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I was born and raised in Boulder, Colorado – a town defined by the looming rocks known as “The Flatirons” (thus “Boulder”). As a child visiting Great Sand Dunes National Park in southern Colorado, I determined that I wanted to be a Park Ranger when I grew up. So when it came time to go to college, I chose the University of Wyoming for its excellent geology program. In my Freshman year, I got distracted by Shakespeare and decided to earn two degrees. I spent a year abroad in Glasgow, Scotland (where I studied rocks and Romantic literature) and did a semester’s worth of graduate work in geology before de-camping for the U of Notre Dame to study 19th Century British Literature and science. Two years in, I took a leave of absence to pursue my childhood goal of working for the Park Service. When I returned to grad school I’d decided to focus my research on the literature of geological exploration in the American West and to specialize in environmental literature.

I’ve continued to work periodically for the Park Service, giving educational programs, writing brochures, and being friendly to park visitors. So far, I’ve racked up 6 parks, most recently Agate Fossil Beds in western Nebraska. My “day job” is teaching American Literature and Rhetoric, and Chairing the English Department at Northwestern College in Iowa. My husband, Duane, is an historian. In our free time, we like to hike, camp, and bird-watch. I love being able to teach environmental literature, to spend time in community with students who love the Creation, and to visit the rocks of New Zealand.