



Private Philanthropy and Public Education

*Pierre S. du Pont
and the Delaware Schools
1890-1940*

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DELAWARE

Newark: University of Delaware Press
London and Toronto: Associated University Presses

Delaware, 1966; and Jacqueline Jones, "The Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of the Colored People: Practical Christianity," B.A. thesis, University of Delaware, 1970.

23. Stephen B. Weeks, *A History of Public School Education in Delaware*, U.S. Bureau of Education Bulletin 1917, no. 18 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1917), 103.

24. Wealthy Delawareans failed to assist Delaware's blacks in the post-Civil War era. Sophie du Pont, wife of Admiral Samuel F. du Pont, sent large gifts to the deep South for black education. Sophie M. du Pont Papers, the Winterthur manuscripts, group 9, series E and F, HML. Even later, the comparative glamour of aiding Booker T. Washington's school led T. Coleman du Pont to give \$250,000 to the Hampton-Tuskegee Endowment Fund in 1924 rather than to tiny Delaware State College, which had total assets less than Coleman's gift. Merle Curti and Roderick Nash, *Philanthropy in the Shaping of American Higher Education* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1965), 181.

25. Martin M. Daugherty, *Studies in Taxation: Financing Education in Delaware* University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station bulletin no. 182 (Nov. 1932), 34.

26. The state board had entertained the idea of building new schools only for whites and giving the old schools to blacks as replacements for their structures. Du Pont insisted that the plan would not work because black youth would have to walk through the white section of town to reach the previously white schools. A month later, Pierre announced his plan to rebuild all black schools after the state board refused to authorize a large amount of funds to construct new schools for blacks. See "Remarks of Willer H. Jump," in *Fiftieth Anniversary of the Delaware State Board of Education*, Ambrose W. Hagerty, comp., 20, 21.

27. Interview of Drew Pearson with P. S. du Pont, draft of 31 Aug. 1924, PSdP 834, HML.

28. Du Pont to trustees of the Delaware School Auxiliary Fund, 8 Oct. 1919, PSdP 712-15, HML. The colored trust fund was kept separate from the white fund, although trustees of both funds were identical. Du Pont even instructed the trustees to keep the two racially distinct funds in separate cities to bar confusion in the accounts.

29. The black school site survey was completed by the General Education Board—approved team of Frank Bachman, Charles Dillard, and Jackson Davis—and announced 7 Nov. 1919, in the *Wilmington Evening Journal*. The full report was given 14 Nov. 1919 at Dover's black school.

30. Untitled resolutions, PSdP 712-32, HML. The state board often passed resolutions that gave "tentative approval" to plans of the auxiliary architect, contingent on the state commissioner of education's later examination. Such prior approval allowed the DSAA to begin construction without delay.

31. "Report of President to Delaware School Auxiliary Association," 13 Apr. 1921, PSdP 712-19, box 2, HML.

32. Du Pont to G. B. Miller, on behalf of the state board of education, 19 Mar. 1920; and du Pont to S. L. Conwell, 3 Sept. 1924, PSdP 712-19. The 1920 site was sold in 1924 to a local white citizen for the original price of \$1,500. J. H. Odell to J. F. Allee, Sr., 20 June 1924, PSdP 712-19, box 3, HML. Townsend's colored school was another sore point, since the auxiliary had to take options on five sites before finding one acceptable to whites.

33. J. H. Odell to F. A. McHugh, 8 June 1923, PSdP 712-30, HML.

34. The Hockessin one-room DSAA black rural school cost an exorbitant \$21,000 to construct. Brick exteriors for the first three DSAA black rural schools increased costs; later,

auxiliary rural schools were frame. Ironically, the Hockessin "palace" served as the basis for a Delaware case sent to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1952 that became incorporated into the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education*, *Topeka* decision of 1954 because the building and grounds had fallen into disrepair.

35. Delaware, *Annual Report of the Department of Public Instruction*, 1938, 45-47. By comparison, black rural schoolhouses sponsored by the Rosenwald fund between 1920 and 1929 cost \$5,292 each to construct. Ullin W. Leavell, *Philanthropy in Negro Education* (1930; reprint, Westport, Conn.: Negro Universities Press, 1970), table 26, 139. Other prominent studies of philanthropy in black education include Horace Mann Bond, *Negro Education in Alabama: A Study in Cotton and Steel* (1930; reprint, New York: Atheneum, 1969); Henry Bullock, *A History of Negro Education in the South* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1967); and Abraham Flexner, *Funds and Foundations: Their Policies, Past and Present* (New York: Harper, 1952). For construction costs of black schools built by the DSAA in 1921, see Service Citizens of Delaware, *How the Service Citizens Serves the Citizens of Delaware*, Bulletin 3, no. 3(1921): 2, 22.

36. "Report of the President to the Delaware School Auxiliary Association," 1 Jan. 1923, PSdP 712-19, box 3, HML.

37. The DSAA held local meetings for each race to obtain a consensus on the most suitable site. If the site could not be bought for a reasonable price, however, the auxiliary's board considered itself free to obtain another site without further local input despite objections. See the Lewes case, PSdP 712-29, box 3 (Lewes-Colored), HML.

38. The largest gathering held in honor of Pierre du Pont was the testimonial dinner at the Hotel du Pont in 1924. Blacks also held a dinner for du Pont at Dover's new Booker T. Washington School.

39. "Consolidation of Schools for Colored Children," PSdP 712-28, HML.

40. "Colored Schools Erected to Date," 6 Nov. 1923, PSdP 712-19, box 3, HML.

41. The figures are from *What Do You Know about the Public Schools of Delaware?* Bulletin of the Service Citizens of Delaware Bulletin 6, no. 2(1924): 16-18. Du Pont eventually built eighty-seven black schools at a cost of \$2,622,751.49, according to Federal Writer's Project, *Delaware, A Guide to the First State* (New York: Viking Press, 1938), 118.

42. The Dillard-Jackson-Bachman Negro School Site Report, PSdP 712-17, HML.

43. Mowrey, *Delaware School District*, 5.

44. "Report on Pierre S. du Pont Gift to Negro Schools," General Education Board, PSdP 712-19, HML.

45. J. H. Odell to G. B. Miller, state board of education, 7 Jan. 1920, PSdP 712-17, HML.

46. "Consolidation of Schools for Colored Children," PSdP 712-28, HML.

47. Delaware, *Annual Report of the State Board of Education*, 1920, 79; Leavell, *Philanthropy*, 120.

48. The annual state appropriation for the college was \$8,000, which supplemented the \$10,000 in federal Morrill Act funds. "State College for Colored Students, Income Account, Year Ending 30 June 1919," PSdP 712-30, box 1, HML.

49. *A Confidential Report on the State College for Colored Students*, submitted to Mr. P. S. du Pont by George D. Strayer and N. L. Engelhardt, Teachers College, Columbia University (Sept. 1919), PSdP 712-30.

50. W. C. Jason to H. R. Sharp, 12 Apr. 1920, PSdP 712-30, box 1, HML.

51. Du Pont to Odell, 13 Oct. 1920, PSdP 712-30.