

Friends Through Time

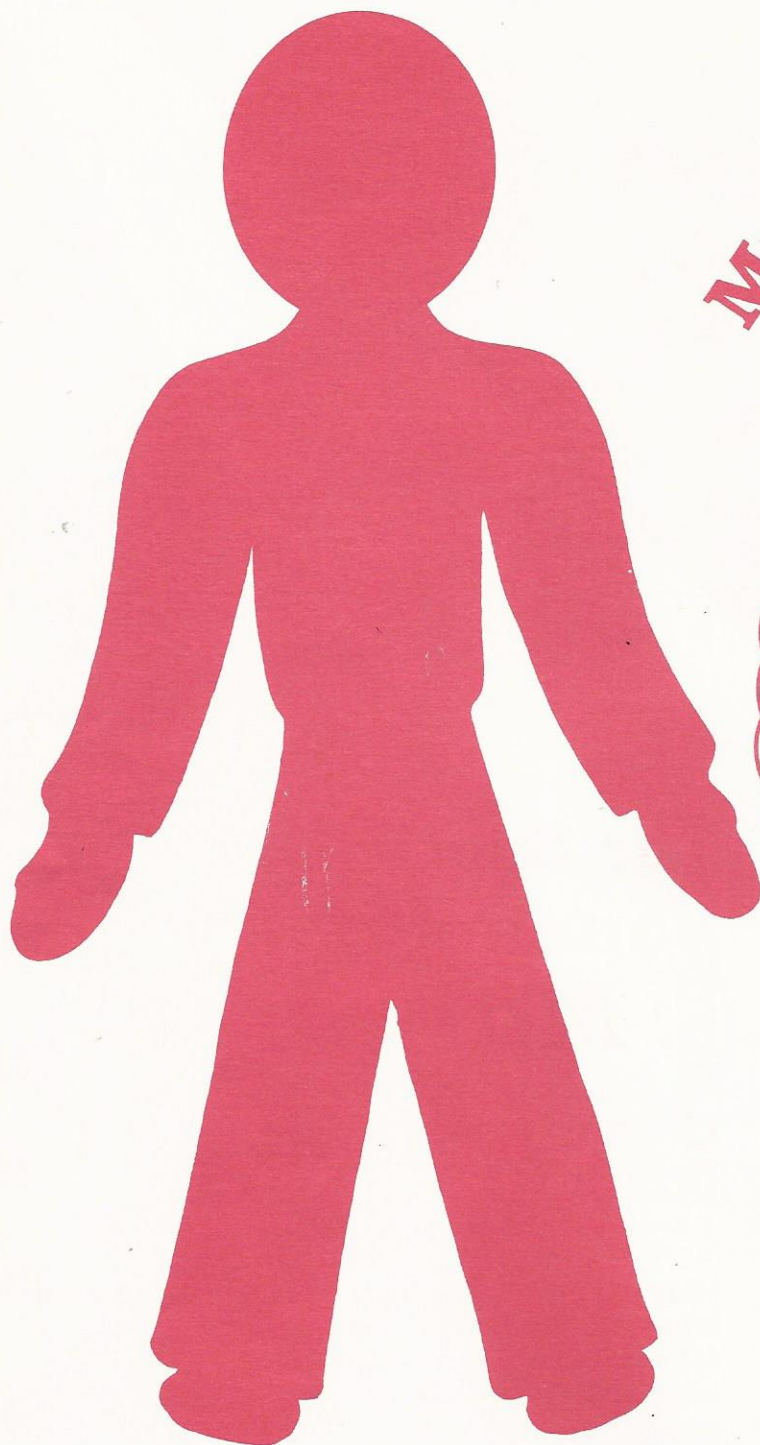
The Spotlight Is On

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⌚ **Margaret** ⌚
⌚ **Fell** ⌚
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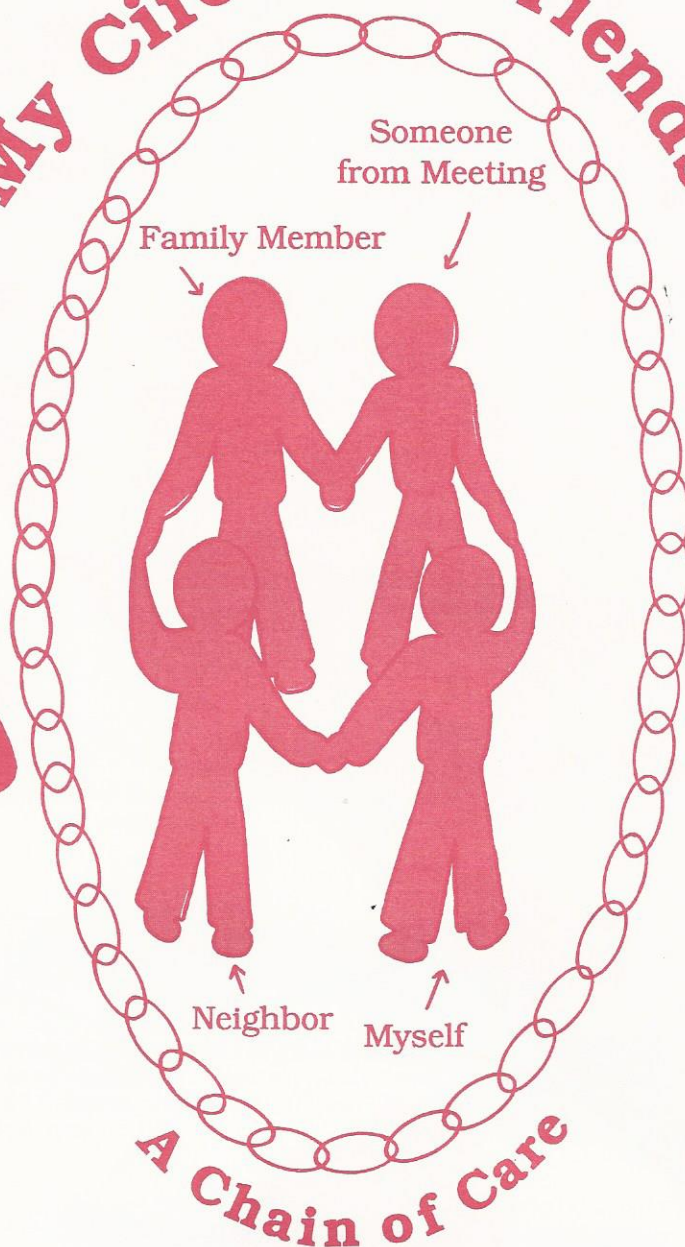
(1614-1702)



