



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Sallie Pierce Brewer, 1943. NPS Photo.

Sallie Pierce Brewer

Southwestern Monuments

Archeologist & HCWP, 1934-1958

- Born April 13, 1911 in Victor, Colorado and grew up in Patagonia, Arizona.
- Earned a B.A. in Archaeology from the University of Arizona and conducted field work at Chaco Canyon in the early 1930s.
- Hired in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration to classify artifacts at Montezuma Castle NM.
- Married park custodian Jim Brewer in 1934, becoming an "Honorary Custodian Without Pay" (HCWP), a title given to unpaid wives working in the Southwestern Monuments.
- Spent the first few years of their marriage living in tents at 8 different national monuments.
- In 1936, they transferred to Wuptaki NM where they lived in the ruins of a 12th-century pueblo.
- In 1939, they moved to Navajo National Monument becoming the first people to inhabit the cliff dwellings in over 500 years.
- Helped begin *The Grapevine* newsletter for wives.
- Hired as the first permanent woman ranger in the Southwestern Monuments in 1943, working at Casa Grande NM for a year followed by six years at Tumacacari Mission.
- In 1945 the Brewers divorced.
- Conducted excavations and research in seven different national monuments, laying the foundation for NPS archeology today.
- In the early 1950s, married fellow NPS archeologist Richard Fowler Van Valkenburg but that marriage also ended in divorce.
- Resigned from the NPS in 1958 to work for the Southwest Archaeological Center in Globe, AZ.
- Later married William M. Harris, Jr.
- Retired in 1968.
- Died in 1994, age 83.

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