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HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
STUDIES IN HISTORY

Published under the Direction of the Department of History  
WALTER DYSON, Editor



NO. 1. . . . JUNE 1921

BY

WALTER DYSON, A. M.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Washington, D. C.  
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**THE FOUNDING OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

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*These Studies, to be published from time to time, will comprise works of original research by teachers of Howard University and by students in the Department of History. The studies will also include collections of documents, bibliographies, and reprints of rare tracts.*

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## THE FOUNDING OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY

THE OCCASION, 1860—1866

**S**LAVERY in the United States was gone forever by November 19, 1866, notwithstanding the many attempts to restore it in disguise.<sup>1</sup> "I suppose," said a speaker on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the freedom of the Negroes of Washington, D. C., "it will no longer be presumption to call you fellow-citizens, since the Constitution has been so amended as forever to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude, except in punishment for crime, and since the 'Civil Rights Bill' has become a law of the land."<sup>2</sup>

There were then in the United States about 4,000,000<sup>3</sup> of these newly enfranchised fellow-citizens. Of these, the great majority were so poor and so ignorant as not to be able to enjoy fully the privileges or exercise properly the duties of their high position. They enjoyed their freedom as best they could, however, moving about from farm to town and from city to city,—moving with "their poverty and wretchedness, their raggedness and nakedness, their hunger and thirst, their weakness and sickness."<sup>4</sup>

They sought the large cities. From a population of 14,275 Negroes in 1860, Richmond, Virginia, grew to 23,110 in 1870; Savannah, Georgia, from 8,417 to 13,068; Louisville, Kentucky, from 6,820 to 14,956; Cincinnati, Ohio, from 3,731 to 5,900; Indianapolis, Indiana, from 498 to 2,931; Washington, D. C., from 10,000 to 40,000.<sup>5</sup>

Washington was the most attractive city. It was a "promised land" to many a freedman. In the first place, it was the capital of the nation—that is, of the North that had set them free. There, too, slavery had been abolished since 1862 and there by 1863 schools for blacks had been

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<sup>1</sup> Edward McPherson, *Reconstruction*, "Black Codes," pp. 14-44.

<sup>2</sup> Civil Rights Bill, approved April, 1866; 13th Amendment to Constitution of the United States; *Autobiography of O. O. Howard*, vol. ii, p. 321.

<sup>3</sup> W. E. B. DuBois, *The Negro*, p. 184.

<sup>4</sup> Howard in Defence, p. 36.

<sup>5</sup> United States Census; Edward Ingle, *The Negro in the District of Columbia*, 1893.

opened.<sup>6</sup> Thousands therefore poured into Washington. Between 1800 and 1860, a period of sixty years, 10,000 had come to the capital. Now, for three times that number to enter suddenly, as it were, within the next ten years, thousands of them destitute, was a matter of grave concern both for the city and for the new-comers.

These new-comers "squatted" where they could.<sup>7</sup> They took possession of vacant houses and vacated barracks wherever found. A large number had taken possession of certain barracks that had been erected by the Government on leased land<sup>8</sup> and sold at the close of the war to the owners of the land. Here, "the squatters" were tilling the land and becoming settled. They could pay no rent; yet, although the property was very valuable (worth about \$1500 an acre) the owners were reluctant to eject them.

When finally the owners were compelled to sell the property, the matter was brought by one of them to the attention of General Howard of the Freedmen's Bureau. "I said to this gentleman," wrote General Howard, "that there were thousands in the same condition, and I did not know what could be done." Going to the settlement, however, the General talked with the men, asking them what they most desired to enable them to become self-supporting. "Several answered 'land'—others hung their heads and said nothing."<sup>9</sup>

Although charged with "feeding people in idleness"<sup>10</sup> and making

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<sup>6</sup> "No spectacle could be more touching than that offered by these helpless, unfortunate men, old and young, women and children as eager to rush to the schools established for the regeneration of their minds and souls as to the places where they were provided with food and shelter. Never did a famished man pounce more eagerly upon food placed before him than did these poor fugitives upon the bread of knowledge, a sublime instinct causing them to regard education as the first condition of their regeneration." (Hippeau Report Appendix IV.)

