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Jaquerod, Adèle, 1874-1960 / Friends Meeting in Geneva (Switzerland)

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Adèle Jaquerod (1874-1960) and the Geneva Quaker Group

Among the Geneva group's founders, Adèle Jaquerod was active the longest: more than 40 years. She was clerk twice and helped to keep activities going during the Second World War. She was rather discreet so there is little trace of her in the Quaker and Geneva archives. Adèle grew up in Geneva in a well-to-do Protestant family, artisans and merchants, with origins in Vaud and the Grisons.

Adèle Jaquerod and the Quakers

Adèle Jaquerod was among the first informal group of worshippers to meet in Madeleine Savary's home, possibly from 1918, then in the Taconnerie from 1920. She succeeded Madeleine as clerk 1922-1926, and became clerk for the second time 1943-1944. She remained active in the Quaker group until her death in 1960 at the age of 86.

Adèle tells how Madeleine asked her to take on the post of clerk, which rather frightened her; she had counted on being able to work under Madeleine's supervision, but the latter stopped coming to meetings after 1922.

In 1928, Adèle Jaquerod is mentioned as being among the representatives of international Quaker Centres at London Yearly Meeting.

She became a member of the Society of Friends in 1939, when the Geneva group became part of the General Meeting of the Society of Friends in Switzerland. She had refused to join the Society until the Swiss had their own Yearly Meeting.

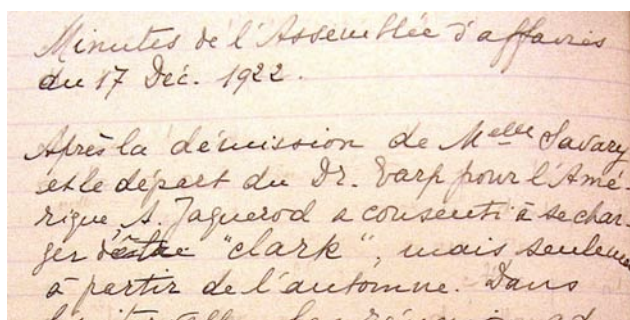
In May/June 1940 the Anglo-Saxons in the group hurriedly left Geneva. A crisis committee was formed, including Adèle. Meetings for Worship continued, with between 10-20 people attending. The committee and the Group were very active: holding meetings, maintaining contact with other Quaker groups, doing translations and helping people in need.

Robert J. Leach, in his history of the group 1920-1960, mentions Adèle Jaquerod several times. From the autumn of 1927 and for three consecutive years she produced copies of the minutes translated into French. Robert Leach describes Adèle Jaquerod (whom he knew from 1950-1960) as being a rather calm and discreet person.

A family of *ferblantiers*

Adèle Jaquerod was born in Geneva on June 28, 1874 - an only child. Her family lived near Collège Calvin, in a house built in 1868 by her grandfather, a master *ferblantier* (working in tin and other light metal plates, tinsmith). Her father Charles took over the business in the year of Adèle's birth.

A drawing of 1876 shows the Rue de la Vallée with the Collège Calvin on the right. One can see on the left a sign saying: "JAQUEROD - FERBLANTERIE & ZINGAGE".



Minutes from 17 Dec. 1922, written by A. Jaquerod



Collège Calvin, rue de la Vallée, 1876

Le groupe quaker de Genève : Adèle Jaquerod (1874-1960)

Adèle's ancestors came from a village in the canton of Vaud, while her maternal grandfather was from the Grisons.

Adèle lived at home until the death of her mother in 1929. From 1900 the family lived in the Malagnou area, about 15-20 minutes walk from the Place de la Taconnerie.

Profession: painter

We do not know where Adèle went to school. It does not seem likely that she obtained any formal certificate at the end of her studies.

She became an artist and a member of the Geneva Section of the Swiss Society of women painters, sculptors and decorators – and a member of its committee 1931-1936. She donated paintings and participated in exhibitions from at least 1906 to 1938. On a list of the 1944 Swiss General Meeting (the only list of Swiss Friends giving the professions of its members) Adèle is described as a “painter”.

As an only child, Adèle probably benefited from a considerable inheritance. She is mentioned for the first time at the age of 55 in the 1930 edition of the *Annuaire genevois*, with the mention “No profession”. From 1936 she is described as being “retired”.

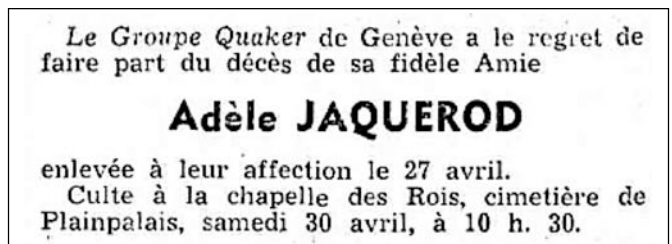
Memories

An obituary notice appeared in the Journal de Genève on April 28, 1960, the day following her “peaceful death” at the age of 85. Adèle never married.

The Quaker Group also published an announcement. A service was held at the Chapelle des Rois in Plainpalais cemetery.

In 1970, during the meeting held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the group, Adèle was mentioned in several testimonies. Irene Pickard described her as

“A Swiss friend of Madeleine Savary”. Rosalie Stack recalled the 1930s and named several Swiss members of the group, including Adèle. Katherine Wood recalled the presence of Adèle at Meetings for Worship from 1952 at the Château-Banquet.



Connections

Madeleine Savary arrived in Geneva some time between 1914 and 1916. She had become a Quaker around 1910 while in England and had built up connections in the art world. Had Adèle come to know her through that network?

The little Quaker group had been holding its meetings since 1920 in a room rented on Sundays from the Institut Rousseau in the Place de la Taconnerie, where Pierre Bovet and Adolphe Ferrière were involved in the “New Education” movement. There exists a link between this movement and Adèle Jaquerod: her cousin Helena Linsel was part of the new school founded in 1902 in Thurgovia. Did Adèle get to know Adolphe Ferrière through this cousin Helena? Did she meet Pierre Bovet at one of his lectures on the Quakers in Geneva in 1914-1915?

Michel Mégard, August 14, 2020

Original French (summarized version of a 7-page text, with notes and list of sources).

Translation by Sally Alderson and Bridget Dommen