

**“The Episcopalian”
Dorothy Nichols, 2019**

The original document, “Four Men of Peace,” was a UCLA World Arts and Culture project completed in 1992. Because of the fact that very few people seemed to know anything about Civilian Public Service and its 151 camps situated around the United States, during WWII, I decided to research more in order to do a documentary about it.

In 1993, I traveled to Washington D.C. and spent time at the Smithsonian, in their film collection, finding what could be found on Civilian Public Service (CPS) or things that related to conscientious objectors during WWII. There was very little - almost nothing.

I then went to Pennsylvania, to Swarthmore College, to view their Peace Collection and to visit the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia to see what each had on the subject. It was at the later that I met up with Lawrence Miller, who was visiting at the same time. He was doing research for a book he was writing on Clarence E. Pickett, the former American Friends Service Committee executive secretary.

I learned Lawrence had been in Civilian Public Service during WWII and convinced him to sit down with me to do a video taped interview about his experience. He had been in at least three of the human guinea pig projects, voluntarily allowing himself to be subjected to lice and diseases such as pneumonia. He also had a scrapbook of pictures from CPS that I videotaped with his commentary.

That interview, which is part of this collection, was not transcribed at the time. Twenty-five years later, the sound had become so degraded it had to be specially treated in order to be clearly heard.

Despite so much time having passed since that interview with Mr. Miller, I remember him fondly. As you will see, despite his age, he was incredibly articulate, humble, and knowledgeable about the subject of CPS. He was also delightful to interview, as he was enthusiastic, had a great memory and a charming sense of humor. His is the longest of all the interviews I did for this project and I can only say that I wish I could have spent even more time with him.

It is very important to mention here that although Mr. Miller spoke of his influential, Episcopalian days, Lawrence eventually became a well-known Quaker Activist who worked for world peace in many places around the world. He marched with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and with Desmond Tutu, among many other heroic acts.

Below, you will find an obituary copied from Find a Grave for Lawrence Miller, in case you would like to know more about this remarkable person, my fifth "Man of Peace."



Lawrence M Miller, Jr
Birth unknown
Death 19 Jun 2007
Burial Unknown
Memorial ID 20291416

Lawrence M. Miller Jr., 87, of New Britain, a Quaker activist, died of a stroke June 19 at home.

For almost 50 years, Mr. Miller was active with the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia. He coordinated projects in Asia and the Middle East, represented Quakers at international conferences in China, Kenya, Romania, and the Soviet Union, spoke out for human rights, supported efforts to end world poverty, and participated in antiwar and civil-rights marches with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, he organized a weekly Tuesday-night peace vigil in Doylestown. In 2003, he told an Inquirer reporter, from six to 30 marchers would show up. On the Tuesday he died, said his daughter, Janice, 80 people marched. Mr. Miller wrote commentary articles for local newspapers and for the Friends Journal, and in 1999 published the book *Witness for Humanity: A Biography of Clarence E. Pickett*, about a former AFSC executive secretary.

A native of New York City, Mr. Miller joined the Religious Society of Friends while attending Antioch College in Ohio. In the summer of 1940, he worked on a Quaker-sponsored homestead project for coal miners in Pennsylvania. After graduating from college, he performed alternative service building fire towers for the U.S. Forest Service in New Hampshire as a conscientious objector during World War II.

In 1948, Mr. Miller earned a master's degree in religious education from Chicago Theological Seminary. He then worked for the AFSC in Philadelphia until 1954, when he became secretary to the Friends General Conference, headquartered in Philadelphia. In 1965, he took a two-year leave from the conference and traveled to Bangalore, India, with his family to work with an AFSC program overseeing health and agricultural projects.

He retired from the AFSC in 1992.

Mr. Miller enjoyed music, dancing and the outdoors. and planned to hike in the White Mountains in New Hampshire this summer, as he did every year.

Besides his daughter, he is survived by his wife of 17 years, Carol Miller; sons Kenneth, Lee, and Timothy; stepchildren Susan Pinales and Douglas Sturm; 10 grandchildren; and his former wife, Ruth Miller.

Lawrence Miller's obituary was written by Sally A. Downey and featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer on July 5, 2007:

https://www.inquirer.com/philly/obituaries/20070705_Lawrence_Miller_Jr_activist.html