

Memorial Minutes 2003

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY
MEETING *of* FRIENDS

289.674092B
NEYM
2003

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

NEWLIN SMITH	3
MARJORIE GORDON	4
EUNICE CLARK SMITH	6
JEAN NORTH MITCHELL	8
HELEN WEARE ELY BRILL	10
HAYDEN MANTON CHASE TATMAN	13
ROBERT NICHOLS	14

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

Newlin Smith

Friends Meeting at Cambridge remembers fondly Newlin R. Smith, who died peacefully at home at Medford Leas retirement community on September 9, 2001. A birthright Friend, Newlin was born on January 26, 1904 in Philadelphia, the son of noted geographer J. Russell Smith and Henrietta Stewart Smith. He received his AB from Swarthmore College and a PhD in economics from Columbia University.

Wherever he lived, Newlin was always in the thick of civic affairs. When he ran the family dairy farm in the Blue Ridge of Virginia, he was active in the Pine Barrens Conservancy. He spent some fifteen years untangling a complex estate as executor for his father's trust, which included four family farms, resulting in a major gift of land to the Appalachian Trail in the northern Blue Ridge Mountains.

Newlin and his wife, Marion Bonner Smith, lived in Medford, Massachusetts for three decades while he taught economics at Tufts University and served on a number of academic and professional societies. A tireless and effective public servant, he was president of the Medford Civic Association, supporting a plan to institute a city council form of government. In recognition of his considerable service to the community, Newlin was the first person to be named "Man of the Year" by the City of Medford.

Newlin was an energetic member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge, clerk of the meeting for a number of years, one of the founders of Cambridge Friends School, and co-chair of the ambitious fundraising drive which made the current CFS campus on Cadbury Road possible. He also served on the Permanent Board and as clerk of the Yearly Meeting Finance Committee.

A lifelong avid gardener and bird watcher, he was a popular leader of historical and bird-watching tours during his retirement, as well as an active member of the League of Women Voters and the Burlington County Democratic Committee, the Medford (New Jersey) Zoning Board, and the Medford Leas Residents Association. He was predeceased by

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

his wife Marion and a son, Linford R. Smith, and is survived by his son Fenwick, flautist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Small in stature, gigantic in influence and service, Newlin enriched the lives of all he knew.

—FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE; SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Marjorie Gordon

Marjorie Dick Gordon of Concord Friends Meeting died February 26, 2002. She was 95 years old and had been a member of the Religious Society of Friends for more than 60 years.

Born in Newton, Massachusetts, on August 6, 1906, she grew up in Arlington, and in 1927 married Miller Laufman. Disturbed by the growing hostilities in the world leading up to World War II, she and Miller joined Cambridge Meeting in 1940. (She later wryly claimed that she had always wanted to join a Friends Meeting, but thought you had to be from Philadelphia.)

Marjorie was greatly troubled by World War II. She anguished over the pain and suffering of children in foreign lands directly affected by warfare, especially in contrast to the comfortable life she and Miller were able to provide for their children. She recognized, however, that depriving her own children would not improve the lot of others. Instead, she provided her children with an ethical model. For example, she discouraged them from purchasing war stamps in school, and for many years, she did not celebrate her birthday because it fell on the date of the bombing of Hiroshima.

In 1930, Marjorie earned a degree in social work from Simmons College. For many years, she worked with blind children and their families, traveling throughout Massachusetts to meet with clients. Her commitment to and compassion for the people she served was total, and she kept in touch with many of them for the rest of her life.

In 1960, after her divorce from Miller, Marjorie moved to Amherst, Massachusetts, where she joined Mt. Toby Meeting. There she met and was briefly married to Milton Gordon. In 1976 she retired and moved with her son, Alan Laufman, to

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

Harrisville, New Hampshire, where she joined Monadnock Meeting and helped found the Keene Worship Group. In 1987, Marjorie moved to Havenwood Retirement Community in Concord, New Hampshire, where she resided until her death. She was one of several seasoned Quaker elders from around New England whose relocations to Havenwood/Heritage Heights have greatly enriched Concord Meeting in recent years.

Marjorie was notable for her service both to the wider community and to the Quaker world. She was active in the American Friends Service Committee for many years. In Concord Meeting, she was active on Ministry and Counsel Committee and the Housing Committee. Her regular attendance enriched a weekday women's worship group. She was also a long-time trustee of The Meeting School in Rindge, New Hampshire, and a member of the AFSC-NH Support Committee. Friends were inspired by her example.

