

EDNA GOODWIN

A Memorial

Edna Goodwin began life in pioneer northwest Kansas in 1880. Her father, a physician, died when she was ~~quite~~ young, and the widow, a Friends minister, and daughter later moved to Wichita, where Edna graduated from Friends University in 1902.

Edna began her teaching career at North Branch, Kansas, Friends Academy, and two years later moved on to Friendswood, Texas, where a new Friends academy was just starting. She remained there as principal for several years.

Edna Goodwin was influenced by the widening horizons of the Society of Friends of this period and she decided to seek further education. She entered Union Theological Seminary in New York City at a time when such stalwarts as Arthur C. McGiffert, William Adams Brown and others were attracting seeking minds. Edna assisted in the Henry Street Settlement to help defray expenses. In 1909 she became the third woman to be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Divinity by Union Seminary.

Having come from the Great Plains to the great metropolis, Edna Goodwin was now ready to launch out in a new service in a different area: the Pacific northwest. She accepted the position of Director of Religious Education in the Y.W.C.A. of Portland, Oregon, and served as a minister in Puget Sound Quarterly Meeting, then affiliated with Indiana Yearly Meeting. Later she came to the midwest to serve as a minister in Meetings in Ohio (Wilmington Yearly Meeting) and in Indiana (Western Yearly Meeting). Then she heeded the call to come to Maryland to teach in the public schools and to serve as a minister in Ashton Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Homewood). At first she taught in the Clarksville school, and then served as principal of Germantown, Maryland, Junior High School, and finally for eight years she taught mathematics in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Her summers were spent in ministry in some Friends Meeting (Somerton, Deer Creek ^{and} other), or in study in the summer school of the Johns Hopkins University, or in travel.