

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



NPS History Collection

NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Jessie B. Reed

Yosemite National Park
Park Ranger, c. 1920

- Born Jessie Branson Durbon in Indiana on February 9, 1875.
- Married Ernest R. Reed on September 11, 1903 at Miami, Kansas.
- The couple operated a restaurant in the Miami area, through at least 1910.
- Moved to Yosemite National Park in 1918 when Ernest was hired as a seasonal park ranger.
- Worked with Ernest at the Bridalveil Falls checking station. [Some accounts put them at Arch Rock entrance station, which didn't open until 1926].
- It's unclear how many seasons Jessie worked as a temporary park ranger.
- The 1920 U.S. Census lists her occupation in April of that year as "assistant ranger" and her employer as the NPS.
- Although Ernest continued working at Yosemite, by 1930 census records Jessie's occupation as "housewife."
- Ernest died in 1939 and after his death she moved to Santa Barbara, CA to run a motel as the couple had planned.
- Died February 20, 1957, age 83, in Santa Barbara, CA.
- Buried in Louisburg, KS.

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