Marjorie's energy was legendary. An avid traveler and excellent driver, she drove great distances, even after she needed a walker when she arrived. She criss-crossed the country to visit friends and family and to support her special concerns. Eventually she was forced to make do with an electric wheelchair, which she piloted around the grounds at Havenwood, maintaining maximum mobility and independence to the last.

Family was paramount to Marjorie. She gave birth to five children and endured the sorrow of surviving all but two. Her daughter Janet died at age two, and two of her sons, Alan and Philip, died during the last fourteen months of Marjorie's life. She is survived by her daughter, Ann Mason; her eldest son, Dudley Laufman; nine grandchildren, and a number of great-grandchildren.

Marjorie withstood the successive deprivations of her later years with a wry sense of humor and perennial good grace, though never with passive compliance. She resisted the indignities of aging, but simultaneously found them laughable.

Appreciation for music enriched Marjorie's spiritual life and she read avidly and eclectically. Fueled by a wide variety of interests, her friendships crossed generational boundaries.

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

She corresponded regularly with hundreds of friends, actively maintaining a web of relationships until the very end of her life. In the course of her long and rich life, she joined with countless others in lasting relationships, each marked by intrinsic spiritual and personal commitment, each deeply treasured by both partners. She is deeply missed by all.
—CONCORD MONTHLY MEETING, DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

Eunice Clark Smith

Eunice Clark Smith, 89 years old, died on January 16, 2002, at Havenwood Retirement Community in Concord, New Hampshire. She had been a member of the Religious Society of Friends for over fifty years.

Born October 29, 1912, Eunice grew up in Madison, Wisconsin. She graduated from Radcliffe College in 1934 with a desire to continue her studies in history, but was told, “Men teach history; women teach French.” So she began teaching at a school in Wisconsin. She also continued her studies and over the next ten years earned an M.A. and a PhD. in French literature, always maintaining her avid interest in history.

During World War II, Eunice had a strong desire to “do something to mend things.” Not being drawn to military service, she found a job as a graduate assistant at Bryn Mawr College outside Philadelphia so that she could volunteer at the French Desk of the American Friends Service Committee. In March 1946, she was sent to Paris, where she put her French language skills to work full-time for AFSC’s post-war relief efforts.

While in France, Eunice was impressed with how Friends handled situations and problems, and decided that when she returned to the States she would join the Society of Friends. She accepted a teaching job in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and it was there that she joined her first Friends meeting in 1949.

In 1952, Eunice took a teaching job at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, and her membership was transferred to Quaker Springs Meeting.

There she met her beloved husband, Chard Powers Smith, a writer and poet.

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

They were married under the care of Quaker Springs Meeting in 1957. Eunice was affectionately known as “Tuni” to her family. Through her marriage to Char, she gained a stepdaughter and stepson. Her family grew to include five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, four nephews, and a niece.

In 1958, Eunice left Skidmore to teach at State University of New York (SUNY)—Albany. She became a member of Bennington (Vermont) Meeting, which she considered the most important meeting in her life. She was an active member there for more than 20 years.

Eunice played cello and loved getting together with friends for chamber music sessions. She also enjoyed gardening, field botany, birding, swimming, poetry, and the literature of French-speaking Africans. She was co-author of a textbook on French literature that is still in use.

In order to take better care of her aging husband, Eunice left her position at SUNY-Albany and in 1966 took a position, with a lighter workload, at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

In 1977 her husband Char died. The following year Eunice retired. She moved to the new Friends retirement community in North Easton, Massachusetts. She was clerk of the North Easton Meeting for its first three years, following which she became recording clerk. Eunice also served the Yearly Meeting, on the Archives Committee, the Correspondence Committee, Permanent Board, and as a representative to the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

However, Eunice was not happy with life in North Easton. In May 1989, she decided to move to Havenwood Retirement Community in Concord, New Hampshire. Although Havenwood was not a Friends’ community, she was attracted by what she called a “vibrant” Friends Meeting in Concord.

During the last 12 years of her life, Eunice was active in both the Havenwood community and Concord Friends Meeting. At Havenwood, she was a member of the Resident Council and taught French to residents. She also became a caring friend to many residents and staff.

