

ROBERT H. KENDERDINE (1865 - 1946)

Born at what was then Lumberton, Pa., Robert H. Kenderdine moved to Newtown in 1874 when his father, Thaddeus S. Kenderdine, came here to establish the family business which is still in existence. Robert was a strong Meeting member and faithful attender at Meeting for Worship. He was a member of Friends Association. This group, in order to raise funds for the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Monthly Meeting, served dinners for as many as five hundred persons. He also wrote a history of First-day School - "History of the First-day Schools in Bucks Quarter."

In 1891 Robert H. Kenderdine was married to Adele Stapler, who died in 1896. Adele joined Newtown Meeting shortly after her marriage to Robert, and was active as a First-day School teacher and member of Friends Association. The following was read and approved at a meeting of the Friends Association and directed to be published: "The children of the First Day School, how they loved her!--and how bitter to them was the certainty that she could be with them no more. In our Association she was an earnest although quiet worker, and in the Executive Committee, of which she was a member, her loss will be keenly felt."

In 1898 Robert married Adele's sister, Elizabeth Stapler, who was also active in the Friends Association. Is it not understandable that as a child too young to be concerned with relationships, I thought that these loving people who visited my grandparents so often were all "real" brothers and sisters, when in fact Uncle Robert was a brother-in-law (twice over!) and it was Auntie who was Grandpa's "real" sister, so congenial were they and so very close in heart. When my father and my aunt lost their mother at a young age, it was Uncle Robert and Auntie who helped fill in the gap as best they could, and this closeness never left them through the years to come.

To describe Robert H. Kenderdine in a few words, one must say that he was a man of high standards and was well regarded by members of the community. He was friendly with and interested in his fellow man and was an active member of many local associations.

Mary Stapler Nystrom