

**Haddonfield Monthly Meeting  
Memorial Service and Graveyard Committee  
2010 Annual Report to the Monthly Meeting**

**Committee Organization**

In 2010, the Memorial Service and Graveyard Committee said goodbye with minutes of appreciation to Cindy Kolaski and Lisa Boyell who served ably and left the committee at the conclusion of their second three-year term of service, and to Dan Kurtzman, who devoted an extraordinary amount of time and effort to the committee over several years. Dan resigned for personal reasons shortly before his two terms of service would have been completed. We were pleased to add to the committee new members Pam Perry, David Smith and Art Dodge. In addition, Lisa Boyell will be rejoining the committee in 2011. We appreciate the commitment of these Friends in being open to calls to serve the Meeting community.

Pam Anderson agreed to co-clerk the committee along with Bob Brookes.

**Memorial Services and Interments**

The committee oversaw memorial services and graveyard interments for Charles Barringer (April 17) and Marion Rannels (April 24).<sup>1</sup>

Interments of cremains without memorial services were held for Mildred and Edward Teitelman<sup>2</sup>, William Forsythe<sup>3</sup> and Carleton Baker.<sup>4</sup>

Memorial Meetings for Worship without interments were held for Harold Heritage (May 22) and John McKay (July 17).

The committee thanks Friends who faithfully follow the longstanding Quaker tradition of attending our memorial Meetings for Worship and encourage others to follow their example. The presence of every person contributes to the spiritual power of the Meeting for Worship and to the comfort of the family.

**Grave Yard Administration**

The two most severely damaged of the more than 20 grave stones damaged by lawn mowing were replaced at a cost to the Monthly Meeting of \$600.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Barringer died April 6, 2010. Marion died March 30. Both interments were of cremated remains.

<sup>2</sup> Members of Newton Monthly Meeting.

<sup>3</sup> Brother in law of Mary F. Pharo, William's cremated remains were interred next to his wife Ruth.

<sup>4</sup> Carlton Baker was the husband of Margaret (Peg) Baker, sister of Mary Forsythe Pharo. Carl and Peg's daughter is buried in the graveyard. Interment of Carlton's cremains took place November 27.

<sup>5</sup> The two replaced stones were for the graves of Louisa S. Gill and Antoinette Hopkins Tomlinson. Original markers were sunk beneath the replacements.

The committee labored with an ongoing concern about the maintenance of the grave yard property and worked with Property Committee on these issues. The committee brought a concern to Monthly Meeting that the custodian was delegating operation of the motorized lawn mower to an unknown person who was neither an employee nor a volunteer approved by Monthly Meeting. This person had not undergone the required child safety background check and, if injured, would not have been covered by workers compensation insurance. While acknowledging that allowing this man to work may have been an act of kindness, the committee is grateful to Property Committee for halting the practice in light of the potential for liability and lack of accountability for further damage to grave stones.

## **Other Business**

### Minutes on the Event of a Member's Death

At June Meeting for Business, the committee raised to Monthly Meeting the possibility that the Monthly Meeting might wish to enter a minute at Meeting for Business on the event of the death and funeral of a member, as *Faith and Practice* provides:

“The Meeting may wish to prepare a memorial minute as an expression of its appreciation of the life and service of the deceased member and as a reminder of what we are given time for.”

The Monthly Meeting did not reach a sense of the meeting to undertake this practice.

### Structures Committee Report

At the March 2010 committee meeting and again at a Saturday retreat on May 15 at the meeting house the Memorial Service and Graveyard Committee discussed the queries raised up by the Structures Committee. We generated a report to Structures Committee on the subjects of the committee's mission, organization and opportunities for growth and improvement. The committee identified areas within the committee itself that may lead to more efficient processes. These included delegating discrete functions to individuals, such as handling money and keeping financial records related to interment fees and memorial gifts (including liaison with the Monthly Meeting Treasurer); keeping and updating burial records and graveyard maps and correspondence.

Areas of improvement and growth we hope to explore in 2011 include:

- Development of skills for vocal ministry at memorial services
- Mini-service days for grave yard work
- Presence on the proposed Monthly Meeting web site
- FDS presentation on practical end of life planning

Submitted by Memorial Service and Graveyard Committee:

Pam Anderson (co-clerk)

Anna Mae Sutterley

Pam Perry

David Smith

Lois Hinski

Hiltrud Dodge

Art Dodge

Bob Brookes (co-clerk)

December 12, 2010