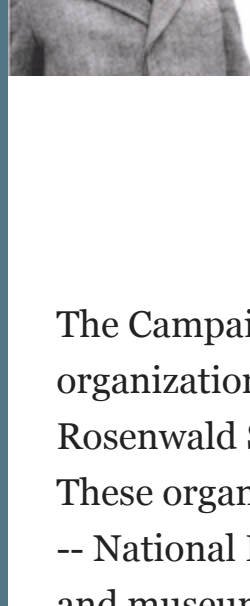
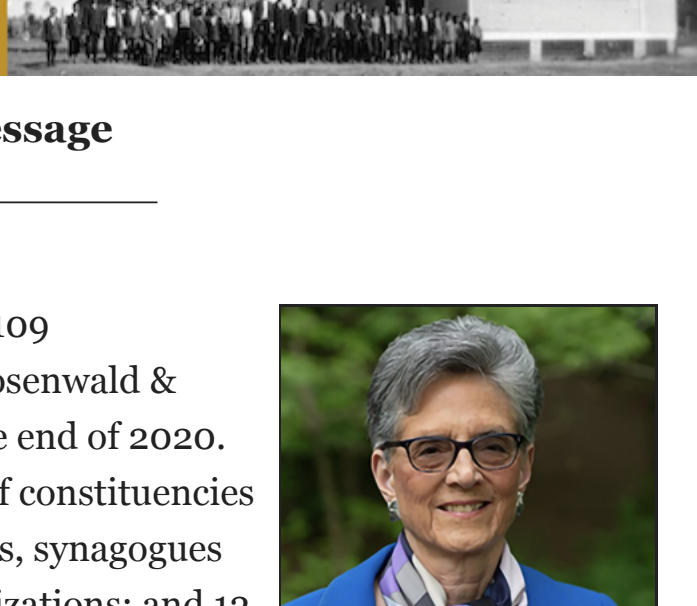


Creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park

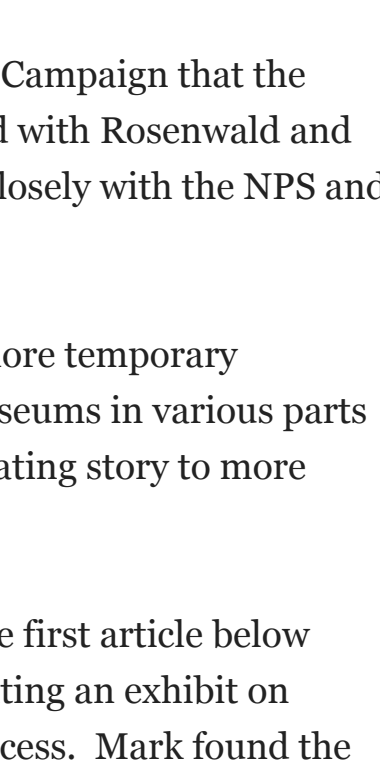


"All the other pleasures of life seem to wear out, but the pleasure of helping others in distress never does."
JULIUS ROSENWALD



President's Message

The Campaign ended 2021 on an upbeat note with 109 organizations supporting the creation of a Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Park, up from 41 at the end of 2020. These organizations represent a diverse spectrum of constituencies -- National Parks and preservation groups; churches, synagogues and museums; African American and Jewish organizations; and 12 Rosenwald School support groups. The Campaign is grateful to all of the organizations and to the individuals who facilitated their signing on. Our goal for 2022 is to have at least 160 organizations that support the establishment of the Park. We are confident that it can be achieved.



In November, 2021, National Park Service (NPS) staff informed the Campaign that the agency plans to start its special resource study of the sites associated with Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools this spring. We will continue to coordinate closely with the NPS and are ready to assist with the study in any way we can.

The Campaign is investigating the possibility of organizing one or more temporary exhibitions on Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools for museums in various parts of the country. If feasible, this project will bring a timely and fascinating story to more venues and people.

We are also planning joint events with additional organizations. The first article below features Mark Wittig, a teacher, photographer and artist who is creating an exhibit on schools that played a meaningful role in the nation's integration process. Mark found the Campaign through a virtual event that occurred hundreds of miles away from where he lives in Arkansas. The Campaign is grateful that Mark is donating scale models of two Rosenwald Schools fabricated by him.

