

MARGARET REINKE TUCK
8/8/24 - 2/1/87

Margaret Tuck's death occurred one year ago, on February 1, 1987. For more than 35 years she was a member of Friends Meeting of Washington. With her husband Gilbert and one-year-old daughter, Coertje, she joined the Meeting in November 1950.

A few Friends, perhaps, may remember the Tucks, teachers who came from Maine in 1950, and again in 1951, to teach in summer school at St. Alban's School for Boys. During both summers their family faithfully attended our Meetings for Worship; the parents read Quaker literature and had earnest discussions with Meeting members. The letter that accompanied the Tucks' application for membership gave evidence of their sincerity and a particular fondness for this Meeting. The Overseers Committee responded warmly and quickly granted full membership to Gilbert and Margaret Tuck and associate membership to their daughter. Regrettably, for the Tucks and for the Meeting, they would always be non-resident members. Through correspondence, however, a bond of friendship was developed between the Tuck family and the Meeting that happily continued for many years.

In 1951, Gilbert Tuck left his teaching post in Maine to accept a position at the Casady School, a coeducational preparatory school maintained by the Episcopal Church in Oklahoma City. When Margaret Tuck's responsibilities as a mother allowed her to do so, she returned to teaching and joined her husband on the faculty of that school. They continued to teach there until their retirement.

While the Tucks became leading participants in a small Quaker group that met for unprogrammed worship in Oklahoma City, they wanted to continue to be members of our Meeting. In their own words, the Tucks wanted to continue to keep in touch "with Washington Friends through excellent mailings and the wonderful Washington Newsletter." In response to a 1973 inquiry from our Overseers Committee regarding their nonresident membership, Margaret Tuck wrote:

"We have been very interested, and very much still are interested, in remaining members of the Washington Meeting. It is hard to put into words why we both very much wish to continue in this manner. We read with much interest the literature you send us of the activities there in Washington and are happy to think that we are part of it, and in recent years we have been especially happy that we have been able to support the Meeting's activities concretely by sending an annual check. . . . Our memories of the Meeting in Washington are very fond. And we so wholeheartedly support the activities of the Meeting as being so very worthwhile in their own right, but especially so just because Washington is the nation's capital. And to have felt part of such activities all these years, by belonging to the Meeting and by sending what checks we could, has meant a great deal to us. . . . It may be because we are both rather quiet and withdrawn and >non-activist' types. In addition to our own beliefs and principles and our day-to-day life, this has been a way for us to feel that we are participating in our way. There is also, however, something special in our feelings about that particular Meeting, which I am unable to define more precisely."

Now, Margaret Tuck is gone and her words of appreciation for this Meeting seem even more significant. They bring us aid and comfort. Also, they challenge us as members to help the Friends Meeting of Washington keep the trust that Margaret Reinke Tuck, a loyal nonresident member, placed in us.