

Memorial Minute for Adele S. Looney (Akron)

February 13, 1923 – February 4, 2024

Adele S. Looney passed away on February 4, 2024, just a few days short of her 101st birthday. She was one of the founders of Akron Friends Meeting, and served the Meeting in many valuable ways – including multiple terms as clerk, recording clerk, and treasurer. She also hosted the Meeting in her home.

Adele grew up in River Forest, Illinois, and earned her BA in English and Dietetics from Rosary College. She met her husband, John, while he was a law student at DePaul University in Chicago. They moved to the Akron area (living in Wadsworth) and learned about Quakerism from their work with the American Friends Service Committee. John eventually became the NE Ohio Director and set up the Akron AFSC Office. Adele volunteered for AFSC for many years.

They had attended a programmed Friends meeting at the Akron YMCA and the Cleveland and Kent Meetings. Along with other AFSC volunteers, Adele and John founded the Akron Friends Meeting. As Quakers, Adele and John worked tirelessly for peace and social justice. They advocated for fair housing, nuclear disarmament, church integration, community education, and peace. Adele helped found the Akron-Barberton-Norton-Wadsworth Peace Group, served on the board of Wadsworth Meals on Wheels, and was active in Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage and Sorosis (a local women's organization.)

Adele did all this while raising two children and teaching 7th and 8th graders English and Home Economics at Wadsworth Junior High School.

She left Akron Friends a short essay on why she was delighted to be a Quaker. In her words:

Religion for Quakers is not something apart from life, not something for special days or sacred places. It is the whole of life. It is a way of life. It is something that one does and is.

Adele lived those words. She gave us a superb example of how to live the Quaker life.

She is survived by her children, Mark and Marcia; two grandchildren, Catherine and Matthew; and a great granddaughter, Ramona.

We miss her dearly – her steadfastness, her wisdom, and her sense of humor. Thank you, Adele, for all you've taught us.