<sup>7</sup> ". . . that these colored people should not have to dwell in Murder Bay (south of Pennsylvania Avenue between 11th and 15th Streets, N. W.) and such places in this city (as Blood Field, S. W., between 4½ and 2nd Streets; Hell's Bottom, N. W., between 9th and 12th Streets and north of S Street to Florida Avenue), paying all they could get for wages in high rents for wretched domiciles filthy and miserable." (Howard in Defence, p. 27.)

<sup>8</sup> Between 14th and 17th Streets and north of K Street, N. W.

<sup>9</sup> Howard in Defence, p. 9.

<sup>10</sup> "It will be remembered that the colored population in Washington had at one time become so numerous and congested in some sections of the city that I had been obliged to do something to relieve the suffering people from excessive want. One measure had been to issue rations and clothing; another, after careful examination of their condition, to feed the most needy, through work temporarily provided nearby, and through tickets to established soup houses; but the main expedient was in sending small parties under chosen agents, who were men or women of fitness, to places where there were work and wages, i. e., places already ascertained where there were reliable promises of employment." (Autobiography of O. O. Howard, vol. ii, pp. 416-417.)



paupers of them, the Bureau erected homes for these and others near the Capitol,<sup>11</sup> ordered the hospital<sup>12</sup> for refugees enlarged, and purchased a large farm on the Potomac near the St. Elizabeth's Hospital for the Insane. Here it erected homes and sold them to the freedmen at a minimum cost. This was known as Barry Farm.<sup>13</sup>

It was becoming more and more evident day by day to the Missionary Societies<sup>14</sup> and the benevolent peoples in general in the United States that land and learning and leadership for the freedmen were the only things which would eventually relieve the situation and bring order out of chaos. And, furthermore, colored leadership was being demanded by both the Blacks and the Whites. "It is reasonable and proper that colored men should feel that it is their mission now to enter this field and educate and elevate their freed brethren. This field is naturally ours and is the only fair one we ever had for usefulness before. Moreover the race to be educated and elevated is ours, therefore we are deeply interested in the kind of education it receives."<sup>15</sup>

In response to this demand for Negro teachers, preachers and leaders for the freedmen, several higher schools of learning were founded: Berea College, in 1855; Wilberforce University, 1857; Lincoln Institute, 1866; Fiske University, 1866; and Hampton Normal and Industrial Institute, 1866. The founding of Howard University in 1867, in a section of the Country rapidly filling with freedmen was, therefore, a natural and logical development, especially since the so-called University was not a collection of colleges but a combination of the home, the church and the elementary school.

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<sup>11</sup> Lincoln Green, or Squares 1055, 1054 and 1032; Square 640. (Minority Report, p. 8.)

<sup>12</sup> Campbell's Hospital, 7th and Florida Avenue, N. W.; later moved, and now called Freedmen's Hospital.

<sup>13</sup> Three hundred and seventy-five (375) acres of land, one-third of which was held in trust for the St. Augustine Normal School, Raleigh, N. C.; one-third for a school in Richmond, Va., and one-third for Howard University. (Minority Report, p. 8.)

"The said Trustees may invest the said \$52,000 in land, with a view of relieving the immediate necessities of a class of poor colored people in the District of Columbia, by rental, by sale or in such other way as their judgment shall direct for this purpose, provided all proceeds, interests, or moneys received for rental or sale over and above the necessary expenses shall be annually transferred to the said three institutions, and in all cases to be divided equally between them." (Special Orders No. 61 of Freedmen's Bureau.)

<sup>14</sup> Appendix III.

<sup>15</sup> Anglo-African, vol. v, No. 5, Sept. 9, 1865, quoted in The Afro-American Press and its Editors, p. 88. Autobiography of O. O. Howard, vol. ii, pp. 393-394.

