

CHESTER TIMES – January 3, 1903

NEW INSTITUTE FOR COLORED YOUTH – Farm Purchased at Cheyney for Educational Purposes – A Big Boon for the Negro

Delaware County soon is to have within her borders another important institution. Yesterday a deed was signed conveying to the Board of Managers of the Institute for Colored Youth a farm of 115 acres located at Cheyney, twenty-two miles from Philadelphia, on the Media branch of the Pennsylvania railroad.

This farm is to become at once the new home for the institute, which is undergoing reorganization with the view of developing a normal school for academic and industrial education. This was the original intention of the founders of this school. The school began in 1840 on a farm and was the first effort at a union of industrial with academic education for the colored people in this country.

Much of the work attempted in the name of industrial education for the colored people at present is said to be the merest hotch potch. There is a pressing demand for properly articulated courses based on educational principles and not sentiment for the colored youth who are looking forward to teaching as a profession. To meet this demand in the courses of the reorganized institute the Board of Managers has invited the advice of the following distinguished educators:

President D.C. Gilman, Carnegie Institution; President Isaac Sharpless, Haverford College; Principal Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee Institute; Dean James E. Russell, Teachers' College, New York City; Prof. John Dewey, University of Chicago, who have consented to serve as an advisory educational committee.

Hugh M. Browne has been secured for principal of the new work.

The institute was for twenty years the only school furnishing secondary education to colored youth. It has graduated over three hundred pupils. For a half century the institute has been engaged in literary work – the “school learning” element of Richard Humphreys' course of study – and furnished the majority of the ablest colored men and women who entered the profession of teaching during the years when public opinion demanded only academic education for the negro. Several of her graduates have succeeded in the other learned professions. Twenty years ago the managers started an industrial department furnishing instruction in the trades to evening classes. The practical results of the work in this department have been creditable to the management and serviceable to the colored people.

PLANS OF THE MANAGERS – Richard Humphreys, whose bequest of \$10,000 in 1832 started this work under the care of the Society of Friends, stood for a proper correlation of the academic and industrial elements in the course of study to be pursued by the person who intends to teach “the descendants of the African race.”

The Board of Managers will begin immediately the erection of the necessary buildings at Cheyney. The actual work of the school will begin the next September. The members of the present Board of Managers are: George Vaux, Francis Stokes, George Vaux, Jr., Edward M. Wastar, Francis B. Gummere, Walter Smedley, J. Henry Bartlett, Davis H. Forsythe, Alfred C. Elkinton, David G Yarnall, Stanley R. Yarnall, Comly R. Shoemaker and James G. Biddle.