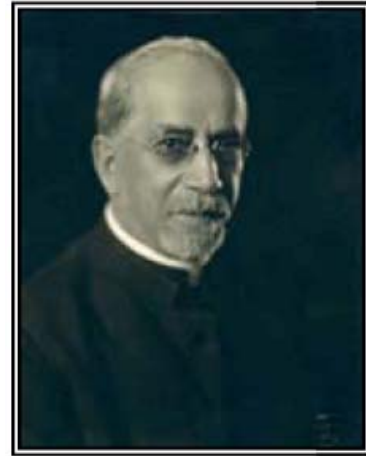


Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf

In 1894, while Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf was visiting Russia, he arranged to visit with Count Leo Tolstoy. This conference led directly to the eventual founding of Delaware Valley College.



During his visit, Tolstoy and Rabbi Dr. Krauskopf discussed the doctor's plan to resettle struggling Russian Jewish families in the remote, undeveloped parts of Russia. The Count, however, remained concerned that such a plan would not see acceptance by the Russian government. As an alternative plan, Tolstoy suggested that Krauskopf start farm schools in the United States and encourage the Jewish people to move from the urban ghettos into rural areas to follow agricultural pursuits.

When speaking of his visit with Tolstoy, Krauskopf said, "No course of study in moral philosophy, even in the most learned university under ablest masters could have sent me back into the world with so clear a recognition of human duty and with so keen a sense of individual responsibility."

After returning to the United States, Krauskopf began soliciting funds and support for the establishment of an agricultural school. On April 10, 1896, The National Farm School was founded on a 122-acre farm located near Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Under Krauskopf's leadership, the main campus and major programs were developed and, through donations, additional land was acquired for a total of 475 acres. Construction was abundant from 1899 to 1923, and the following buildings, many of which still exist and see use today, were created: the Ida M. Block Memorial Chapel, the Aaron Building, the Admissions Center and Penn (renamed Miller), Eisner, Segal, Lasker and Ulman Halls.

Rabbi Dr. Krauskopf was clearly ahead of his time. He addressed issues decades before much of the world, including his fight for human and civil rights. He was one of the few people of the era who had the intellectual courage and tenacity to stand up and speak out publicly on controversial issues such as human rights, slums, child labor, conservation, poverty, housing reforms, equal and full employment, proper education and quality of life improvement.

For 27 years, until his untimely death in 1923, Rabbi Dr. Krauskopf was the school's fund raiser as well as its inspirational and spiritual leader, visiting the school on weekends and conducting nonsectarian services for the students. One of the students inspired by Rabbi Dr. Krauskopf's lectures was James Work, who would one day assume a role of leadership that would greatly affect the college's modern day development.