## CONCEIVING THE UNIVERSITY

1866-1867

At a meeting of the Missionary Society of the First Congregational Church of Washington, D. C., held November 19, 1866,<sup>16</sup> the condition of the freedmen not only in Washington but throughout the country was considered,—also the duty of the country<sup>17</sup> and of the Church toward their elevation. During the evening, the great change which had come over “the face of society” since the Free-Soil Convention “of 1850”<sup>18</sup>—to which two present, Reverend Danforth B. Nichols and Senator Henry Wilson had been delegates,—was discussed. The work of the American Missionary Society was reviewed; the organization of another society to co-operate with it was proposed. Reverend Benjamin F. Morris related his experience at the Wayland Institute, which he had visited that day. He impressed those present with what one teacher with poor equipment was accomplishing in that school for the education of colored ministers of the Gospel. The meeting adjourned but not before one at least had been convinced that not another missionary society but a theological school was the thing needed. Reverend Mr. Nichols, who was active on the committee that organized the first Howard University, reports that the sentiment manifested that evening to establish a school some time in the future led him to say within himself, “Why not now?”<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> The date of the meeting of the Missionary Society of the First Congregational Church in which the idea of founding a school was conceived is somewhat in doubt. Rev. D. B. Nichols gave in 1895, “Nov. 17, 1866,” as the date. (Genesis of Howard University, p. 3, in Howard University Historical Papers, 1895.) Nov. 17, 1866, was Saturday. John Louis Ewell in his History of the Theological Department of Howard University, p. 7, gives “Monday, Nov. 19, 1866,” as the date. Monday is more probable.

<sup>17</sup> “The Republic, founded on the doctrine of the equal right and capacity of all citizens to share in its government, should find the appropriate monuments of its national greatness and the appropriate ornaments of its seat of government not in stately palaces of granite or marble, but in schools, universities and libraries. We have expended nearly thirteen millions dollars to erect and adorn its Capitol. . . . At the same time nearly two-thirds of the children in this district are unprovided with the means of attending school (19,000 out of 33,000 in 1867), and seventeen or eighteen of the public school rooms about to be condemned as nuisances by the Board of Health. For myself, I would rather exhibit to mankind halls of legislation, plain and cheap, and the results of that legislation apparent in intelligent, educated citizens. I would rather have Congress hold its sessions in a barn or on a hillside, and see the schools of the city models for the civilized world, than to see, as now, this Capitol rear its marble splendors over streets crowded with ignorant and vicious children.” (Hon. Geo. F. Hoar, House of Rep., June 6, 1870.)

D. O. W. Holmes, Fifty Years of Howard University, Part I.

<sup>18</sup> 1852 is the correct date for this convention at Pittsburgh, Pa.

<sup>19</sup> Genesis of Howard University, pp. 3-4, Historical Papers.

Between November 19, 1866, the date of this meeting, and March 2, 1867, events moved rapidly. On the evening <sup>20</sup> of Tuesday, November 20, it was decided to establish a school rather than a missionary society. Within three months, this school had been given four names. At first, it was called "Theological Institute;" later, "Theological and Normal Institute;" on the eighth of January, 1867, it became "Howard University;" and, finally on March 2nd "the Howard University." With each new name, except the last, new functions were added, new aims proposed. At first, it was for the education of colored men for the ministry; later, for the education of teachers and preachers; finally, for the preparation of any one who might contemplate any vocation or profession whatsoever. The draft <sup>21</sup> of the charter that was first presented to Congress on January 23, 1867, was amended on February 6th so as to include all races of men and embrace all departments of knowledge.

The first curriculum, that is, the curriculum of the Theological Institute, was unique for a School of Theology. The committee recommended three "chairs of instruction": <sup>22</sup> one on Evidences of Christianity and Biblical Interpretation; one on Biblical History and Geography; and one on Anatomy and Physiology in Their Relations to Hygiene. It was impossible to decide which the freedmen needed more—doctors for their souls or doctors for their bodies—hence, the mixed curriculum. Reverend E. W. Robinson was appointed to the first chair, Reverend D. B. Nichols to the second, and Dr. Silas Loomis to the third. Some months later, Dr. Loomis enlarged his chair into a School of Medicine—the Howard Medical Department. Of this department he was the first dean.

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<sup>20</sup> The dates of the first four meetings at the home of Mr. Henry A. Brewster are well established as follows: First, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 1866; second, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 1866; third, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1866, and the fourth, Saturday, January 8, 1867. The note found in the minutes of the meeting of Dec. 18, 1866, to the effect that the first meeting was held Nov. 18, 1866, is an interpolation from memory and a mistake. It is as follows: "At an early stage of this meeting the minutes of the first meeting held Nov. 18, 1866, were read." Nov. 18, 1866, was Sunday; the minutes of the first meeting are dated by the same secretary who wrote the note,—Mr. E. M. Cushman—Nov. 20, 1866; the date of the third meeting being Dec. 18, 1866, the number 18 was in the secretary's mind. Tuesday, Nov. 20, 1866, is no doubt the date of the first meeting at Henry A. Brewster's.

