

IN MEMORIAM

1873-1952

"The opening of our lives to God is the fulfillment of our highest destiny."

-William James

Mary Virginia Hare Rabey, daughter of E. Virginia and Joseph J. Hare, was born in Nansemond County, Virginia December 12, 1873.

She was a birthright member of Somerton Friends Meeting. She received her early education from the public schools near her home and also attended Guilford College for two years; afterwards teaching for three years in Nansemond County schools.

She was married to Joseph W. Rabey on May 11, 1898 and one daughter, Lois, was born to this union. Her husband joined the Friends Meeting with her after their marriage and was faithful to the meeting as long as he lived.

The family resided on a farm near her old homestead until her husband's death on April 8, 1926. Then in January 1929 she and her daughter moved to Holland, Virginia where she lived until her death on April 13, 1952. She is survived by her daughter, Lois, and a sister, Inez Hare Binford.

She was a faithful and loyal member of her meeting and attended regularly until a short time before her death. She was a loyal member of the Adult Bible Class. She often expressed her views in the business transactions of the meeting and was interested in all activities concerning the welfare of the church. She was instrumental in the purchasing of new pews for the meeting house and gave of her means for buying them. She served as Elder of the meeting for more than 25 years. Her home was open to visiting Friends and they were always welcomed. She was a fond mother, a good neighbor, unemotional, but with strong convictions and was loved and respected by all who knew her. She was a great lover of flowers which she shared with her friends and neighbors.

She was a patient sufferer during her illness and lived courageously with her sister and daughter near her, administering to her needs in loving service to the end.

Somerton Meeting has lost one of its valuable members and we feel our loss deeply, but it can be truly said of her, a good woman has left us.

"Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

-Proverbs 31:30, 31

MEMORIAL TO MARY ANN TERRELL PRETLOW

Mary Ann Terrell Pretlow, a beloved member of the Bethel Monthly Meeting and Virginia Quarterly Meeting, passed from this life at her home in Franklin, Va., on the 20th day, 6th month, 1953, at the age of 82 years. She was the daughter of the late Samuel B. Pretlow and his wife Mary Winston Ricks. She was born in Southampton County, near Franklin, 10th day, 7th month, 1869. Funeral services were conducted at her home and she was buried in the family grave yard at "Beechwood" near Sedley, Va., on 22nd day, 6th month, 1953.

The early education of Mary Ann Terrell Pretlow was given by governesses in the home circle and then at Salem College, Winston-Salem, N. C., from which she was graduated in 1890. She had a continued interest in her mental improvement, reading the best type of literature all her life. She was one of the original members of the Franklin Book Club.

A devout member of the Society of Friends, first at Black Creek Friends Meeting which she had attended with her parents from early childhood, and later in 1921, when the Bethel Monthly Meeting was established, she became one of its most loyal and active members, being a trustee from 1921 until her death, also serving 10 years as an overseer and as an elder. She taught a class in Bible school, her teaching being a real joy to her and benefit to her students. She was a faithful and regular attender at the business meetings (as long as her health permitted) and had a deep sense of responsibility for the activities and concerns of the monthly meeting.

She served many years on the finance committee and was also very active on the social committee and on the service committee, which in its time carried on Home Mission work and did social service in the days prior to the establishment of public assistance under the Welfare and Health departments. She set a pattern for the social committee and was largely instrumental in securing the original furnishings for the kitchen and annex. The upkeep of the meeting property was always her concern. At the time of the construction of the meeting house in 1910-11 and also when the annex was added in 1923-24 she served on the building committees and under her care were then made many improvements and arrangements which the meeting now enjoys. It was under her leadership that the Bethel Friendly Guild had its origin. The American Friends Service Committee had her loving and faithful support from its very beginning. Her devotion to these organizations has had a long time influence on the meeting and community.

Besides her work in religious relationships it should be remembered that Mary A. T. Pretlow had an active concern for her community, always maintaining interest in its humanitarian projects. She went to France in relief work in 1918-19 under the direction of the Y.M.C.A. Here she did an outstanding job and brought cheer and comfort to many by her fine devotion to duty and her kind and uncritical attitude toward everyone.