

Look up in
past minutes

25

A Memorial to Thomas Janney Brown from Alexandria and
Friends Meeting of Washington

Thomas Janney Brown, the son of William and Lydia Brown was born on a farm at Circleville, near Lincoln, Virginia, May 26th, 1867. His parents were devoted members of the Goosecreek Monthly Meeting. He was a sixth generation Friend. Educated in the local schools of Lincoln he entered Swarthmore College in 1884 and graduated in the class of 1888, having been chosen to give the Senior class address at the time of graduation exercises. In college he specialized in architecture and worked for a time in an architect's office in Philadelphia before coming to Washington where at 23 years of age he became the youngest general agent of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company. Five years later he organized his own company which he conducted until his death at 33 years in Washington.

In 1894 he married his classmate, Elsie Palmer, a Friend of Baltimore who survives him. Both T. Janney and Elsie Brown moved their membership to Alexandria Monthly Meeting in 1896. Spending their summers at the family farm in Circleville, T. Janney Brown kept to the end of his life a very affectionate interest in the Goosecreek Monthly Meeting. During his years of membership in the Alexandria Monthly Meeting he was active in all its affairs, was faithful in attending Meetings for Business and was Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Property Committee and a valuable member of the Board of Trustees. He will be greatly missed by the Meeting. His was a rare gentle and wise Christian spirit.

When the Friends Meeting of Washington was being established he was asked by Alexandria Monthly Meeting to serve on the first committee which met to discuss its organization and he was one of its three Incorporators. From the beginning of the Meeting he was a member of the Finance and Property Committee, and served on the Committee of Ministry and Oversight a number of years. He was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees through all the years until his death. He gave it willingly many hours of devoted work. His kindly and Friendly spirit will be greatly missed and long remembered.

The hospitality of the home so generously and lovingly provided by Elsie and T. Janney Brown was known for its loving family spirit and one was aware of the meaning of the home to T. Janney himself. He loved to have his family around him. His sons and daughters and their friends, his grandchildren and their friends whether in Washington or on his beloved farm at Circleville, Va. found the home, of which he was so much the centre, a place of warmth and friendship, encouragement and gaiety. He had such pride in the accomplishments of each of his children and was watching with affection and pride his maturing grandchildren.

In this day and age when the family does not seem to hold the place it once did in the lives of parents and children one is deeply impressed with the home T. Janney and Elsie Brown founded and the strength and love it gave to so many people.

T. Janney Brown was much interested in advancing the interests of his alma mater, Swarthmore College, for which he and his wife and children and grandchildren had the greatest affection. He had a wide variety of community interests which included the University Club, the Sidwell Friends School, the Washington Board of Trade and the Homeopathic, now Hahnemann Hospital. He also encouraged the artistic and scientific developments of our city's life. His life was well balanced and wholesome and