THE HENRY GRIFFITH KEASBEY AND ANNA GRIFFITH KEASBEY
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The late Henry G. Keasbey was the founder of the firm of Keasbey and Mattison which had its principal plant and offices in Ambler, Pennsylvania. Mr. Keasbey’s daughter, the late Marguerite A. Keasbey, never married and had spent a great deal of time in England both before and after World War I with her father, a widower. Miss Keasbey was particularly interested in the quality of British education and had in mind for some time, the possibility of establishing private support for it.

In 1950, Miss Keasbey, having no close relatives, consulted her lawyer, the late William Clarke Mason, a highly-regarded Philadelphia lawyer, as to how her substantial funds might be used to support her educational vision. After extensive consultations with British educators and Dr. Harold W. Dodds, then President of Princeton University, Mr. Mason recommended the establishment of the Deed of Trust of 1953, a pilot program under which three-quarters of the income was to provide scholarships and supplementary compensation for “English, Scotch and Welsh boys of good education and demonstrated ability who are sons of native-born parents in England, Scotland and Wales” and one-quarter of the income for scholarships to send sons of native-born American parents “of good education and demonstrated ability” to the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh. New College, Oxford, and King’s, St. John’s and Trinity Colleges, Cambridge, were selected as the first participating institutions for British scholarship students and American Keasbey scholars.

In 1981, at the request of the Trustees, the Orphans’ Court Division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas eliminated the restrictions based upon sex and national origin so that the American Keasbey program is now open to all American citizens. At the same time, the Court eliminated the fractions governing the distribution of income.

In 2008, at the request of the Trustees, the Orphans’ Court Division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas eliminated the restrictions based upon sex and national origin so that the United Kingdom Keasbey program is now open to all students attending the United Kingdom Universities.

The pilot project in its limited scope proved highly successful and Miss Keasbey decided to bequeath in her Will her entire residuary estate to trustees and also appointed to them the principal of the Trust under the Will of Henry G. Keasbey over which she had the power of appointment. The distributive provisions of the Trust under the Will of Miss Keasbey are substantially the same as for the Trust under the Deed, except that under the Will, provision was made for one-quarter of the income to be spent for scholarships for students attending British public schools, “public” in the British sense, i.e., private or independent. The Trust is now administered entirely under the terms of the Will.

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As a result of the augmented assets received under Miss Keasbey’s Will, the Keasbey program has been greatly expanded so that the participating British institutions at the university level now include:

Oxford - Balliol, Christ Church, Hertford, New College, Trinity and University; Cambridge - King’s, St. John’s, Selwyn and Trinity; University of Edinburgh; and Aberystwyth University (formerly the University of Wales).

Several Scholars have received their degrees from Oxford and Cambridge with unusual “first class” honors and the great majority with no less than high “second class” honors.

The British institutions previously named historically have reserved a place for an American Keasbey scholar nominated by the Trustees after selection by them on a completely objective basis from a group of academic institutions on the Eastern Seaboard of the highest academic standing.

The American institutions participating, on a rotating basis, are:


At the public school level in Great Britain, scholarships have been awarded to students attending:

Charterhouse, Clifton, Malvern, Marlborough, Oundle, Rugby, Shrewsbury, Tonbridge and Westminster in England; Gordonstoun in Scotland; and Christ College and Llandovery in Wales.

In view of Miss Keasbey’s admiration for Great Britain and the distinguished persons its educational system has produced, she was obviously interested in promoting Anglo-American relations through the selection of American Keasbey scholars who would be exposed to the British educational institutions. The exceptional records of American Keasbey scholars not only academically, but also in their participation in their college and university activities, such as theater, music, social work, debate and athletics, have created a wide acceptance for American Keasbey scholars who have returned to the United States with a deep appreciation for the experience that the Keasbey Foundation has made possible for them and a better understanding of the heritage all Americans have from Great Britain.

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