National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

NPS History Collection

NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Dama Smith and husband Charles, ca. 1920. Courtesy Killingly Historical and Geneaology Society.

Dama M. Brown Smith

Washington Office & Grand Canyon N.P.

Clerk, ca. 1920-1921

- Born Dama Margaret Brown on September 18, 1892 in Nicholas, West Virginia.
- Married clerk/stenographer Roy F. Stahlberg on September 29, 1918 in Washington, D.C. They separated by 1920. Joined the NPS as a clerk in the Washington Office.
- Transferred as a field clerk to Grand Canyon National Park in 1921, and is thought to be the first woman federal employee at the park.
- Married chief ranger Charles Jerod Smith, also known as "White Mountain," on September 15, 1921.
- Published a book in 1930 titled "*I Married a Ranger*," detailing her experience as a Park Service employee and wife in the 1920s.
- From 1929-1940, lived with her husband at Petrified Forest National Monument.
- Published two more books: *Indian Tribes of the Southwest* (1933) and *Hopi Girl* (1931).
- In 1940, they had a 2-year-old "hospital daughter" named Margie Sambrano.
- In 1940, White Mountain became superintendent of Grand Teton National Park. It's not clear if she went with him or not.
- The couple divorced in the early 1940s and Dama moved back to Washington, D.C.
- Remarried to Henry (Harry) Langley, who was a landscape architect for the NPS by 1945.
- Died on November 4, 1973.

This research was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation.