

Memorial Minutes 1994

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY
MEETING *of* FRIENDS

289.674092B
NEYM
1994

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Sunday, August 7, 1994 7:00 pm..... | 3 |
| Robert M. Brill..... | 3 |
| Henry Jules Baechler..... | 4 |
| Samir A. Haddad..... | 6 |
| Albert Smith Bigelow..... | 7 |
| Amna Cope Stabler..... | 8 |
| Frank Warren Howe..... | 9 |
| William Frederic Evans..... | 10 |
| William G. Sattler..... | 11 |
| R. Louise McManus..... | 12 |
| L. Ralston Thomas..... | 14 |

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

Sunday, August 7, 1994 7:00 pm

We heard memorial minutes for Robert M. Brill, Henry Jules Baechler, Moses Bailey, Samir A. Haddad, Albert Smith Bigelow, Amna Cope Stabler, Frank Warren Howe, William Frederic Evans, William G. Sattler, R. Louise McManus, and L. Ralston Thomas. Friends gave personal testimony to the influence of some of these exemplary Friends, who were active in the life of the Yearly Meeting and Moses Brown School. The Clerk closed our time of remembrance by reading from William Penn's *Some fruits of solitude*—

*And this is the Comfort of the Good, that the grave cannot hold them,
and that they live as soon as they die.*

*For Death is no more
than a turning of us over from time to eternity.*

*Death, then, being the way and condition of life, we cannot love to live
if we cannot bear to die.*

*They that love beyond the World, cannot be separated by it.
Death cannot kill what never dies.*

*Nor can Spirits ever be divided
that love and live in the same Divine Principle
the Root and Record of the Friendship.*

If Absence be not Death, neither is theirs.

Robert M. Brill

When Bob Brill died, a singular era ended for those who knew him—an era marked by kindness, graciousness, caring and wisdom. But while the era ended, its elements will be passed on to generations of others—a fitting legacy for one who tried throughout his life to live by his principles.

Robert Maurice Brill was born in New York City, where he very early came to love that city's great cultural institutions: the opera, symphony, ballet. As a young adult, he was associated with his family's clothing business, but the coming of the Second World War provided the opportunity to live his principles by serving for almost five years as a Conscientious Objector in Quaker Civilian Public Service (CPS) camps. His opposition to war came from his early association with the Society of Friends, starting when he was eight. During his service in a California CPS camp, he met a high school teacher who was teaching in the Japanese Relocation Center at Manzanar: Helen Ely, from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The fiftieth anniversary of their three-day courtship was celebrated last Thanksgiving.

Following the war, and while earning a Master's degree in social work at Columbia University, two daughters were born: Louise and Laurel. Moving to Buffalo, Bob began a lifetime of applying his administrative skills and Quaker principles to many good causes. The Brills were one of the founding members of the Buffalo Monthly Meeting.

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

For the five-year period in West Chester, Pennsylvania that followed their time in Buffalo, and when they moved to Connecticut in 1963, they continued to be involved in Friends' affairs. Bob was appointed the New England Yearly Meeting Treasurer for ten years. In addition, his devoted service to Hartford Meeting included, among other things, 27 years on the Finance committee and a term as Clerk, where his skills as listener and peacekeeper were evident. During this time, the Brill family expanded to include Laurel's husband Michael Swan and their two children Robert and Laurel M. Swan.

In 1982, Bob and Helen founded the Hartford area support group Parents, Families of Lesbians, and Gays (P-FLAG), and became active in the Hartford Meeting's efforts to gain acceptance for lesbians and gay men. Most of the states and five countries now have copies of the study packet of information Bob assembled to acquaint Friends with the subject. This was instrumental in the ever-widening acceptance that lesbians and gay men are finding among Quakers. Several individuals helped by P-FLAG spoke at the December 6 memorial service of how life-changing the Brills' support was.

Bob's life ended gently at his home in Bloomfield after eleven months of lung cancer. At no time did his progressing weakness prevent him from keeping in touch with his friends. He called frequently to express loving concern for anyone in need. His acceptance of death was a final lesson in courage for those who knew and loved him.

— HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Henry Jules Baechler

Henry Jules Baechler died on Eleventh Month 8, 1993, after suffering a stroke in June. His life was celebrated at a memorial meeting held on Eleventh Month 13, 1993, at Hartford Monthly Meeting.

Henry was born Tenth Month 19, 1911, the only child of Jules H. Baechler and Margaret Grandlienard Baechler. He grew up in the town of West New York, New Jersey. In his adventurous youth, he swam in the Hudson River, worked on the Mexico-Texas border, traveled on horseback in the west, and rode the rails during the Great Depression.

He graduated from Wagner College on Staten Island in 1936, and moved to Hartford, Connecticut. He and Marjorie Dolliver met square dancing and were married on Tenth Month 3, 1953. They continued to square dance until recently. Besides Marjorie, he leaves three sons and a daughter: Bruce, Donald, Robert, and Margaret.

Henry's vocational life was with the State of Connecticut as a bank examiner and in the state tax department. Following his retirement, he trained as a drug rehabilitation counselor and worked for the Salvation Army in that capacity.

In the 60's, Henry and Marjorie became members of Hartford Monthly Meeting, which became central in their family life and from which many

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

activities radiated. Henry served the meeting on many committees, including finance and buildings and grounds, and as treasurer and First Day School teacher. He was faithful in attendance at meetings for worship and business.

Henry and his family also participated Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting, where again he was no stranger to committee work. Throughout the years, he had served on Finance Committee, Board of Managers of Permanent Funds, Nominating Committee, and Right Sharing of World Resources Committee. Henry was a regular attender of New England Yearly Meeting sessions, where after a long day of worship, business, workshops, and swimming he was eager to share in a talk session into the night.

An avid reader and determined seeker, he could be found wherever truth was sought, such as at the Friends General Conference Gatherings, Yearly Meeting sessions, and the Quaker Studies Program; or where truth was witnessed, such as at the Good Friday Peace Witness on Boston Common, the weekly Vietnam Peace Vigil in Hartford, or Hiroshima Day observances.

Henry was a gentle person and an excellent listener. Rather than attempting to change a person's mind, he would help the person consider new points of view.

In recent years, Henry used a walking stick but nevertheless stepped out with a brisk stride. There was always a merry twinkle in his eyes, as if obeying George Fox's admonition to "walk cheerfully over the earth, answering to that of God in everyone."

— HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Moses Bailey

Moses Bailey centered 101 years of life firmly on Quaker principles. A lifelong Friend, Moses was born in Portland, Maine, on October 25, 1892. He graduated from Moses Brown School and received degrees from Earlham College and the Hartford Seminary. He earned advanced degrees from Boston University and Harvard, emerging as a well-grounded biblical scholar. In 1918, he married Mabel Googins, his beloved partner until her death in 1976. Their children are Marguerite Lawn and Omar Bailey. Following World War I, Moses was principal of the Friends School in Ramallah, Palestine. He taught at Wellesley College for ten years before accepting an appointment at the Hartford Seminary as Nettleton Professor of Old Testament for thirty years, until his retirement in 1962.

During the years following World War II, he often traveled to the then-emerging nation of Israel, where he represented AFSC in its effort with the United Nations to work with Arab and Israeli leaders to ease the plight of Arab refugees in the new state of Israel. His fluent knowledge of Hebrew and Arabic proved invaluable in these endeavors. When he returned to Hartford, he helped rejuvenate the Hartford Friends Meeting.

For more than a quarter of a century after his retirement, he spoke or

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

taught at colleges, churches, and Quaker institutions from Connecticut to Ohio. He consistently promoted moral integrity on individual and global levels. Lifetime learning and growth were also highly valued. In his nineties, he studied at Boston University, toured Costa Rica, and flew to Louisiana to learn word processing.

Moses was a recorded minister with New England Yearly Meeting, and the last recorded minister of Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting. His writings and vocal ministry at Hartford Meeting were a mainstay for sixty years. In later years, visitors found their way to his barn apartment in Ellington, Connecticut, where his storytelling, humor, and generous spirit would lift them in the Light. He was confidant to many.

His sense of humor, often self-effacing, was a great gift. Moses wrote, "Life may be tragedy, but each line is comedy. Have fun till the very last line."

— HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

Samir A. Haddad

Samir A. Haddad was born in Ramallah, Palestine, in 1927, to Dr. Adib Haddad and Linda Samaan Haddad. He died on March 28, 1994.

He was a graduate of the Friends Boys School in Ramallah, Palestine, and of the American University of Beirut. He earned a master's degree with honors from Southern Illinois University, and completed his education at the Sloane School of Management in industrial relations and economics.

After graduating from the American University of Beirut, he taught chemistry at the Friends Boys School in Ramallah, where he met Barbara White of Cumberland, Rhode Island, a teacher at the Friends Girls School. They married in 1948 in Beirut, and moved to Cumberland, Rhode Island in 1949, and then to Providence in 1968.

In 1967, Samir joined Providence Monthly Meeting and became active in the life of the meeting. He was a seeker and a respected man of conviction and integrity. He served on Religious Education Committee, Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Property Committee, Draft Resisters Committee, Adult Education Committee, Ministry and Counsel, and as an usher.

He was highly regarded as Clerk of the Yearly Meeting Committee for Moses Brown School and Lincoln School and was a member of the Moses Brown School Board of Overseers for several years during a difficult period of transition for Moses Brown. His efforts and the manner of his guidance served the schools, the faculties, and their students well; his wise counsel, energy, and persistent effort were much appreciated. Of him, David C. Burnham, Headmaster of Moses Brown from 1978 to 1994, said "...I admire this man. His personal warmth combined with a very sharp mind made me feel so much more welcomed and supported during my early years at Moses Brown."

He was the corporate director of personnel for the Foxboro Company of

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

Foxboro, Massachusetts. In this capacity, and as an international consultant on organization and human resources issues, he traveled extensively and frequently. He served as consultant to the Civil Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and was an active member of several professional organizations. He shared his considerable knowledge of his field with young people in his capacity as adjunct professor at Bristol Community College.

His sons, E. Alexander Haddad of Duncan, British Columbia, and Christopher J. Haddad of Providence, attended Moses Brown School. His daughters, Jane S. Haddad of Greenfield, Massachusetts, and Laila A. Haddad of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, attended the Lincoln School.

Samir was a bright and talented man of many interests. He was an amateur musician, a cub scout master, a voracious reader, and an engaging speaker. He was a citizen of the world. We shall miss his intellect, his warmth, his engaging personality, and his steadfast strength of purpose and direction.

— PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING

Albert Smith Bigelow

He would be immediately recognized as a proper Bostonian: the conservative dress, the unflinching courtesy—but with a certain reserve of manner, the first-class sportsman and handsome—even in age. A touch of the dandy remained as a reminder of his salad days, a life full of wine and roses that would have been the envy of Jay Gatsby.

His range of interests were mirrored by his accomplishments: as state housing commissioner; an architect-planner; a leisurely perfectionist in oils and as an illustrator; a vigorous and, indeed, rigorous protector of the tidal marshes and waters of Buzzards Bay; and an outstanding small boat sailor (serving as a senior judge of the United States Yacht Racing Union). The lure of the sea never deserted him. He made two trans-Atlantic crossings under sail. During World War II, he commanded destroyer escorts in the North Atlantic and Pacific.

Bert's subsequent rejection of all forms of violence and his moral revulsion by the instruments of mass destruction led to his arrest and imprisonment. As an act of witness, he skippered the ketch, *The Golden Rule*, across the Pacific intending to enter the Eniwetok Proving Grounds to protest the imminent testing of the hydrogen bomb. Bert's book *The Voyage of the Golden Rule* tells the story. Other nonviolent protests were to follow. When a freedom rider in Alabama, he survived a bombing and a savage beating. His broad vision was not to the neglect of local matters. He played a formative role in bringing the "Hiroshima Maidens," who as children had been so hideously burned, to the United States for remedial surgery. At the same time, he joined in setting up in Boston the Big Brother movement.

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

What *Faith and Practice* speaks of as “traditional New England reserve” obscured much of the anguish of the struggle within. For him, the sunlight was often dappled with shadow. But Bert sought and achieved self-mastery, perhaps drawing some strength from the small Marion and Mattapoissett meetings where worship was always enriched by his presence. His spiritual quest, even so, was a lonely one, taking him along diverse and distant paths to Buddhism, the Satyagraha of Gandhi, our mystical poets, the practice of Tai Chi, as well as the more familiar ways of Christian faith.

In later years, when reason rambled and boisterous days were long gone, in the quiet of his room, the presence of the Spirit was so powerful and undiminished as to be tangible. And, at the end, he would “lye downe in the peace of our God.”

— MATTAPOISETT MONTHLY MEETING, SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

Amna Cope Stabler

Amna Cope Stabler was born in Bancroft, Michigan, the middle daughter of Sarah Wagner and Otis Merriam Cope, a physician and teacher. In September 1931, Amna and Russell Stabler of Brooklyn Heights were married under the care of Westbury Friends Meeting, Long Island (NYYM).

While Russell was studying math and logic at Harvard University their son Edward Cope Stabler was born. This boy, their “pride and joy,” lost his life in 1954 while mountain climbing in British Columbia.

Amna and Russell spent their professional lives chiefly on Long Island where Russell taught at Hofstra University. After earning a degree in Science, Amna served in various libraries. During this period, they were active in Quaker concerns and testimonies. In the late 50’s they chose tax resistance as a protest against the arms race.

Upon Russell’s retirement in 1969, they moved to New Hampshire near Durham and bought their simple cottage on Lake Kanawatka in Center Harbor. To many it seemed fitting that Amna was in her beloved cottage as her life ended. After Russell’s death in 1972, Amna remained in New Hampshire, devoted to Friends concerns in Dover Quarter and in New England Yearly Meeting. Amna’s Yearly Meeting committee assignments included Ministry and Counsel, Executive Council, New England Friends Home, Nominating, Correspondence, Permanent Board, and Committee on Sufferings. She is best known for her efforts to create a Quaker environment for elder citizens. As a Trustee of the Friends Community Development Corporation in the 70s she visited twenty-eight sites in New England, leading to the decision to build Friends Community at North Easton, Massachusetts, whose financial failure she regretted. In 1988, Amna moved to Haven- wood, a retirement community under the care of the United Church of Christ, and began attending Concord Friends Meeting.

Amna had a strong influence on three Quaker Meetings in New Hampshire. She and Russell joined Dover Meeting after their move, and Amna contributed much to the Meeting, including serving as clerk.

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

Amna Stabler's return each spring to Kanasatka coincided with the reopening of North Sandwich Friends Meeting when it was a "summer only Meeting". She was dearly loved and valued for her wonderful blend of time-tested wisdom, compassionate understanding of human strengths and weaknesses, and a storyteller's ability to enlarge one's vision with marvelous and humorous vignettes of life from her own long experience. She supported North Sandwich Friends efforts to make provision for their children's program and Friends there wish she were with them to enjoy the new building as it comes to completion.

At Concord Meeting, her life spoke to many in many ways. She participated in Meeting committee work and acted as an assistant First Day School teacher. One child said: "She was never mad at you. She may have been angry with something you had done, but she always gave you a second chance." A member of Meeting who also resided at Havenwood was inspired by her perseverance in learning to walk after a broken femur. Another at Concord Meeting said, "No matter what my need was when I came to Meeting, Amna always seemed to say something that spoke to it."

She was hospitable and generous with her time and resources. She encouraged young Friends, and drew from her own experiences of bereavement and loss to reach out to others in similar grief. She shared her good stories, good humor, appetite for learning, ingenuity in making do with what comes to hand, love of music and singing, and awareness of the mystical.

What was her center? Compassion and integrity, and an endless capacity to find hope in all things. We miss Amna Cope Stabler and are grateful to have known her.

— CONCORD MONTHLY MEETING, DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

Frank Warren Howe

Frank Warren Howe died August 9, 1993. Warren became acquainted with Friends during his association with Moses Brown School in 1945. He joined Providence Meeting and served the meeting as Recording Clerk (1949-1951), Clerk of the Meeting (1952-1954), and as a member of several committees.

For many years, he was a regular attender at the New England Yearly Meeting sessions. He served the Yearly Meeting as treasurer for five years (1958-1962).

