

October News– Lost on the Prairie

Thank you for your interest in my upcoming novel *Lost on the Prairie*. In these monthly newsletters I want to share interesting information about the book and news about its spring publication.

Thanks, Great Aunt Alma

I have been looking for a photo of this woman for quite some time because it was her written memoir that inspired my novel. The woman is Alma Schmidt Neufeld and she was my grandfather's younger sister.

It was Alma who wrote that my grandfather's railway car had disappeared on her family's immigration journey to Canada and made me want to imagine what had happened to my grandfather.



Through a genealogy search on the Grandma Online site and Facebook I was able to locate Alma's granddaughter and she supplied me with lots of wonderful information about Alma and photos of her. You can read more about Alma in this article titled [Thanks Great Aunt Alma](#).



I Couldn't Have Done It Without Them

My book *Lost on the Prairie* would never have become a reality without my writers group The Anitas. They listened to every chapter and gave me critical feedback and helpful suggestions. They kept telling me *Lost on the Prairie* was a good book and I shouldn't give up hope of having it published.

One group member provided detailed editing. Another, who had many published books to their credit, gave me advice on what to look for in my contract with the publisher. I am so indebted to these wonderful writers who took in a novice like me and helped me. Prior to the pandemic we usually met at McNally Robinson bookstore. Sometimes we met in people's homes. Now we get together every Thursday evening via Zoom.

The Anitas are named after Anita Daher, an accomplished author who taught a writing course some members of our group took at Red River Community College over a decade ago. When the course was finished they didn't want to stop meeting so The Anitas was born. The composition of the group has changed over the years, but I am grateful to each and every member past and present.

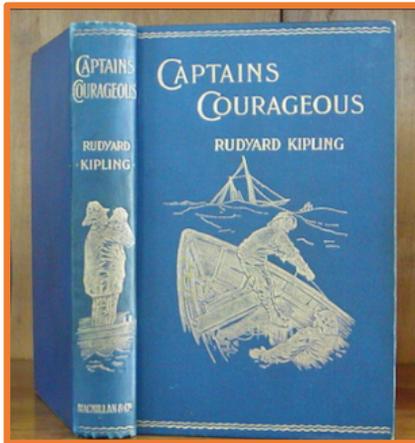


With members of my writers' group at a Manitoba Book awards Gala



Visiting at a writers group meeting I hosted at my condo

A Novel for Peter



I knew I wanted Peter the protagonist in my novel to have a favourite book that he took along on his journey. It wasn't easy to pick exactly the right novel from those published before 1907. I finally settled on Captain's Courageous by Rudyard Kipling. You can read more about why I made that choice in my blog post [A Novel For Peter](#).

Author Photo

One of the first things my publisher requested was an author photo. So, I made an appointment with a professional photographer. We took the photos in her studio near my home and in Stephen Juba Park. It was hard to choose which photo to send to Heritage House. You can go to my story [Author Photo](#) to find out what I decided on.



The Krug Amusement Park

One of the settings for a chapter in *Lost on the Prairie* is the Krug Amusement Park in Omaha Nebraska. Peter rides on the park's roller coaster and is fascinated by the hot air balloons he sees there. The Krug Brewing Company in Omaha owned the park and used it as a venue to promote their products. I was able to find some old illustrations of how the park in the early 1900s around the time Peter visited.



You can read more about the Krug Amusement Park in my post [Riding the Roller Coaster](#).



If you have friends who you think would like this newsletter, please feel free to share it with them. Also, if you have any questions for me please send them to me and I will try to answer them. My e-mail is maryloudriedger@gmail.com

Thank you so much for reading this newsletter! Talk to you next month!

MaryLou