



# The Books



## LITTLE BRITCHES SERIES

These books are autobiographical accounts of Ralph Moody's (1898-1982) early life. The first 3 take place in the vicinity of Littleton, Colorado. It is a very popular series. The first book has been in continuous print since 1950.

### Little Britches: Fathe & I Were Ranchers (Colorado Experiences)

No review can do this book justice. It's a gripping family story from beginning to end, and the first of the series, so you must start here.



### Man of the Family (Colorado Experiences)

At 11 years old, Ralph becomes man of the family and an entrepreneur. He continues his horse riding, cattle driving, and the Moodys start a cooking business. The struggles of a family who refuses to rely on charity are enormous. Then Mom gets a revelation about washing and stretching lace curtains.



### The Home Ranch (Colorado Experiences)

Following *Little Britches* and developing an episode noted near the end of *Man of the Family*, *The Home Ranch* continues the adventures of young Ralph Moody. During the summer of his twelfth year he works on a cattle ranch in the shadow of Pike's Peak, earning a dollar a day. Little Britches is tested against seasoned cowboys on the range and in the corral. He drives cattle through a dust storm, eats his weight in flapjacks, and falls in love with a blue outlaw horse. Nebraska Press — Bison Books



### Mary Emma and Company

In January, 1913, the Moodys must relocate, and go east to Medford, Massachusetts. Mrs. Moody, a widow with six children, struggles to find a job and establish their home. Ralph, at thirteen, is still a resourceful entrepreneur, but Mom and Grace figure prominently in this book. With much faith, perseverance, and God's blessings, Mom (Mary Emma), Grace, and Ralph are living in a beautiful home and running their own business by May.

### The Fields of Home

Probably the most frustrating book of the series, about when Ralph

moves to Maine to work his grandfather's farm. Grandfather is not a very reasonable man, to put it nicely. Hang in there readers, and the ending will be your reward.

### Shaking the Nickel Bush

Ralph moves back west because of health reasons and becomes a movie stunt "fall rider" and then an itinerant artist. He meets a friend, Lonnie, who convinces him to buy his first car. The book has a surprise ending and life lesson: don't keep your life savings in the cuff of your pants!

### The Dry Divide

Ralph is thrown off a train in McCook, Nebraska, with only a dime in his pocket, and is hired as a wheat pitcher. He discovers why his hateful share-cropper employer travels to distant towns to find a crew. Fate intervenes, however, and Ralph becomes the boss and leads his motley crew to succeed in more than one business venture. As always, Ralph inspires loyalty and friendship in the hired hands: Doc, a "medicine man" when he gets into the tanglefoot, Gus and Lars, the Swedish workers with a hidden talent ("Yiminy, Dat is Fun!"), and Paco, a young Mexican with the gift of understanding horses.

### Horse of a Different Color

This last book is as good as the first of the Little Britches series. We stood in awe of Ralph Moody's talents as an entrepreneur, his work ethic, and his maturity in his early 20's. We also loved the characters in Beaver Valley (which Ralph called the friendliest place on earth): Effie, the switchboard operator who helps Ralph succeed in business by providing the farm wives' point of view, and George Miner, a wise and respected farmer who becomes a second father to Ralph. This book is an excellent business course; by the end you will be interested in the hog and beef markets, and understand the value of hard work and perseverance. You will also find out who Ralph marries!

<http://www.readaloud.com/index.html>

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<http://www.friendsofhistoricfortlogan.org/history/>