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

At Concord Meeting, Eunice was at various times a member of the Library Committee, Outreach Committee, and Ministry and Counsel. As age began to diminish her energy and abilities, her inner light shone more brightly. Her vulnerability and frustrations enlightened our understanding of growing older. Yet she always seemed to remain active. She was our overseer of the little things easy to forget. It was Eunice who would always see that the guest book was there for newcomers to sign. It was Eunice who clipped newspaper articles and edited our bulletin board. It was Eunice who would remind our soft-spoken Friends to speak up. And it was Eunice who exchanged little beauties of nature with Meeting children. She was an important friend to all.

Eunice was a persistently gentle presence, a pure example of dignity and spiritual grace. By simply being herself, she taught us all what it meant to be good Quakers, good friends, and caring people. We shall miss Eunice Clark Smith deeply. We will carry her in our hearts forever.

—CONCORD MONTHLY MEETING, DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

Jean North Mitchell

We celebrate the life of Jean North Mitchell, who died on August 28, 2002 in New London, Connecticut. Her smile, her compassionate listening, her wisdom when she spoke, and her gentle humor were part of the Meeting's heart, and she will be sorely missed.

The daughter of Richard Allen North and Anna Graham North, Jean was born on January 6, 1924 in New Haven, Connecticut. Jean attended Wellesley College for three years, majoring in astronomy and mathematics. She left Wellesley during World War II to work for Curtis-Wright in New Jersey, doing vibration testing on propellers. She then worked for the Society of Mechanical Engineers in New York for fifteen years. As a young adult, Jean volunteered in the AFSC clothing room in New York. Later she was bookstore manager for Pendle Hill.

Jean married William Hobart Mitchell in 1966, promising to be unto him a loving companion. She cared for him during their life together even as she herself became weakened by

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

illness. Hobart died in March 2002.

Together, Jean and Hobart founded New London Friends Meeting, where they welcomed and nurtured other Friends and seekers for over thirty-five years.

They were particularly concerned with spiritual development. Jean taught the Bible and Quakerism to children and adults in the meeting. Friends could always count on her physical and spiritual presence during worship. Jean recently served as co-clerk of the meeting for several years until her illness prevented her from attending.

Jean served for many years as the representative from New London Meeting to the NEYM Ministry & Counsel Committee and Nominating Committee. She also served on the NEYM Equalization Committee, Right Sharing of World's Resources, Wider Ministries, and the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas.

With her husband, Jean traveled extensively in Connecticut, where they interviewed, and she photographed, artisans for the local newspaper. Jean and Hobart also traveled abroad, not so much as tourists, but as students of world cultures, languages, and customs. In later years, they wintered in Mexico, where they found they could live more simply than by heating their house in Connecticut. There they continued their vocation of studying the culture and interviewing artisans.

At home in Preston, Connecticut, Jean was a homemaker, gardener, bread baker, and wine maker. Many a potluck, clearness meeting, or retreat was held at the Mitchell farm. Friends remember fondly the annual Christmas potlucks, topped off by choosing and cutting Christmas trees from the Mitchells' woods. Whatever the occasion, a visit to the farm would bring Jean to the door with a welcoming smile. Jean would set the table for tea or for dinner, and serve homemade bread and produce from her own garden, garnished with the sauce of good conversation.

Jean is survived by her sister, Nancy McGrath; her brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Doris North; and several nieces and nephews. Her ashes were buried next to those of her

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

husband in North Sebago, Maine.

—NEW LONDON MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY
QUARTERLY MEETING

Helen Weare Ely Brill

We have had a remarkable spirit in our midst, one who truly followed George Fox's exhortation to "walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one." Helen Weare Ely Brill lived by the commandment of Jesus to "love one another." To her, "one another" meant children, young people, elderlies, men and women, whether next door or across the world.

Love has been defined as "the willingness to bestir oneself for the nurturing of one's own or another's spiritual growth." Helen certainly bestirred herself. She put to work her unusual energy, stamina, and outreaching interest to be helpful to others, both in delightful small ways and in great big ways.

She loved to make an occasion to honor someone. A birthday? A promotion at the office? A special anniversary? An engagement? A wedding? "Let's celebrate!" Did someone need a bed? A meal? Hospitality for family, friends, traveling Friends, guests of the State Department from overseas, refugees from wars and economic strife, those recovering from a hospital stay, come home to the Brills'!

Was there a need for witness on behalf of civil rights? Of peace? Helen was there, many times in Washington, many times on village greens. On one unforgettable trip she heard Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" message; on another, she stood with others as they clasped hands and encircled the Pentagon to remind workers there of the need for peace.

