



  
*Writing Her Story*  
31 Women in 31 Days

INDIANA  
COMMISSION  
for women

# Juliet Strauss

*Rockville, Parke County*

January 7, 1863 – May 22, 1918

Juliet Strauss was born in Rockville, Indiana, in a rural agricultural area. Both new to the region, her parents had moved there to make a life as pioneer farmers. As a child, Strauss loved nature and would wander the forests near her Parke County home.

After marrying the editor, Strauss began writing a daily column for the *Rockville Tribune* early in 1893. She wrote mostly about her husband and editorials about the need for common sense living. The column was titled, “Squibs and Sayings” and contained her down-to-earth musings on daily life in rural Indiana. Although she was never a suffragist, some of her writings pushed for women to be themselves. She was critical of “what she called the ‘smart’ ideal of womanhood – the perfectly groomed and well-mannered lady,” writing:

*I say she is tiresome, that her ‘taste’ is questionable, that her influence on society is unwholesome. I hope my women friends will begin to reform with resolutions to be less like somebody else and more like themselves, to do as they wish to do, not as some other woman sets the pace.*

One of Strauss’s greatest contributions to Indiana came as Indiana celebrated its centennial in 1916. In April 1915, Strauss wrote a letter to Indiana Governor Samuel Ralston, asking for his help to save Turkey Run from timber companies. Ralston then appointed her to a Turkey Run Commission and tasked the commission with preserving the forest there. Later, her friend, Richard Lieber, met with the Governor to discuss an idea to establish a state parks system as a permanent memorial for the state’s centennial. At first, the land was lost to a veneer company; but, later, the company agreed to sell the land to the state.

Strauss died in 1918. She was honored by the Women’s Press Club of Indiana four years later with a permanent memorial at Turkey Run State Park.

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For information about Juliet Straus, go to: <http://www.indianahistory.org/our-collections/reference/notable-hoosiers/juliet-strauss#.Vt3V3vkrLIU>.

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

Photo: Boomhower, Ray (16 May 2012). *Programs in Rockville, Indiana*. Retrieved from: [http://rayboomhower.blogspot.com/2012\\_05\\_01\\_archive.html](http://rayboomhower.blogspot.com/2012_05_01_archive.html).