

## THE BENJAMIN & MARY SIDDON'S MEASEY FOUNDATION



William Maul Measey,  
Founder  
(1875-1967)

In May 1958, as a memorial to his parents, William Maul Measey established "The Benjamin and Mary Siddons Measey Foundation." While the original charitable purposes of the Foundation were general in nature, in September 1965, Mr. Measey sought to find a "...special work for the Foundation..." and the original purposes of the Foundation were restated and refined to providing "...aid to students in Schools of Medicine located in the Philadelphia region." In February of 1972, and in February 1999, this rather specific charitable purpose was restated and broadened so that the Foundation could also make grants to establish and fund endowed scholarships, medical professorships, medical fellowships, and M.D./Ph.D. programs, and for other charitable purposes if related to medical education in this area. Nonetheless, to this day, the primary charitable activity of the Measey Foundation remains making grants to local Medical Schools for the funding of meaningful scholarships.

Mr. Measey was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, on November 14, 1875. At the age of two, his family moved to Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, where Mr. Measey lived until 1891. After graduation from Ridley Park High School, he worked and traveled for a brief period, and then entered The Law School of The University of Pennsylvania from which he graduated with honors in 1898. Mr. Measey practiced law in Philadelphia for a number of years, part of the time in partnership with his classmate, Owen J. Roberts, who later became a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Early in his career, Mr. Measey enjoyed considerable financial good fortune primarily as a result of his expertise in corporate law and his successful investing in small utility companies. Mr. Measey's interest in financial matters was most likely influenced by his father who was a respected banker in Philadelphia and, in the early 1900's, the Cashier of the Pennsylvania State Treasury.

Mr. Measey never married and was dedicated throughout his life to his parents and to their memory. While his father had achieved great success in

business and lived until age 76, his mother, Mary Siddons Measey, died of tuberculosis when Mr. Measey was only eight years of age. That this early tragedy played a part in motivating his establishment of the Foundation is a reasonable conclusion.

Abandoning his legal career shortly after World War I, Mr. Measey spent the rest of his life managing his personal assets, giving to charity, traveling and simply living. He was a avid reader and collector of Greek and Latin classics. He also collected Renaissance furniture and weaponry, and Swiss ceramics, pewter, and wood carvings. Perhaps most importantly for him, he was an accomplished and successful landscaper and gardener.

After 1912, Mr. Measey resided primarily in Berne, Switzerland. Around 1926, for use during his infrequent visits to the United States, Mr. Measey built - in the style of an Italian villa - a home in Haverford, Pennsylvania, bordering the sixth hole of The Merton Golf Club. In 1926, Mr. Measey purchased, as a summer residence, a 900-year-old castle in Oberhofen, Switzerland, overlooking the Lake of Thun - the "Schloss Oberhofen." It was this castle with its three-acres of formal gardens, planned and maintained by Mr. Measey and his staff of three full-time gardeners, that was the love of his life. Having returned to the United States, Mr. Measey died peacefully on June 28, 1967, at the age of ninety-two. Although his parents are interred in the Chester Rural Cemetery in Chester, Pennsylvania, at Mr. Measey's request, his ashes are interred in the burial ground of small church in Utendorf, Switzerland, a church which Mr. Measey and others had conceived and built and which he had attended during his lifetime.

Mr. Measey's generosity has been exhibited in many quiet ways, including by the making of a sizeable, anonymous gift to Haverford College, his close neighbor and an educational institution which he much admired. His castle, "Schloss Oberhofen," was opened to the public in 1954, and was eventually decided to the Swiss government. The castle is

presently managed as a Swiss historical site by the Berne Museum. The Measey Foundation today continues to provide annual support for medical education in the Philadelphia area. With each academic year, both the Measey family name and the Foundation which bears the name are becoming more familiar to the Philadelphia Medical Educational Community.

David A. Cooper, M.D., a noted Philadelphia physician as well as the personal physician and friend to Mr. Measey, became Chairman of the Foundation upon Mr. Measey's death in 1967. It was through Dr. Cooper's urging that Mr. Measey's true charitable intent was identified and, in 1965, the general charitable purposes of the Foundation were to become focused upon the support of aid to medical students in the Philadelphia region. In recognition of Dr. Cooper's leadership, the Foundation has made a substantial contribution to the establishment of the Mayock-Cooper Professorship at the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania.

J. H. Ward Hinkson, Esquire, an illustrious member of both the Delaware County and Pennsylvania Bar Association and Mr. Measey's personal attorney, assisted in the formation of the Foundation in 1957. An original member of its Board of Managers, Mr. Hinkson continued to serve on the Board until his death in 1973. His former law partner, James C. Brennan, Esquire, has served as a member of the Board of Managers since 1973.

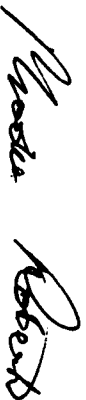
After Dr. Cooper's death in 1970, Francis C. Wood, M.D., served as Chairman of the Board of Managers until 1978. During the Chairmanship of Dr. Wood, the charitable activities of the Foundation were expanded, and grants were then made not only to provide scholarships at local medical schools, but also to establish medical professorships at these institutions. Funding for the original two of these professorships, the William Maul Measey Professorship in Surgery and the William Maul Measey Professorship in Medicine at the Medical

School of the University of Pennsylvania, began in 1971. Again, in recognition of the leadership of Dr. Wood, the Foundation has established a William Maul Measey Professorship in the History of Medicine at the Francis C. Wood Institute of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

From 1979 to 2001, Jonathan E. Rhoads, M.D., served as Chairman of the Board of Managers. During this period, the principal of the Foundation increased ten fold, thereby enabling the Foundation to benefit many more medical students, to establish additional medically-related professorships, and to begin the funding of post-graduate medical fellowships, M.D./Ph.D. programs, and other targeted grants within the scope of the medical and educational purposes of the Foundation. Dr. Rhoads continued to serve as a member of the Board of Managers until his death on January 3, 2002.

At this time, there are five members of the Board of Managers, three physicians, one attorney and one faculty member from The Wharton School. In 2001, I was nominated to the Chairmanship of the Board of Managers. I wish to take this opportunity to assure all in the Philadelphia Medical Educational Community that the Foundation will continue its unwavering support of medical education in the Philadelphia area so that, with each academic year, the charitable intent of Mr. Measey is respected and the memory of his parents honored.

The Benjamin & Mary Siddons  
Measey Foundation



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**THE BENJAMIN & MARY SIDDONS**  
**MEASEY FOUNDATION**

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