

WILLIAM RICHARD PABST, JR.
1911 - 1992

William Richard Pabst, Jr., a long-time member of the Friends Meeting of Washington, died on January 1, 1992.

Bill Pabst was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He was graduated from Amherst College and earned a doctorate in economics at Columbia University. He taught briefly at Cornell, Amherst, and Tulane. In his subsequent professional life he became primarily an economic statistician and a specialist in quality control for government agencies. From 1941 on he lived in Washington, for most of the time at 3420 Quebec Street, N.W. Much of his career was in the Bureau of Ordnance in the Navy Department, as chief statistician, where he developed the statistical methodology for quality control. After retiring in 1968, he worked with Bird Engineering Associates in Vienna, Virginia.

As a result of jury service in the United States District Court in the District of Columbia he became interested in the jury system, in the 1970's, and undertook statistical studies of it. The studies led to his proposals of reforms in the system, which have been adopted in a number of localities, leading to greater efficiency in the calling and use of jurors and to budgetary savings. He founded the Center for Jury Studies. Bill was also well known for his passionate devotion to golf and bridge.

His first wife, Margaret Richards Pabst, was also a member of Friends Meeting of Washington, along with their daughters Margaret Ann and Sarah Jane. Margaret Pabst died in April 1962, and since that time Bill Pabst has been less in touch with the Meeting. He married Glendy Culligan Dawedeit in August 1964. She survives him, as do his daughters Peggy and Sally. In the earlier days of his membership, Bill Pabst was active in the Meeting. He began attending it with his family in 1945, when he was still formally a member of a Congregational church in Brooklyn. Peggy and Sally were in First Day School. The family became members of the Meeting in December 1948. Older Friends recall "the friendly Pabst family." Bill Pabst was active on the Finance and Property Committee of the Meeting. When the Pabsts were in India, from 1957 to 1959, they continued to keep in touch with the Meeting. William Pabst is recalled still today as a man "of good cheer and smiles."