



# Cowgill Collection

**Record Group Number:** 9200      **Subgroup Number:** C26      **Series Number:** 000

**Collection Name:** Small Manuscript Collections

**Subgroup Name:** Cowgill Collection

**Series Name:** Colored School

**Beginning Date:** 02/26/1830      **Ending Date:** 03/31/1854

**Quantity of Material:** 0.03 cubic feet

**Extent:** 1 legal-sized file folder

**Biographical Note:** The Trustees of the Colored School in Little Creek were a group of men that acted as guardians of the Colored School in Little Creek, taking charge of the school's finances and governance. It was comprised of Edward W. Wilson, Daniel Cowgill, and Ezekiel Cowgill, who served on the board on and off during the mid-1800s. The trustees ultimately answered to the Preparative Meeting of Friends in Little Creek, who funded the school from their Colored School Fund.

**Scope and Content:** A collection of financial documents regarding the Colored School in Little Creek. The school was governed by a board of trustees, which operated under the direction of the Preparative Meeting of Little Creek. The financial documents include accounts of the students' tuition, requests for payment of the teachers' salary, a bill for the repair of the schoolhouse, and an accounting of the payments made by the Preparative Meeting over ten years. There is also a detailed architectural drawing of the schoolhouse, with dimensions and the inside layout. Ezekiel Cowgill, who served as a trustee on the board for the school and the treasurer for the Preparative Meeting, was the primary recipient of the invoices and bills generated by the school.

**Subject(s):** Business, Labor & Commerce  
Education  
History & Genealogy  
People, Race, Ethnicity & Culture

**Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically.

**Available Copies:** A preservation copy is available on the Q Drive. Digital copies are available on [CONTENTdm](#).

**Condition of Material:** Good condition.

**Access Conditions:** This material is open for research use.

**Accession Number(s):** 2023143

**Input Date:** October 11, 2023

**Author:** Rebekah Hayes

**Record Group Number:** 9200      **Subgroup Number:** C26      **Series Number:** 001

**Collection Name:** Small Manuscript Collections

**Subgroup Name:** Cowgill Collection

**Series Name:** Cowgill Accounts

**Beginning Date:** 07/29/1796      **Ending Date:** 12/26/1859

**Quantity of Material:** 0.03 cubic feet

**Extent:** 1 legal-sized file folder

**Biographical Note:** The Cowgill family was a prominent quaker family in Delaware and Maryland, immigrating from England in the late 1600s. They were known abolitionists, with several family members working as trustees for the Colored School in Little Creek and helping to draft legislation to abolish slavery in Delaware. The family was influential in the Quaker community and held government positions in Delaware at various times during the 19th century.

**Scope and Content:** A collection of deeds and accounting papers generated by various members of the Cowgill family, including Daniel Cowgill, Ezekiel Cowgill, and Daniel Cowgill Jr. The collection features deeds for a tract of land in Little Creek that passed between Daniel Cowgill and Nicholas Ridgely several times, the personal account book of Daniel Cowgill Jr. that documents the expenditures for several of his business ventures, and an indenture of trust between Daniel Cowgill Jr., Elizabeth Cowgill (Reed) and Clayton A. Cowgill.

**Subject(s):** Business, Labor & Commerce  
History & Genealogy  
Politics, Government & Law

**Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically.

**Available Copies:** A preservation copy is available on the Q Drive. Digital copies are available on [CONTENTdm](#).

**Condition of Material:** Good condition.

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**Acquisition Note:** The Cowgill Collection was donated to the Delaware Public Archives as an act of reparation by the Talbot Historical Society.

**Input Date:** October 11, 2023

**Author:** Rebekah Hayes