In 1928, he married Natalie Cullen. They spent much of their married life living on the Moses Brown School campus, where Warren was assistant senior master. He taught mechanical drawing and coached the track team. Students who were on the track team remember him with much affection for his high values in sportsmanship, the integrity of his own life, and how he encouraged all members of the team. When the school built a field house, it was named in part for him.

After retiring from Moses Brown in 1961, he coached track at Brown

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

University for seven years. He was a member and past president of the Rhode Island Track Coaches Association, the Rhode Island Track Officials Association, and the Rhode Island Timers Guild. He served as president for five years, and secretary-treasurer for seventeen years, of the New England Preparatory School Track Association.

After retiring from Moses Brown, he served on the Board of Overseers of the school. As long as he was able, he was a regular attender at the meeting for worship in Providence, where his frequent vocal ministry will be missed.

Warren is survived by his wife Natalie and two daughters, Cynthia H. Brett of Seattle, Washington, and Judith Howe of Cumberland, Rhode Island. He also leaves three grandchildren and three great-grandsons.

A memorial service was held in the Providence Meeting House on August 24, 1993. It was attended by many Friends, former students, and members of his track teams. Many spoke of the way Warren had deeply touched their lives while they were students at Moses Brown.

— PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING

William Frederic Evans

“I believe it is a better idea to be joyful than not.”

These words ended Frederic’s personal credo, written in 1993, and clearly express how he chose to live his life. Frederic was a person of words. He loved playing with words. His curiosity and humor around language began at an early age and was a thread that wove throughout his life. Frederic graduated with highest honors from Swarthmore College, and did Ph.D. work in linguistics at Brown University. He taught linguistics at Yale University during the 1991-92 academic year. It was during this Christmas break that he was diagnosed with AIDS.

Frederic’s spirit was expansive and he radiated Light. Introduced to the Society of Friends through the high school program at Powell House, he joined Purchase Meeting in 1978. He attended both New York and New England Yearly Meetings where he was active as Junior High, Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends staff as well as being a Young Adult Friend. In 1991, he transferred his membership to Westport Meeting, the meeting he attended when in Westport, Massachusetts, site of his much-loved family cottage.

Frederic was able to transform his fantastic energy and extraordinary capacity for having fun into the written word. He kept in touch with people through letters which were saved and relished. Love was abundant in Frederic’s life. He gave love freely to a wide circle of friends, and joyfully received their love in return.

Frederic delighted in expressing his knowledge of the love of God. He reminded those near him to keep focused on the banquet of love spread before us. He had a very personal relationship with Jesus which he

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

experienced as a fountain of wholeness and joy and safety. This love was challenged and deepened through his difficult illness and brought him peace, as he expressed in a song he composed:

“Oh I got peace in my heart. It is my refuge, my rock. Was blind but now I see, I know what brought it to me. For it was love: free grace, faith arising, all of me surprising, flowing like a river in a restless heart, tearing me apart, putting me together in the light and love of God.”

Frederic loved to travel, especially by train. Any place he lived or visited became a local history research project. He was fascinated by relationships of words, languages, people, places, and events. He spent days researching and identifying his forebears, especially the Quaker ancestors. He even created his own characters and fictional landscapes. His imagination was infectious and gave endless delight and inspiration to his friends and family.

Frederic was a musician; singing was as natural to him as breathing and he played many instruments. His flair for the dramatic was extraordinary. His interest in music and theatre began at an early age and reached its peak with the Free Grace Undying Love Full Gospel Quaker Choir Sing and Be Saved. The choir integrated several strands of his life, and allowed Frederic to sing his evangelical message with an intensity which was, perhaps, amplified by his illness. As the choir worshipped together, their love of God spilled out in exuberant music.

His illness was a catalyst for significant changes in Frederic's life, as he gave up his teaching career in order to devote himself to his friends and music. He moved to Cambridge to be closer to his support community at Beacon Hill Meeting. Angels, which had always been a real presence in his life, became visible in a quilt made for him by Westport Meeting which he shared at the 1992 New England Yearly Meeting Sessions. He talked openly to young and old about his illness, allowing himself to be vulnerable, teaching us that with God's help you can carry the cross you are given.

Frederic died on April 21, 1994, at the age of 33, in the presence of dear friends and with the words of the Psalms to comfort him. Friends gathered in worship to remember him on May 21, 1994 at Cambridge Meeting, under the joint care of Westport and Beacon Hill Monthly Meetings.

