

Memorial Minutes -2011-

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY
MEETING *of* FRIENDS

Elise Boulding 1920–2010
Francis Helfrick 1914–2009
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Elise Boulding 1920–2010

Elise Boulding, internationally renowned peace activist and author, was born in Oslo, Norway on July 6, 1920. Her family moved to New Jersey when Elise was three. This was the beginning of Elise's life as a world citizen.

While studying at the New Jersey College for Women, a friend introduced her to the Quaker meeting in New Brunswick, NJ. She loved the deep silence and strong peace witness. Later, while in graduate school and attending Syracuse Meeting, she met Kenneth Boulding, a British Quaker teaching economics at Colgate University. They married within a few months of their first meeting.

In their early years together, Elise and Kenneth moved several times to pursue academic opportunities and peace work. Kenneth's work took Elise to Princeton, NJ, Civilian Public Service camps throughout the United States, Fisk University in Nashville, TN, Iowa State (where Elise received her master's degree), McGill University in Toronto and finally to the University of Michigan, where the Bouldings settled for 18 years and raised their family while Elise got her Ph. D. Later, the Bouldings moved to Boulder, CO to teach at the University of Colorado, he in economics, she in sociology. Elise's final academic position was at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH where she chaired the sociology department. During her seven years at Dartmouth, Kenneth remained in Colorado, the Bouldings experiencing a "commuter marriage."

Elise's achievements in the women's studies and peace movements have been well documented in the many loving obituaries since her death on June 24, 2010. Even before her scholarly career, which began at the age of 50, Elise was widely known as a peace educator, prominent Quaker, and a leader in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), of which she became international chair. Elise wrote at least 14 books on peace and conflict and the place of the family in teaching and learning peace. She was nominated for the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize by the American Friends Service Committee.

After Kenneth's death, Elise moved from Colorado to be with her daughter, the late Christie Boulding Graham, in Wayland, MA. The Bouldings had five children, four of them sons: Russell, Phillip, Mark, and William, and Christie. Christie and her husband, Greg, and their daughters, Meredith and Emily, added an apartment for Elise to their home. Elise quickly joined Christie as a part of the Wellesley Friends Meeting community.

What a gift her coming was to all of us at Wellesley Meeting! Elise began at once to act on her concerns. With her care for racial justice, she became involved with the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries. She worked actively to help us prepare to be a better partner to an urban church. She was an active participant in the meeting's Peace Committee and a strong supporter of the Peace Abbey in Sherborn, MA. In attending the American Friends Service Committee's youth open mike events, she extended the average age of participants by many decades.

Elise was also part of the Norfolk Recognized Meeting which meets at Norfolk Prison under the care of Wellesley Meeting. Elise was a regular attender at the weekly meeting for worship as long as she was able. The Norfolk Meeting meant a great deal to her. After she could no longer get to it, she always asked about the meeting and asked that the men in the prison be told how much she missed them.

Elise continued her loyal service to WILPF. She offered workshops on "Envisioning a Peaceful World" in New England and around the country. She maintained her connections with peace organizations, some of which she had founded, and all of which she collaborated with. Among them were the Friends Peace Teams, the Quaker United Nations Office, Friends World Committee for Consultation and the International Peace Research Association. Elise spoke meaningfully in meeting for worship, inspiring us with her energy and deep belief in the possibility of a peaceful world future.

Elise loved music and her cello, books, the New York Times, her friends and family, food and drink. She was enthusiastic about her many interests, and enjoyed sharing them.

As she began to lose her hearing, Elise saw that in the future she would need more care. She wanted to spare her family that burden and so moved to North Hill in Needham, MA in 2000. There she was a regular at the North Hill Friends Worship Group and continued to attend faithfully at Wellesley Meeting as she was able. Despite her poor hearing, Elise attended many events and enriched the community with her wisdom and insightful questions.

During the years that she lived on her own in her one-room apartment at North Hill, Elise loved to "escape" with friends who had cars to drive her through the surrounding countryside. She delighted in brief walks in all seasons and to sit beside Walden Pond for a picnic or by a swamp at the Broadmoor Audubon Sanctuary to peacefully observe the frogs and ducks, insects and changing colors of the vegetation. She also enjoyed easy conversation over lunch at some favorite restaurants.

