

to Nancy
for inclusion
with minutes

MEMORIAL MINUTE TO Eliza Kester

Eliza Derbyshire Kester was born in Germantown, ^{Philadelphia} PA. and came to Newtown with her husband, Howard in 1930 and was a valued member of Newtown Meeting until her death on March 16th 1991.

During the Depression Years their family shared a home with the Senior Kesters on State Street and theirs was a good example of the three generational home common in early Quaker history. It was a serene, loving and hospitable home Friends often shared in.

"Lydie" as she was fondly called by her family and friends made some unique contributions to Newtown Meeting and the community. She served on the Jeanne's Hospital board for many years and was instrumental in raising funds for its work. She was active in the Women's Group of the Meeting and did much to help equip the kitchen and serving facilities.

For a time she served as the designated Meeting visitor and called on shut-ins, interested attenders, new members and new babies. Her visits were much appreciated and extended the outreach of the Meeting.

In the early 40's she taught the Nursery class in First Day School with a lot of success. There were sometimes as many as thirty pre-schoolers enrolled in this class which met in what is now the Hicks room. Several attenders were not members of Meeting but she offered what parents were eager for their children to have.

Part of her program each year was to invite on various First-days people in the community who served others such as the Postmaster, local doctor, town policeman and visiting nurse. Some of them were Meeting members but others outside the Meeting cooperated. The children at an early age learned to appreciate community service and caring for others.

Each child was singled out on his or her birthday to be honored and sung to when the "fake" birthday cake, a decorated round cookie tin, complete with the proper number of candles was brought out. Children loved participating and sharing and absenteeism was very low.

The Meeting had been given a little pump organ and the children learned and sang many appropriate songs. Lydie, as the mother of four had much to offer and her contribution in this realm was most valuable.

In her latter years in failing health she adjusted to her infirmities and changes in living arrangements with dignity and acceptance.

Four generations of Kesters have made their influence felt in the Meeting and community. Lydie Kester will long be remembered for her role.

Nancy W. Mc Feely