Margaret Fell, mother of eight children, was also known as the "Mother of Quakerism," because of her care and hospitality to other Friends. She became a Quaker after some conversations with George Fox. Her husband, Thomas Fell, never became a Quaker perhaps because he was a judge who might have then lost his power to defend and protect Quakers from persecution. Judge Fell did support Margaret Fell when she opened their home, Swarthmoor Hall in England, to traveling Friends. Margaret Fell also cared for Friends in prison by working for their release, sending them money, and writing them letters of encouragement. She, herself, spent time in prison for refusing to take an oath. Eleven years after Judge Fell's death, she married George Fox.



Welcome to My Circle of Friends



Directions for the Chain of Care

1. Cut out "person figure" above.
2. Fold a piece of construction paper in half, then in half again, so there are four sections.
3. Trace "person figure" onto folded construction paper, being careful that the person's hands are against the sides of the paper.
4. Cut out the person, making sure that the hands remain intact against the sides.
5. Unfold the paper carefully to reveal a chain of four figures:
 - You
 - A family member

- A neighbor
 - Someone from your meeting
6. On the "inside" of each person, write his or her name and something you plan to do for or with that person to show you care about him or her. Leave the inside of "you" blank, so you can later record the things you like best to do for others.
 7. Draw details and color or decorate the "outsides" in your chain so they more closely resemble the individuals you selected.
 8. Tape together the hands at the ends of the chain to form a circle.
 9. Bring your Chain of Care to share during the next session.

A Timely Friend — Margaret Fell



"I think there are so many horses in our stables these days that we shall be out of hay before the end of the year!" Judge Fell commented to his wife, Margaret Fell.

"I do not believe we shall run out of hay," she replied.

While some of the horses in the stable belonged to the Fells, a large number belonged to the traveling Quakers staying at the Fell's home, Swarthmoor Hall, in England. With Friends coming and going all the time, it was a busy place.

Margaret Fell was constantly taking care of Friends. She made sure they had food and comfortable beds in which to sleep. Her work did not end there. When traveling Quakers, known as "Publishers of Truth," left Swarthmoor Hall to travel to another part of England or elsewhere, she wrote letters of encouragement to them. She

also wrote to support Quakers like Francis Howgill, imprisoned for refusing to take an oath or for holding public meetings. These Friends sometimes sent her information to send to Quakers in other places. She arranged for letters to be hand copied as many times as necessary to make sure that all Friends who needed a copy would receive one.

Margaret Fell's hospitality extended beyond the walls of her home in other ways. Often she would check to make sure that families of traveling Friends had enough food and shelter. She even visited prisons to offer support to Friends there.

Despite all the Quakers coming and going that year, Swarthmoor Hall had plenty of hay for the horses. They had so much hay, in fact, that the Fells sold some of it!



Swarthmoor Hall

Homeward Bound

Simple Gifts Sow the Seeds of Friendship



Plant seeds or a small plant in a paper cup to give to someone.

Seed Collage — Create a picture using seeds and glue on posterboard.

"Suncatcher" — arrange leaves and crayon shavings between two sheets of wax paper. Have an adult use a hot iron over an old towel to press your picture. Tie on a piece of yarn for hanging.

Books to Extend Your Knowledge

*Eitzen, Ruth. **The White Feather**. Herald Press, 1987.

In this story based on fact, a Quaker family living in Ohio around 1812 offers their Native American neighbors fellowship and receive a special gift in return.

Fahs, Sophia Lyon. George Fox. **The Man Who Wouldn't**. Friends General Conference, 1971.

Find out why George Fox would not take off his hat to others.

Hockett, Betty M. **Eight of a Kind**. Barclay Press, 1988.

Challenges in the lives of eight different Quakers, including Margaret Fell and George Fox, are told in this book.

Yolen, Jane. **Friend: The Story of George Fox and the Quakers**. The Seabury Press, 1972.

George Fox's life is followed from his early years of seeking answers to his questions to his finding some answers and sharing them with others.

Books to Stretch Your Imagination

Williams, Vera B. **Music, Music for Everyone**. Greenwillow, 1984.

Rosa is able to combine her talents with the talents of three good friends to help her sick grandmother and bring joy and merriment to others.

Minshull, Evelyn. **The Cornhusk Doll**. Herald Press, 1987.

A young pioneer girl offers a gift to a Native American girl in a gesture of faith and trust that inspires others to respond in a true spirit of friendship.