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 descendents 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 Directors, held pursuant to adjournment
the 28th day of July, 1837.

The Committee appointed for that purpose, presented
The following Constitution, which was the result of careful examination, as follows:

Constitution.

WITNESS: We believe that the most beautiful Office of elevating the mental and intellectual faculties of the descendants of African, as well as of instructing their moral and intellectual, is to extend to them the benefits of a good education, and to inculcate in them the knowledge of their subject, and to teach them how to advance themselves. Therefore, this Institution is established for the purpose of promoting the intellectual and moral welfare of the African race, and of giving them the advantages of a good education, and of enabling them to understand their rights and duties, and of promoting their welfare and happiness, and of advancing their progress in knowledge and virtue. It is also established for the purpose of promoting the intellectual and moral welfare of the African race, and for the purpose of giving them the advantages of a good education, and of enabling them to understand their rights and duties, and of promoting their welfare and happiness, and of advancing their progress in knowledge and virtue.

It is

The Association shall be styled the African Institute, and its object, to assist in the education and advancement of the African, and to promote the moral and intellectual welfare of the African race, by instructing them in Trades, Art, 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.