

**MARY TERRENCE SWANEY**  
**12-3-1893 to 10-25-1978**

Mary Terrence Swaney was born in Ottawa, Illinois, in 1893. She married Charles B. Swaney, a scientist, in 1914, and they had four children. In 1931 in East Radford, Virginia, Charles wrote to J. Barnard Walton at Friends General Conference, expressing their desire to become Friends. Barnard wrote to Herbert S. Lewis, Clerk of Alexandria Monthly Meeting, and Herbert passed on this concern to J. Austin Stone, Clerk of the Eye Street Meeting of Washington, D.C. The Swaneys joined Alexandria Meeting and in 1951 transferred to Friends Meeting of Washington.

Charles suffered a stroke in 1951 and died the next year. Mary then moved about, visiting her daughters -- Mary in Iowa and Charlotte in California -- and returning at intervals to Radford. She spent a winter at Piney Woods School in Mississippi, helping in the sewing department and in the oversight of a girls' cottage. She was housemother for a college sorority in Fairfield, Iowa, and companion to an invalid in Clayton, Missouri, and she cared for a dying sister in Florida. At the age of seventy-five, she spoke of hoping to work as companion to an "older lady." Six years later, she was planning to attend the sixtieth reunion of her class at Iowa Wesleyan College. In 1975 she flew from Florida to Oklahoma to a granddaughter's wedding. In 1976 her health was so poor that her son, David, moved her to Oklahoma to make her home with his family.

It is clear that Mary was a vital person, in spite of physical ailments from time to time. She kept up a correspondence with our Meeting and was conscientious about contributing financially as she could.