# Homestead Proof Testimony of Almanzo Wilder September 12, 1884 South Dakota

Almanzo Wilder was the husband of Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the *Little House on the Prairie* book series.

Courtesy <u>National Archives and Records Admninistration</u> Records of the Bureau of Land Management, 595419







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HOMESTEAD PROOF --- TESTIMONY OF WITNESS. al Sheldon being called as a witness in support of the Homestead entry of Cliccours & Wilder for US - 21-11-56 testifies as follows: Ques. 1-What is your occupation, and where is your residence? Ins. Fermer Sec 10-111-56. Ques. 2- Have you been well acquainted with alwangs & Wilder the claimant, in this case over since the mate his Homestead entry No. Ans the for 5 Millie to had Take. And at you klowed and 3 3 Water Infor To mat the Ques. 3 Was claimant qualified to make said entry? (State whether the settler was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, or the head of a family, and whether he ever made a former Homestead entry. Ins. Yet. atique of U.S. our er yes old. Single. neuro made former he witry. Ques. 4-When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon? (Describe the dwelling and other improvements, siving total value thereof.) Ans, about Oct 12 187? Same Time. House of rame-about 12 forguan. 2 don. I window. Stable fram - well for allar. acres broken & culturaled. Some true. Value at les Ques. 5 - Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon? Ins. Sengle man. Residence continuous Ques. 6-For what period or periods has the settler been absent from the land since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did claimant's family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence? At times . Ins: Wasting marily struct, working on the A.R. and varting in him not man than about & mouths at a time Ques. 7-How much of the homestead has the settler cultivated, and for how many seasons did he rise crops thereon? cryss a part 4 year braking 5-yes. Ins. Corre culturated about 20 acres of wheat this year 1864. raise crops therein? Ques. 8-. Are there any indications of coal, salines or other minerals of any kind on the Homestead? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes.) ins. no. no. mure valuable for agriculture Ques. 9 Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell, any portion of said Homestead? Ans. 2007 to my According Ques. 10 Are you interested in this claim ; and do you think the settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry? Think the haracter in good fuild. Way what to clowiant I hereby certify that the witness is a person of respectability; that the foregoing testimony was read to him before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this day of September 188 4 UfBarus texoffici cluk (SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.)

Courtesy National Archives & Records Admin., Records of the Bureau of Land Management 595419







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HOMESTEAD PROOF --- TESTIMONY OF WITNESS. OC Sheldor being called as a witness in samuel of the Hamesterd energy always fillder in 268 2-21-711-56 Ques. 1-What is your occupation, and where is your residence? Ans. Januar Sec- 10 - 111 - 56 -Ques. 3. Have you been well acquainted with Alucauzo full class the claimant, in this case over since he made his Homestead entry No. Ans. Yes. for 5 years this to be worde his led suctory about Ques. 3-Was claimant qualified to make said entry? (State whether the settler was a citizen of Harden State whether the settler was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, or the head of a family, and whether he ever made a former Homestead entry. ins. you citizen of U.S. over 21 years ald never made former hed cutul Ques. 4-When did claimant settle upon the homeslead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon? (Describe the dwelling and other improvements, giving total value thereof.) of October 1878 Recoderen same Tener he for par tore 12 ty 12th pour 2 trons 1. window Stable cellar will of water 320 cm boken, cultusted some tun Value 300.00 Ques. 5-Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon? Ins. Single mon. Residence contenerous Ques. 6-For what period or periods has the settler been absent from the land since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did claimant's family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence? Ans. Was temposily obsent working an R. R. and in minimisesta during first wenter receiverity to Site more the contract the new many seasons did he raise crops thereon? Ans. 32 acres culture a 20 corres compred the year 1ste Are there any indications of coal, salines or other minerals of any kind on the Homestead? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes.) man The no no mon More valuable for agriculture Ques. 9-Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell, any portion of said Homesteal? Ans. WO WO WO Ques. 10 Are you interested in this claim : and do you think the settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry? think he has acted in good faith. O.C. Sheldon I hereby certify that the witness is a person of respectability; that the foregoing testimony was read time being subscribed and was seen to before me this 1/2to him before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this OCSt Up Barnet day of September 1884 (SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.)

Courtesy National Archives & Records Admin., Records of the Bureau of Land Management 595419







#### Transcript

Ques. 1 – What is your occupation, and where is your residence? Ans. *Farmer* See 20-222-56

Ques. 2 Have you been well acquainted with <u>Almanzo J. Wilder</u> the claimant, in this case ever since made his homestead entry No. Ans. Yes for 5 years he had taken his land at Yankton about 3 weeks before I met him.

