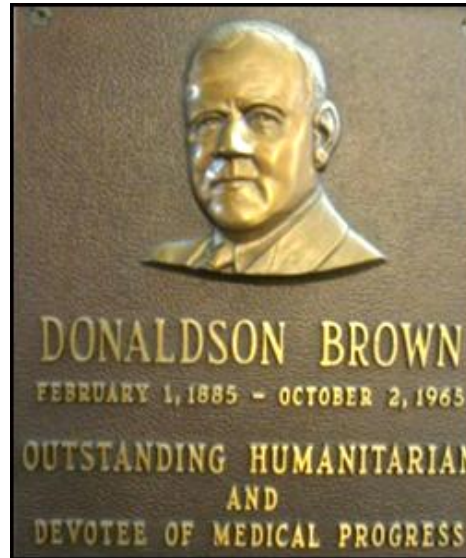


daughters graduated from Havre de Grace Consolidated School, Libby believes that Donaldson Brown had a hand in enabling both of them to attend the Cortez Peters Business School, a costly black-owned private business academy in Baltimore.

Libby Jones' wedding to Nathaniel Stewart on October 3, 1964, helps illustrate the close relationship between Donaldson Brown and his extended family. The wedding reception was a sit down dinner at the Masonic Lodge on Girard Street in Havre de Grace. According to Libby Stewart, a sit down reception for an African-American couple was considered a rather elaborate affair, one the family attributed to the kindness of Mr. Brown. In addition to his financial help, Mr. Brown made a personal trip from Port Deposit to Girard Street just to wish the bridal couple well and send them off with a gift envelope.

Despite his being an "outsider," Donaldson Brown appears to have been universally accepted and liked in the local communities. Grove Miller, a farming friend of the family, says that Mr. Brown was a private man and a humanitarian, always willing to help with local projects and asking nothing in return. Mrs. Stewart recalls his being genuinely interested in and financially generous to his employees, many of whom he rewarded with

shares of DuPont stock. A plaque hangs in the lobby of Harford Memorial Hospital honoring Mr. Brown as a humanitarian.



Perhaps, the best gift Donaldson Brown gave to the African-American community was his behind-the-scenes support for better educational opportunities. Early in 1965 the Boards of Education of Harford and Cecil Counties finally voted to fully desegregate their schools. Donaldson Brown died on October 2, 1965, approximately one month following the opening of the two newly desegregated systems. An interesting coincidence!

Author: Jerome L. Hersl, Jr.

Reviewed: Jim Chrysler, Barbara Hersl and Joan Wiggins

AAH Committee: Evelyn Clayton, Sarah V. Robinson, Sarah Smith, Ann Waters

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Donaldson Brown

(1885 – 1965)

Part 2

Pamphlet 0014

April 8, 2016



Bringing Communities Together Through Sharing History



After the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision of *Brown vs Board of Education*, Harford and Cecil Counties resisted, until 1965, the mandate to provide non-segregated public education to its students. In Cecil County, opposition over integration centered on the Bainbridge Elementary School. A temporary Bainbridge Elementary, in the neighborhood of Mount Ararat Farms, opened four days late on September 13, 1954. The Baltimore *Sun* reported that, seven African-American children, dependents of military personnel stationed at the Naval Training Center, were denied entrance to the school as County School Superintendent Morris Rannels and Principal Mildred Balling stood in the doorway.

The incident at Bainbridge, coupled with the ongoing activism across the river in Havre de Grace, likely caused concern to the black house servants at the Brown Mansion and the tight-knit Brown family in Port Deposit.

There is no direct evidence that Frank Donaldson Brown Sr. actually helped in any direct manner to integrate schools in Harford or even Cecil County. However, in the previous two pamphlets, substantial circumstantial evidence indicates that he may have helped advance the cause behind the scenes. Donaldson Brown was raised to be a caring and compassionate man. He revealed these qualities in his

concern for the lives of his servants and the well being of their children. It is most likely that he would have felt compelled to become involved in bringing about a better education for the children of his workers.

Throughout Donaldson Brown's life, whether it was his boyhood or his adult life, he was blessed with a very close and loving family. Even within his business world at the DuPont and General Motors Companies, Brown enjoyed a strong sense of family. His brother Thompson, sons Hamilton and Bruce, along with numerous cousins and in-laws held positions within the corporate structure. This supportive relationship extended to the lives of the Brown Family servants. Staff members, who lived in continuous personal contact with the executive's family, enjoyed the empathy, respect, and appreciation of the Browns.

Elaine Jones (see Pamphlet 10), a house maid, was required to live full time at *The Ark*. Ms. Jones returned home on her two days off to be with her daughters, Caroline and Elizabeth, who were staying with their grandparents in Havre de Grace. Transportation across the river was always problematic. To alleviate the situation Donaldson Brown personally intervened to help Elaine buy a Chevrolet so that she could make daily trips back to Girard Street in order to be with her school-aged daughters during the evening.

Libby Jones Stewart, Elaine Jones' younger daughter recalled having her tonsils removed in the early 1950s at Harford Memorial Hospital during the Jim Crow era. During this era, black patients were roomed in an open space ward in the basement of the building with an operating room adjacent to the bed area. An incident that she remembers witnessing is that of a bandaged patient emerging from the operating room with an ear dangling. The 7 year-old Libby screamed in terror as she waited next in line to enter the OR for her surgery. Afterwards, Ms. Jones visited her daughter and brought a gift of a coloring book and box of crayons from Donaldson Brown. Years later, Elaine Jones herself needed a kidney operation that required a special piece of expensive equipment that the local hospital lacked. Before long, Ms. Jones underwent successful surgery employing the costly device that, the Jones family firmly believed, Donaldson Brown paid for out of his own pocket.

Being a servant at Mount Ararat Farms was like being part of one big family. Even their children felt a belonging to the family. On young Libby's birthdays, Margareta, the cook at the *Ark*, would send her a cake. Whenever Libby was feeling under the weather, Margareta would send a special sundae made with fresh Mount Ararat Farm ice cream. After Elaine's