**Louise Riddock**

Louise Riddock, born in February of 1915, the daughter of Frank and Lillie Bell Brown Walden, grew up in Yellow Springs where she was a letter-winning basketball player in High School and was a member of the first graduating class at Bryan High School in 1933. She was graduated cum laude from Wilberforce University in 1939, with a degree in social administration and moved to the New York area seeking employment pertaining to her degree. While there she met and married Vernon Riddock in Jersey City, New Jersey on July 26, 1940 who pre-deceased her in 1969, and from that union was born their only child Kathy Sheahan, also deceased.

The range of Mrs. Riddock’s interests and talents is illustrated by the diversity of her friends and her employment history. She worked at the Humanist House in Yellow Springs; Wright Patterson Air Force Base; The Science Division of Central state University; The College Section of the American Friends Service Committee in Pasadena, California; ran her own catering service for two years; and spent fifteen years with Antioch University. Following an initial period as an administrative assistant, she was appointed to the faculty of Antioch Education Abroad. In that position, she was adviser and coordinator for student going to programs in France, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria, and made the special arrangements required for those who wished to study and work in Africa. She attended faculty seminars on Africa at Antioch and Earlham Colleges and participated in a follow-up seminar in Africa. Later she returned to visit universities and seek other opportunities for Antioch students in Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, and Kenya. Her superbly written letters and trip notes during those experiences were a source of delight, admiration, and amazement to her colleagues, family, and friends.

After her retirement from Antioch in 1979, Mrs. Riddock worked from her home for the Motor Meals program of Yellow Springs. During telephone conversations many of the recipients found her interest and concern as vital to their well-being as the meals. She was obliged to give up that activity however, when a fall left her reliant on a wheelchair and a walker. After a period of time at Friends Care Center, she sold her home located on Fairfield Pike in Yellow Springs and moved to an apartment complex.

She was a member of the Advisory Board for Greene County Metropolitan Housing and an unofficial adviser to some of the residents who came to call often for the pleasure of her company and capacity for sympathetic listening. Through her initiative the large evergreen tree in front of the Activity Center was yearly transformed into a Christmas tree and flowers were panted for summer enjoyment. Although she displayed a modest demeanor, Mrs. Riddock’s keen intelligence, her with, her off-beat and sometimes exasperating sense of humor, and above all, her sensitivity endeared her to all who knew her well.

*Isabel Newman*

Sources: Obituary of Louise Walden Riddock written by Kathy Riddock Shaehan, July 13, 1994