

*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 [National Archives and Records Administration](#)
Records of the Bureau of Land Management, 595419

HOMESTEAD PROOF---TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

A. J. Sheldon
being called as a witness in support of the Homestead
entry of *Alvanzo J. Wilder* for *NE-21-11-56*.
testifies as follows:

Ques. 1—What is your occupation, and where is your residence?

Ans. *Farmer Sec 10-11-56*

Ques. 2—Have you been well acquainted with *Alvanzo J. Wilder*

the claimant, in this case ever since he made his Homestead entry No.

Ans. *Yes for 5 years he had taken his land at Yorktown & 3 miles from it.*

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 yrs old.*

Single. Never made former 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. *About Oct 1st 1879. Same time. House & frame about 12 ft square. 2 acres. 5 windows. Stable frame well of water cellar. 2 acres broken & cultivated. Some trees. Value at least \$3000*

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

Ans. *Single 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?

Ans. *At times. Was temporarily absent, working on the A.R. and visiting in Minn. not more than about 2 months at a time*

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

Ans. *Crops on part 4 years. Growing 5 yrs. 20 acres cultivated. about 20 acres 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 agricultural 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. *not to my knowledge*

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.*

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*

(SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.)

W. J. Barner
ex officio clerk

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT,
KINGSBURY CO., DAK.

HOMESTEAD PROOF---TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

O.C. Sheldon being called as a witness in support of the Homestead entry of *Almanzo J. Wilder* for *Sec 10-21-711-56* testifies as follows:

Ques. 1—What is your occupation, and where is your residence?

Ans. *Farmer Sec-10-111-56*

Ques. 2—Have you been well acquainted with *Almanzo J. Wilder* 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 1877 or 1878.*

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 thereon? (Describe the dwelling and other improvements, giving total value thereof.)

Ans. *In for part of October 1877. Resided same time. House 12 ft 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 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?

Ans. *Was temporarily absent working on R.R. and in Minnesota during first winter. Necessarily to get money to support his land*

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

Ans. *32 acres cultivated. 20 acres cropped this year 1884. Crops on part 4 years—making 59*

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.)

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. *No No No*

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. No and 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 to before me this

day of *September* 188*4*

(SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.)

O.C. Sheldon
tax office clerk

SUBJECT TO THE
COURT.
KINGSBURY CO., DAK.

Transcript

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT
A. J. Sheldon being called as a witness in support of the Homestead
 entry of Almanzo J. Wilder for NE – 21-111-56
 _____ testifies as follows:

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 Almanzo J. Wilder

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. Yes. Citizen of U.S. Over 21 yrs old.
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. About Oct 1st 1879. Same time. House & raise -- about 12ft. square. 2 doors. 3 windows. Stable. 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. Was temporarily absent at times working on the R.R. and visiting in Minn.
Not more than about 2 months at a time.

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. Not to my knowledge.

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 of respectability; that the foregoing testimony was read to him before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 12 day of September 1884.

W. J. Barnes
tex office clerk
 Judge of the Probate Court
 Kingsbury Co., Dak.

HOMESTEAD PROOF --- TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT

O. C. Sheldon being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of Homestead entry of Almanzo J. Wilder for NE – 21-111-56
 _____ 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 Almanzo J. Wilder 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. Was temporarily absent working on R.R. and in Minnesota during first winter. Necessarily to get money to improve his land.

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. no no no

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 12 day of September 1884

W. J. Barnes
 tex office clerk
 Judge of the Probate Court
 Kingsbury Co., Dak.