Other organizations that found the Campaign in 2021 include the Woodville Rosenwald School in Virginia's Gloucester County, where I had a fascinating visit described in another article. The Campaign is happy to participate in events at other Rosenwald Schools and with other interested organizations.

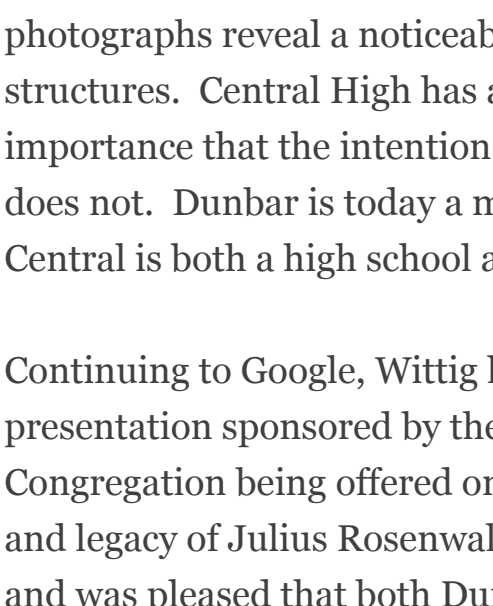
In ending, two requests. We would appreciate your recommending additional organizations for the Campaign to approach about becoming official supporters of creating the National Historical Park. And, please, ask your friends and family to become Campaign subscribers to receive Campaign publications on Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools. We now have over 850 subscribers; the goal is to have 1,000 by year's end. Please send me their names and e-mail addresses.

I would be happy to hear from you at dorothycenter@rosenwaldpark.org.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2022. And confident that together we WILL create a new National Park!

Mark Wittig: Structures That Transformed Education – 1724 to 1974

Mark Wittig, a teacher of graphic design and photography at a large public high school in North Little Rock, Arkansas, has an intriguing passion. He creates work that brings together his training in art, architecture and education to evoke "the lived experience of learning." As one who grew up with dyslexia and who, from kindergarten through 12th grade, attended eight different schools, Wittig knows well that education is not a one-size-fits-all experience. The fraught summer of 2020 reinforced that understanding for him and refocused his work on the ongoing process of making public education accessible to all children regardless of race.



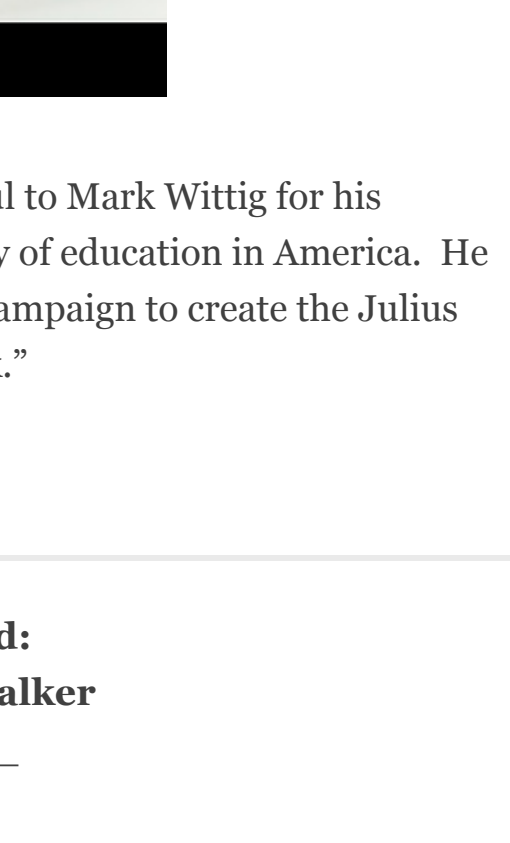
His ambitious project, "Structures That Transformed Education – 1724 to 1974," is to document the schools that played a role in changing education in America, first through photography and then by creating models of them using 3-D printers and laser cutters. He is focusing on schools involved in eliminating racial segregation from public education. It's a painstaking process but offers the opportunity to mine the buildings themselves for what they tell about what occurred inside them. The grant is funded by an Artistic Innovations Grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arkansas Arts Council. It will culminate in a solo exhibition, artist workshop and panel discussion at the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub in North Little Rock.

