

## Minute for Ellen Sutton

Ellen Willits Pearson was born in Wyncote, Pennsylvania on June 8, 1920. Her parents were Lawrence and Edna Walton Pearson, members of Abington Friends Meeting. Her older sisters were Deborah and Barbara . All the girls went to the local public schools and Camp Onás in the summer. At some point, the decision was made to send Barbara and then Ellen to George School, where their parents had attended. Ellen graduated from George School and went on to graduate from Wheelock College in Boston. She again followed her parents' footsteps by marrying her George School beau, Stanley B. Sutton, Jr., known as Sonny or Stan, depending on the years one knew him. The Pearsons had moved to Hidden Valley Farm in Newtown and so Ellen and Sonny were married in Newtown Meeting . The wedding took place during the war and because Sonny was serving in the Army, they received special permission to have the first military wedding there!

Ellen and Stan eventually moved to The Little House on Richboro Road and had three children, Stanley Mac Lear , Judith Pearson and Deborah Starr. During the years the children attended Newtown Friends School, Ellen was quite active there. As well as being the secretary of the School Committee for many years, she did a great deal of substitute teaching and filled in for the school secretary during a prolonged illness. She helped at the book fair and in the library. In later years, she was a Gray Lady, volunteered at both Chandler Hall and Mercer Hospital and taught herself to read and write Braille.

Ellen loved her family, needlework , reading and travel. When she was a child, she was quite frail (with an iron deficiency) and spent a great deal of time out of school. It was then that her mother taught her how to knit, crochet , needlepoint and cross stitch. Ellen continued to do needlework all her life, adding weaving and basket making to her skills. Ellen and Stan took many short trips together, but after he died, Ellen signed up for a round-the-world-cruise, the first of many. She relished the open seas, her fellow travelers and the amazing places she saw. Her love of travel is shared by her three children, and she took each of them on a cruise with her.

Ellen spent her last years living in her apartment in Pennswood Village, traveling and pursuing her hobbies. Her last trip was a cruise to Alaska with her son and his family. Her spirit lives on in her big sister Debbie, her three children ,three grandchildren and one great grandchild.