

**BOOK OF SIGNIFICANCE PROJECT: FALL 2026
LATHROP ROOM BOOKCASE**

***The Life of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson* by Nellie van de Grift Sanchez.
Illustrated. Charles Scribner's Sons: New York. 1920.**

Who would have thought that an unjacketed non-descript book published 106 years ago, sitting high up on the top shelf of the Lathrop Library bookcase would yield a “*Treasure Island*” of a woman’s story. This fond memoir was written by her sister Nellie, who always regretted that Fannie Stevenson did not tell her *own* story. That this title had been placed in the Lathrop House by earlier Fortnightly members is a testament to the role of women in the history of literature.

The original book will be on display in the Lathrop Room September through December. A digital reproduction of the title from Forgotten Books, 2018 will also be on display, and will be placed in the Lathrop Lending Library January 2027.

Project Gutenberg has made the book free as an e-reader.

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Nellie van de Grift Sanchez (1856-1935), became a well-known Western author. She was a member of the Pen Woman’s Club of Berkeley and the California Writers’ Club and a prolific writer of women’s adventure stories. Her older sister Fanny (1840-1914) married Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894). Nellie’s remembrances of “Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson” were both personal and collaged with recollections by others. The author wrote that she was also aided by Fanny’s written diary of her life in Samoa that had somehow found its way back to the family.