

Memorial Minute for Ruth Flick Schwaegerle

(July 25, 1920-Feb. 12, 2017)

Ruth C. Schwaegerle, 96, passed away on February 12, 2017, at Kendal at Oberlin.

She was born Ruth C. Flick, fifth in a family of eight children, on July 25, 1920, in Cincinnati, Ohio. She moved with her husband Ed in 1946 to Elyria, Ohio, where she spent many years actively involved in her community. She was an artist, singer, community volunteer, and loving mother of their son Kent.

In 1970, she joined the Oberlin Friends Meeting and remained a devoted Quaker until her death. In 1993, she and her husband were among the founders of the Kendal at Oberlin retirement community.

Throughout her life among Friends, but particularly as she was first coming to understand Quaker faith and practice, Ruth relied heavily on *Friends Journal* and Pendle Hill pamphlets as sources of learning and inspiration. From 1980 to 1990, Ruth drew on her Quaker faith to hold the Oberlin Friends Meeting together. During much of that decade she was often the only community member who regularly attended among a fluctuating population of Oberlin College students. These were difficult years for the Meeting, but Ruth felt that it was important to help provide students with the opportunity for an hour a week of silence and contemplation.

For a number of years, Ruth served as clerk of the Meeting. She talked with new members and attenders about their spiritual journeys, transcribing their interviews and encouraging them to share from the transcripts during Meetings for Business. Ruth cooked and baked for potluck lunches after Meeting for Worship for a number of years, and was known for her green bean casseroles and many breads and soups.

Quakers affirm that of God in every person. Ruth respected everyone equally and actively cared for their wellbeing and happiness. Her warmth, good humor and steadiness remained important to the life of the Meeting until her passing. We miss her loving guidance and deep insight.