Some of the directions his research took surprised Wittig. Having photographed one-room schoolhouses and knowing that Sears, Roebuck had sold pre-fabricated homes, he asked himself if it were possible that the company had sold kits to create schoolhouses. Googling "Sears" and "schools" he soon came upon the story of Julius Rosenwald and the thousands of schools that were built across the South with partial funding from him. The story fascinated him, and he expanded his project to include Rosenwald Schools.

In 2019 Dunbar High School, not far from where he lives, became the first Rosenwald School Wittig visited and photographed. Completed in 1929, that building was designed by Wittenberg & Delong, the same architectural firm that had designed Little Rock Central High School, the state of the art school for whites only that had opened just two years before. Local authorities had originally planned to call the new school the Negro School for the Industrial Arts. At the insistence of local African American leaders, and with the support of the Rosenwald Fund, the name was changed to the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in honor of the renowned black poet.

In 1957 Little Rock Central High became a flashpoint of confrontation, a major test of this nation's will to enforce African American civil rights following the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision. At least one of the Little Rock Nine students that integrated Central had transferred there from Dunbar.

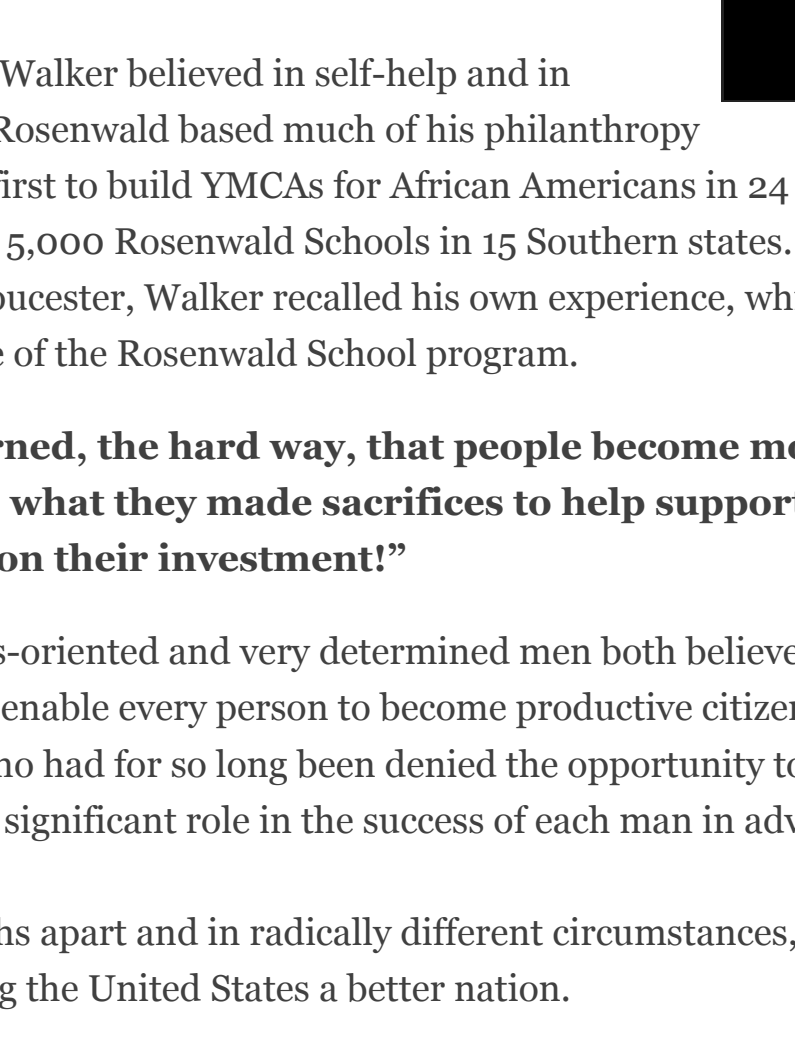
Both buildings are still functioning as schools. Wittig's photographs reveal a noticeable difference in the two structures. Central High has a grandeur and sense of self-importance that the intentionally more modest Dunbar does not. Dunbar is today a magnet middle school, while Central is both a high school and National Historic Site.



Continuing to Google, Wittig learned about a Zoom presentation sponsored by the Bethesda Jewish Congregation being offered on October 10, 2021, on the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald. He seized the opportunity and was pleased that both Dunbar and Central were discussed in the presentation, the former because it was one of the three Rosenwald Schools recommended by Arkansas in 2017 for possible inclusion in the planned Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park.

A day later Wittig contacted the Campaign, offering to donate a model of a one-teacher Rosenwald School. Since then there has been much exchange of information, and he is now planning to contribute models of both a one-teacher and two-teacher Rosenwald school. He intends to create additional models of Rosenwald Schools from plans presented in the 1924 edition of the Julius Rosenwald Fund Community School Planning Bulletin. The document contains blueprints and specific directions for constructing some forty different school plans from simple one-teacher schoolhouses to H-shaped brick structures with multiple classrooms and auditoriums.

It is his hope that these models will become part of the planned National Historical Park. It's so important, he says **"to tell this story that very few know about; to raise awareness of this movement that has been lost to history."**

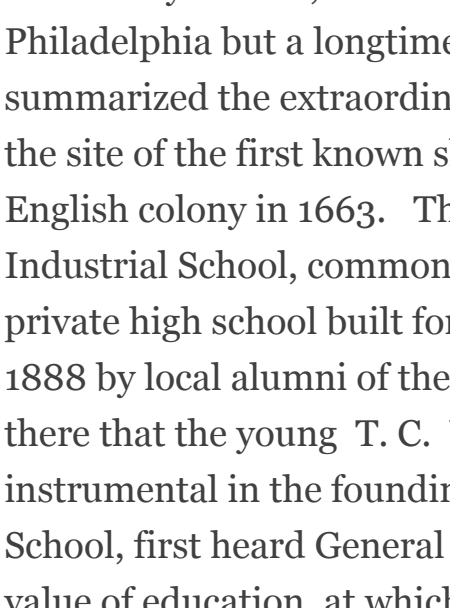


Campaign President Dorothy Canter says "We are so grateful to Mark Wittig for his imaginative contribution to our understanding of the history of education in America. He has become part of the team furthering the mission of the Campaign to create the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park."

By Stephanie Deutsch

A Connection that Counted: Julius Rosenwald and T.C. Walker

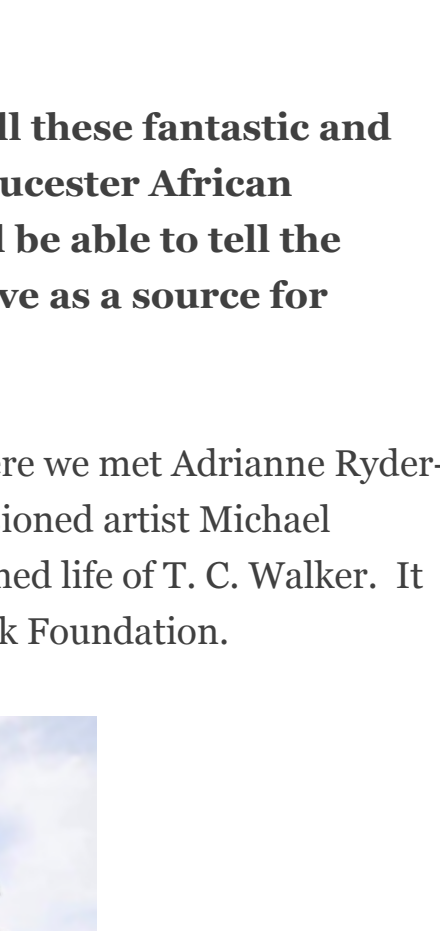
Julius Rosenwald and Thomas Calhoun "T. C." Walker were both born in 1862 but under very different circumstances. Rosenwald, the son of German Jewish immigrants, grew up in Springfield, Illinois, and left high school without graduating to move to New York City to learn the clothing trade. He went on to lead Sears, Roebuck, one of the country's largest and most successful businesses, and become one of the nation's richest men.



Life was very different for T. C. Walker who was born enslaved in Gloucester County in Southern Virginia. Walker was still illiterate at the age of 13 but, like many of the newly emancipated, he thirsted for education. Having managed to get minimal learning, he traveled to Hampton Institute, in the Tidewater area where, despite failing the entrance exam, he impressed Principal Samuel Armstrong with his persistence and gumption and was allowed to work during the day and attend a night class taught by none other than Booker T. Washington!

