

# Memorial Minutes 1998

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY  
MEETING *of* FRIENDS

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NEYM  
1998

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### *Isabel Payne (Ellen) Paullin*

Clear that death was near, Ellen Paullin forsook further medical intervention and died peacefully at her home on March 1, 1998. Ellen dealt with the multiple myeloma that accompanied her during her last four years in her characteristic manner. She faced the challenge and converted it into a learning opportunity. Though suffering, Ellen maintained enough detached objectivity to laugh at herself and the world around her.

The oldest of seven children, Ellen was born on June 27, 1915 in Amherst, Massachusetts and raised in Manhattan, Kansas. She graduated from Kansas State College in 1936. She soon became Executive Secretary of the YWCA at the University of Kansas, and there met history professor Ted Paullin, whom she married in 1939. During World War II, their commitment to pacifism and socialism led Ellen and Ted from Kansas to Philadelphia, where Ellen taught at Media Friends School and Ted worked for the Pacifist Research Bureau. While attending Swarthmore Friends Meeting, Ellen and Ted discovered their spiritual home, and they remained active, convinced Friends for the rest of their lives. Ellen served on the Executive Committee of the New England Region of the American Friends Service Committee and on the Quaker United Nations Program Committee. She helped to edit the Friends hymnal, *Songs of the Spirit*, as well as a folk song book, *Around the Friendly World*. From 1970 to 1972, Ellen was Clerk of Hartford Friends Meeting.

Ellen's family was always her greatest source of pride and strength. With these solid relationships at her core, Ellen established and sustained long-standing friendships of such quality that her friends formed a second loving family. The closeness of these Friends was such that when several of their spouses died, Ellen, who had lost Ted a few years before, recruited them into a vital support group, which (in an act that was pure Ellen) she dubbed the "Good Grief Group."

Ellen was deeply touched by nature's gifts, and by flowers in particular. Through Hartford Meeting, Ellen established the Morning Star Fund to ensure that Friends will continue to enjoy beautiful flowers. The first woman to serve on the Hartford area's Metropolitan District Commission, Ellen never lost her zest for political controversy. At age 77, she journeyed to Cuba on a good will mission that enabled her to see for herself the nation so dramatically shunned by the U.S. Subsequently, Ellen published a

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booklet, *Pictures from Cuba Including Negatives and Positives*, presenting a balanced account of the conditions that she witnessed. Writing was one of Ellen's most finely honed skills. Her several delightful children's books and her personal account, *Ted's Stroke: The Caregiver's Story*, are lasting memorials to Ellen's creativity, craftsmanship and insight. Ellen was a member of the Greater Hartford Writers Group for fifty years.

Children of all ages were Ellen's enduring delight, and the child within Ellen remained strong throughout her life. Her inquisitiveness, stubbornness, humor, sense of wonder, and openness attracted Ellen to children and them to her. Even as an octogenarian, Ellen would not allow a nine-year-old or a teenager to walk by without a hug or a "high-five." Ellen recently described her own behavior as "bossing, controlling, celebrating, directing, criticizing, proclaiming, laughing, organizing, being opinionated, stubborn, and sometimes thoughtful." She wrote, "I don't worry about immortality because I know that when my friends bump into any of the above characteristics, they will think of me. And, they will remember me when they read an Emily Dickinson poem, see a clothesline with colors waving in the wind, glimpse a spot of sky in a puddle, or see a fingernail moon on its first night out." Yes, Ellen, we will remember and be thankful.

—HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***George Beal***

We give thanks to God for the life of George Beal, an active member of our monthly meeting who died June 4, 1997. George and his wife Amey first joined Friends in Atlanta, Georgia. They were members of Friends Meeting at Cambridge, MA, when George was working as Librarian at Tufts University. George served on the original board of Cambridge Friends School and also served as treasurer of the meeting.

When they moved to Newbury, New Hampshire, George and Amey transferred their membership to our meeting in West Henniker, NH. We enjoyed their home and hospitality when some of our winter meetings for worship were held in their home. After Amey's death, George continued taking an active part in our meeting. He served as the meeting's auditor for many years. He also served on the New England Yearly Meeting Finance Committee.

George was outgoing and was well respected in Newbury,

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where he was a selectman and head librarian of the Town Library. He also was a correspondent from his area to the *Argus Champion*, the weekly newspaper. To those of us who knew him, he will be remembered for his humor. Even auditor's reports were not boring when he was with us! He helped us be better fellow humans, and we miss him.

—WEARE MONTHLY MEETING, DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

### *L Eugene Thomas*

On March 14, 1998, Storrs Friends Meeting celebrated the life and continuing journey of L. Eugene Thomas. Gene Thomas, age 65, died on March 11 in his home, surrounded by family and supported by Friends, after a long bout with cancer.