These words ended a message Frederic gave at the Harvard Divinity School Gospel Fest for AIDS in December 1993: “So here's my little nugget of gospel truth for you to take home. The truth is not: it's going to be all right. The truth is: it already is.”

— WESTPORT MONTHLY MEETING, SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

William G. Sattler

William Sattler died August 10, 1993, in his 74th year. For a quarter century he had, with his wife Connie, been a faithful and central member of Middletown Monthly Meeting, serving on countless committees and, at the time of his death, as Co-Clerk of the Meeting.

Bill was born in Philadelphia on February 8, 1920. He attended

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

Germantown Friends School and Germantown Academy, and he received a B.A. in Philosophy the University of Pennsylvania. After a period of years pursuing various careers, he took a second undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from City College in New York. His special knowledge of propeller design and the dynamics of wind tunnels brought him and Connie first to the Curtis-Wright Company and later to Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut. The interplay between scientific theory and experimental design intrigued and pleased him, but his relations with the company's military orientation were ambiguous at best, and at times the source of much anguish. His work brought him joy throughout his career, but as a lifelong pacifist (and a Conscientious Objector in World War II), he felt uncomfortable with the values and attitudes of management and his fellow workers.

Bill was a powerful participant in Middletown Monthly Meeting, both in meetings for worship and in meetings for business. At first, his freewheeling messages, sprinkled with eclectic references and quotations from unusual sources, might strike the listener as a digression. But inevitably, after some reflection, the relevance would become clear, and the meeting was left enriched by a fresh perspective that served to focus, not to diffuse, collective awareness and thinking.

He was a wonderfully musical member of a wonderfully musical family. Though never a concert performer, he played, listened, sang, and improvised with great skill, abandon, and infectious enthusiasm. From the classics to German Lieder to Gilbert and Sullivan to folk songs and jazz, no genre escaped his attentive devotion or failed to bring him pleasure. Those fortunate enough to have known Bill with some degree of intimacy have spoken with appreciation and amusement of his arias in his living room, his chants in the subway, his Balthazar at the Christmas party.

Bill was widely read and learned, lovable and loving, and quite unconventional. As one longtime friend said at a memorial service held in October (here we paraphrase slightly), "It was clear immediately, meeting Bill for the first time, that this was an unusual individual. The ingredients were of highest quality, but mixed in unfamiliar proportions."

William Sattler died of cardiac arrest at New England Yearly Meeting, surrounded by Friends. He is survived by his wife Connie of Moodus, Connecticut and his daughter Valerie of Nurnberg, Germany.

— MIDDLETOWN MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

R. Louise McManus

At age 33, Rachel Louise Metcalfe McManus wrote the following guide for her life: "Oh Infinite Goodness that is eternal, I praise Thee and thank Thee for this portion of Thyself—this infinite good—this love that is in me ... I praise Thee for the assurance that with and through these good gifts of Thine I will have wisdom, ability, patience and strength to create more and more good in myself and in those that Thou has given me to love ... I

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

consecrate myself and all that I have from Thee to this Thy service, in living out according to my capacity—this spirit, this love....”

Few people are able to fulfill the promises they make to themselves at a young age, but Louise’s clear sense of her gifts and of the sacredness of her nursing vocation, upheld by faith in God as the source, brought her a life of loving service that never became burdensome, for she had the capacity to “answer to that of God in everyone.” Personal defections of others were as nothing to her, and a person’s potentials became all.

Louise was born on March 4, 1896, in North Smithfield, Rhode Island, to eight generations of Quakers. She grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts, and attended Worcester Meeting, where her father was recognized as having the gift of ministry. The Metcalfe home hosted many traveling Quakers, including those who were called to missionary work.

Louise devoted her considerable energies to a profession in nursing education, to her large family, and to Quakers. She had first wished to become a missionary, following the path of her Quaker great-aunt and namesake Rachel Metcalfe, who did important work among the abandoned girls of India. However, after earning her RN, a severe kidney ailment kept Louise from pursuing missionary work, and she turned to nursing education, receiving a B.S. and M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University, where she remained throughout her career. Her research centered on devising badly-needed national standardized testing and licensing practices for nurses. After receiving a Ph.D. from Columbia in 1947, she was named tenured professor and Director of the Division of Nursing Education.

