

## EVAN T. WORTHINGTON

Evan T. Worthington first became a part of my consciousness about 1915, when I came to teach school in Newtown and later attended Newtown Monthly Meeting. My impression of him as a genial, quiet, gentle and kind man, a person of integrity, never changed during the succeeding years.

He and his wife Sarah came to Meeting each Sunday (or First Day), she sitting in the body of the Meeting and he at the head of Meeting on the facing bench. His presence there gave a feeling of stability and rightness to the hour of worship. His messages with their spiritual content reflected the Christian ideals and principles by which he lived, and which he practiced in his business dealings. He and Sarah were most generous and hospitable and often invited visiting Friends to go home with them after Meeting for a traditional Sunday lunch of rice pudding and apple or cherry pie!

They lived on South Cancellor Street in a lovely brick house from which he walked daily to his "Country Store" on State Street where the Pioneer Store is today. He refused to ride to and from his home as he considered the walk excellent exercise, and made the trip twice a day in order to have his lunch at home and take a short rest afterwards.

Evan and Sarah had a son Elisha who married a Catholic. They had twin daughters and the four all attended the Catholic Church every Sunday, Elisha having become a member. This was a shock to Elisha's parents, as well as to most Friends at that time. But, characteristically, they rose to the occasion and Evan is remembered by Helen Buckman as saying, "I'd rather he'd (Elisha) be a good Catholic than a poor Quaker." Evan also had a sister Isabel who was in the Friends Boarding Home from 1934 to 1938. His own picture as a younger man hangs on the wall in the living room of the Friends Home, to the left of the piano.

His Country Store was in reality a department store, having everything but the kitchen sink (perhaps even that); hardware, old coffee grinder, notions, tools, farm implements, garden seeds, dry goods, etc. The story is told on one occasion the wife of a nearby farmer came in to buy some material to make her husband a vest. When asked what color she wanted, she said, "Oh, something the color of tobacco juice and gravy!"

Before coming to Newtown Evan and Sarah had lived for several years in Buckingham, and when they moved here Pearl Hauler, a resident of Newtown, assisted them in making this move. She often helped in their home and told me she always remembered before their death, Sarah saying she had lived in dirt, worked in dirt, and scratched in dirt, and she didn't want to be buried in dirt; she wanted to be cremated. Evan with great firmness replied, "Sarah, that is one wish I cannot grant thee." They are both buried in Buckingham Friends burying ground in Lahaska, Pa.

Evan T. Worthington - 2

By such homey things are the lives of some of our well-loved Friends remembered, and the example and uprightness of such Quakers reach out and serve as guide posts for us now and for future generations.

Such a one was Evan T. Worthington.

Elsie Cooke