

Elsie Florence Coney, a daughter of George B. and Fanny Madgowsky Gough, was born 11th month 28, 1892, in Sussex, England. On 10th month 27, 1916, she was married to James A. Coney, after the manner of Friends, in the Meeting House, at Brighton, England. She served faithfully at the side of her husband for nine years when he was Extension Secretary of the Home Service Committee of London Yearly Meeting. In the ninth month of 1925, they accepted a call to serve the Monthly Meeting at Lynn, Massachusetts. In the 4th month of 1929, James Coney became General Secretary of New England Yearly Meeting, and Elsie Coney traveled extensively and worked loyally with him throughout that yearly meeting for 22 years, making many lasting friendships. In the 4th month of 1951, she moved with her husband to Virginia Quarterly Meeting, where they worked under deep concern until her death. Her ministry among us was of profound significance, as she served us on a personal level, influencing each of us in our homes and daily lives.

She died 2nd month 20, 1960 in the hospital in Franklin, Virginia. A memorial service was held on 2nd month 23, 1960 at the Holland Funeral Chapel, with a simple committal service in the Somerton Friends Cemetery.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Gwendolyn, a son, Peter, and one sister.

We will always remember Elsie Coney for the way she used every moment, for her creative ability with her hands; for her radiant smile; for her contagious laughter; for the sustaining power of her faith and courage during her long illness, the faith and courage to face the inner loneliness that sickness brings. The inner loneliness which no one else can reach and where the soul is just resting on God. Her Gethsemanes were all in private, but there she found the strength and courage to face the Cross with a song. There's nothing here for this; praise or blame; but what can quiet us in a death so noble.