

A MEMORIAL

James Hoge Ricks, son of Richard Arnold Ricks and Eliza Catherine Crenshaw-Ricks, was born at "Prospect Hill" in Caroline County, Va., July 15, 1886 and died at his home in Richmond, Va., March 7, 1958. In 1914, he was married to Anne Elizabeth Ryland who died in 1953. Their three children: James H. Ricks, Jr., R. Arnold Ricks, III, and Anne Ryland Ricks survive them.

James Hoge Ricks was a birth-right Friend and all of his life was centered in the work of the Society of Friends and in Christianity as a way of life. Few men have so fully lived according to the teachings of Jesus and so faithfully followed the way of love in daily living. His enemies were few and even they respected him because he demonstrated the meaning of "love thy neighbor as thyself". He was a Judge but many persons thought of him as a Minister.

At the time of his passing, J. Hoge Ricks was Clerk of Richmond Monthly Meeting. He had previously been Clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Assistant Clerk of the Five Years Meeting. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Guilford College. His greatest contribution to Friends was as an Elder of Richmond Meeting. His patient and loving counsel, his faithful and untiring labor, and his meek and quiet manner encouraged the timid, strengthened the faltering and comforted the distressed. His "ministry" was personal -- he knew people as individuals and because he really cared about their problems, he was often able to go directly to the center of the difficulty and offer helpful suggestions. His sympathetic understanding endeared him to all who knew him. Members' children, away at school, were often surprised and delighted to receive a letter from this very busy but very kindly man.

Judge Ricks carried his religion into his court. Witnesses "affirmed" that their testimony was true and children found that they could talk to the man who trusted them and sincerely desired to help them. He once said that the principal cause of crime was "selfishness" and he sought to persuade those who came under his care to live according to the law of love. The Judge was a total-abstainer and often blamed drinking for anti-social behaviour. He was sometimes firm but always kindly in dealing with those needing correction. His abilities brought him honors in the field of Juvenile and Domestic Relations. He was given a scroll in 1955 by the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges and the Virginia Council of Juvenile Court Judges, which read in part: "in recognition of his long and fruitful career as an outstanding jurist, whose unbounded wisdom, kindness and humility have given countless unfortunate and troubled children hope, faith and courage." He was twice elected President of the National Probation and Parole Association.

"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"