<sup>21</sup> "Dr. Boynton having prepared a memo. from the Charter of Michigan University as a basis, explained the same particularly and submitted sundry suggestions and points as applicable to Howard University. General Howard then read the Bill incorporating Howard University as introduced in the U. S. Senate, Jan., 1867, by Hon. Henry Wilson with suggestion that it be revised." (Minutes of Board, Jan. 29, 1867.) Appendix I.

<sup>22</sup> Genesis of Howard University, pp. 5-6, Historical Papers.

Finally, after the plan<sup>23</sup> and name of the school had been changed several times, the question of admitting women came up and was debated at length; also the question of a permanent name for the University. In respect to women, the custom at Oberlin<sup>24</sup> was followed. Women were admitted. Concerning a name Reverend D. B. Nichols says: "At last when it seemed doubtful that harmony would be reached on a name it came to the writer as by the breath of inspiration the name it should bear." He moved that the school be christened "Howard University." General Howard objected "as (was) supposed." To overcome his objection, he was told that there was a John Howard, an English philanthropist, and that he might think of John Howard as the philanthropist in honor of whom the school was named. "But" . . . (nevertheless) "this vote meant the American philanthropist; the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, and true friend of the downtrodden and oppressed of every color and nation of the earth."<sup>25</sup>

### LOCATING THE UNIVERSITY

1867-1870

One month before the Charter was granted by Congress, plans for opening the school were made.<sup>26</sup> On the third of January, General Howard secured property on Seventh Street Road near the Boundary from

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<sup>23</sup> The plan of the University was worked out in the home of Henry A. Brewster. The location of this house is not clear from the minutes. The minutes for November 10, 1866, and the minutes for Dec. 18, 1866, as found in "Records for 1867," locate it on K Street, but give no number. General Howard in his Autobiography, vol. ii, p. 395, gives K Street without a number. The minutes for May 20, 1867, contain the following: "At the residence of H. A. Brewster, 240 I Street at 7½ o'clock." The Washington and Georgetown Directory also locates the house at 240 I Street in 1867. This same Directory, however, locates it at 1823 I Street in 1870. Mr. J. B. Johnson left the following memorandum among his papers: "Tuesday evening, Dec. 4 at 240 I St., Mr. Brewster, Gen. Howard, Senator Pomeroy, Mr. Morris, Dea. Nichols, Mr. Phinny, Dr. Barber and Dr. Boynton." The document containing this memorandum is dated 1866. In Howard University Historical Papers, Mr. J. B. Johnson locates Mr. Brewster April 19, 1867, "on I Street near 19th." From the evidence cited and from conversation, I am of the opinion that 240 I Street, according to the old numbering is the same as 1823 I Street according to the new numbering which was introduced in Washington about 1870. This conclusion is further justified by the fact that the Brewsters purchased 1823 I Street, N. W., July 26, 1866. (Liber R. M. H. 21, Folio 30.)

<sup>24</sup> Genesis of Howard University, p. 6, Historical Papers.

<sup>25</sup> Genesis of Howard University, p. 7, Historical Papers. Special Report of U. S. Commissioner of Education, 1871.

<sup>26</sup> Minutes of the Board, Jan. 8, 1867; Minutes of Board, Jan. 29, 1867.

John A. Smith,<sup>27</sup> a farmer. It contained about three acres of land and a house—an old German dance hall. This property was leased to the Trustees of the new school for \$1200 a year. It was afterwards<sup>28</sup> sold to the University for \$6000 and became the first campus. In this dance hall the school was probably opened with night classes in February,<sup>29</sup> 1867. This was the Normal School.<sup>30</sup> It was not formally opened, however, until May 2nd, of the same year.<sup>31</sup>