Eventually Walker himself became a teacher and then the first African American lawyer in the County. He spent his life in Gloucester serving in a number of government positions, as an activist and as an advocate for orphans and children in trouble.

In 1919 Walker requested that the Gloucester County School Board put up partial funding to qualify for grants from the Rosenwald Fund to build desperately needed new schools for African American children. When the Board refused to do it, Walker showed the same initiative that he had years before at Hampton Institute. He traveled to Chicago and met directly with Rosenwald. It took some convincing, but Rosenwald finally agreed, offering a partial match of funds for each school that the citizens could raise the additional money to build.



Walker raised the matching funds, and six Rosenwald Schools and a teacher home were built in Gloucester County.

Both Rosenwald and Walker believed in self-help and in investing in people. Rosenwald backed much of his philanthropy on challenge grants, first to build YMCAs for African Americans in 24 cities and later to help construct nearly 5,000 Rosenwald Schools in 15 Southern states. In his memoir Lawyer Walker of Gloucester, Walker recalled his own experience, which perceptively described the essence of the Rosenwald School program.

"I had ... learned, the hard way, that people become most interested in what they made sacrifices to help support. They don't want to lose on their investment!"

These modest, results-oriented and very determined men both believed intensely in the value of education to enable every person to become productive citizens -- in particular, African Americans who had for so long been denied the opportunity to learn. Booker T. Washington played a significant role in the success of each man in advancing this goal.

Born just a few months apart and in radically different circumstances, these two men contributed to making the United States a better nation.

A Day to Remember Touring the Woodville School and Historic Gloucester County, VA

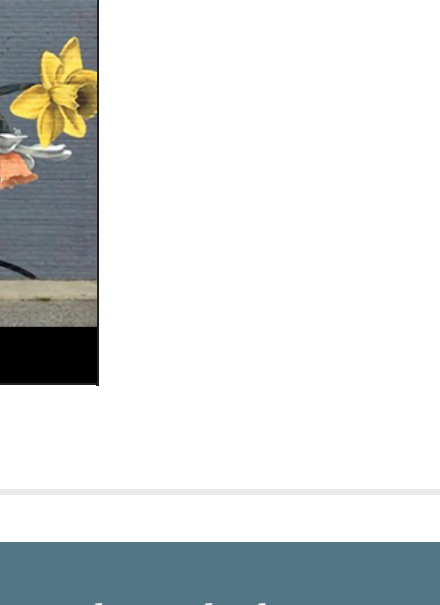
On September 22, 2021 I had a memorable visit to Gloucester County, a picturesque and historic part of south eastern Virginia. I was there to meet with representatives of the Woodville Rosenwald School Foundation, the current owner of the only remaining Rosenwald school of six built in the County. The day provided me with new friends and an important history lesson.

My guide for the day was Roberta "Bobby" Ray, a member of the Foundation's Board and a great source of historical information.



Woodville School was built in 1923 using the two-teacher plan and closed prior to 1942. For nearly sixty years thereafter it was a private residence. Then it was owned for more than a decade by a prominent antique dealer who used it for storage. When the school's zoning was changed to commercial in 2013, the Gloucester Economic Development Authority (EDA) quickly purchased the property, hoping to preserve its historic legacy. The EDA then helped establish the Foundation, which bought the School in 2019 and is currently restoring the building with plans to establish an African American history museum and community center.

Dr. Wesley Wilson, President and Executive Director of the Foundation, originally from Philadelphia but a longtime resident of the County, led the tour of the school and summarized the extraordinarily rich African American history of Gloucester County. It was the site of the first known slave rebellion in a North American English colony in 1663. The Gloucester Agricultural and Industrial School, commonly known as Caphahosic Academy, a private high school built for African Americans, was founded in 1888 by local alumni of the nearby Hampton Institute. It was there that the young T. C. Walker, who would go on to be instrumental in the founding of the Woodville Rosenwald School, first heard General Samuel C. Armstrong speak on the value of education, at which point Walker dedicated himself to becoming educated, and improving the lot of his fellow African Americans. And Robert Russa Moton, the second principal of the Tuskegee Institute, built his retirement home, Holly Knoll, on the banks of the York River, within sight of the Gloucester Academy.



"Woodville School is ideally suited and positioned to tell these fantastic and powerful stories," Mr. Wilson said. "Currently the Gloucester African American story is told in bits and pieces. Woodville will be able to tell the overall story, direct the visitors to specific sites and serve as a source for continued research."

