



Remembering Dana Snyder

An advocate for Thomas Paine, a good friend of Thomas Paine Friends and one of its earliest members, Dana Snyder died in November 2015 on his beloved farm in Amherst, MA. Just a few months earlier he had at last completed his sustained hard work restoring the antique (18th century) farm house, and we can imagine that he looked on it and found his work at its happy end, and then, at age 93, he made his farewell. Dana and his wife, Mary, shared more than 60 years together, most of it in Amherst where they raised their family. Dana was a mammologist at UMass, specializing in small mammals, with particular delight in the chipmunk. He served on the town's Conservation Commission also. He was a staunch activist for peace and justice and human rights and was often seen in local protests and rallies. Mary (former treasurer of TPF), told us some time ago that she never heard a swear word out of Dana; quite a record for 60 years plus. He was a kind, reflective, generous gentleman, and Mary's statement matches everything about him. We in Amherst, as we pass the Snyder homestead, still can see Dana tending the farm or rebuilding the house and barn even though we know, but find it hard to believe, he is not really there. As has been said of others, Dana Snyder lived a long and useful life.

—Martha Spiegelman