we find Electa, a lady of great charity and hospitality?
- are we of different faiths able to call each other Sister and Brother?
- do you find charity, harmony, hospitality, love, kindness, and thoughtfulness?

Where else? Of course, Eastern Star.

Autumn

S C A R E C R O W S E L P P A
 P Q E C O L O R S L L A F U C
 I D U R A K E A S E E R T A O
 D L E A V E S N F B C U G V R
 E D H E S D F G R G M W R E N
 R P G A R H H E O N U O A G R
 S Q U I R R E L S I S R T E O
 L U B M T V H I T G H R I T C
 L E N J P E E A K N R A T A L
 A C R F H K K S Y A O B U B W
 B I M I L D I C T H O L D L O
 T D M A F O R N A C M E E E L
 O E N O I N W U S J S E I S L
 O R P Q R Z O E O S T H P U E
 F O L I A G E B R G V W W A Y

Acorn	Frost	Rake
Apples	Gourd	Red
Autumn	Gratitude	Scarecrows
Birds	Harvest	Spiders
Bonfire	Hay	Squash
Changing	Jacket	Squirrels
Cider	Leaves	Sunflower
Colors	Maize	Trees
Corn	Mushrooms	Vegetables
Fall	Orange	Wheelbarrow
Foliage	Pie	Yellow
Football	Pumpkins	

Web Site

The Maine Order of the Eastern Star's web site is: <http://www.maineoes.org> – this is the place to go to when you want information about our Order in Maine. Current Grand Officers, Chapters and addresses for them, various forms, and a listing of the meetings in Maine etc. Sister Kathy Williamson is the Web Administrator and her email is kackyw@gmail.com.

Chickadee Chatter

Chickadee Chatter is the newsletter that will be published during the 2020-2021 year and distributed currently through *Star News*. If you'd like items printed in it, email it to corleybyras@gmail.com or send it by snail mail to Corley Anne Byras, 72 Smith Street, Unit 4, Augusta, ME 04330.

Star News

Please email items for posting on *Star News* to corleybyras@gmail.com and to receive the *Star News* please send your email address to the same email.

Thanksgiving Word Scramble

1. rcon _____
2. ukppmin _____
3. krueyt _____
4. omfaylwer _____
5. niwsebho _____
6. ciarrbesne _____
7. spmiligr _____
8. ricdukmts _____
9. dnenir _____
10. syam _____
11. solrl _____
12. eremnbv _____
13. gobabl _____
14. dessret _____
15. ngstufif _____
16. uyhtarsd _____
17. efats _____
18. rgavy _____
19. nnasidi _____
20. rbeda _____

2. In what year did the first American Thanksgiving celebration take place?
 - a. 1900
 - b. 1492
 - c. 1621
 - d. 1776
3. How long did the first Thanksgiving Feast last?
 - a. One Day
 - b. One Week
 - c. Three Days
 - d. Four Days
4. What does the term cornucopia mean?
 - a. Corn husks
 - b. Horn of Plenty
 - c. A Greek
 - d. A traditional corn dish
5. Approximately how many feathers does a mature turkey have?
 - a. 750
 - b. 1,599
 - c. 3,500
 - d. 4,000
6. Which US State produces the most turkeys annually?
 - a. Minnesota
 - b. North Carolina
 - c. Missouri
 - d. Arkansas
7. How fast can wild turkeys run?
 - a. 15 mph
 - b. 55 mph
 - c. 5 mph
 - d. 25 mph
8. Which country consumes the most turkeys per year per capita.
 - a. Israel
 - b. United States
 - c. Mexico
 - d. Germany
9. How high must a cranberry bounce before it is harvested?
 - a. 6 inches
 - b. 8 inches
 - c. 3 inches
 - d. 4 inches
10. Who was the first President to make Thanksgiving a national holiday?
 - a. Washington
 - b. Lincoln
 - c. Jefferson
 - d. Roosevelt

Thanksgiving Trivia

1. How many pilgrims came over on the Mayflower?
 - a. 89
 - b. 102
 - c. 185
 - d. 217

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Corn | 11. Rolls | 20. Bread | 10. Lincoln |
| 2. Pumpkin | 12. November | | |
| 3. Turkey | 13. Gobble | | |
| 4. Mayflower | 14. Dessert | | |
| 5. Wishbone | 15. Stuffing | | |
| 6. Cranberries | 16. Thursday | | |
| 7. Pilgrims | 17. Feast | | |
| 8. Drumstick | 18. Gravy | | |
| 9. Dinner | 19. Indians | | |
| 10. Yams | | | |