

**MEMORIALS OF
DECEASED FRIENDS,
OF NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING**

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Memorials of Deceased Friends, of New England Yearly Meeting by Various

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VARIOUS

**MEMORIALS OF
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OF
DECEASED FRIENDS,
OF
NEW-ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING.

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INTRODUCTION.

It is now several years since New England Yearly Meeting of Friends have issued a publication of like nature with the present; and, notwithstanding the sore trials which have been allotted us in the interval—dividing in Jacob and scattering in Israel, leaving but a stripped and peeled remnant, who are endeavoring to stand for the ancient land-marks—we still feel concerned to continue the practice which has prevailed in the Society from its origin, of preserving memorials of Friends who have been enabled through Divine Grace to bear testimony in their lives, and in their death to the everlasting truth and efficacy of the Christian religion as professed by our religious society.

Both meetings and individuals have been engaged at divers times to put forth public testimonies concerning some of these faithful ones, and we believe great benefit has resulted therefrom. Many we trust have been encouraged and in some measure strengthened by the salutary examples thus given, to endeavor to lead lives of righteousness and self-denial, that they also might through mercy obtain the crown at the end of the race.

That such may continue to be the blessed effect of these precious testimonies, and that this addition to the number may contribute to the same end, is our fervent desire.

COMMITTEE OF THE MEET- }
ING FOR SUFFERINGS, 1856. }

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MEMORIALS.

BENJAMIN BUFFINTON.

Testimony of Swanzey Monthly Meeting of Friends, concerning Benjamin Buffinton, deceased.

We feel our minds impressed with a sense of religious duty to record the following testimony concerning our beloved friend, Benjamin Buffinton, deceased.

He was born in Swanzey the first of eleventh month, 1762. His parents, Moses and Isabel Buffinton were exemplary and devoted members of our religious society. From a manuscript which he left, it appears that although he took great delight in play, he was preserved from using bad words, and was naturally of a steady turn of mind. He says, "on arriving at the age of sixteen years, I became more thoughtful about my future state, and a love for reading took place in my mind, especially the Bible and other good books, which I believe was of great use to me." Yet it appears that he afterwards gave way to join with rude company, and thereby sustained a loss. But the Lord followed him with His gentle reproofs and set his sins in order before him. He was introduced into deep conflict of spirit, and was led to covenant with the Lord, that if He would be pleased to pass by his transgressions and forgive his sins, he would be more faith-

ful to what was manifested to be his duty; and he says, "I believe the Lord heard my cry and supplication, whereby I was enabled to be more watchful."

From this time his desire for attending religious meetings increased, in which he often felt the covering of his Heavenly Father's love to be over him, and became greatly encouraged to persevere in the path of obedience and dedication. On arriving at man's estate, he had very serious thoughts in respect to getting a livelihood in connexion with the prospect of changing his situation from a single to a married state. He says, "as I was thinking on these things, with my mind turned to the Lord, desiring to be rightly directed in this most weighty affair, a language presented to my mind after this manner, 'seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added;' and however I may have come short of faithfulness and obedience in all things to His requirings, yet I believe the Lord has fulfilled that gracious promise which has often been humbling to my mind."

He was joined in marriage with Charity Robinson, about the 23d year of his age, and had frequent occasion to commemorate the goodness of the Lord towards him and his dear companion.

As time passed on he began to feel that if he was faithful to the inward manifestations of Divine Light and Grace, he should be called to bear public testimony to the blessed Truth in our religious meetings. He says, "this service appeared so great to me that I feared I never could give up to it, yet the good hand still followed me," and about the 32d year of his age, he was strengthened to make the sacrifice to the peace of his own mind, and to the satisfaction of his friends.