Did the American Friends Service Committee need participants in summer projects? She was first drawn to Quakerism in her twenties when she participated in three such programs, in Mexico, the slums of Philadelphia, and a migrant camp in California. Did the Manzanar "relocation center" in California need someone to teach United States history to the Japanese-American children interned there after Pearl Harbor? Helen was there for two years, ironically teaching the

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

Constitution at their high school.

Did gay men and lesbians need recognition, a voice, a partisan to help carry the message of acceptance? Helen and her husband Bob founded the Connecticut chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), and then sparked the drive for Quaker opposition to homophobia by creating and mailing out nationwide hundreds of packets of information about homosexuality. Their loving and gracious counsel and support enabled many families to work through the “coming out” of a gay or lesbian family member.

Helen had two very important supports in her life and activities: her family, and the Religious Society of Friends. Helen was descended from early settlers of New England, immigrants from England. They traveled west, eventually helping found the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where Helen was born and grew up. Her birth family included her parents, two brothers and a sister, and many nieces and nephews and their families.

When Helen was at Scripps College in Claremont, California, she became interested in the Society of Friends, and joined the Orange Grove Meeting in Pasadena. She met Bob Brill, a member of Purchase Meeting in New York, when he visited the Manzanar relocation camp while he was serving as a conscientious objector in California. Their marriage joined Helen with the Brill family, as she created her own family of “Bob, dear,” daughters Louise and her partner Mary Donnelly and Laurel and her husband Michael Swan, and grandchildren Bob and Laurel M. Swan. Helen was the beloved and loving link which united a far-flung family.

Since joining Orange Grove Meeting in 1942, Helen was a vital and active part of every meeting she participated in, at the local, quarterly, and yearly meeting level. When Bob and Helen transferred to Buffalo Monthly Meeting in 1951, they helped it to grow and thrive, and started their annual tradition of attending Yearly Meeting, a tradition that continued almost without break until each of their deaths. After they moved to Pennsylvania in 1959, Willistown Friends Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting became their spiritual homes.

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

They transferred to Hartford Friends Meeting in 1964. Here Helen served as clerk from 1975 to 1977, taught First Day School, served on perhaps every committee at some point, was always a ready volunteer, and was especially a driving force on the Gay and Lesbian Concerns committee from its inception. At New England Yearly Meeting, she served on Ministry and Counsel, the Executive Council, and many years on the Correspondence Committee. She also represented New England Yearly Meeting on the Friends Council on Education, the Friends General Conference Central Committee, FCNL, and at the 1982 meeting of Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns. She missed yearly meeting sessions only once, and regularly attended the FGC Gathering. Whenever their travels made it possible, Bob and Helen visited other meetings and Yearly Meetings, extending their outreach to countries near and far. Their efforts and generously shared wisdom will be sorely missed.

To the day of her death, Helen had an enquiring mind. She had an enthusiastic appreciation for the riches that life had to offer, flying an airplane after earning her solo pilot's license in her twenties; visiting places around the world; playing and listening to music of many kinds; reading poetry and books; visiting museums and historic sites; calling on people; working as a social studies teacher, including eleven years at Enfield High School, to open young minds to the world awaiting them. Her spirit reflected the radiance of the Inner Light.

Death is no more than a turning of us

Over from time to eternity.

They that love beyond the world

Cannot be separated by it.

Death cannot kill what never dies.

Death is but crossing the world

As friends do the seas.

If absence be not death, neither is theirs.

They live in one another still.

—William Penn (1693), "*Some Fruits of Solitude*"

—HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

Hayden Manton Chase Tatman

Hayden Manton Chase Tatman, son of Deana Chase and Blair Tatman, and brother of Cooper Thayer Chase Tatman, died suddenly and unexpectedly on August 20, 2002. He was twenty-four years old.

From the age of eight into his college years, Hayden lived across the street from the Westport Friends' Meetinghouse, where his parents were members and caretakers of the meeting. Hayden had no choice but to grow up in the meeting, albeit often reluctantly: he resisted First Day school but became engaged in retreats and Yearly Meeting. Young Adult Friends (YAFs) were the first to fully get his attention. At Westport Meeting, he was well known for his occasional quiet presence on the northwest corner bench, usually reading quietly during worship.

