

RICHARD D HATHAWAY, beloved member of Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting for many, many years passed away on January 29, 2020. He had a vibrant, life-long devotion to Quakerism and let his life speak from the core of his being. Next to his photograph in the Poughkeepsie meeting house, he said: I made a career out of words but what speaks to me here is the silence."

It is impossible to truly summarize Dick's life by listing his accomplishments, though his life's work says much about who he was. It was a life well lived, a life that spoke. Most of those who spent time with him, worked with him and worshiped with him knew little or nothing of those things. What we knew was his presence. We knew and treasured his smile, his meticulous attention to detail, his insights and his ability to offer his leadings as a member of our body. We knew a man who turned to Quakerism early in life and then let his life speak in adherence to its principles. He was most of all a dear Friend.

The son of Dale and Edith Hathaway, Dick was born in Chillicothe, OH. After college he married and had two children with his first wife Shirley: Bruce, who predeceased him in April 2019 and a daughter, Linda Ellis whose family includes Dick's three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. His wife since 1978, Viola Sabia Hale Hathaway who worked for the American Friends Service Committee when they met, remains a cherished member of Poughkeepsie Meeting which they joined together after their marriage.

Dick came to the Religious Society of Friends as a young adult and joined Cambridge Meeting in the early 1950's, after serving with the US Naval Reserve from 1945-46 and graduating from Oberlin College in 1949. He was particularly drawn to how God is expressed in the Quaker testimony of non-violence and the practice of taking peace concerns into actions and service. He worked for three years as the Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (1952-55) and continued to support them throughout his life. He was active for many years in the Civil Rights Movement, marching in Selma in 1965 and chairing the legislative committee of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Poor People's Campaign in 1968.

Many people have been inspired by his work for peace that included risk, a strong personal integrity, a deep caring for all people, and a steady love for Quaker ways. Throughout his life Dick served on many Peace Concerns committees and organized or participated in Peace vigils for peace from the White House to the Poughkeepsie meeting house. He often spoke about the profound self-searching and lasting impact of participating on Easter Sunday 1967, in an act of civil disobedience, leading approximately 300 participants, including many non-Quakers, across the Peace Bridge at Niagara Falls to deliver cash to Canadian Quakers to send aid to North Viet Nam. In the summer of 1971 he was the chief organizer of the 3-month silent peace vigil in front of the White House. Dick was involved in mediation for peace in Ireland and numerous other life commitments to outreach. In a 2004 talk, he said "The Quaker message is that peace begins with an individual, an individual in communion with the Holy Spirit, an individual living peace, and exemplifying it at all costs. In 1651, George Fox, the founder of the Quaker movement, was offered a commission in the Puritan army. He refused it. Then he went home and wrote in his journal, 'I told them I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars.' Peace must be inward before it can become outward. Then you have to do something about it."

In his vocation as a professor of English many of his gifts found expression. He taught at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Millsaps University, and SUNY New Paltz (1962-2011), wrote about early American literature and modern style in the craft of writing, and published numerous articles. Friends remember that he also wrote and published poetry and occasionally shared it in Quaker worship or discussion groups, bringing his and other poems life and depth. He self-published two thoughtful pamphlets on Quakerism as well (*Balancing Act – The Literary Artist as Contemplator* and *Reflections from Silence*). In meeting for worship his leadings to offer vocal ministry were honed through time to become brief, evocative messages.

Over time he gravitated to committees of New York Yearly Meeting that required a comprehensive and sensitive way with words, or a sure grasp of financial matters. He served in many capacities over the years. **[We have not been able to track down a comprehensive list of Dick's NYYM committee service, 1978-2008, some could be added here, now or later.]** His love of books led him to manage the book table for years during NYYM sessions at Silver Bay. He had many friends throughout the Yearly Meeting and was often hailed by them as he walked across the campus wearing his familiar sun hat!

Dick had an amazing talent and attentiveness for details embedded in our immediate world that could bring a richness to the most seemingly mundane things. He was meticulous and brought that talent to being treasurer of both Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting and Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting and the NYYM Budget Weekend. His broad understanding of financial matters and his ready and extensive understanding of computers, programming and electronic media helped him counsel the Meeting in matters ranging from building a website to investments to contractors' estimates.

His support of committees was also very practical. Dick contributed enormous energy to the workings and running of Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting, serving on the Building and Grounds and Planning and Finance committees. Often during the week, driving past the Meeting House, one might see Dick's car parked in the car lot and know that he was inside doing some job for the Meeting. On occasion, he was seen on the roof of the building removing ice or fixing shingles. In these years, the energy, time, and contributions Dick devoted to the Meeting seemed endless. Let us not forget his homemade ice cream at the socials!

Deep engagement in service and the Quaker way of life led him many times to new endeavors, including on Poughkeepsie's Ministry and Counsel. Originally feeling that new attenders should not be intruded on with too many questions, during committee worship he had a profound leading to welcome them. Since that moment, he offered enthusiastic greetings over and over to many newcomers! He was joyful they happened to visit and was boundlessly interested to learn about them. Many remember with gratitude this spiritual hospitality and kindness "welcoming in a stranger" who otherwise felt rather shy and new. This connection left people with a happy impression and often created lasting bonds. He expanded that role to facilitate book and discussion groups that started with a text, but ended up exploring anything that was on the participants' minds, sharing his Quaker perspective on life. Dick became a person to whom others could turn when in need of an answer, some advice about the Meeting, or spiritual conversations which often resonated with others' faith journeys. In the last hours of his life, he spoke the word "infinity," over and over, expressing a final experience of finding the Divine.

Music was also Dick's constant companion and his life work. As a youth he played violin and came to love many types of music, opera high among them. Throughout his life Dick encouraged music in others and after the death of his son, he shared with many Bruce's beautiful and compelling compositions. Dick supported the gifts of other people, especially in the areas of literature, art and music. He attended many concerts and art shows as well as other programs members were involved in. He encouraged the projects and the project-makers and expressed his gratitude freely.

An especially poignant way that Dick's life touched us was by witnessing the devotion he had for Viola and his family. He often spoke about Viola with abiding love. His eyes would fill with Light with the mention of her name - an unmistakable expression of the love he felt for her. His hardest final good-bye was the parting from his deepest earth-love. This love will always be fresh, and vibrant, and beautiful.

Dick was a regular at business and committee meetings and always had ideas and advice on what would be best for the Meeting. Late in his life he became less physically able, but he was always at Planning and Finance when held at his building, and came to Meeting for Worship even when it was difficult for him. He didn't let his disabilities get him down. We found his messages in the last year thoughtful, intelligent and spirit-filled. He

continued to have a smile for everyone and was always encouraging to others. He really appreciated what others did for him. Dick loved his Meeting and the people in it. He is greatly missed.

Approved by Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting, 6/21/20.

Signed, Jean W. Doneit, clerk