Gene was born in Magnolia, Arkansas. He graduated from Louisiana State University, and was selected for a full scholarship for one year at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. In 1959, he received a Master of Divinity degree, was ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church, and married Suzanna Menah, a classmate. They served a church in Pattersonville, New York, for five years. Restless with the confinements of church life, he left the ministry to return to the scholarly world where he could question and search intellectually and spiritually.

After receiving a Ph.D. from the Committee on Human Development, University of Chicago in 1968, Gene moved to Storrs to begin his teaching career. He was a professor at the University of Connecticut's School of Family Studies for 30 years, specializing in adult psychological development and gerontology. He developed courses in Death and Dying and Qualitative Research. He was privileged to combine his personal spiritual search with academic research by studying the effect of religious life on the quality of aging. He was awarded two Senior Fulbright Research Fellowships for sabbatical years in India in 1990 among elderly religious Hindus, and in Turkey in 1997 among the Sufis, a mystical branch of Islam. His spiritual development included becoming adept at many different mystical practices.

Gene was an active member of Storrs Friends Meeting for over twenty years, and provided a profoundly centering influence in the Meeting through his combination of a probing intellect and a deep respect for, and sensitivity to, the spiritual. He lived and shared from head and heart, and was remarkable for his openness. He was a regular attender of seeker group sessions, where he would lead the

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group in chanting or participate in a drumming circle. Gene had a particular concern for the Meeting's response to the needs of its children, and participated in the First Day School. Gene and Suzanna would always reach out warmly to new attenders. He was an inspiration in the way he lived and died. Gene touched the lives of many, within our Meeting community and beyond. His light truly shines on.

—STORRS FRIENDS MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

### *Charles Thomas Hancock II*

Tom Hancock was born in New York City on June 17, 1914, attended public schools, and graduated from Fordham University in 1934. He first learned about Quakers from his father who had grown up near Core Sound Meeting in North Carolina and had attended Guilford College. When World War II came along, Tom turned down a commission in the Navy, accepted the loss of a career on Wall Street, and served as a conscientious objector during the war in camps directed by the U.S. Forest Service. He attended and then joined Orange Grove Friends Meeting in California before being released in 1946.

He transferred his membership to Scarsdale, NY, Monthly Meeting and was active in New York Yearly Meeting, visiting every monthly meeting and collecting data for a Yearly Meeting Directory. He was active in a number of peace organizations. In 1996, he received an award from the Fellowship of Reconciliation for 50 years of peace work. He met his wife, Marjorie Leonard, at Scarsdale Meeting in 1952. They had three children, Thomas III, Dacre, and Sarah. The family moved to Massachusetts, eventually settling in Leverett where he worked in the library system of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst until his retirement in 1991. He also worked to procure more rights for women in the support staff of the University.

Tom was Clerk of Mount Toby Monthly Meeting from July 1967 to June 1970, served on a number of committees, and was a trustee of the Meeting. He served on the Woolman Hill Board and as a draft counselor. At the Yearly Meeting level, he served diligently for many years on the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee and for a time was a Reading Clerk. He was on the Mosher Book and Tract Committee, the Permanent Board, and the Archives and Historical Records Committee. Tom was never one to avoid speaking his mind for what he thought was right. As Clerk of the Meeting, as a citizen,

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and as a Quaker, he wrote hundreds of letters about many concerns. Active in his local community as well, Tom served on the town library board and the historical commission.

Tom's friendliness toward newcomers at Mount Toby Meeting, his genuine interest in them, his warm smile, and his encouraging words helped to keep many attenders coming back to worship and influenced their decision to become members of the Society of Friends. An avid collector of Quaker books, new and old, Tom had a strong, well-informed interest in Quaker history and practice in the United States and abroad. Quakerism always came first with him and it truly can be said that one could speak of Quakerism without Tom but not Tom without Quakerism. He died on October 5, 1997 and his memorial meeting was held on November 8.

—MOUNT TOBY MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

### *Thomas J. Crowe*

Tom Crowe was a deeply valued and loved member of Mt. Toby Monthly Meeting and of his Northampton community. He was a pioneer in the radiological treatment of cancer and a medical activist in community education about the environmental causes of cancer. He worked throughout his life for world peace as a leader in several peace organizations.