Louise was always concerned that women have the opportunity to become educated and lead lives of dignity and worth. One of her most satisfying achievements was to establish nursing as a recognized, university-trained profession in Turkey, where nurses had been poor and uneducated. In the United States, her sponsorship of a two-year RN degree in junior colleges has enabled many mature women and women with children to become registered nurses. Louise received many awards for her work, but none pleased her more than being the first recipient of the R. Louise McManus medal, given for outstanding service in the field of nursing.

Louise married John H. McManus, a widower, in 1929, and instantly became mother to six children. She also gave birth to a daughter, Joan, a miracle considering her earlier bout with nephritis. After John died in 1934, Louise cared for her mother-in-law and the children. Her devotion to family was evident from the open, accepting home she maintained for all the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

After retiring to Cape Cod in 1961, Louise gave her energy to Sandwich Monthly Meeting and its three Preparative Meetings, and to New England Yearly Meeting. She helped open West Falmouth Meeting on a year-round basis, and served the Yearly Meeting on Permanent Board, Executive Council, Student Loan Committee, Ministry and Counsel, and the Board of Moses Brown School (of which she was an alumna). To all of these she

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

brought dedication and clear-sighted organizational skills. But we also remember Louise for simple deeds of love: decorated cakes for festive occasions, shirts turned to gowns for Kaimosi Hospital, new covers for meetinghouse cushions, and tender, matter-of-fact counsel to all who sought her advice.

Louise died peacefully on May 29, 1993, at the age of 97, in the company of her children and grandchildren. Louise, indeed thee lived out thy life in faith and inspire us to follow.

— SANDWICH MONTHLY MEETING, SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

L. Ralston Thomas

L. Ralston “Breck” Thomas died March 10, 1994, in Providence at the age of 104. The eldest of three children in a Friends’ family of Avondale, Pennsylvania, he graduated from Westtown Friends School where his record in a track event still stands. At Haverford College, he majored in Mathematics and Science, intending to go into medicine or engineering. Following his graduation in 1913, he returned to Westtown to teach chemistry, leaving there during World War I to join the American Friends Service Committee. He trained men for relief work in France and later worked in France with AFSC and American Red Cross relief and reconstruction work. He and his wife Editha later served the AFSC for a year in Budapest, where he was chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relief Agencies. For this, both he and Editha received the Cross of Legion of Merit from the Hungarian Democratic Republic.

In 1919, he went to Moses Brown School to teach chemistry, and in 1924, he became Headmaster, a position he held for thirty-one years. Under his leadership, with the dedicated faculty he assembled, the school grew in academic excellence. He served on the Yearly Meeting Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds, the Vaults and Records Committee, and the Permanent Board. For over sixty years, he was a Trustee of the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund and served as its Clerk for over twenty years. Breck was a Trustee of both Brown University and Lincoln School, was a Director of the Rhode Island AAA and President of the Rhode Island Society for Mental Hygiene. He was a cofounder and past President of the Rhode Island Independent School Association, and a member of the New England Headmasters Association and the Country Day School Headmasters Association. He was an avid outdoorsman enjoying hiking, mountain climbing, and in his latter years walking regularly. Following his retirement, he served as interim headmaster at several schools. He and Editha were active in the community, especially in music circles. They travelled a great deal. He was a devoted husband and, as his wife’s health failed, he was her sole caretaker until they had to enter a rest home. He maintained a continued interest in Moses Brown School and his ability to remember former students years later and “tell them details about themselves” was truly remarkable. As his sight failed, he often recognized

NEYM Memorial Minutes - 1994

them by their voices. He had a profound influence on the hundreds of boys who passed through his school as evidenced by the many testimonies from alumni over the years and by the tributes at his Memorial Service held at Moses Brown School in May. His Quaker principles and ideals guided Breck throughout his life as teacher, administrator, and special Friend. Friends who visited him in his latter years asked him to reminisce about his long life and this was recorded on tape. These memories have been published in a small book called *Recollections*.

— PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING, RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING