

Transcript of "Drexel Fund Aids Negroes, Indians," November 4, 1945.  
*The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sunday. Scrapbook Volume 8, page 96.  
Drexel Family Collection MC.00.001, 20070290896  
Drexel University Archives

[Visual description: A yellowed newspaper clipping is shown pasted onto a yellowed and faded scrapbook page.]

[Handwritten] Nov. 2-5, 1945 [/Handwritten]

*The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sun

"Drexel Fund Aids Negroes, Indians"

The entire income from the \$15,000,000 estate of Francis A. Drexel, Philadelphia banker, who died in 1885, will be devoted by the last of his three daughters, Mother Mary Katherine Drexel, to the education of Indian and Negro youth in the United States, it was learned yesterday.

Mother Katherine, who is Mother Superior and founder of the Order of the Blessed Sacrament at Cornwells Heights, became sole income beneficiary on the death of her sister, Mrs. Edward deV. Morrell [Louise Bouvier Drexel Morrell], widow of General Morrell, under terms of their father's will.

#### **TOOK VOW OF POVERTY**

They each received the income from \$7,165,073. For years Mother Katherine has used hers for work of the order. On becoming a nun, she took the vow of poverty, which prevents her from spending any of the income on herself. Former Senator George Wharton Pepper inserted a clause in the income tax bill that freed her inheritance from taxation.

Mrs. Morrell, who died Nov. 5 at her home, San Jose, Torresdale, also gave largely to charity. Together they reportedly expended \$12,000,000 of their total income on charity.

They also each had a life income from \$337,017, which was their share of proceeds from the sale of a bank building at Broad and Wall sts., in New York. In event of death, each in a deed of trust made the survivor beneficiary of the smaller fund. Mother Katherine assigned her interest to the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

The will of Mr. Drexel, a former partner of J. Pierpont Morgan in the banking house of Drexel, Morgan and Co., bequeathed one-tenth of his net estate outright to 29 Catholic charities and set up the remainder in trust for his daughters.

It provided that the share of a deceased daughter should be added to the shares of his surviving daughters and if none of his daughters was survived by issue at the death of his last daughter, the entire estate should be divided among the institutions which received one-tenth outright at his death.

Mrs. Walter George Smith, the former Elizabeth Drexel, died some years ago, at which time two separate trust funds of \$7,165,073 each were created in an Orphans' Court accounting which gave Mrs. Morrell and Mother Katherine each a one-half instead of a one-third interest in the estate.

#### **TRUST FUNDS MERGED**

On Mrs. Morrell's death, her trust fund automatically merged with the fund set up for Mother Katherine.

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Mother Katherine, who is now 86, established the order with permission of the Pope in Rome. She gave the money to construct the mother house, which is names St. Elizabeth Convent and was dedicated as a memorial to Mrs. Smith. At Mother Katherine's death, the estate will be distributed outright among the charities in the proportions named in the will, since both Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Morrell left no issue.

Mrs. Morrell, who was 81, was co-founder with her husband of St. Emma's Industrial and Agricultural Institute, an organization for Negro youth, near Richmond, Va., to which she bequeathed the bulk of her individual estate of more than \$1,000,000 in her will, probated last Monday.

### **Aided Vocational Work**

She had visited the institution only a week before her death. She also maintained the St. Francis Vocational School at Eddington.

In 1931 Mrs. Morrell conceived the idea of St. Michael's Shrine on her estate in Torresdale and had a chapel erected as a memorial to the Drexel and Morrell families. Built at a cost of \$200,00, it seats 300, and is of Italian Romanesque design.

A year later Pope Pius XI cited her and Mother Katherine for promoting the faith among Negroes and Indians. In 1941, Mrs. Morrell accepted an honorary degree of Doctor and Laws from St. Joseph's College, and received the James P. Hooey medal award in 1944 for outstanding contribution to the cause of inter-racial justices.