National Park Service
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NPS History Collection

NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Helene Wilson, 1919. US Passport Office photo.

Helene Wilson

Mount Rainier National Park

Park Ranger, 1918

- Born Helene Harper Wilson on January 21, 1888 in Robinson, Illinois but graduated from Spokane High School in Washington.
- Studied at Gerson Dramatic School.
- Worked as an actress under the name Mabel Kearn in the early 1900s and was well known as a dramatic reader.
- Married Thomson C. Wiggins on August 5, 1912 in Dillon, Montana. He died a few years later.
- Became the NPS's second woman ranger on July 1, 1918 when she worked for one season at Mount Rainier National Park, earning $90 per month.
- Worked as a stenographer and secretary throughout her career after the NPS.
- Married Logan S. Paine on April 13, 1922 in Oakland, CA but later divorced.
- Married Edmund A. Burke on January 8, 1935 in Los Angeles but was widowed.
- Visited Mount Rainier in 1937 and recalled her duties as a park ranger.
- Worked as a clerk for the US Navy during World War II.
- Died on May 22, 1944 in Manhattan, NY.

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