Polly Sherman Robinson Whyte was a woman of strong will and independent thought. As a pacifist, she was in tune with and an admirer of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Workers. During World War II, when pacifism was far from popular, she worked as a dietician in a Civilian Public Service Camp. She worked for integration before the increasing popularity of the civil rights movement. It is perhaps not surprising that she became a member of the Religious Society of Friends in 1949, finding among us a form of worship which she preferred. Her musical enthusiasms found outlet in choral groups elsewhere.

Two years after becoming a Friend she married James Huntington Whyte, author, bookseller, and gallery owner, with whom she shared the love of books and reading, which continued until her death.

From 1957 until her death on November 30, 1989, Polly Whyte lived in Accokeek, in southern Prince Georges County, Maryland, and was therefore not known to later members of the Meeting. Her son, though, is well aware of her continuing loyalty to her membership in the Society and to the principles which she upheld.