

EMILY NEWLIN STEARNS
July 28, 1906 - October 5, 1992

Emily Newlin Stearns was a member of Friends Meeting of Washington for 56 years. Her membership began in January 1936, when she was welcomed into the Meeting by Mary Vaux Walcott and Sina Hodgkin Stanton. They found that Emily Stearns had a keen interest in all the activities of the Meeting, and in the new Meetinghouse and garden, that was filled with wild flowers planted by Mary Walcott.

She cherished her Quaker heritage, as a direct descendant of Nicholas Newlin, who had moved to America, with his family, from Ireland. They lived on the 500 acres of land near Concordville, Pennsylvania, that was granted to them by William Penn.

Emily Stearns was also proud of the Presbyterian members of her own family - her husband, Clifford, and their son, who was given his father's name. Congressman Clifford Stearns, a Republican Representative from Florida, is now serving his third term. His mother was pleased that during his first campaign he ran as a "Citizen" without designating any party affiliation.

Since the Stearns sometimes lived outside the Washington area, Emily was a longtime non-resident member. She loyally maintained her concerns for this Meeting and the Society of Friends. She responded to all communications from our Committee of Overseers, and generously gave financial support.

Emily Newlin Stearns was a woman of many talents. As a trained librarian she worked in the National Cathedral Library and the Library of Congress. She was an artist whose paintings often won awards. She was an author whose writings were enjoyed by a variety of readers. Children read her story-book about a Huguenot family that lived in the Colorado Rockies. Some Washington Friends may still remember the Christmas poem she wrote for the Meeting newsletter. Her letters to the Meeting revealed the joy and satisfaction she found in just living.

Emily Stearns was widow for 22 years. She spent the latter part of her life at the home of her son in Ocala, Florida. Her death, following a heart attack, occurred in early October 1992. She was 86. The inspiring memory of the long and useful life of Emily Newlin Stearns continues to be with us.