In 2007 Elise was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. This helped to make sense of her increasing anxiety and discouragement with her inability to keep up with her extensive reading, writing and wide circle of friends.

As her ability to care for herself declined, Elise was moved to the Skilled Nursing Unit at North Hill in 2008. There she had a room with a beautiful view of trees, gardens, a small waterfall and pond. Although her mental faculties faded, she continued to revel in nature and the out-of-doors. Going out in her wheelchair for a “walk,” she would delight in “dancing with the trees.” At this time her brief messages in meeting for Worship praised God’s love and constant presence.

Just before her 90th birthday Elise left us peacefully. In her last years she would often declare: “I’m lost. I don’t know where I am, but I’m lost in God’s world.” She is fully in God’s world now but her spirit and deep commitment to peace continue to inspire us.

—WELLESLEY FRIENDS MEETING, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Francis Helfrick 1914–2009

Francis Helfrick was born at home in Belleville, PA on January 13, 1914. He grew up in nearby Allensville where his father had an insurance agency and his mother ran a country inn, Helfricks Inn the Pines. His mother raised her own vegetables, chickens, and pigs even though there was no water or electricity. Francis commuted by model A Ford to high school and later to Juniata College in Huntington, PA, 14 miles away, where he graduated cum laude. He had taken trombone and piano lessons from the age of 10, preparing him for a lifetime of music enjoyment.

Francis originally thought he would be a minister, but his interest in his brother’s medical school program at Johns Hopkins changed his focus. He enrolled there and received his M.D. in 1941. His interest in pediatrics led him to a year’s residency at Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia, PA then back to Johns Hopkins, where he developed a method of complete intravenous feeding for infants, and finally to Baltimore City Hospital where he became Assistant Chief of Pediatrics for two years.

It was at Johns Hopkins that Francis met Sylvia Merrill, a general medicine student. They were married in a very small wedding at Homewood Meeting in Baltimore, MD in July 1943. During his first year at Hopkins, Francis had visited the local meeting with a classmate who was on a Quaker scholarship, and he soon decided to become a member there.

Francis registered as a conscientious objector when drafted in 1944 and was assigned to a mental hospital in Harrisburg PA for alternative service. However, a recruiter for a Church of the Brethren Civilian Public Service Camp in Puerto Rico needed a doctor and helped him persuade the military to change his status from CO to “occupation of national importance.” He and Sylvia spent the next two years living on a coffee farm in Castener between Ponce and Aracibo, Puerto Rico where he worked at public health clinics in the countryside and helped establish a hospital, staying on even after the war was over. It is now a thriving medical center.

While in Puerto Rico, Francis finished his requirements for pediatric certification, took Board exams and went to Buffalo, NY for orals. He was so nervous when the results arrived that he had Sylvia open the envelope! Even though competition for jobs was fierce after the war, he found an ad in the American Medical Association Journal for a position in Manchester, CT. They moved in the summer of 1947 and bought the house on Westminster Road, where they raised six children and Francis lived until he moved a few years ago.

Francis became chief of Pediatrics and president of staff at Manchester Memorial Hospital and was the beloved doctor for several generations of children, including many in Hartford Meeting. He chaired or served on numerous local and state professional committees dealing with pediatrics, ethics, and community services and received many professional and civic awards. He also carried out three toy gun exchanges in Manchester and Hartford, CT.

Throughout his life, Francis responded to beauty, particularly motivated by a quote from *The Book of God and Man, A Study of Job*: “The beauty of the world becomes an anodyne to man’s suffering—and the key to truth.” This manifested itself in many ways: the Manchester Symphony Orchestra began as a group of friends meeting in the Helfrick’s living room—Francis played the trombone with them for 19 years, he lovingly raised and shared orchids and cultivated composting worms to feed them, he loved his garden and the sculpture in it, and he took wonderful photographs of the beauty around him.

