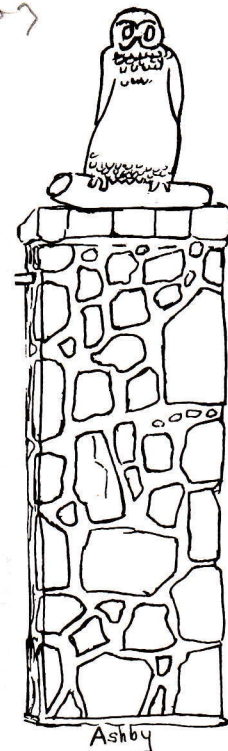




Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial

219-854-3790 *Society, Inc.* R. R. 1

Rome City, Indiana, 46784



"The Cabin in Wildflower Woods"

SPRING 1987

The first season of the year, SPRING, is about to be upon us. On the calendar it is March, April and May, and its beginning is marked by the vernal equinox, the time when the sun's center crosses the equator. It has not been a severe winter in northern Indiana, in fact, the weather reports are to the effect there has been much less snow than in recent years. As all local members of the Society know, but perhaps not so well known to those who have never visited Indiana, the Limberlost-North cabin is located on the shore of Sylvan Lake. The lake has been free of ice for several weeks.

It has become second nature to refer to the body of water, on the banks of which the "Cabin" is situated, as a lake, though, in fact, it is a reservoir. The water of around eight hundred acres is impounded behind an artificial dam, which, in generalities, was constructed one hundred and fifty years ago.

So much for the brief overview.

We are delighted when one of the staff at the "Cabin" has the inspiration and takes the time to set a few lines to descriptive verse. No one would question where the heart of this employee is.

On the following page are the lines of Mary Jane Rider.

WINTER IN WILDFLOWER WOODS

So quiet now that most of the birds have flown south. The only sound you hear is the wind whistling thru the barren branches of the trees and also if you are very still, you can hear the snowflakes as they fall softly to the ground.

The owls have found a home in a hollow beech and the nut-hatch is vainly going up and down the trunks of the trees searching for food.

The squirrels and chipmunks are busy finding the caches of food they stored this fall. I hope they remember the nuts they hid in the planters on Gene's front porch.

I think even the crows have gone south as I no longer hear their raucous cawing.

There is no prettier sight on earth than a cardinal lighting on a snow covered bush or the arbor, covered with snow.

Now everything in the woods is resting, waiting for new life in the spring when the gentle rains and warm sun will once again bring forth the flowers from the earth and the buds will burst into blossoms, trees will leaf and the birds again will be chattering and calling to each other as they are busy making their nests, once more in beautiful Wildflower Woods.

by Mary Jane Rider

A NEW HIGHWAY BRIDGE IN ROME CITY

The State Highway, No. 9, is now closed in Rome City but will reopen in early spring with a new bridge over the water that is impounded between the reservoir dam and the tumbles. Summer visitors to Rome City and the Memorial Site who leave the Indiana Toll Road near the Indiana-Michigan line and head for points south will be crossing the new bridge, if they follow the normal course of travel. Those from the south, and headed for points north, will most likely cross the bridge, also.

Rome City was, to a great extent, put on the map through the efforts of Millard Fillmore Owen (1851-1932) station agent for the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railway Company at that point. He compiled an extensive collection of newspaper and magazine clippings and miscellaneous items pertinent to the social and cultural life in and around Rome City. From his collection we copy a bit of geographical orientation for the benefit of the reader who has never visited Sylvan Lake.



Gene Stratton-Porter

State Historic Site

R. #1, Box 364
Rome City, Indiana 46784

"Limberlost-North Cabin in the Wildflower Woods"

Home of Indiana's most widely read woman author, naturalist, and photographer — *'A lady ahead of her times.'*

Mrs. Porter selected a picturesque wooded setting along the shores of Sylvan Lake for her two story, white cedar log cabin which she designed. Here she planted thousands of wildflowers, shrubs, and trees; planned her formal gardens; continued to write novels and nature books; and photograph the wild creatures.

