



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Jessie Foote Jack, 1920. (Capulin Volcano National Monument Photo).

Jessie Foote Jack
Capulin Mountain (Volcano) National
Monument

Custodian, 1916-1923

- Born March 4, 1862 in Dakota Territory.
- Attended school through the 6th grade.
- Married William Howard Jack, president of the Crawfoot Cattle Company, in 1899.
- He died on February 16, 1916, leaving her to carry on the business.
- Expressed interest in becoming the custodian for the proposed Capulin Mountain (now Volcano) National Monument as early as February 9, 1915.
- Used her husband's political connections to help advance her application because of her interest in grazing rights at the site.
- Appointed custodian on August 15, 1916. The NPS had not yet been established yet, so she was hired by the General Land Office.
- Ten days later the NPS was founded and she became its first woman custodian. She remained the only female site manager until Gertrude Cooper became superintendent at Vanderbilt Mansion in July 1940.
- Earned one dollar a month to provide security for the monument.
- Her duties included horseback patrols and inspections, preparing budget requests, writing summary reports, counting visitors, and installing signs.
- Retired on August 13, 1923 and moved to Paris, Illinois to help her ailing mother.
- Died on April 25, 1945 in Paris, Illinois.

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