

Abstract

Research Project: Constructing Gene Stratton-Porter

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This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the ways in which the Limberlost State Historic Site (Limberlost Cabin) and the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site (Wildflower Cabin) construct Gene Stratton-Porter for tourists' gaze. Through implementing the theories of literary tourism into an analysis of the respective presentations of Gene Stratton-Porter at these sites, this study identifies the varying ways that these two sites construct starkly differing images of Stratton-Porter while only being separated by 80 miles. While the Limberlost State Historic Site utilizes Stratton-Porter's memory to fuel conservation projects for the Limberlost Swamp, the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site, in contrast, uses Stratton-Porter's memory to construct Wildflower Cabin as an essential element of Stratton-Porter's success. My findings suggest that location, curatorial agendas, and funders' motivations play key roles in the remembrance of Stratton-Porter's biography and success.