



Gene Stratton-Porter

Lagro, Wabash County

August 17, 1863 – December 6, 1924

Born on a small farm near Lagro, in Wabash County, Indiana, on August 17, 1863, Geneva (Gene) Grace Stratton was the youngest of twelve children. At an early age, she loved to explore the countryside around her home, developing an interest in nature and wildlife.

After marrying Charles D. Porter, she gave birth to their only child, Jeannette Porter, in 1887. The couple eventually settled in Geneva, Indiana, where they designed and built Limberlost Cabin, named after the nearby Limberlost Swamp. Stratton-Porter began to write, study, and photograph her natural setting extensively. Her photographs were printed in several national magazines. Her first novel, *The Song of the Cardinal*, met with modest success, but her next book, *Freckles*, established her as a popular writer. Her most famous work, *A Girl of Limberlost* (1909), was made into a motion picture in 1924. In all, she wrote twenty-six books, including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry for adults and children. Stratton-Porter later moved to Rome City, Indiana, where she built a new home, "The Cabin at Wildflower Woods," on Sylvan Lake. She then moved to California where she organized her own movie company.

Gene Stratton-Porter died on Dec. 6, 1924, in Los Angeles when she was fatally injured in a traffic accident. She was buried in Hollywood Cemetery; however, in 1999, Stratton-Porter's body was relocated along with her daughter's and reburied on the grounds of the Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site in Rome City, Indiana.

For information about Gene Stratton-Porter, go to: <http://www.genestratton-porter.com/>.

For information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

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