

## Marion Lorne

Star of Stage and Screen

WHEN?  
1883-1968

WHERE? Begins in  
West Pittston, PA



EVENT: Star of stage in New York City and London as well as television

VOCABULARY  
EMMY Award optician  
playwright

Born to William and Jane MacDougall in 1883, Marion attended West Pittston schools though she graduated from Wyoming Seminary. Though born Marion Lorne MacDougall, she was known professionally as Marion Lorne. Who would've guessed that the aspiring actress was destined to be on stage in the U.S. and London, in film and on television and nominated for five Emmy's including a win for Outstanding Supporting Actress?

Marion's mother owned a variety store on the corner of Broad Street and Main in Pittston while her father ran a jewelry store and also served as an optician in his shop on the corner of Main and Water Streets. Her father loved music and performed as a singer and leader of a brass band. Perhaps that is where Marion's love and inspiration for the stage was born.

After graduating from high school, Marion moved on the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City where she honed her skills for the career she would enjoy for 70 years. She acted on Broadway for several years and then in 1911, she met and married Walter Hackett a playwright who penned nearly 50 plays many of which had a role for his talented wife. They moved to London where together they were well-known in the London arts circle for decades. They established the Whitehall Theater as the place to enjoy both comedic and mystery plays (Times Leader). All of Hackett's plays were quite popular and none ran shorter than 125 nights (Times Leader).



The couple came back to the U.S. in 1940. Unfortunately, Walter passed away in 1944. Following his death, Marion returned to the stage as Veta Louise Simmons in the play "Harvey" (Times Leader). She would also appear on the television "Ed Sullivan Show" and "I've Got a Secret" and play parts in several movies such as Alfred Hitchcock's "Strangers on a Train" and "The Graduate". She also has a long list of stage credits from London and the American stage. Though her well-known character of Mrs. Guerney from the 1950s sitcom "Mister Peepers" made her very recognizable, her response to the public was always genuinely kind. She received another Emmy nomination for her work as a co-star on the sitcom "Sally" with Joan Caulfield. However, it was her Emmy Award winning role as Aunt Clara on the hit television show

“Bewitched” that became her most beloved performance for many fans. She passed away in 1968 at the age of 84 while still working on the show. Her character as the quirky, forgetful Aunt Clara was never filled by the producers after her passing.

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

[The Life of Marion Lorne](#)

[Times Leader](#)