

**Durham Friends Meeting**  
**Memorial Minute for Helen Cornelia Pratt Clarkson**  
**August 21, 1925- July 16, 2022**

Helen is especially remembered for her warm, loving, generous spirit. She had deep roots in our Meeting, being in the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of her family to be part of us. She grew up not far from the meetinghouse, and remembered going to the auction where the parsonage was purchased in 1938.

During college she met Vernon Albert Clarkson and they were married on August 2, 1947, at Durham Friends Meeting.

After Helen retired from a career in various locations as a social worker, professor of sociology, and Dean of Admissions, Helen and Vernon moved back to Maine. They did travel to Arizona for winters, but were active at our Meeting when here. Helen was especially active in the Woman's Society and had the gift of hospitality. We loved meeting at her home by the ocean in Freeport.

Helen was a creative, prolific quilter, who made hundreds of quilts for babies and children. She organized others to make quilts also.

Helen was born on August 21, 1925, in Somerville, MA, the oldest child of Albert Pratt and Marion Cornelia Pratt (Dwelley). She attended Bates College in Lewiston, ME, graduating in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology. Helen continued her studies at Washington State University, where she met her husband-to-be on the first day, and graduated in 1947 with a Master's degree in sociology. Helen was predeceased by her husband Vernon, sister Katharine, and grandson Lee Vernon Clarkson. She is survived by her three children- Bruce, Robert, and Joyce, four grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Approved at Durham Friends Monthly Meeting April 21, 2024  
Falmouth Quarter , 4/27/24