

C. Russell (Russ) de Burlo, Jr., a long-term member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC), died on February 24, 2024. Born on September 1, 1924, he was 99 years old. There was a richness, warmth, and breadth in Russ's life. He was a fun, compassionate, and energetic friend to so many people; living as a good Friend was important to him.

Russ and his late wife Edith (Edie) Thatcher de Burlo were active in the FMC community from the early 1950s and transferred their membership from Swarthmore (PA) Monthly Meeting in January of 1960. At that time, Russ was involved in the financial life of FMC on the Trustees Committee and also taught in the First Day School.

Russ and Edie were among the founding families of the Cambridge Friends School (CFS) in 1961. Russ was an active CFS Trustee, becoming Treasurer of the School in the Spring of 1969—all while working to keep the School and the Meeting closely connected.

Beginning in 1972, Russ filled a vital need, helping New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) to invest responsibly, and offering socially responsible, Quaker-values-based investing advice to Meetings in NEYM. He became the Investment Advisor for the NEYM Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds. He was an original architect of the Pooled Funds, created to pool the resources of all New England Meetings to centralize financial expertise and especially enable Meetings with limited size and finances to generate greater growth and income of their assets.. He assisted Friends General Conference and *Friends Journal* similarly. When Beacon Hill Friend's House (BHFH) needed to repair their building, Russ worked with the banking partner on the complicated task of allowing BHFH to use their share of the Pooled Funds as collateral. He was delighted that the process worked for BHFH, demonstrating how Pooled Funds could help other NE Meetings in new ways. His commitment to determining ways to help NEYM Meetings financially continued throughout his life.

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Russ grew up in Havertown (PA) in a modest-income family and was the first in his immediate family to go to college. He entered Swarthmore College when the country was in WWII, and remembered studying very hard at Swarthmore which was then a year-round program with classes on Saturdays and science labs even on Thanksgiving! At Swarthmore he was introduced to Quakerism and meeting for worship. He attended a campus meeting in the Friends Meetinghouse during the first week and wrote that "the simplicity and quiet of the space had a lasting impact on my emotional being." He was drafted into the Navy just before the end of his junior year, completed boot camp in June 1944, and was finally discharged in June 1946. Returning to Swarthmore, he met his wife to be, Edie Thatcher, a birthright Quaker and member of Swarthmore Meeting, when they were both working for the Swarthmore post office. Edie was a freshman and Russ a returning senior. Russ described her as his "inner light." They were married in May of 1948 under the care of Swarthmore Meeting.

After Swarthmore, Russ graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School with an MBA and the family then moved to Medford (MA) as Russ began a long career at Tufts University as both a faculty member in the Economics Department and an administrator. He also worked toward a DBA from the Harvard Business School which he was awarded in 1960. The de Burlo family moved to Princeton (NJ) for two years in the fall of 1963 while Russ served on the administrative staff of the College Board organization. On their return to Boston, Russ resumed his service at Tufts University, culminating as University Treasurer and Vice President for Administration.

In 1987, Russ and two colleagues from Tufts co-founded The de Burlo Group, an early pioneer in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investing practices. The de Burlo Group took on the advisor role to the NEYM pooled funds, Friends General Conference, *Friends Journal*, and many other Quaker organizations. A treasurer for two of those organizations during the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s reminisced: “Russ was wonderful to work and talk with. He was both warm and practical. He kept his humanness in the world of financial management. He listened closely and was present in working and community relationships. I looked forward to his ... visits and our phone conversations were generally more than just the numbers. I truly remember the frequent smile in his eyes.” Russ was a principal officer of The de Burlo Group until he retired from active participation in the summer of 2020.

Russ also served too many non-Quaker organizations to list here but they included being Assistant Treasurer of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Rhododendrons were a passion of his and he enthusiastically provided many tours of the specimens he diligently cared for around his house.

He is survived by his children Jane de Burlo Waln, of Lincoln, California, John Todd de Burlo of Burlington, Vermont, and Laurie Ann Kutner also of Burlington, Vermont; four grandchildren, and a great grandchild. He was pre-deceased on June 8, 2008, by Edie, his wife of 60 years, and earlier, on August 6, 2005, by his son Charles Russell de Burlo.