

*Autobiographical sketch of Lucy Salome Furman, written ca. 1930-1950*  
[Transcribed from original copies by Gary S. Collins in Sep 2002.]

Lucy Furman was born in Henderson, KY, on the Ohio River, the daughter of Dr. Williams B. Furman and Jessie Collins Furman. She was educated in public and private schools in Henderson and [in the] Sayre Institute, Lexington, spending one year later at the University of Cincinnati, where she had courses in English Literature, chiefly. Losing her parents young, she and her sister were brought up by a maternal aunt, Miss Rosalie Collins, a high school teacher, and a woman of outstanding mental ability. One invaluable thing she did for the children, -- every evening for an hour she read aloud to them books of the best writers, not only classics for the young, but Dickens, Hawthorne, Thackeray, George Elliot and others, accustoming them to the best literature.

At nineteen, Lucy Furman began supporting herself, and for some years did the work of a court stenographer in the Circuit and Superior Courts of Evansville, Indiana, where she and her aunt then lived, and where she began writing her first stories, which were published in the Century Magazine and later as a book, "Stories of a Sanctified Town".

Early in this century [the 1900's], she became a worker at the Hindman Settlement School, in Knott County, on Troublesome Creek, in our Kentucky mountains, being in charge there of the gardening and farming. In 1910 she began writing stories about the mountain children with whom she was in daily contact. A volume of these, "Mothering on Perilous" followed in 1913. Being humorous, these were much liked. ...one book coming, she wrote the series "The Quare Women" for the Atlantic Monthly, 1925 [?]. A sort of sequel "The Glass Window Road" [? typing unclear] was printed by the same Atlantic Monthly Press in 1928. Being greatly troubled with insomnia, she was unable after that to do creative writing for years, but gave her time and strength to working against the cruelty of the steel trap.

[Notes:

1. Her aunt Miss Rosalie Collins apparently never married.
2. Her father's name is listed as "Williams", the name of his wife's family, and not "William".
3. Her father is titled "Dr."
4. Cincinnati is not far from Henderson County, KY, roughly 20 miles. ]