After the tour Bobby and I drove to Main Street, Gloucester. There we met Adrienne Ryder-Cook Joseph, President of the Cook Foundation, which commissioned artist Michael Rosato to create a mural there depicting the long and accomplished life of T. C. Walker. It was the fourth mural placed on buildings in the town by the Cook Foundation.

After a brief stop at the Gloucester Museum of History, we headed to the Gloucester Institute for a picnic lunch overlooking the York River. The Institute, formerly Holly Knoll, became known as the cradle of the civil rights movement, as so many of the planners, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., assembled there to plot their strategy and actions.

We were soon joined for lunch by a man who introduced himself as Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson, the third principal of Tuskegee. He was also the founder of the United Negro College Fund. I was perplexed until I realized that it was Dr. Wilson giving a great impersonation of the renowned Dr. Patterson, who also had a connection with Gloucester -- Robert Russa Moton was his father-in-law.

After a driving tour of local sites related to the life and legacy of T. C. Walker, Bobby and I returned to Woodville School, where she told me,

"The Woodville Rosenwald School Foundation fully supports creation of the National Historical Park to tell the story of Julius Rosenwald's philanthropy and what it has meant to all who benefitted from it."

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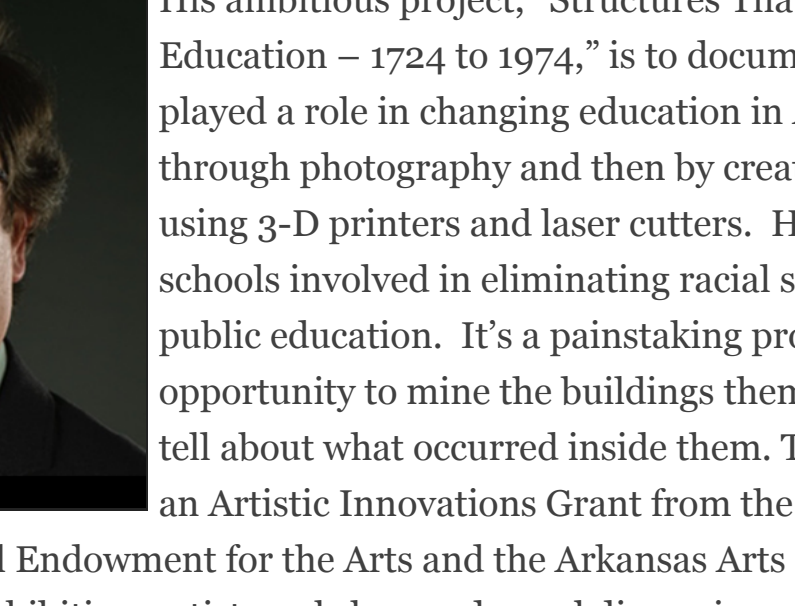
Then Dr. Wilson, Bobby and I said our goodbyes. I headed back to Bethesda, MD, with much to ponder on the way, grateful for the acquaintances I had made and the way they had enriched my knowledge and understanding of African American history.

This memorable day made me appreciate yet again how much my life has been enlarged by meeting and working with so many other passionate and committed volunteers on this journey to preserve and interpret the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools. Together we WILL create a new National Park!

By Dorothy Canter

And Don't Forget The Daffodils!

Each spring Gloucester holds a Daffodil Festival celebrating the distinctive flowers that were brought to the county as early as 1651 by settlers as a reminder of the homes they had left behind in England. The weather and soil turned out to be ideal for daffodils, and they proliferated both under cultivation and in the wild. An extensive daffodil industry grew up in Gloucester County, and it was deemed the "Daffodil Capital of America" by many in the 1930s and 40s. This year's festival will be on April 2 and 3. For visitors it will be an opportunity to enjoy the flowers long associated with spring and to learn about Gloucester's rich history. Here is a mural celebrating the daffodils, one of the four murals in Gloucester funded by the Cook Foundation.



I can testify that it is nearly always easier to make \$1,000,000 honestly than to dispose of it wisely.
Julius Rosenwald

Stephanie Deutsch, editor

D O N A T E

We need your support to continue.

For questions and suggestions, please write to info@rosenwaldpark.org.