

MABEL BREWER RIDPATH
7-14-1889 to 8-8-1981

To celebrate the life of Mabel Brewer Ridpath and to mark her passing on August eighth, 1981, her friends and family gathered at Wilton Friends' Meeting on September 23, 1981 at 7:30 P.M. The Meeting for Worship was called together by John Benson, Clerk of the Committee on Ministry and Oversight.

Moving in the Spirit of the Inner Light, her gathered friends and family recalled her birth on the 100th anniversary of Bastille Day, July 14, 1889, as a significant beginning for a life of commitment to humanity as:

- a teacher at Westtown School
- a healer on the front lines in World War I
- a provider and builder for an impoverished community in Maine
- a devoted mother for her daughter and grandmother for her grandsons
- a farm wife devoted to James W. Ridpath during their brief, loving marriage
- a hostess at Quaker Student Hostel in Geneva building bridges toward international understanding and peace for her students and visitors later to become world leaders like the poet Tagore, the Vietnamese leader, Dr. Dan, now in exile
- a supporter of Mohandas Gandhi as he visited Europe gaining audiences for a peaceful change of power in India
- a demonstrator for passage of the Women's Suffrage Amendment and a worker for its adoption
- a coordinator of international dialogue as hostess at Davis House in Washington, D.C.
- a co-director and counselor for children, parents and teachers at the Wilton Friends Nursery School
- a lover of all life, especially her family, friends and creatures great and small.

She served the simplest of meals with exquisite grace and beauty to those who came her way seeking shelter and hospitality. She preferred roses of simple form and color and a shade of blue in summer skies that echoed her dancing eyes. Her "music" was the laughter of children and the whisper of wind in her beloved woods.

Mabel Ridpath filled our lives with laughter and with love as she nourished our bodies and our souls, creating a model for life lived in commitment to others.