

STEPHEN CARY, 86; QUAKER ACTIVE IN THE WAR RELIEF EFFORT

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Stephen G. Cary, a Quaker activist and administrator, died of cancer Tuesday at his summer home in Chatham. He was 86.

"This is a man who lived a life that really epitomized the values of Quakers," said Richard Wade, a close friend of Mr. Cary's and the head of Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia. "He was an inspiration just to be around."

In 1946, the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker humanitarian organization, chose Mr. Cary to head its European relief operations. A year later, the AFSC and the Friends Service Council, a British relief organization, won the Nobel Peace Prize for their humanitarian service after World War I and during and after World War II.

"No one could have seen and been a part of the agony, to really experience firsthand the cost of war, without wanting to spend the rest of his life trying to prevent it from happening again," Mr. Cary once said.

Born in Philadelphia, the city in which he would spend all but about 10 years of his life, Mr. Cary attended Germantown Friends School. He graduated from Haverford (Pa.) College in 1937, and went on to receive a master's degree in International Administration from Columbia University.

A conscientious objector, Mr. Cary spent four years in Civilian Public Service after he was drafted in 1942. During this time, he became involved in the AFSC. From 1946 to 1969 he served on the staff, and from 1979 to 1991 he was clerk of the Board of Directors.

In 1969, Mr. Cary was named vice president for development at Haverford College, a position he kept until 1977, when he was named acting president of the school. He served as senior vice president from 1979 until his retirement in 1981. While at Haverford, he received many awards for his involvement, including the Varsity Club Award and the highest award of the Students' Association, the Martin Foss Award.

His daughter, Anne Sampson, of Larchmont, N.Y., said her father's belief in nonviolence did not keep him from being passionate about Haverford athletics.

"He was a fierce competitor," she said. "At Haverford they'd always stick someone with him because he was always yelling at the officials."

Mr. Cary had a lighter side to complement his deep moral philosophy. His wife, Elizabeth Summers of Haverford, said he was twice kicked out of a movie theater for laughing too much.

His daughter Dorothy, of Philadelphia, remembers how shocked her friends were to find that such a formal gentleman could be so raucous.

"Our dinner table was always a frolicking place," she said.

"It didn't matter how many times he told the story," her brother, Charles, of Princeton, Maine, added, "because he was laughing so hard that everyone else was laughing."

As he entered his 60s, he began making plans for the things he wanted to do before he died, his wife said. Among those he accomplished were a hiking trip in the Himalayas and sailing the Straits of Magellan in a 100-foot schooner.

In his 80s, he, and five octogenarian friends went sailing in the South Pacific with no paid deckhands.

Mr. Cary and his family summered in Chatham for more than 50 years.

Even at his most adventurous, Mr. Cary held tightly to his Quaker values of honesty and goodwill.

His wife remembers when he went fishing with his 10-year-old granddaughter and threw the large bass she had caught back in the water. It was a half-inch short of the legal size.

Besides his wife, two daughters, and son, Mr. Cary leaves his sister, Comfort Richardson; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Friday at the Yarmouth Friends Meeting in South Yarmouth. Another memorial service will be held Sept. 14 in Philadelphia.