After a suitable time his gift in the ministry was acknowledged by Swanzey Monthly Meeting, of which he continued to be a member to the close of his life. Faithfully discharging his social and relative duties, humbly and devotedly laboring for the advancement of the cause of truth and right-

eousness in the earth, he was a valuable member of society, an instrument of usefulness in the church, and in the exercise of his gift in the ministry, a "son of consolation" to many. With the concurrence of his friends, he visited, at different times, in Gospel love, several of the Quarterly Meetings of New-England Yearly Meeting, and also some parts of New York Yearly Meeting, to the peace of his own mind, and as the returning minutes granted him on these occasions fully show, to the satisfaction and edification of Friends where his lot was cast.

At home he was diligent in the attendance of our religious meetings, not only those held on the first, but on other days of the week, often remarking that these were seasons of comfort and encouragement to him. Being once asked why he attended so steadily, he replied, for fear he should miss of the good which was intended for him.

He was one of those upon whom blessings were pronounced as a peace-maker, often exhorting Friends to live in love, to dwell in love, that so peace might abound. He was not only a firm believer in the doctrines of the Gospel as professed by Friends from the beginning, but consistent and exemplary in the maintenance of our christian principles and testimonies, both at home and abroad. Towards the close of his life he was deeply concerned on account of the inroads which were evidently making in divers quarters upon our original principles, and the manifest departures on the part of many, both in doctrine and practice, from ancient simplicity, were to him the cause of much sorrow and lamentation over the flock. But his mind was stayed upon the Lord during the many trials and close conflicts which he had to pass through in the progress of these innovations.

When near his close he imparted much sweet counsel and advice to his family, and friends who visited him; and there was a calmness and serenity pervaded his mind to the last, which manifested the ground of his confidence and the foundation of his hope of a blessed inheritance with the Saints

in light, to be upon Him who is the Rock of ages—the sure foundation of the righteous in every generation. All his expressions indicated a lively sense of a happy immortality—a blessed assurance that a crown of righteousness was in store for him when his Lord and Master might see meet to release him from his earthly tabernacle. He said “one day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.” “I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.” Being asked by one of his family if he wanted something, he replied “I want to be in my Redeemer’s arms.” This desire, we have reason to believe, was soon answered, by his being released from the conflicts of time, like one falling into a quiet sleep, on the 20th of 2d month, 1843, aged 80 years, and having been a minister about 48 years. On the 23d of the same month his funeral was attended by a large and solemn assembly, after which his remains were interred in Friends Burying Ground, at Fall River, Mass.

As he lived, so he died, in the unshaken faith that he had not followed cunningly devised fables, but the pure and everlasting truth.

Signed on behalf and by direction of Swanzey Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Fall River, 4th month, 27, 1846.

WILLIAM F. WOOD, Ass't Clerk.
ISABELLA B. SHEARMAN, Clerk.

RUTH BUFFINTON.

*Testimony of Swanzey Monthly Meeting of Friends, concerning
Ruth Buffinton, deceased.*

As the memorials of those who through the living an efficacious power of Truth have been enabled to bring forth fruits of righteousness to the praise of the great Husbandman, are calculated to benefit their survivors; we feel it to be our duty for this end, to preserve the following testimony concerning our beloved friend Ruth Buffinton, deceased.

She was born in Dartmouth, Bristol county, Massachusetts, the 21st of 5th month, 1786. Her parents were members of our religious Society. She was blessed with a peaceful and quiet disposition, and early manifested a serious thoughtfulness, avoiding the company of the gay and lively and choosing those who were modest and retiring as her companions—she thereby cherished those sentiments and principles which afterwards contributed to make her an exemplary and useful member of society.

When about fifteen years old, after a severe illness, she felt, as expressed to her sister, compunctions of conscience, on account even of slight deviations from the path of rectitude. Thus did it please the Lord early to enlighten her understanding, and enable her to discern between good and evil—and abiding under the divine and holy influence of the love of God shed abroad in her heart, she became an instrument of usefulness to those around her.

In the twenty-fifth year of her age she was united in marriage with Daniel Buffinton, a member of Swanzey Monthly Meeting, within the limits of which she resided during the rest of her life. She manifested a devotion to the cause of Truth and righteousness, and was diligent in the attendance of our religious meetings, when her health would permit. She often encouraged her family and friends in well doing,