

September 22, 1993, Baltimore Sun (Obituaries)

***Mary-Cushing Niles, Authority on business***

Mary-Cushing Niles, an expert on business management and active in the Society of Friends, died Aug. 27 of cardiovascular disease at Broadmead, a Cockeysville retirement community.

Mrs. Niles, 93, lived in the Baltimore area since 1940. She retired in 1957 after working 16 years for the federal government, in the Civil Service. In 1953 and 1954, she was on leave serving as a consultant to the government of India.

A four-time delegate to the International Management Congress, she also lectured frequently in this country and abroad.

From 1947 until 1953, she taught a course on human relations in management at American University in Washington.

She wrote, sometimes with her husband, Henry E. Niles -- retired chairman of the board of the Baltimore Life Insurance Co. -- several books published in this country and abroad. She and Mr. Niles married in 1923.

The former Mary-Cushing Howard was a native of Cleveland who came to Baltimore with her family at age 15. A graduate of the Bryn Mawr School, she attended Bryn Mawr College and then earned a certificate in piano from the Peabody Conservatory of Music and a degree in economics from the Johns Hopkins University.

She edited a business revue of the American Management Association before the couple started a management consulting firm that worked primarily for life insurance companies in this country and Canada.

She was a former chairman of the board of the Friends World College, which she joined at its start in 1965, and was a member of the board until last year.

In Baltimore, she headed several committees of the Stony Run Friends Meeting, was a former president of the United Nations Association and was active in local units of Church Women United. She also was active as a campaigner for civil rights and was a member of the Morgan State University Committee for African Students.

She and her husband donated 800 acres of land in West Virginia, between Harpers Ferry and Charles Town, that is now occupied by the Friends Wilderness Meditation Center, the Rolling Ridge-Sudy-Retreat Center and a youth program operated by a Washington group, For Love of Children.

Services were conducted at Broadmead Sept. 1. In addition to her husband, she also is survived by daughters Cushing Niles Delbeare of Washington and Alice Lynd of Niles, Ohio; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.