On May 25, 1867, an addition was made to the campus.<sup>32</sup> It was very difficult to secure a suitable site for the University. Landowners refused to sell for a Negro school. "It would spoil the property round about and was not to be thought of." One day, while standing on "The Hill" or farm where the school is now located, Generals Howard and Whittlesey, the Committee on Purchase, were deeply impressed with "the outlook, taking in the City of Washington, the Monument, the Capitol, the White House, and other public buildings, including miles of the Potomac." That day General Howard concluded that there could be no better site for the school. The farm, however, was too large,—it contained 150 acres. They tried to get the lower portion, near the Normal School;

<sup>27</sup> A slave holder who in 1862 owned the following:

Names	Value
Isaac Mason .....	\$109.50
Charlotte .....	109.50
Henry .....	657.00
Aldezena .....	328.50
Frank .....	153.30
Mary or Mar't Drusilla.....	65.70
Ellen Clarke .....	175.20
Jane .....	547.50
Leonard .....	591.30
Caroline .....	438.00
Emily .....	262.80
Bill Woodley .....	613.20
Betty .....	438.00
Anthony .....	657.00
Total .....	\$5,146.50

House Ex. Doc. No. 42, pp. 48-49.

<sup>28</sup> Liber D-9, Folio 366, June 30, 1869, recorded June 30, 1869.

<sup>29</sup> Minutes of Board, March 19, 1867.

<sup>30</sup> See Map.

<sup>31</sup> Annual Report of President Sunderland, October 12, 1868. Annual Catalogue of the Normal and Preparatory Department of Howard University gives May 1st, as the opening day.

The Incorporators held their first meeting March 19, 1867, at the home of Reverend Charles B. Boynton, 422 N. St.—on the northeast corner of N Street and Vermont Ave., N. W. (Minutes of Board, March 19, 1867.)

<sup>32</sup> Liber E. C. E. 5, Folio 437, May 25, 1867, recorded May 29, 1867.

then an upper portion near the Soldiers' Home; and finally the central part. The owner refused to sell any part of it. After some meditation General Howard asked the owner what he would take for the whole. When informed \$1000 an acre, he accepted at once. The proposition somewhat startled his companions. "It almost took their breath away, the suddenness of it and the largeness of the offer." Without one dollar in the treasury for this purpose, a debt of \$150,000 was assumed by the Committee.<sup>33</sup> To this transaction there was much opposition in the Board.<sup>34</sup> It was confirmed, however.<sup>35</sup>

From the beginning Generals Howard and Whittlesey had considered carefully the possibility of selling lots at such a profit as to get out of one-half or two-thirds of the farm money enough to pay for the whole. This was begun at once. By 1870 the Trustees had received from the sale \$172,234.<sup>36</sup> Besides, there had been reserved the present campus, the present hospital site and park in front, and the Medical School grounds. In addition, there were reserved fifty-two acres of land, forty-three of which were sold in 1884-85<sup>37</sup> to the United States Government for reservoir purposes, for \$107,223.30. The hospital grounds, about ten acres, are still nominally the property of the University. In 1882,<sup>38</sup> in settlement of taxes amounting to about \$23,000 and for other considerations,<sup>39</sup>—one, that the land be forever used as a park or revert automatically to the University—this plot was ceded to the United States Government. When the erection of a new Freedmen's Hospital on this

<sup>33</sup> Autobiography of O. O. Howard, vol. ii, pp. 398-401; History of Medical Department, pp. 1-4.

<sup>34</sup> Autobiography of O. O. Howard, vol. ii, pp. 399-400.

<sup>35</sup> "How to meet the primary payment was my first problem. Some gifts had come to our University treasury, but they were not enough. The University treasurer showed that the first amount to be paid to Mr. Smith was \$20,000. To meet that and other expenses in starting this enterprise there was in the hands of the Bureau Disbursing Officer a residue of 'the refugees and freedmen's fund.' And as I had the authority of law in the Appropriation Act for March 2, 1867, to use it at my discretion for education, after reflection, I resolved to transfer \$30,000 to the Howard University treasurer." (Autobiography of O. O. Howard, vol. ii, pp. 400-401.)

By Special Orders No. 36 of March 12, 1869, the sum of \$125,000 was transferred from the Freedmen's Bureau Fund to the Treasurer of Howard University. That same year the balance in full, amounting to \$114,475, was paid to John A. Smith.

<sup>36</sup> Howard in Defence, pp. 44-45.