Soon after they moved to Connecticut in 1947, the Helfricks heard about the Quakers who were meeting at the Hartford Seminary. They became part of that pioneering group which included Tom Bodine, Paul and Libby Butterworth, Ted and Ellen Paullin, Ben and Ruth Wojan, Moses and Mabel Bailey, Alexander and Jeanette Purdy, and Edith and Harold Clapp. He and Sylvia raised their children in the meeting, served on many committees, and often decorated the mantel beautifully or brought festive seasonal cakes to potluck lunches. Francis later served two terms as a discerning and sensitive clerk and was an attendee at New England Yearly Meeting Sessions. He often raised his quiet voice about issues of justice in the world.

After Sylvia’s death in 1994, Francis stayed in their house until 1999, when he moved to The Arbors, a retirement home in Manchester. There he met Marjorie Gerstung and they were married in October 2001; she died in 2006. He attended meeting for worship until the week before his death on December 13, 2009. The abiding passion in his life was always peace.

— HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Bruce Martin 1927–2010

Bruce Martin died in Hartford, CT on February 6, 2010 after a brief illness. Bruce was born in 1927 in a small town in Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school, he worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company with a line crew, laying

rail ties. This work permitted a deferment from the military draft. After resigning from this job, he worked briefly as an editor of the York, PA Gazette.

Bruce became an active opponent of the Vietnam War and moved in the early 1970s to live in community in Voluntown, CT. In 1973, Bruce was appointed to the staff of the American Friends Service Committee and served as the first program director in Connecticut. He moved to Hartford, where the office was opened. Bruce organized programs in opposition to nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. He promoted the nuclear freeze movement, requesting city governments to refuse nuclear weapons and industries in their cities. He demonstrated at the nuclear submarine base in Groton, CT, where he was arrested in October, 1974.

In 1973, Bruce participated in a Friendship Caravan to Cuba and subsequently became a life-long member and later director of the Greater Hartford Coalition on Cuba. After the first Iraq War, he worked in opposition to the sanctions imposed on that country. In 1998 he organized weekly peace vigils at the Federal Building in Hartford to lift the sanctions. These peace vigils continue to this day. Bruce also joined an AFSC delegation to Iraq.

Bruce joined Hartford Friends Meeting as a member in August 1997. He retired from the American Friends Service Committee in 2000 after serving as director for 27 years. Subsequently he moved to New Haven, CT where he volunteered with Promoting Enduring Peace. Returning to Hartford, he remained active in peace demonstrations and with the Coalition on Cuba.

Bruce is survived by five daughters, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

—HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Archie Meshenuk 1920–2010

Archie Meshenuk was patient, kind and wise. Described at his memorial service as “guileless,” Archie’s ever-present smile radiated warmth and caring. He seemed always to be reaching out, while requiring little in return, except perhaps a laugh in response to one of his puns or quips.

Born on October 16, 1920, in Hartford, CT, Archie grew up in West Hartford, graduating from Hall High School in 1938 and Trinity College in 1942. He served as a cryptographer in the Army Air Forces during World War II. He worked for Travelers Insurance in group sales in Cleveland, OH, Peoria, IL and Syracuse, NY through 1955, when he moved to group underwriting and returned to the Hartford area to work until his retirement in 1980.

Archie and his birthright Quaker wife Dorothy (a.k.a. Dot and Dee) joined Hartford Friends in 1956, raising their three children, Daria, Tina and Misha within the meeting. Archie showered great attention on the meetinghouse, serving for many years on the Building and Grounds Committee and delighting in working with others to “fix it up.” Archie also taught First Day School, served on the meet-

ing Nominating Committee, and for years served as Building Use coordinator, thereby becoming the meeting's liaison with outside groups reserving use of the meetinghouse. To these groups, Archie was the steady face and helpful spirit of Hartford Friends.

Archie and Dot's love of nature translated into many family camping trips and hiking outings, including one several-week, rain-sodden trek through Nova Scotia with their dear friends, the Helfrick family. For years, Archie was a member of Friends in Unity with Nature and served on the Conservation Commission in Windsor, CT, which established the groundwork for the town's impressive Northwest Park. Archie delighted in caring for his yard, while also maintaining a plot in Windsor's Community Garden, which yielded the many vegetables and flowering plants that he eagerly shared. He and Dot often canoed the Farmington River, and in his 89th year Archie still enjoyed strolling on Windsor's River Walk. Throughout his life, Archie was a true steward of the earth.

