

September News- Lost on the Prairie

Thanks, so much for your interest in my book *Lost on the Prairie*. As we anticipate its spring 2021 release, I want to keep you up to date on what is going on behind the scenes and also fill you in on some of the background to the novel.

This very handsome young man is my maternal grandfather Peter Martin Schmidt. I think he is about seventeen or eighteen in this photo.

My novel was inspired by my grandfather's immigration journey to Canada. Grandpa was born in Newton Kansas and in 1907 his family immigrated to Saskatchewan. Grandpa was traveling in a boxcar with the family horses and at some point on the journey, that train car was left behind.

In my book I have imagined what might have happened to Grandpa after his train car became detached from the rest of the train. Grandpa was actually sixteen years old when his family immigrated, but I have made him twelve in my story.

I would love to have a photo of my grandfather when he was twelve or even younger but so far, I haven't been able to find one. I have been in touch with many of my Schmidt family relatives in my search for a photo. I've learned some really interesting things about my grandfather and his family in my search, but I haven't found a photo.



An elevator pitch is a lightning fast summary of a book. If you are interested you can [read two pitches](#) I wrote to try and attract an editor's interest in my book. It should give you a general idea of what my novel is about.



Check out the cool pen I am holding. My birthday isn't till October, but I [celebrated it early](#) with some friends when we could still safely meet outside. My friend Esther gave me a beautiful pen that she said I should use for signing my books for people when I launch *Lost on the Prairie*. Such a thoughtful gift. Hopefully by spring the pandemic will have eased enough to allow in-person book launches and signings.



[Signing my contract](#) with Heritage House in June was certainly exciting. My husband Dave was the witness so he had to add his signature too. Dave read my novel manuscript and planned all the details for an amazing research

trip to South Dakota where I gathered lots of valuable information for the book. I will write about that in a future newsletter.



Judith Silverthorne

I've worked on *Lost on the Prairie* for almost five years and after several publishers rejected it, I decided to get some advice by submitting a manuscript excerpt to a fundraiser sponsored by the [Saskatchewan branch of the Canadian Society of Children's Authors and Illustrators](#). A professional editor read my submission and sent me such affirming remarks. She encouraged me to keep submitting my manuscript to publishers. The editor was anonymous. I [blogged](#) about this experience and the mystery editor read my blog and revealed herself.

It was [Judith Silverthorne](#). Not only is Judith an editor she is also the author of fifteen published books! How lucky I was that Judith was willing to offer her expertise and encouragement to a 'want to be' author. Thank you so much Judith!!

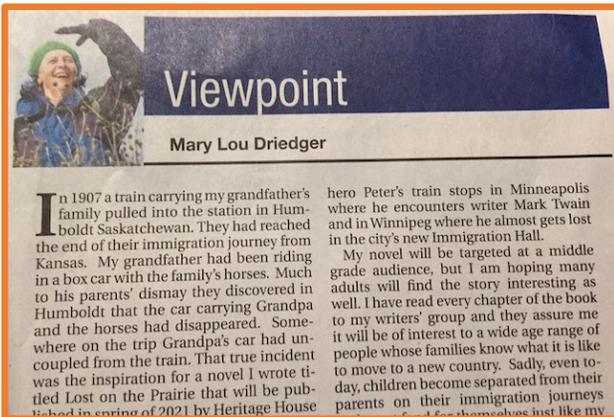


Recently Leslie Kenny the Marketing Coordinator for [Heritage House](#) asked me to fill out a detailed information sheet about myself and my book so she can plan for its release and promotion. She also provided me with lots of great ideas about things I can do to help market my book particularly during COVID-19 which has made more traditional methods of marketing difficult. I'm excited and grateful that Heritage House is making plans to promote my book so far in advance of its publication.



Beryl Young

I got the idea of submitting my book to Heritage House after I read the wonderful novel *Miles to Go* by Beryl Young which Heritage House had published. So, when they offered me a contract, I contacted Beryl for some advice and she could not have been nicer. Beryl who is 85 is still publishing books and she published her first one when she was 66 just like me! I wrote [a blog post](#) about how Beryl inspired me and how kind she was to me.



I've been writing for The Carillon, a Manitoba newspaper for 35 years. This week I shared the news of my publishing contract in my column called Viewpoint. I hope my readers will be interested in buying the book. If you are a Carillon subscriber, you can read my column in the September 17 edition on page 13.

If you have friends who you think would like this newsletter, please feel free to share it with them or forward their e-mail address and I will send it to them.

Also, if you have any questions for me please do let me know 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