Ques. 3 –Was claimant qualified to make said entry? (State whether the settler was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, or the head of a family, and whether he ever made a former Homestead entry.)

Ans. <u>Yes. Citizen of U.S. Over 21 yrs old.</u> Single. Never made former hd entry.

 Ques. 4 – When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon? (Describe the dwelling and other improvements, giving total value thereof.)
Ans. <u>About Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 1879. Same time. House & raise -- about 12ft. square. 2 doors. 3 windows. Stable.</u> Frame. Well of water. Cellar. Acres broken & cultivated. Some trees. Value at least \$300.00.

Ques. 5 Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon?

Ans. Single man. Residence continuously

- Ques. 6 For what period or periods has the settler been absent from the land since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did claimant's family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?
- Ans. <u>Was temporarily absent at times working on the R.R. and visiting in Minn.</u> <u>Not more than about 2 months at a time.</u>
- Ques. 7 How much of the homestead has the settler cultivated, and for how many seasons did he raise crops thereon?

Ans. Acres cultivated. Crops or part 4 years. Breaking 5 years. about 20 acers of wheat this year - 1884.

Ques. 8 – Are there any indications of coal, salines or other minerals of any kind on the Homestead? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agriculture than for mineral purposes.)

Ans. No. No. No. More valuable for agriculture

Ques 9 – Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell any portion of said Homestead? *Ans.* <u>Not to my knowledge.</u>

Ques. 10 - Are you interested in this claim, and do you think the settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry?

Ans. No. Nor am I in any way related to claimant. Think he has acted in good faith.

A. J. Sheldon

I hereby certify that the witness is a person or respectability; that the foregoing testimony was read to him before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this <u>12</u> day of <u>September</u> 188<u>4</u>.

<u>W. J. Barnes</u> *tex office clerk* Judge of the Probate Court Kingsbury Co., Dak.







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#### HOMESTEAD PROOF --- TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT

<u>O. C. Sheldon</u> being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of Homestead entry of <u>Almanzo J. Wilder</u> for <u>NE – 21-111-56</u> testifies as follows:

Ques. 1 – What is your occupation, and where is your residence? Ans. *Farmer* See 10-111-56 –

Ques 2. – Have you been well acquainted with <u>Almanzo J. Wilder</u> the claimant, in this case ever since he made his Homestead entry no. \_\_\_\_\_ Ans. Yes. For 5 years. Think he made his hd entry about 3 weeks before I met him.

Ques. 3 – Was claimant qualified to make said entry? (State whether the settler was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, or the head of a family, and whether he ever made a former Homestead Entry.)

Ans. Yes. Citizen of U.S. over 21 years old. Never made former hd entry.

Ques. 4 – When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence there on? (Describe the dwelling and other improvements, giving total value thereof.)

Ans. In first part of October 1879. Residence same time. House 12 by 12 ft. frame. 2 doors, 1 window stable, cellar well of water, 32 acres broken & cultivated same time. value \$300.00

Ques. 5 – Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon?

Ans. Single man. Residence continuously

Ques. 6 – For what period or periods has the settler been absent from the land since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did claimant's family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?

Ans. <u>Was temporarily absent working on R.R. and in Minnesota during first winter. Necessarily to get</u> <u>money to improve his land.</u>

Ques. 7 -- How much of the homestead has the settler cultivated, and for how many seasons did he raise crops thereon?

Ans. Crops on past 4 years -- making 5yrs. 32 acres cultivated. 20 acres cropped the year 1884

Ques. 8 – Are there any indications of coal, salines or other minerals of any kind on the Homestead? (If so, describe what they are. And state whether the land is more valuable for agriculture than for mineral purposes)

Ans. No. No. No. More valuable for agriculture

Ques. 9 – Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell, any portion of said Homestead? Ans. <u>no no no</u>

Ques. 10 - Are you interested in this claim, and do you think the settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry?

Ans. No. Nor am I in any way related to claimant think he has acted in good faith. O. C. Sheldon

I hereby certify that the witness is a person of respectability; that the foregoing testimony was read to him before being subscribed, and was sworn t before me this <u>12</u> day of <u>September</u> 188<u>4</u>

<u>*W. J. Barnes*</u> tex office clerk Judge of the Probate Court Kingsbury Co., Dak.





