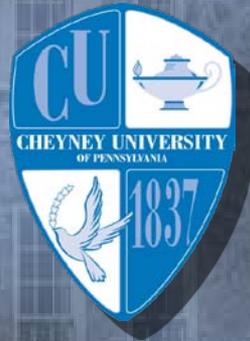


CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



Exploring a
National Treasure

Part 1



QUAKER PHILANTHROPIST

Richard Humphreys

Richard Humphreys

- Born on a plantation in the West Indies, Richard Humphreys came to Philadelphia in 1764.
- Having witnessed the struggles of African Americans competing unsuccessfully for jobs due to the influx of immigrants, he became interested in their plight.
- Wrote his will and charged thirteen fellow Quakers to design an institution: “...to instruct the descendents of the African Race in school learning, in the various branches of the mechanic Arts, trades and Agriculture, in order to prepare and fit and qualify them to act as teachers...”

The Trust and Association

- The founding of Cheyney University was made possible by Richard Humphreys, a Quaker philanthropist.
- Bequeathed \$10,000, one tenth of his estate, to design and establish a school to educate the descendants of the African race.
- 13 “Friends” named in the Trust
 - The aim of the Trust was to benefit the youth of African descent.

At a Meeting of Friends, held pursuant to adjournment
on 25th 1837.

The Committee appointed for that purpose, presents
an Essay of a Preamble and Constitution which was con-
sidered and adopted as follows. *Act.*

Constitution.

Whereas we believe that the most successful method
of elevating the moral and intellectual condition of the
descendants of Africa, as well as of improving their present
condition, is to extend to them the benefits of a good education
as business, whereby they may be enabled to obtain a competent
knowledge of those arts and industries, and through that means to
prepare them for fulfilling the various duties of social and
domestic life, with reputation and fidelity, as good citizens and
pious men: a number of persons, members of the Religious
Society of Friends, have associated for the purpose of promoting
these desirable objects, and adopted the following Constitution;

Article 1st.

The Association shall be called "The African Institute" and its
object shall be the education and improvement of the children
and youth of the African race, by instructing them in Literature,
Science, Agriculture, and the Mechanic Arts.

Religious Society of Friends

- The Religious Society of Friends is a religious movement, whose members are known as Friends or Quakers.
- The roots of this movement lie in 17th century Christian English dissenters, but the movement has since branched out into many independent national and regional organizations.
- Quakers were against slavery and championed many other social causes.

African Institute

- Founded as the African Institute, the school was soon renamed the
 - Institute for Colored Youth.
- “ Instruct the descendents of the African Race in school learning, in the various branches of the Mechanic Arts, Trades and Agriculture, in order to prepare and fit and qualify them to act as teachers...”



The Institute for Colored Youth

- **Founded in 1837 as the Institute for Colored Youth (ICY).**
- **Cheyney University of Pennsylvania is the oldest of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities in America.**