<sup>37</sup> Office of Corps of Engineers of War Department, Washington, D. C. In 1838, in order to control a spring of running water, the United States Government purchased from John A. Smith one acre of land situated in the middle of this plot. This water was piped to the Capitol for drinking purposes.

<sup>38</sup> Act of Congress, approved June 16, 1882, 22 U. S. Statute, 104-105.

<sup>39</sup> Exemption from future taxation, 22 U. S. Statute, 104-105. W. W. Patton, History of Howard University.

site was contemplated, the question of the Government being legally bound to use this site forever as a park came up. To avoid any legal objection to the hospital, the property was reeded to the University. The University immediately leased it to the Government in perpetuity for one dollar a year with the understanding that the hospital is to be forever open to the Medical students of Howard University as a free clinic.<sup>40</sup>

On April 9, 1868,<sup>41</sup> the University again enlarged its campus, this time by about one acre of land. It also added to its equipment a building which was on the premises. The two were purchased for \$7,000. The building was known as the Park Restaurant. This property was situated on Seventh Street Road between the Normal School lot and the 150 acres.

Upon a part of each of these three lots—namely, the one leased in January, 1867, and finally purchased in June, 1869; the one purchased in May, 1867; and the one purchased in April, 1868—the Medical School Building was erected and now stands.

Most of what is now known as LeDroit Park came into the possession of Howard University March 16, 1870.<sup>42</sup> This tract was conveyed to John A. Cole, Treasurer of the University. Later, it was transferred by John A. Cole to the Trustees of the School. The minutes of the Board for October 4, 1870, read as follows: "Resolved, that a deed offered by John A. Cole, of the so-called 'Miller Estate,' as a part thereof held in trust by him for the education of indigent and needy students in Howard University, be accepted by the Board of Trustees, and that the Board assume the trust imposed in the said deed." This plot extended from about 4th Street, N. W., westward to Bohrer Street and Georgia Avenue, and from Florida Avenue to Elm Street. It had been purchased in March, 1870, by the Freedmen's Bureau for \$60,000. On May 2, 1873,<sup>43</sup> the Trustees voted to sell the Miller Estate—"such portion of the same now remaining unsold"—to Andrew Langdon for \$115,000 payable in ten years at 7%. November 10, 1875, Langdon's interest in this property was conveyed to A. L. Barber & Co.,<sup>44</sup> proprietors and developers of LeDroit Park.<sup>45</sup>

That portion of the farm which had been reserved for University

<sup>40</sup> Act of Congress, approved April 28, 1904, 33 U. S. Statute, 488.

<sup>41</sup> Liber E. C. E. 30, Folio 433, April 9, 1868, recorded April 13, 1868.

<sup>42</sup> Liber 621, Folio 57, March 16, 1870; recorded July 23, 1870.

<sup>43</sup> Minutes of Board, May 20, 1873.

<sup>44</sup> Amzi L. Barber was Principal of the Normal Department from 1868-1873; Secretary of the University from September 30, 1872, to December 27, 1873; and Acting President of the University from September 9, 1872, to November 18, 1872.

<sup>45</sup> Minutes of Board, November 10, 1875.

purposes needed much improvement<sup>46</sup> before it could become a University campus. There were streams crossing it. These were drained and leveled. Some parts were too wooded; elsewhere trees were planted. V Street was formerly Grove Street. This name suggests the wooded condition of a certain section of the property. So does Elm Street. The farm had not been cultivated regularly. It was not even enclosed. Parts of it had been mined for sand, so naturally there were sand pits. The whole was subject to trespass by the neighboring cattle. Where the President's house now stands, stood the old farm house, and near by, the stables of the former owner. Streets were cut and graded. Morris Road, Pomeroy Street, Wilson Street and Howard Place indicate that the Trustees were not unmindful of the benefactors of the University. Much of the laboratory work of the first students in Agriculture consisted in clearing the ground, fencing it in, and draining the creeks which crossed it.