Archie attended New England Yearly Meeting for more than 35 years, along the way serving on both the NEYM Nominating Committee and the Friends Camp Committee. Yearly Meeting became a cherished family activity, and even after Archie was no longer able to attend, he faithfully read all of the materials NEYM sent to him.

After Dot's death in 1992, Archie bore his grief with remarkable grace, and continued to reach out to others. At Archie's memorial service, a Friend eloquently testified as to how, when he was suicidal, he sought out Archie for help in getting to a psychiatric hospital. Another Friend, visibly shaken at losing Archie, spoke to how it was Archie's support in difficult times that had made him what he is today, an accomplished educator.

Archie's last few years were marked by slow but steady decline, brought on not so much by the failure of his body, but by the loss of memory and mental acuity. Nevertheless, Archie's personality remained vibrant. Even as he stumbled over names and events, Archie's smile would beam, as he seemingly laughed away his frustration. A particular delight during those last few years was his relationship with a childhood friend, Mary Spencer Adams, with whom he reconnected after more than 65 years.

And when his time finally came, Archie died a good death. He was able to remain in his house, as Daria arranged for home health care and made constant visits from her home in Worcester, MA. His family was able to be with him on multiple occasions during his last few months and at his passing. As stated at Archie's memorial service:

So today we remember the life of our Friend Archie and we rejoice. We rejoice in his good life and in all that he has given to each one of us. In the words of the Episcopal prayer, we rejoice also that "as the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and [his] work is done." His care-giving family and some close friends helped "grant [him] safe lodging and peace at the last."

Hermann G. Patt, Jr. 1915–2010

We remember Hermann, salt of the earth.

Promoter of the community;

Long time Friend, urging communal living
and cooperative farming.

Intrepid worker for the Friends Mission in Kenya.

Patriarch of a loving family; son, daughters, grandchildren,
great grand children, and his wife of 72 years.

A dancer and a singer celebrating the joy of life,

Bringing asparagus to pot luck at the Quaker meeting.

Testifying to his passion for a world of simplicity, equality and peace.

Insisting that the government turn swords into plowshares.

In memoriam February 28, 2010, 94 years old.

With fond memories,

—CONNIE RILEY, MEMBER, WORCESTER FRIENDS MEETING

Hermann G. Patt, Jr. was born July 16, 1915, in Hancock, NH to Hermann G. Patt and Mary (Wackerbarth) Patt. Hermann's father was trained in the ministry at Andover Newton Theological School and also was superintendent of schools in many towns in Massachusetts. While checking out a new reading system for the schools, Hermann's father taught Hermann to read. When Hermann began school, he started in the second grade. He had already been attending second grade with his mother while she was teaching and he refused to go around a huge furnace to get into the 1st grade classroom.

Music was a high priority in the family. Hermann played both piano and violin. He played violin in the school orchestra from 6th grade on. At the age of twelve, when in his 1st year in high school in Manchester, MA, he played in the Statewide Symphony Orchestra and was the Manchester delegate to Boston, MA playing in Symphony Hall. He also sang in church choirs while in his teens as a way of earning money. Hermann graduated from Westfield High School in Massachusetts as valedictorian at the age of 16. He earned his BA and MA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Hermann met Mildred Maynard from Rutland, MA at a 4-H conference. They were married on October 16, 1937. They had five children. The first three children were born while they were living in Granville, MA. They moved from Granville to a dairy farm in West Brookfield, MA in 1943. Along with dairy farming, Hermann taught high school agriculture and economics in Templeton, Charlton, and North Brookfield. He and Mildred were both active in 4-H work and led a garden club for many years. He sang in a barbershop quartet in West Brookfield as well as in the choir at the Congregational Church in West Brookfield and later at the Worcester Friends Meeting on Oxford Street in Worcester. He also served on the School Committee in West Brookfield. He and Mildred were active Grange members. He received his 75th year membership pin when he was 89. They both enjoyed square

dancing, and at 90 years of age Hermann was still an avid dancer as well as a skilled tennis player.

