

**ELSIE VOGES BLASDELL**  
**February 22, 1907-February 11, 1985**

Elsie Voges Blasdell, born February 22, 1907, was an intermittent resident of Washington since the nineteen thirties, with extended periods of time in New York and in Tiger, Georgia, where she died on February 11, 1985.

She became a member of the Friends Meeting of Washington in April, 1951, after attending Meeting at intervals for thirteen years. She had been a member of the Society of Friends in Chicago and could have joined by transfer, but in her individualistic way chose to become a member by application. A leading Friend who talked with her at that time reported that he was impressed by her wide interests, noting particularly the sciences, counseling, languages, and religions. Members who knew her speak of many endearing qualities. She was cheerful, even gay at times, full of kindness and love and concern for others, with the courage and dash to charge ahead to do what she thought needed to be done. She was willing and anxious to help wherever she could. For example, she taught younger children in the First Day School, volunteered in the office to answer the phone, and made delicious hot soup for staff members during the week and for visitors to the Meeting on Sundays. She generously shared what she had.

Elsie Blasdell was also an individualist, a trait which showed up sometimes in her dress, in her refashioning jewelry, and various ideas. Her contributions to oral ministry, especially on peace and war, were sometimes very helpful and always showed her eagerness that something be done. Although at times her analysis was unclear or incomplete, her good heart always aimed at what she thought was right.