You are welcome to:

- 1) Picnic at our shelter
- 2) Stroll the scenic paths through the 20 acres of woods and formal gardens.
- 3) Enjoy a guided tour through the lovely cabin and while in the cabin you may: (guided tour - approx. 30 min.)
 - a. View one of three movies based on Mrs. Porter's novels - "Freckles," "Laddie," or "Keeper of the Bees" (approx. 1½ hr.).
 - b. View a slide presentation
 - c. Listen to a G.S. Porter presentation in music and verse by Margie Sweeney, Curator, and her staff.
 - d. Purchase postcards, reprints of G.S. Porter novels, notecards, and other mementos.

Educational Programs Available:

- 1) Traveling Displays
Two different traveling displays contain artifacts which belonged to Mrs. Porter and photographs taken by Mrs. Porter (A locked case is essential)
- 2) Covered Wagon
Retrace the pioneers westward expansion by covered wagon. Replica of the Conestoga wagon contains items which the pioneers would have needed for their westward journey. This is available as a tool for use by the classroom teacher or librarian.
- 3) Presentations by Historic Site Curator and Assistant
 - a. Speech presentation on the life and works of G.S. Porter
 - b. Slide presentations
"Wander through Wildflower Woods and the Cabin with the Swamp Angels"
"Wander Indiana's Historic Sites with the Swamp Angels"

No Admission Charge • Donations Appreciated

Please call in advance to make arrangements for special group tours, movie viewing, G.S. Porter presentations and educational programs.

Telephone: (219) 854-3790
Margie Sweeney, Curator
Martha Swartzlander, Asst. Curator



Gene Stratton Porter Memorial SOCIETY

Sylvan Lake • Rural Route 1 • Rome City, Indiana 46784

Phone 219/854-3790



ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 14, 1987

THURSDAY

6:30 PM

AT THE LIMBERLOST COUNTRY CLUB
ROME CITY, INDIANA

PROGRAM

Dinner at 6:30 PM

Business Meeting

OUTSTANDING SPEAKER

Ivan A. Lebamoff

Attorney At Law

Former Mayor, City of Fort Wayne
Descendant of Bulgarian-speaking
Macedonian Parents

DINNER ARRANGEMENTS

Reservations Limited

Price of Dinner--Members \$8.50
(Includes tax and tip and is actual cost)

Price of Dinner--Non-Members \$9.50
(Application for membership may
be made at the door, entitles
guest to \$8.50 rate.)

For dinner reservations, Phone Rome City 854-3790;
Albion, Public Library, 636-7197; Kendallville, 347-2978
or send card to above address.

(Quoting from M. F. Owen)

Rome City Reservoir, now known as Sylvan Lake, is the seat of three or four small lakes, now an artificial lake caused by a dam built in 1837 for a feeder to the proposed Michigan canal. The depth is twenty-five to thirty feet and is extremely irregular in outline, with numerous points, narrows and islands. Its extreme length is about three and a half miles.

BACK TO THE "CABIN"

There is included with this mailing a handout (copy) furnished by the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. This was prepared for use at the SylvAN Lake location, hence the designation "Limberlost--North" to distinguish the Sylvan Lake location from Mrs. Porter's home at Geneva.

WINTERING IN FLORIDA

Emmy Knecht, longtime and dependable gardner, is spending the winter in Florida. She is with her brother and his wife. She'll be coming north, soon, but as a regular employee or volunteer of Memorial Grounds--not any more. She has retired. In a previous issue we featured Emmey's picture in connection with her retirement party at St. Gaspar's Church.

Our secretary, Jeannette Shull, is spending her winter vacation in Florida. No report from her.

