



Bess Streeter Aldrich Character Tour

I have experienced it a thousand times since I moved to Elmwood—the warm-hearted hospitality, loyal friendship and deep sympathy of the small town. And it is these characteristics and others of the better features of a small town and its people that I have tried to stress in my short stories and books.



—*Why I Live in a Small Town*, American Magazine, 1933

Who was Bess Streeter Aldrich?

Mrs. Aldrich was born in 1881 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. In 1907 she married Captain Charles Aldrich and moved to Elmwood in 1909 where they purchased the American Exchange Bank. While they were here they raised one daughter and three sons. In 1925, Mrs. Aldrich became a widow, yet she funded her children's education with her writing. She wrote 12 novels and over 100 short stories. Her most famous book, *A Lantern in her Hand* (1928) was about the settling of pioneers in southeast Nebraska. It became a best seller as did all of her subsequent books. Her book *Miss Bishop* became a motion picture. In 1974, she was inducted in the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

Let Mrs. Aldrich Show Her Hospitality and Be Your Tour Guide

What are the Tour Opportunities with “Mrs. Aldrich”?

Donna Durette is one of our character actresses who is willing to portray Mrs. Aldrich for a tour group by appointment. Likewise, she will be at the Aldrich House on the first Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. to give tours to those who would like to be given the tour “by Mrs. Aldrich herself.”

Meet Donna Durette



Donna is a retired teacher, Lutheran minister, and hospital chaplain. When Donna became a guide at the Bess Streeter Aldrich House in 2017, she was hooked. She enjoyed reading Mrs. Aldrich's stories and researching her life and literary influences. Recently, when the Aldrich Foundation board decided to add an Aldrich character, she was a natural fit.

Cost: Regular Tours, \$5; Tours with Mrs. Aldrich, \$8

Reservations:

To make an appointment for a tour or reserve a spot for a Sunday afternoon tour during the 1st Sunday of a month (starts at 2 p.m.), contact Kurk Shrader, Executive Director:

Bess Streeter Aldrich House
204 East F
Elmwood, NE 68349
402-867-4233 or kurkshrader@gmail.com

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