

NEWTOWN MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

June 5, 1994

MEMORIAL MINUTE

Ruth Cleaver Carter died on Friday, May 6, 1994, at the age of 87, after a courageous struggle with cancer.

The Cleaver family were of Quaker descent, but in Ruth's youth they lived in a community without a Friends meeting and attended the Presbyterian church. Ruth, her parents, and two brothers and a sister were educated at George School. Ruth went on to Swarthmore College and employment with the American Friends Service Committee.

Ruth and her husband, Harold Carter, raised their two daughters in the Presbyterian Church in Lansdowne. Their daughter Ann, also a graduate of Swarthmore, married Philip Swayne, a member of this Meeting, in 1961. Ann moved to the Newtown area in 1977, following her husband's premature death, with five small children. Ruth joined them in 1980, moving into Pennswood Village as one of its first residents.

Soon thereafter she joined her daughter and grandchildren in membership at this Meeting, forging a religious link with both her ancestry and her progeny, while returning to a religious home from which she had never been far removed.

Ruth continued an active life of service at Pennswood Village, as a weekly volunteer in the health office and an assistant in food service in the nursing wing. She read aloud to residents needing that help, knitted blankets for residents of the nursing wing, and knitted infant hats for Saint Mary Hospital. She participated actively in Pennswood's intergenerational link with Newtown Friends School.

Throughout her life, Ruth Carter was lovingly present to friends, family, and members of this Meeting. She was unfailingly kind, generous and caring, and steadfastly courageous. She will be greatly missed by family, Meeting members, and all those whose lives she touched.