



Eugene "Gene" Stuart

1885 - 1960

Died September 28, 1960 in Louisville, Kentucky. Born June 14, 1885 in Elizaville, KY, son of Daniel Stuart and Mary Finley Kirk.

Predeceased by his four brothers John, Wallace, Moses and Charles and two sisters Elizabeth and Lila. As a young man he went to California with his older brother John and cousins from southern Ohio. He was a newspaperman first at the LA Times then the Phoenix Democrat before returning to Louisville. He took a job in Louisville in 1913 as the Secretary Manager of the Louisville Auto Club. In 1918 he married Mildred Alexander of Lexington, formerly of Bath County.

Throughout his career at the Auto Club he worked tirelessly for improvements to roads and highways. In the early days of automobiles the Louisville Auto Club put up street signs and highway markers. Gene and his close friend Stanley Mayer worked as a team driving around the state placing road names and directional signs. Not every farmer was happy to have a sign at the corner of his property.

Another aspect of the Auto Club was to encourage driving to different parts of the state to visit places of interest. The 1927 Tour book had many scenic photographs taken by Gene, including pictures of his wife and children and the family car. In 1924 he helped establish the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, which led to the creation of the Mammoth Cave National Park in 1941. Gene served first as President, then Secretary of MCNPA until his death.

Besides being on the Board of Directors of the Louisville Automobile Club and Mammoth Cave National Park Association, he was Chairman of the Kentucky Historical Markers Committee, Member of Otter Creek Park Commission, Chairman of the Filson Club Historical Sites Committee, Chairman of Kentucky Highway Users Conference, and a member of Jefferson County Forest Commission.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred, and his children, Eugenia Barnes (Wilson), Alexandria Wickstead (John), Mary M Wedekind (Carl), John Colburn Stuart (Luisa). Survived by grandchildren Mary Stuart Barnes and Anne Wilson Barnes, John Joseph Wickstead Jr, Sarah Stuart Wickstead, Laura Stuart Wickstead, Moira Kirk Wedekind.

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