

FREDERICK WILLIAM POPP
1882 --1988

This is a memorial minute for Frederick William Popp, a charter member of Friends Meeting of Washington, who was born on October 5, 1882 and died on November 4, 1988 at the age of 106. His wife, Evelyn Roberts Popp, died in 1975.

This Meeting was proud to host a gala 100th birthday party for Fred Popp in October 1982. In October 1987, many members joined in celebrating his 105th birthday at Friends House in Sandy Spring, MD, where he was then living. On November 8, 1988, we joined in a Memorial Service at the Woodlawn, VA, Friends Meeting House that was, like his life, friendly and inspirational.

With his wife Evelyn, Frederick Popp was among the Friends from the I Street Meeting who demonstrated their support for a new cooperative, independent Meeting in the nation's capital by joining the Friends Meeting of Washington in 1931 as charter members. Theirs were dual memberships. The Poppes served both Meetings. Committees always welcomed Fred in their meetings for he had good judgment and his wit and good cheer added spice to the committee's considerations.

Because the I Street Meeting had remained a preparative Meeting under the care of Alexandria Monthly Meeting, I Street Friends eventually became a part of Alexandria Monthly Meeting and they met in the Woodlawn Meeting House. While Fred Popp rightly gave priority to the smaller Alexandria Meeting in his loyalty and service, he continued his interest and membership in - and support of - the Friends Meeting of Washington.

For almost 40 years Fred Popp was an electrical engineer at the National Bureau of Standards, retiring in 1948. He was a self-made man, who built his own home in Bethesda, with the help of a bricklayer friend and some neighbor boys. He fed himself and his family and neighbors with fresh vegetables and fruit that he raised on his own land. Indeed, before many of us were aware of health foods, Fred demonstrated their value by precept and example. His long life he attributed in part to his good eating habits and his hard work.

We will remember Frederick Popp the longest for his kindly concern for people, beginning in his own family. He was both a devoted uncle and father to his two nieces and a nephew, who became fatherless when they were very young. To their children, in turn, he was a grandfather, as well as Uncle Fred.

Reporters for the Montgomery Journal found a variety of reasons for Frederick Popp's "long and reassuring life." His Quaker friends can suggest one more using a traditional term that he himself liked to employ: Frederick Popp lived long and fruitfully, "in good order."