Zitkala-Ša, Gertrude Simmons Bonnin (Yankton Sioux), witnessed cataclysmic changes in her lifetime. Born the same year as the Battle of the Greasy Grass, 1876, she survived the boarding school era, was directly involved in securing citizenship rights for American Indians and passed on after participating in Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal for Indians. The story of her life addresses issues of colonization, resistance, personal and spiritual journeys. Hafen’s research of Zitkala-Ša’s life has revealed an overlap of her work into Hafen’s own journey as a contemporary American Indian.