



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



*Virginia Sutton at Jamestown Education Museum, c. 1938.
Colonial National Historical Park Photo.*

Virginia Sutton

Archaeologist at Mesa Verde NP & Colonial NHP

1935 - 1938

- Born Virginia Hall Sutton in Washington, D.C. on December 1, 1913 .
- Earned a B.A. in history from Strathmore College in 1934.
- Hired as a temporary ranger-archaeologist at Mesa Verde National Park in 1935.
- Completed a M.A. in anthropology at the University of Chicago in 1936.
- Returned to Mesa Verde for the summer of 1936.
- Became a temporary ranger-historian at Jamestown (part of Colonial National Historical Park) in 1937, and the first woman with that title in the NPS.
- Received the second highest score on the junior park archaeologist civil service exam and became a permanent archaeologist at Jamestown in 1937.
- Was part of the team excavating at Jamestown and developed a program to interpret excavations at Jamestown.
- Resigned from her position when she married Jean C. Harrington, “the father of American historical archaeology” in 1938. Together they had two children.
- Continues to work with her husband at Jamestown until 1941 and excavated at several other NPS sites including Fort Necessity, Fort Fredrica, and Fort Raleigh.
- Together they helped establish the Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association.
- Received the Society of Historic Archaeology’s Award of Merit in 1999.
- Died June 16, 2003 in Richmond, VA.

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