Hermann began attending Worcester Friends Meeting on Oxford Street in the early 1950s. He joined in 1961. He was clerk of its Peace and Social Concerns Committee for several years. He was a frequent attendee at New England Yearly Meeting and Rhode Island Smithfield Quarterly Meeting. Worcester Friends enjoyed many corn roasts at the Patt Farm in West Brookfield. In the 70s and early 80s, Hermann was a member of the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs, attending some of their annual meetings and visiting Friends' Indian Projects such as with the Choctaw Indians in Alabama.

In 1964, Hermann and Mildred, with their youngest daughter Mary, went to Kenya for two years where he served under the sponsorship of Friends United Meeting to help establish farm cooperatives. Hermann's time in Africa was a turning point in his life. When he came home, he was very interested in establishing a working utopian community similar to Walden Two. He was involved in the formation of three communities: Twin Oaks and Acorn in Virginia and East Wind in Missouri. He traveled frequently to Virginia to assist in the communities. East Wind originated at his farm in West Brookfield. All three communities are still active today.

After Hermann gave up dairy farming, he devoted more of his time to organic gardening. He joined Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) and was on their board of directors for several years. He became an admirer of Scott and Helen Nearing, read all their books and visited at their home in Maine. In 1984, he put his farm in a land trust because he believed that land should be kept in stewardship and not developed or sold for profit.

Hermann was a man with a dream for a peaceful egalitarian world and dedicated much of his life to this goal. He held strongly to his beliefs and tried hard to convince others of his views. He was an untiring worker and expected much of himself and the people around him. It was often difficult for those around him to keep up with his energy.

When traveling from West Brookfield to Worcester for Friends Meeting, he would fill his car with vegetables and cider to take to meeting, local food co-ops and people in need. He exhibited his vegetables at local fairs and won many rosettes for his efforts. Hermann enjoyed going to cook-outs, family get-togethers and, in his later years after giving up farming, enjoyed annual family camping trips to climb Mt. Washington. Even in his 80s he would be in the first group to reach the top. It was very hard for him and his family when in his last few years he started slipping more and more into dementia and could not be as independent as he always had been.

Hermann is survived by his wife, Mildred (Maynard) Patt; a sister, Phyllis Woodger, a son, Robert G. Patt, four daughters; Elizabeth Poynton, Helen Lapierre, Phyllis Allen, and Mary Wing, twenty-one grandchildren, and twenty-nine great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, Marjorie Kraus.

— WORCESTER FRIENDS MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING

Charles Perry 1914–2010

Charles “Chuck” Perry, a member of Westerly Monthly Meeting of Friends, died December 4, 2010, in Westerly, RI at the age of 96. The twinkling of his eyes when he smiled and laughed clearly stands out in our memories. These remembrances and many more will live on in the lives of those he touched. He was predeceased by his wife, Eleanor Butler Perry, to whom he was married 67 years.

Born to Harvey Perry and Lydia Sharpless Perry, Chuck was named after his paternal grandfather, a leading force in the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. In his youth, Chuck was an avid sailor and raced small boats on Quonochontaug Pond on the coast of Rhode Island. Later in life he transmitted his love for birds, wildlife, and the sea to his children. This legacy continues to be passed down through the generations of his family as many are involved in conservation and environmental studies.

Chuck graduated from Westtown School, then attended Haverford College (where his other grandfather had been president), graduating in 1936. He later received a Masters degree in Social Work from Bryn Mawr College.

Prior to the reunification of Friends bodies in New England, Chuck was the Young Friends secretary for Wilburite Friends, a task which had him regularly traveling around New England in the 1930s to encourage dialogue among the branches of Quakerism.

His life was full of goodness; he lived the Quaker testimonies. During World War II, after working for the Social Security Administration in Providence, RI Chuck was drafted into Civilian Public Service as a conscientious objector to war. For the duration of the war, he cut brush below power lines in the mountains of New Hampshire, worked on irrigation projects in Maryland, and served as an orderly in the Pennsylvania State Mental Hospital at Byberry in Philadelphia.

