

BARBARA STAPLES WICKES

July 11, 1903 - December 28, 1960

It is with a sense of very great loss, yet with deep gratitude for the enrichment which her life has brought to us individually, to our Meeting, and to the Community, that we record the passing of Barbara Wickes on December 28, 1960.

Born in Washington, D.C. July 11, 1903, the daughter of Eugene W. and Mae Fuller Staples, Barbara lived the greater part of her life in that city. She graduated from the American University and the old Washington Normal School, taught in the National Training School for Boys and in the District public schools, and continued her study with graduate work in psychology at Catholic University and in theology at Howard University.

She served as president of the Washington Pacifist Fellowship during World War II, was influential in the formation of the Washington Inter-racial Fellowship and the Washington Community Chorus, and was an active member of the Congregational Church where she taught in Sunday School.

In August 1937 she married Dean R. Wickes, a soil conservationist in the Department of Agriculture and a former missionary to China. Upon his retirement in 1948, Dean and Barbara came to live in Bluemont, Va. and, shortly thereafter, joined the Goose Creek Friends Meeting, to which they have been a steady source of strength.

With her keen life-long interest in young people, in music, in books and education, in the lessening of international tensions and the improvement of race relations, and with her rich background of ability and experience along these lines, Barbara entered actively into practically every phase of the life of the Meeting. She was a member of the Religious Education Committee and superintendent of the Sunday School. She fostered interest in, accompanied, and directed choral singing, helped catalog and select books for the Meeting Library, and served variously on the Peace and Social Order Committees, being chairman of the latter at the time of her death.

These interests and activities extended into the Yearly Meeting and the Loudoun Community. For a number of years, as a member of the Yearly Meeting team, she taught choral singing in the vacation religious schools of several Monthly Meetings. She helped with Junior Yearly Meeting. For a time, too, she directed the Choir of the Blue Methodist Church and assisted with their young people's programs.

From 1952 to 1958, she drove the Loudoun County Bookmobile, giving invaluable service to schools, families, and individuals. She played an important part in bringing about the extension of this and all other library services to Negro citizens.