

MYRA LANK
June 17, 1911 - June 5, 1992

Myra Elizabeth Lewis Lank, who died June 5, 1992, just short of her eighty-first birthday, was a birthright member of Alexandria, Virginia Monthly Meeting. She was also a founding member of Friends Meeting of Washington in 1930, along with her father.

For several decades Myra Lank became and remained one of the most active and cherished members of our Meeting. To many among us she seemed very close to the ideal Quaker. She had wider interests also, but the Meeting and her family centered her life.

As a young woman, Myra Lewis graduated from the University of Maryland after a five year program that gave her both a Bachelor of Science degree and the training of a registered nurse. She soon married Everett Lank, a valued member of this Meeting until his death in 1976. They raised a close knit family of three daughters and a son, a boy who died at a tragically young age. In addition to her daughters, Myra leaves nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

In the Meeting, Myra Lank as a young mother began teaching First Day School, with such impact that some of her former pupils still remember her teaching. Over the decades she served on a variety of Meeting committees, most often on Overseers, of which she became clerk. In addition to these and other tasks for the Meeting, Myra was our Presiding Clerk from 1979 through 1981.

Most of all, Myra Lank is remembered among us for her qualities of character and spirit. Comments about her have included these thoughts: She was calm, steady, patient, slow to reach a conclusion but firm in it when reached. A serious woman but open also to humor and laughter. A modest woman, but the Meeting often turned to her for help on a problem, and so did individuals. They found in her wisdom and caring.

Myra Lank saw herself as no more than "a hewer of wood and a drawer of water." Instead, she seemed to many a role model--both among those newly coming to Quakerism and among family members offered her nurturing care. She became a person so centered as to convey to others unfailing grace. These same qualities Myra carried with her to Crosslands community in Pennsylvania, where she moved in early 1987. There she soon took on active responsibilities, though keeping in touch still with her home Meeting.

Myra broadened her life in various ways. From 1965 until this spring she worked at transcribing study books into Braille for blind students. She studied French and philosophy of religion. For many years she kept a journal.

In an era when many seem to take money and property as their primary value, Myra Lank followed a different course. Even when giving up her beloved home of over forty-five years, she commented: "I tell myself, these are only things." The great value in her life was not money nor things but love, and thus she lives in many hearts.