

Memorial Minute for Darlington Styer

Darlington Styer, a member of Newtown Monthly Meeting for more than fifty years, died on Sixth Month 27th, 1990. Although he had asked that no public memorial should be held, the residents of Friends Village, a community of which he was the initiator and guiding light, met to celebrate his life on Seventh Month 6th, and the Seventh Month 8th Meeting for Worship in the Newtown meeting house became an un-scheduled Memorial Meeting.

Darlington Styer was born in Cornwall, New York, where his father managed a large farm and orchard. His family moved to Middletown Township in 1910 to start the Styer Orchards. After attending George School for several years, Darlington took up his lifetime work as a farmer and orchardist on the family lands. When his sister, Margaret, moved to a farm outside of Newtown in 1935, Darlington moved to an adjacent farm and began an orchard on the joint properties. He lived out his life on that land, raised his family there, and eventually gave the house and part of the land to be the start of Friends Village.

Darlington's love for and knowledge of trees and his honest business practices brought the Styer Orchards prosperity. His concern for the community, shown by his many years on the Planning Commission, prepared Newtown Township for the explosive growth it was to experience. His love for people and his sense of responsibility led him to his tireless efforts in the building of the community at Friends Village.

Because he was so modest and self-effacing, most of what Darlington Styer did will not be credited to him except in the memories of those who were directly affected. He leaves behind him his wife, Helen Round Styer; his sons, David and Charles; his brother, T. Walter; a grandson and many loving friends.

Bob Appelbaum