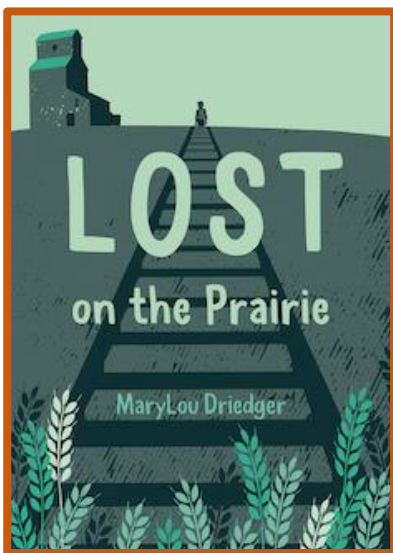


# Lost on the Prairie

by MaryLou Driedger

Newsletter- March 2021



## Off to the Printer on March 19

Just got word from my publisher that they hope to have my manuscript ready to send off to the printer by March 19. We still have lots of work to do before that happens but I'm getting pretty excited!

## Becoming A Writer

I've written a story that begins in my childhood to inform my *Lost on the Prairie* readers about how I became a writer. I've added lots of photos. I'll include the story on my website and in the study guide for the book. This link will take you to the full story It is titled [How Did You Become A Writer?](#)





## Go Big or Go Home

My husband Dave's Christmas gift arrived well after the holiday, but it was worth waiting for. He ordered a giant canvas poster version of my book cover to hang on the wall over my writing desk. Frankly I am a little embarrassed by its gigantic size, but it will make a nice background when I do virtual visits or media presentations about my book. You can read more on my blog post [It's Big!](#)



## Meeting Naomi Parker

A major section of my book takes place on the Sisseton Wahpeton nation in South Dakota. I wanted to be sure that section was authentic and respectful of Sisseton Wahpeton history and culture. So, I visited the tribal headquarters and also spent several hours interviewing an elder named Naomi Parker. What an interesting life she's had! You can read about Naomi and what I learned from her in my post [Hearing Naomi's Story- What a Privilege.](#)

## Music in Lost on the Prairie

Music plays a role in my novel. At a large hotel in Minneapolis Peter, my hero hears the song *Come Take A Trip in My Airship* for the first time. It was a 1904 hit.

He hums some family favorites like *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* and *Down By the Old Mill Stream* as he travels in a train car. And at a church service Peter attends they sing *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* and *Marching to Zion*.





## Another Illustration

My cousin Carol has been creating illustrations for *Lost on the Prairie* for me. I will use them in the teachers' guide for my book and on my website. Carol has created another illustration this time for an exciting scene in the book where our hero Peter's friend Joe is stuck in quicksand in an area where thousands of butterflies are resting one night on their fall migration. You can read more about that on my blog [What Next?](#)

## Launching my Web Site

I have been working with my good friend Rudy Nikkel to develop a web site dedicated to my book. Rudy and I have worked together on a major project before. In 2011 he designed a history book I had been hired to research and write. Rudy is the consummate professional and I am so fortunate to have him helping me build a home online for *Lost on the Prairie*. The website will launch as soon as the book is published.



Hiking in Portugal with my husband and our friend Rudy



MaryLou

*Lost on the Prairie* is now available for pre-order on [Amazon](#) and [Indigo](#) and should be listed at McNally Robinson Book Sellers shortly. Thanks so much for your interest in my book. [maryloudriedger@gmail.com](mailto:maryloudriedger@gmail.com)