OUTREACH

Margie Sweeney, curator, and her assistant, Martha Swartzlander, are busy presenting promotional programs before civic orgznizations, school groups, church organizations, etc. Their extra-curricular promotional activities keep them busy in the winter as well as in the summer. Perhaps many observers would speculate that activity comes to a standstill in the winter but not so. When this writer was chinning on the counter in the souvenir-office room one day, recently, a phone call came in to make arrangements for a tour by seventy-five school children. That same day Margie and Martha were presenting a promotional at a Fort Wayne school. Mary Jane Rider was on duty at the Cabin.

These waning days of the school year is the time for school tours. They come by the carload and bus load.

STYLE SHOW COMING

A Style Show coming this spring is in the offing but not yet firm on the Calendar.

THE STYLE SHOW (continued)

Last year the show was held in the yard and garden but this year it will be scheduled as an indoor event. The attendance last year was beyond capacity and there is always the gamble of inclement weather, hence the arrangements for indoors where the show will take place rain or shine.

CHRISTMAS IN ' 86

This narration does not purport to set down events in chronological sequence, therefore we relate back to Christmas in 1986. There was an open house and the visitors came by the carload. Refreshments in the way of cookies, hot cider, coffee, popcorn balls, apples (compliments of Shull's Orchards), and much more were served. Many of the visitors were children who sat before the piano, the one reported in our newsletter of October, 1986 as coming from Minneapolis, and sang carols.

THE SHELTER FOR PICNICS

A part of the twenty acres of wooded grounds and formal gardens is set aside for a picnic ground. There is a new shelter house with electricity. There are rest rooms and there is drinking water, if you pump it. The picnic ground is back from the main highway and thus affords quiet and privacy. There is ample area for playing games. There is no charge for the use of the facilities.

GENEALOGY

The children of Mark Stratton and Mary Schallenbarger who were married December 24, 1835.

Catherine Elizabeth (Mrs. Sam M. Marshall)
Anastasia Lucetta (Mrs. Alvah Taylor) Lucy
Mary Anna (Mrs. John Oliver)
Louisa Jane (Died in childhood)
Jerome Inesnell (Wife was Victoria Ainsworth)
Samira (Died in childhood of scarlet fever)
Irvin Franklin (Wife was Sara E. Fitch)
Florence S. Stratton (Mrs. W. H. Compton)
Leander Elliott (Drowned at the age of eighteen)
Leon Mark (Wife was Leta Lowery)
Ada M. (Mrs. F. R. Wilson)
Geneva Grace (Mrs. Charles Darwin Porter)

Many people are spending a lot of time on their family these days, and there may be some readers who are interested in this genealogy of the Stratton family. Perhaps there are those who have made an extensive study of the family but we don't have it.

Good Luck

Anastasia Station

at 11:15
from the

Anna Mary
Anna Mary

Anastasia Station Mollie Station

Anna Mary

November

over land

part third
part fourth

to river

when the

When this you see
Remember me Mollie

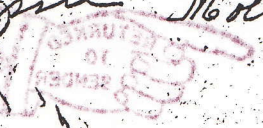
When this

see me

Remember

Yours - H. S. S.

My dear Mollie



RECEIVED
NOV 10 1891
U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON

FOR SENTIMENTAL REASONS

We try to keep the volume of the newsletter within limits of one ounce for reasons of economy. It took considerable debate on the part of the composer of this mailing to decide as to the wisdom of including the preceding page. It is a copy of a fly page from Olney's School Geography. The only date that can be located within the publication is contained in this statement, "Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1844, by D. F. Robinson, in the Clerks Office of the District Court of Connecticut." Augusta is the only town shown in Noble County. That was the place of the county seat in the early 1840's, and the courthouse is known to have been burned at Augusta, Noble County in 1843. Notice the pen writings and scribblings, some of which most surely ^{was} were made by the Stratton children. In an earlier newsletter a picture of the one room schoolhouse where this masterpiece in penmanship was probably composed.

FROM

Gene Stratton Porter Memorial Society, Inc.

Sylvan Lake • Rural Route 1 • Rome City, Indiana 46784

Phone 219/854-3790