With ample grounds and with the financial support of the Freedmen's Bureau back of them, the Trustees began at once in 1867 the erection of the necessary buildings.<sup>47</sup> By the autumn of 1870, the University Building, a dormitory building and boarding hall,<sup>48</sup> the medical and hospital buildings<sup>49</sup> and Clark Hall had been erected. The private home of General Howard was also near completion in 1870.<sup>50</sup> This edifice,

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<sup>46</sup> "You will remember that the Smith farm was without any improvements and that it was outside of the limits of the city. Doubtless the owners sold it gladly, and when the parties purchased it they had a great work to do. There were one hundred fifty acres of land without even an enclosure." (Howard In Defence, page 15.)

<sup>47</sup> "Sir: In expending the appropriations made by Congress for the construction, rental, and repairs of buildings for schools and asylums I have constructed and repaired such buildings upon land owned by 'benevolent associations and corporate bodies and boards of trustees' who are now using them for school purposes . . . with a view to the early closing of the Bureau, I have the honor to request that authority be given me to transfer the said buildings to the associations, corporate bodies, and board of trustees upon whose land they are constructed, requiring from them a formal guarantee that said buildings or the proceeds of their rental or sale, shall be devoted perpetually to educational purposes, never excluding pupils on the account of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude." (General O. O. Howard to General J. M. Schofield, Secretary of War, November 5, 1868.)

<sup>48</sup> "Room rent in the University Building is 25 cents per week or three dollars per term of twelve weeks, payable in advance. The rooms in Miner Hall, which is to be set apart for young ladies, are arranged in suites of two and two closets, each suite to be occupied by two persons. They are uniformly furnished with stoves, chairs, bedsteads, tables, bookshelves and washstands. Each student will furnish bedding. Clarke Hall for young men will be open in September, 1870." (Catalogue of Howard University, 1869-70, p. 28.)

<sup>49</sup> History of Medical Department, p. 14.

<sup>50</sup> Minutes of Board, April 8, 1867, August 14, 1867, August 20, 1867; Report of Committee of Congress on Education, pp. 10-11.



missionary to Africa, a Creek Indian, a young man who was a slave in the South at the breaking out of the war, now a promising young man, and our University treasurer, J. B. Johnson, were received into this infant church. A large audience was present to witness the interesting ceremonies, and manifested deep interest in the exercises of the hour.

As the writer looked upon this scene, the words of the Saviour came forcibly to mind: "And they shall come from the East, and the West and the North, and the South, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God."

The friends of the Missionary Association have great reason for gratitude for the success which has thus far attended their labors. The past success should be the occasion of a new impulse in the work of the world's evangelization. (*American Missionary*, Vol. 17, No. 1. January, 1873, p. 1. D. B. Nichols.)

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### III

#### SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR NEGROES BEFORE NOVEMBER, 1864.

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We apprehend that few of our citizens are aware of the laudable efforts which during the year past have been made toward a general and permanent system of education and moral training for the colored population of the District of Columbia. A few evenings since, a very interesting semi-annual meeting of the Association of Volunteer Teachers was held, from the report of which we glean the following particulars:

About a year ago, the Freedmen's Relief Association of the District opened its first free day school for colored children, which was followed in the course of the ensuing winter and spring by four other day schools for the same class of learners in different sections of the city and under the same auspices of the same society. But day schools, though all important, did not meet the want. The need was scarcely less urgent for evening schools, in which adults just escaped from bondage, and such children as were at services during the day could secure the great treasures of knowledge.

The first evening school was opened on the 25th of November, 1863, under the charge of a gentleman who volunteered to teach gratuitously. This has been followed by ladies and gentlemen abundantly qualified who devote much valuable time and talent to this great work of philanthropy. Besides these evening schools there is a Sunday school at Old Camp Barker Chapel with about 175 scholars. Another Sunday School is situated in 23rd Street, with from fifty to a hundred pupils, and a third Sunday School at the Soldiers' Free Library. Notwithstanding various discouragements the trustees provided by Congress for colored schools opened the first free school for colored children on the 1st of May, 1864. It was and continues to be held in the venerable Ebenezer Church, on the corner of 4th and D Streets, Southeast, Capitol Hill. It had upwards of 100 pupils the first week, with two teachers, one being sustained by the New England Educational Commission at Boston and proved in every way a success.

The Freedmen's Relief Association of this city opened 5 day schools in the early part of the year. It is understood that 4 of these schools, with eight teachers, are now in operation, and that the National Freedmen's Association of New York is co-operating with the first-named society in sustaining them.

The Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Association entered upon the field in May,