After the war Chuck worked at the Friends Neighborhood Guild in North Philadelphia, a Quaker organization that provided shelter and support to homeless men. Later he returned to Haverford College to serve, first as their associate director of development from 1954 to 1958, and then as the director of annual giving from 1958 to 1979. He possessed an uncanny ability to recall significant information about most graduates and this personal touch resulted in high participation in annual giving campaigns. One year, under his leadership, Haverford had the highest percentage of participation in annual giving among the graduates of all colleges and universities in the country. In his honor, Haverford College grants the Charles Perry Award each year to one person for “exemplary service to the college in fundraising.” During this time Chuck was a member of Haverford Monthly Meeting where he served on several committees.

With his wife Eleanor, he was active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, assisting African American families as they broke color barriers to move into all-white neighborhoods in suburban Philadelphia. The two together were a source of positive energy for many; they especially enjoyed leading marriage enrichment weekends for Quakers. Friends recalled that we rarely said one name without the

other—they were almost always, “Chuck and Eleanor.” In his later life he reflected on his marriage and life’s work and said, “Yes, I picked the right girl.”

In 1989 Chuck and Eleanor left their home in Bryn Mawr, PA and moved to a family home in Westerly, back to Haversham on Quonochontaug Pond where he had enjoyed his childhood and many summers. He served on many Ministry & Counsel committees as well as on Peace and Social Concerns for Westerly Meeting (Friends always enjoyed going to Haversham for committee meetings). He and Eleanor attended meeting for as long as their health would allow. When it began to fail, they moved to a retirement home where we would hold committee meetings and occasionally worship in their apartment. Chuck’s memory for historic detail was always helpful to our meeting. If we wondered about conscientious objector experiences, or details of Quaker history, or a variety of other topics, Chuck could always be counted on to have the real story.

Chuck and Eleanor had three sons, David, Harvey, and “Carl” (Charles, Jr.), all of whom are married and have children. Chuck’s marriage and dealings with his family were infused with laughter, patience, and goodness. These attributes helped him through the difficult later years of failing health. He taught his family and friends well the importance of staying connected to each other and to “a sense of place”—the feel of the wind in the sail and the wonders of the natural world around us.

— WESTERLY FRIENDS MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING

Harriette Reeves-Forsythe 1925–2010

Hattie Reeves-Forsythe held an unwavering commitment to her family and friends, as well as a deep religious faith that led to her passion for many social concerns. She was a faithful best friend, wife to her two husbands, and the long-time matriarch of a large family.

Hattie was born in Reading, MA on May 1st, 1925 to Adra and Harry Camp. Her father was an organist and had a pipe organ in the house. This instilled in Hattie a deep love of music and mysticism through the lens of her Congregational upbringing.

While attending Oberlin College to study economics, she encountered Quakerism and quickly began using plain speech, which she continued for the remainder of her life. In 1946 she married Davis Forsythe, a Quaker dairy farmer in Medford, NJ. There she raised four daughters, fed all the farm workers, and became a devoted first grade teacher. She welcomed her daughters’ many friends to their home, as well as more than 50 international visitors, believing if the family couldn’t travel, she could bring the world to them.

Hattie held a deep concern for divisions in Quakerism and tried to hold out on becoming a member until the Orthodox and Hicksite monthly meetings in Medford reunited. Her commitment to family was even stronger however; she joined so that her four daughters would be birthright Friends.

After Davis' death in 1978, Hattie began to travel, visiting her international Friends, and spending time at Pendle Hill. Through her involvement with Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, she met John Reeves and they were married in 1979.

Some highlights from Hattie's lengthy committee service among Friends include serving as clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Worship & Ministry Committee, as a member of their Peace Committee, and the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee. In Medford Monthly Meeting she served on the Nominating as well as Overseers committees. Additionally she was on the board of the John Woolman Memorial House in Mt. Holly, NJ.

She served on the board of Woolman Hill Quaker Center in Deerfield, MA for many years, including serving as clerk of the board as it worked out the details of receiving the gift of the North Dartmouth, MA meeting house, moving it, and installing it on the property of Woolman Hill.

At Putney Friends Meeting, she served as clerk of the meeting, and also as a strong presence on the Adult Religious Education Committee. She served on Central Committee for Friends General Conference and enjoyed attending the Gathering as well as annual sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and later New England Yearly Meeting.

