



A Light In the Hills: Helen Price Stacy

Gwendolyn Akers* and Dr. Matthew Sutton, Department of English



Helen Price Stacy is an Appalachian writer, artist, and activist from West Liberty, Ky who published a variety of work including nonfiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry, reflecting themes of sense of place, activism, and finding hope in even the darkest of situations.

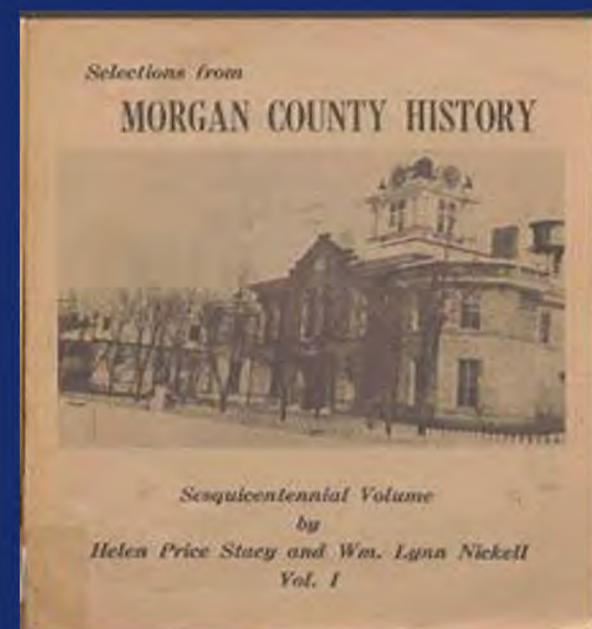
Family Ties

- Several of Stacy's works focus on telling stories from her childhood, and sometimes even through the eyes of family members including Aunt Miranda, Aunt Rose, her grandmother, and her grandfather.
- While she tends to stay impersonal in her writings, some of her more personal works explore arguments and feelings of isolation with her husband.



Sense of Place: Tied to the Mountains

Moving away after her marriage, Stacy soon returned to the hills she called home. Several of her stories are set in Appalachia, rooted in her childhood home and the nearby creeks, rivers, and mountains.



Finding the Light in it All

As associate editor of the Licking Valley Courier, she told the stories of fellow Appalachians. Whether it was war stories, stories about the destructive nature of the coal industry, or about the day to day lives of others, Stacy always found a way to see the positive in things. No matter the subject matter, her work was always unified in the idea of the beauty and hope of Appalachia.

Activism

Stacy was a budding feminist who did all her own writing and publishing without an agent. She also published articles and research concerning the effects of the coal industry in Appalachia as well as the Paintsville Dam.