

JANET HELEN MURRAY
January 27, 1904 - April 25, 1992

Janet Helen Murray was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on January 27, 1904 to Quaker parents, Elsie H. Johnson and Nathaniel Carleton Murray. She died at her home in Washington, D.C. on April 25, 1992. She was one of three children born to the Murrays. Her brother, Donald P. Murray, pre-deceased her. Her sister, Natalie Murray, in Chicago, survives. The family was well-connected to the Society of Friends. Among the family archives was a letter which Janet sometimes spoke of, from John Greenleaf Whittier to one of Janet's abolitionist forebears. Friends in Waynesville, Ohio, met to remember Janet's father at the time of his death in 1952. Friends in our Meeting met with Janet at the time of her mother's death in 1965. Janet's membership in our Meeting began in 1946.

In 1904, the year of Janet's birth, her father moved to the Washington area. He became a crop statistician in the United States Department of Agriculture where he had his own distinguished career, including an appointment as the United States delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome in 1922. Janet grew up in Washington, graduated from Central High School, graduated from Vassar College (class of 1926) and received a Master's degree from Stanford University. She also worked and studied at the University of Chicago. Like her father, she pursued her career in the United States Department of Agriculture. He had developed a system for estimating the yield of grain crops before they were harvested.

Janet returned to Washington from Chicago to take part in the development of New Deal programs to provide employment for white collar workers, working first at the National Resources Planning Board on the planning of studies of consumer expenditures and later in the Department of Agriculture on their Administration. She interrupted her career in the Department of Agriculture for brief periods of teaching economics and for a two-year stint in Japan where she assisted in setting up the economic data collection agencies of post World War II government in Japan.

In 1961 Janet received the Department of Agriculture award for "superior research and leadership in the development and application of statistical data on household food consumption and dietary survey methods." In 1963 she transferred to the Social Security Administration of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare where she worked on analysis of data on the health of the elderly population. She retired from that position in 1981.

From 1961 until her death, Janet lived in her comfortable, gracious apartment at 1026 16th Street Northwest in Washington which provided an ideal location and setting for the kind of life she wanted to lead and the kind of person she was. From that location she could be in touch with old friends, professional colleagues, and new acquaintances as they came to Washington on their travels. She traveled world-wide. In 1986 she sailed on a cruise especially to see Haley's Comet--for the second time. She remembered seeing it in 1910.

Approximately thirty-five friends gathered in our Meetinghouse for Janet's memorial on June 13, 1992. Included were some of Janet's older professional friends, younger friends, and friends of her family, as well as members of our Meeting. They spoke of her competence in her work, her

faithfulness as a friend to a wide circle, her love of books, especially noted in her many years of service in our Meeting library, her cheerfulness and good humor, and her interest in new places and people.

In the last years of her life, Janet was increasingly disabled by loss of hearing, failing vision and painful back problems. She could not come to the Meetinghouse. When, at the end of April 1992, friends in the nine o'clock worship group heard of her death and paused to remember her, it was wonderfully apparent that her many years of gracious, cheerful participation in that Meeting for Worship had so enriched those who knew her that her death was anything but an end to her life's influence.