She had an incredibly welcoming nature, believing a table could be extended to fit any number. Hattie's deepest ministry was in sincerely loving all whom she met, convincing most she encountered even briefly to believe they were among her most favorite people in the world. Her infectious warm spirit, won over the hearts of many, leading her to successfully talk her way out of war-tax collection.

In the last years of her life, Hattie continued to speak about her care for the full family of Quakers, stating frequently that the current cross-branch work among young adult Friends was giving her great hope for the future of our Religious Society.

While Hattie was well-loved and connected to Friends around the world, most of all, she cherished her family. She had four children, eight grandchildren, and counted her large step-family as her own as well.

Toward the end of her life, Hattie fondly re-counted her early years, and looked forward to re-uniting with those who had passed on before her, and even ancestors whom she had never met. Even in death, Hattie was a powerful teacher; she taught us about how to go gracefully out of this life with no unfinished business. In her own way and time, she died peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones. A woman of great determination, she never did anything part-way. May her love live on in all of us.

—PUTNEY FRIENDS MEETING, NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

Virginia Townsend 1913–2010

Virginia Townsend, a member of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends since her birth in 1913, died at Crosslands at Kennett Square, PA on January 29, 2010 at the age of 96.

Virginia was born at home in Roxbury, MA and became a birthright member of the old Boston Monthly Meeting which, as it happened, was located on Townsend Street. Her parents, S. Paul and Mabel, had become active members of the meeting. Virginia loved to talk about growing up in that meeting, complete with hymns, prayers, and pastors, among them Elton Trueblood and Wilbur Thomas. She learned one Bible verse for each letter of the alphabet, and remembered them into old age.

In 1922 the Townsend family moved to Lakewood Road in Newton Highlands, MA where Virginia would live for most of the next 70 years. At 13 she entered the Lincoln School, a Quaker boarding school in Providence, RI. From there she went to Radcliffe College, majoring in Chemistry.

She put her chemistry studies to work at Massachusetts General Hospital, doing research for surgeons, but her interest in working directly with people began to lead her away from her scientific background. In 1938 she became a resident fellow at Mount Holyoke College and earned a Masters degree in physiology. Then came a variety of administrative positions: admissions counselor at Rockford College in Illinois, Director of Admissions at Wheaton College, and in the Dean's office at Boston University Medical School. In 1953 she began work raising funds for non-profit institutions in New England. She returned to Lincoln School in 1969 as executive secretary of the Alumnae Association and director of development, and served there until her retirement in 1979.

In 1993 Virginia left her Newton home and moved to Crosslands in Pennsylvania, where she became an active part of Crosslands Friends Meeting, serving as clerk of the Care Committee.

As an active Young Friend in the 1930s Virginia was part of the transition from Boston Monthly Meeting to Friends Meeting at Cambridge. Some, she remembered, were not easy with this change, but by the 1930s few Friends lived in Roxbury, and more and more Friends were comfortable with silent worship. She was a driving force behind Newton Quakers, a worship group which continues to function, but has been sorely missing Virginia these 17 years since her transition to Crosslands.

Virginia served Friends Meeting at Cambridge tirelessly, on practically every committee, usually as recording clerk. She attended the old Yearly Meeting of Friends of New England, and remembered being in a small group with Rufus Jones. A particular joy was her clerkship of the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee of the Meeting in 1986. On the Moses Brown and Lincoln School committees, she was a calming voice when they faced difficulties. She served for ten years on Permanent Board and five years as clerk of the Executive Council.

Virginia was always gracious, rooted in the Religious Society of Friends yet open to new ideas. She enjoyed entertaining people, particularly children, for whom she

kept a trunk of toys. She saw a great deal of change in Quakerism but complained only about lower standards of Quaker dress; she had been taught to go to meeting “dressed for God.” We could go to her for advice and counsel, for she knew a great deal of the world.

The word “serves” appears often and aptly in our memory of Virginia. She was always willing to take on a new task, cheerfully asserting that she was a Martha rather than a Mary, seldom speaking in meeting for worship, baffled by the efforts of some to reach spiritual heights.

Her spirit showed in everything she did. Hers was a life well lived.

—FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING



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