Tom was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, on November 29, 1913, the son of Irish immigrants. He grew up in Waterbury and earned both his bachelor's degree and his medical degree from Syracuse University, the latter degree in 1941, just as the U.S. was preparing to enter World War II. He then joined the Army Medical Corps and served in the Caribbean area. After the war, Tom trained as a radiologist at the University of Rochester and then started his career as a radiologist in Hartford, Conn. He and his wife, Frances Crowe, later moved to Northampton, MA so their son Jarlath could attend Clarke School for the Deaf as a day student. Working at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital, he founded its unit for radiological treatment of cancer, rather than only its diagnosis, where he pioneered this work in addition to an active general x-ray practice. Just prior to his retirement, he served as Chief of Staff for the hospital. The Department of Oncology at the hospital, which was named after Tom, continues to this day to show the kindly, patient-oriented atmosphere created under Tom's direction. He developed an understanding of many environmental causes of cancer, especially

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tobacco smoking, and worked to educate the community about these causes.

Tom had a strong concern for world peace and a commitment to promote it through education and influence on national policy and legislation, a concern growing out of his professional understanding of the potential impacts of nuclear war. In this, he was joined by his activist wife, Frances, and they became well known in the wider community for their peace efforts. Tom's pacifist concerns led him to join Mount Toby Meeting in 1958. He served as Treasurer and was a member of the Meeting Trustees, the Burial Ground Committee and the History and Records Committee. Tom's influence was spread throughout his communities by his active participation in many organizations in the medical field. He was a member of nine professional medical societies. Tom was an early supporter of Physicians for Social Responsibility and was a founding member of its Western Massachusetts Chapter in the early 1980s. In 1967, Tom created a radiology department in the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Haiti, worked with Frances in Witness for Peace in Nicaragua in 1983, and was active in Physicians for Human Rights. Tom was always available to Meeting members needing advice about personal concerns related to health and helped with physician referral. This advice was especially valued by Friends who were coping with cancer.

A memorable characteristic was his intellectual curiosity and his broad interests. Tom was known to all as a quiet, unassuming, likable man who was always a careful listener. He accomplished a great amount of good in his communities. Tom never felt comfortable in public demonstrations and vigils but worked quietly behind the scenes. He was, however, very supportive of Frances's more public work. Tom died on May 2, 1997 and a Memorial Meeting was held on May 10 at Mt. Toby Meeting House, attended by people representing many of his interests in life. Tom leaves his wife, Frances, three children, Caltha, Jarlath, and Tom, five grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.

—MOUNT TOBY MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING



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## ***Marjorie D. Baechler***

Marjorie Jean Dolliver Baechler was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada on July 24, 1918, to Will Whitney and Elsie Eastwood Dolliver. The following year she returned with her parents to Hartford. She remained a life-long Connecticut resident. Marge joined Travelers Insurance Company in 1936 where she was one of the first female underwriters. In 1944, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy WAVES and was based in New London.

Marge enjoyed playing golf, skiing, and folk and square dancing and calling. In 1953, she married Henry Jules Baechler whom she met square dancing, and through dancing, they met members of the Society of Friends and joined Hartford Monthly Meeting. In 1964, they moved from Hartford to Glastonbury, where Marge worked for the Town Manager for several years. She then became a reporter for the *Glastonbury Citizen*, and was later a publicist for the State of Connecticut Department of Energy. She earned the degree of Associate of Arts from Manchester Community College for life experience credit.

Marge was an ardent letter writer, from friendly notes to action-oriented letters calling for the righting of wrongs. She enjoyed word puzzles and was quick with a rhyme, composing doggerel verse for any occasion. Her creativity seemed boundless, from knitting ski sweaters, designing block prints, and doll-making, to clothes, patchwork quilts, pillows, and stuffed toys. Her favorite project was welcoming new babies with Winnie the Pooh, Piglet, and their friends.

Active in the Religious Society of Friends and numerous peace and social justice causes, Marge served in many capacities both locally and in wider Quaker circles. She was treasurer and newsletter writer of Hartford Monthly Meeting for many years. She was clerk of the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, a member of the Permanent Board, a reading clerk of New England Yearly Meeting, produced the daily newsletter at Friends General Conference and was on the editorial board of the *Friends Journal*. Marge supported the peace vigil held at the Old State House in opposition to the war in Vietnam, was a court monitor, and participated regularly in peace demonstrations from Washington to Boston.

In 1995, Marge moved to the Seabury Retirement Community in Bloomfield, Connecticut, where she could be closer to F/friends and relatives. On February 27, 1998, she suffered her second major

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heart attack and died shortly thereafter. She is survived by three sons and a daughter, Bruce Baechler of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Donald Baechler and Margaret Baechler of New York City, and Robert Baechler of Glastonbury CT. She will be missed by all who knew her.

—HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

### ***Elizabeth (Shep) Colman Parker***

Elizabeth (Shep) Colman Parker, a longtime member of Middlebury, Vermont, Friends Meeting, died on January 8, 1998, at Wake Robin, Shelburne, Vermont. Shep was, in many ways, the “mother of Middlebury Meeting.” In the early '70s, she helped to revitalize a small worship group in Middlebury, and, since then, to be its shepherd and gentle guide. Although a tragic accident in 1993 destroyed much of her mobility, Shep continued to be an inspiring influence on the meeting. Her courageous high spirits were always present as we gathered each First Day, and she was a radiant light for all who visited her during her last five years.

Shep had a long, adventurous, and productive life. She was born into a family with artistic interests and attended progressive schools. She graduated from Bennington College where she studied dance and art. Until her marriage in 1940 to Richard Colman, she was Assistant Art Director of *Harper's Bazaar* magazine. While Richard was football coach at Princeton University, Shep became involved in volunteerism. She taught foreign-born children in the Princeton schools, helped to start the Princeton International Club and initiated the University Hospitality Program for the foreign students. For many years, she worked with migrant workers and the New Jersey Department of Labor to improve working conditions for farm workers. Their two children, Tim and Connie, were born during Shep and Richard's Princeton years. Also, at this time, she and Richard became Quakers. At one point, she and Richard worked in Togo with the American Friends Service Committee.

In 1969, Shep and her family moved to Middlebury, Vermont, where Richard was named Athletic Director at Middlebury College. Their home on South Street was the site of many Friends Meeting, college, and community activities. Shep was a quiet activist for the causes of peace and social justice. She participated in numerous demonstrations, silent vigils and peace walks throughout Vermont. She served on the Board of the Addison County Community Action

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Group and helped to establish the John Graham Emergency Shelter. She always was active in local and regional Quaker activities, as clerk and guide of the fledgling monthly meeting, as clerk of Northwest Quarterly Meeting, and as one of the first members of the AFSC-Vermont steering committee. Her winning friendliness and warm hospitality did much to sustain the life of Middlebury Meeting and to shape it into a close, caring community.

Shep's first husband, Richard, died of a sudden heart attack. A few years later, Shep married Wyman Parker, an old family friend and distinguished librarian. After her accident and subsequent move to Wake Robin, she joined Tom Bassett in establishing a new Quaker worship group there. She continued her great interest in art by participating in an exhibit of works by Wake Robin residents. Shep's strong Quaker beliefs served as a directive in her thinking and the good works she did throughout her life. Her courage, patience, and wonderful sense of humor will continue to inspire all who knew her.

—MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING, NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING

### *Charles LeRoy Darlington*

When the eerie call of a loon echoes over a small western Maine pond and beavers reclaim their territory, Farmington Friends Meeting will always think of Roy Darlington. These are things Roy often spoke about during meeting, as he never lost touch with his life-long role as a teacher. A beloved member of this meeting, his tenacious spirit turned a diagnosis of cancer into an eight-year encounter with life. During this time, he continued to meet problems with his head-on approach to getting the job done. This quality filled a real need in our small, very informal meeting and was a great support to us during our transition from a worship group to a monthly meeting. Each Sunday it was Roy's voice that found our starting note as we sang to begin meeting. Our meeting was also privileged to hear the record of his life as captured in his poetry.

A lifelong Quaker, Roy was born in Wilmington, Delaware in 1920 and spent his early years in New Jersey. After graduating from George School in 1938, he earned a degree in chemistry from Swarthmore College (1942). He received his master's degree in secondary education from Temple University. In his thirty-six year teaching career, Roy taught at Moorestown Friends School, Friends School in Wilmington, Delaware, and Columbia and Montclair High Schools in northern New Jersey. He wrote two high school chemistry textbooks.

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Roy and his wife of 54 years, Elizabeth (Libby) Pettit Darlington, have three children, Anne, Doug, and Jim, as well as nine grandchildren and a great-grandchild. During the summers of 1948 and 1950, Roy and Libby were directors of American Friends Service Committee work camps in Tennessee and Kentucky. They were active members of the Summit Friends Meeting throughout their thirty- four years in South Orange, New Jersey. In 1988, they winterized their summer home and moved to Temple, Maine. There Roy was involved in a wide variety of community service projects. He served as chairperson of the Temple Planning Board. He volunteered in a housing rehabilitation program and for five years was a volunteer for "Safe Visitors for Families at Risk." For two years, he turned his fascination with people into a weekly newspaper column. Roy was the Clerk of Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting from 1991 to 1995. Roy died on November 28, 1997, four days after his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday. Two memorial services were held: one in Farmington, Maine, and the other in Woodstown, New Jersey, in the same meetinghouse in which he and Libby had been married. At a time when it would have been easy to become insular, Roy continued to reach out to support others in love and caring. He is greatly missed.

—FARMINGTON FRIENDS MEETING, VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING