

Levi Pennington

People

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## Levi Pennington to Gervas A. Carey, July 1965

Levi T. Pennington  
*George Fox University*

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GERVAS A. CAREY  
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Gervas A. Carey was a man of personal humility, but a servant of Christ and the church of varied and distinguished importance.

Born in a Quaker home -- his mother was a Friends Minister -- he had the kind of training as a boy that helped in later years to make him the man he became. His education took him through High School, college and theological seminary. In addition to other scholastic degrees he was made a Doctor of Divinity by his alma mater, Friends University.

His <sup>public</sup> services to the Friends Church began when he accepted the pastorate of a little pioneer Friends church with only a handful of members in a lumber town in Michigan that did not have a dozen houses, and extended to churches with hundreds of members. His teaching ministry, his pastoral oversight, his counsel and encouragement to individuals, especially to the youth of his flock, endeared him to many, who felt his real love and care for them in their personal problems.

His service to Oregon Yearly Meeting included his years as presiding clerk of that body, but was by no means ~~limited~~ confined to that service. As chairman of the Executive Committee and on important committees and in other ways his service to the yearly meeting and to individual meetings and pastors and other workers was of great value.

He was a teacher in more than one Friends institution of higher learning. For years he headed the work in Bible and Religious Education in Friends University; he held a similar position on the faculty of Pacific (now George Fox) College while serving for the second time as pastor of Newberg meeting; and at a time of especial difficulty he accepted the presidency of the college, though he considered himself properly a teacher rather than an administrator. His work during those years will always be greatly appreciated by those on his staff and by all friends of the college.

In wider circles than those of Oregon Yearly Meeting he wielded large influence, by his vocal ministry, by his counsel and by his writings. During the last months of his life it was his feeling that his work on earth was done, and as Paul in the first century of the Christian Era, he had a real desire to "depart and be with Christ, which is far better." His end came peacefully, leaving thousands who knew him to feel that "a prince has fallen in Israel."