

Sister Almira Allard (1808-1886)
A memory from her Shaker childhood
Recorded in her Autobiography, written in 1885
Shaker Museum and Library, Old Chatham, NY

Brother TrueWorthy Heath was a Trustee for many years. Ever generous and trustworthy, he filled his office to a fraction. He was a genuine lover of youth and children, affectionately conversing with them and gaining their love and respect. I became attached to him, and loved him very much. After I came here he was a father to me indeed.

One day I asked him to get me some walnuts as I had a great relish for them. He bought a lot and gave them to the Elders for the girls. When they were divided, I had no more than the others. This I thought was rather a strange affair as I was the one that asked for them. I said, "I have no more than the rest!" Eldress Abigail replied, "The other girls like walnuts as well as you do. I looked at it awhile, not quite in the right spirit. But finally I gave up my selfish feeling.