School was a series of challenges for Hayden. Elementary school was a struggle until a year's respite at the Paul Cuffee School, named after Westport's famous Quaker. Four years at Moses Brown as a 'real' Quaker saw Hayden mature into a genuinely thoughtful human being. Sympathetic teachers and others helped him to keep working on what being a Quaker meant. His wry humor, wit, and striving for integrity often played important parts. His friends and activities were exceptionally diverse, from pottery to Latin, trench coats and Magic cards, and wrestling manager to spring musicals—where he became Harry the Horse in Guys and Dolls and the Mysterious Stranger in Into the Woods. His friends at MB were life long.

From Moses Brown, Hayden moved on to Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. He was a member of the Quaker Leadership Program, where he continued to develop his own ideas of "Quaker" and "leadership." He majored in philosophy, studied Japanese and spent a semester in Japan, and was always involved with computers. His long brown hair eventually became short, and after graduation, Hayden worked in Greensboro for a small firm that published web magazines on the internet. He told his family that he was committed to staying at that job for 12 months as a matter of principle.

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

When the 12 months were over, Hayden decided to return to Westport to relax and plan his next move. At home, he resumed his long-standing passion for games of all sorts (often playing deep into the night) and continued drawing others into his circle. He was playing one of those games with three friends when he collapsed suddenly, his heart having given out after an attack from a virus.

There were two Memorial Meetings at Westport, one just for the young people. His extended family and friends recalled his spirit of adventure, his familiarity with being lost (never having mastered “left” and “right”), his imagination, and his willingness to share in games or conversation.

For Cooper and his friends, Hayden was a big brother. He sent out ripples of influence that touched many people. His friends and family will carry Hayden with them as they continue their journeys and adventures. Farewell Friend.

—WESTPORT MONTHLY MEETING, SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING.

Robert Nichols

Robert Nichols, a lifelong member of the Society of Friends, died at his home in Contoocook, New Hampshire on November 29, 2002. He was 90 years old.

Bob was born in Kennebunk, Maine, August 24, 1912, and grew up in Portland, Maine. He studied at MIT and City College of New York, where he graduated with a degree in science.

In 1937, Bob married his sister’s sister-in-law, Adelaide Dustin of Contoocook, New Hampshire. They settled in Portland and Bob became active in Portland Monthly Meeting. The family later moved to Ellington, Connecticut, where they helped establish a Friends worship group in Springfield, Massachusetts. Bob worked as manager of Co-op grocery stores, as a machinist, and as a sales representative.

In 1965, the Nichols moved back to Adelaide’s family homestead in Contoocook, where they would remain. Bob was employed as a machinist and later as a carpenter for Community Builders, owned by Concord Meeting member Don Booth. Bob and Adelaide helped reestablish the Friends Meeting in Concord, which Bob served as presiding clerk and

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

treasurer.

Bob's gift for seeing and speaking truth made him a beacon and conscience for the meeting. Never afraid to make others uncomfortable with the truth as he saw it, Bob's challenges to Friends, as well as non-Friends, deepened our search for understanding of a situation.

This was particularly true in his ministry to inmates at the New Hampshire State Prison. He carried this ministry for over twenty years, both with and without the support of his Meeting. His regular visits to the prison were a source of hope and friendship to the inmates he saw. Bob provided more than spiritual counseling; he became an advocate, often serving as a witness at trials or parole hearings. He also became active in organizations seeking reform of the criminal justice system. He was a faithful participant in New England Yearly Meeting's Friends for Restorative Justice. Most importantly, Bob's passion made these issues a constant source of reflection within Concord Meeting, inspiring others to become involved in various ways as well. For a brief time this led to a worship group in the prison.

Bob was active for many years in Peace and Social Concerns Committee, both in Concord Monthly Meeting and in New England Yearly Meeting, and in the Yearly Meeting's Prison Concerns Working Group.

Bob believed that Quakers were called to act, both individually and as a corporate body, on a wide range of injustices in the world. This was his persistent challenge to us. His words were pointed, clear and cause for consideration. He could make us laugh with his simple observations of life. He could make us uncomfortable with his blunt forthrightness. And though his challenges did on occasion lead the Meeting to be frustrated with him, and he frustrated with the Meeting, he remained faithful to the end. There was never any challenge to Bob's spiritual roots. He was a man who spent his life seeking God's will, and acting that it should be done.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Adelaide, two sons, a daughter, ten grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and several dozen members of Concord Monthly Meeting who were

NEYM 2003 Memorial Minutes

profoundly touched by his presence on this Earth.

—CONCORD MONTHLY MEETING, DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING