



## **Jean Kane Foulke du Pont invitations 1310**

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Manuscripts and Archives

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Manuscripts and Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Du Pont, Jean Kane Foulke, 1891-1985
<b>Title:</b>	Jean Kane Foulke du Pont invitations
<b>ID:</b>	1310
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1932-1971
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Linear Foot
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Jean Kane Foulke du Pont (1891-1985) was a suffragette, prison reform activist, philanthropist, and wife of E. Paul du Pont (1887-1950). The collection contains invitations, mostly to weddings, but also to cocktail parties and debutante balls.

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## Biographical Note

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Jean Kane Foulke du Pont (1891-1985) was a suffragette, prison reform activist, and philanthropist. She was born on May 21, 1891 in Lenape, Pennsylvania to George Rhyfedd Foulke (1865-1901) and Jean Kane Foulke (1867-1962). She was the granddaughter of William Foulke (1816-1865), who discovered the first full dinosaur skeleton in North America. Foulke grew up in Philadelphia and attended the Misses Hebb's School in Wilmington, Delaware. She was later active in the school's alumni activities.

In 1910, Foulke married E. Paul du Pont (1887-1950), son of Francis Gurney du Pont (1850-1904) and Elise Wigfall Simons (1850-1919). He founded Du Pont Motors and later bought and became president of Indian Motorcycles. The couple had six children: Éleuthère Paul, Jr. (1911-1963), Francis George (1913-1938), Stephen (1915-2012), Benjamin Bonneau (1919-1999), Robert Jacques (1923-1990), and Alexis Irénée (1928-2016).

Foulke was active in women's affairs, prison reform, the arts, and gardening. She was also a genealogist and compiled several books on family history. In 1916, she picketed the White House with a group of Delaware women in effort to persuade President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) to become active in the cause. In 1919, she helped found the Prisoners' Aid Society of Delaware as well as Bridge House, a detention home for juvenile offenders in Wilmington.

During World War I, Foulke was a leader of the Women's Auxillary for the Delaware Committee, as well as the Council of National Defense. She was also responsible for several "save the babies" stations, which resulted in Delaware's "pure milk legislation" intended to protect milk sold for babies, and also led to child welfare programs in the state. Foulke also played an important role in creating Delaware's family court; a plaque at the court was donated in 1963.

In 1964, she contacted the University of Delaware seeking a training and educational program for Delaware correctional workers, to benefit those "working in probation, parole, family court, and youth services, as well as the guards in state prisons." She created an endowment in honor of her husband, if the university agreed to train correctional personnel. She also donated a 10-year grant to encourage the university faculty to study prison reform and prisoner rehabilitation issues, eventually leading to the creation of the university's criminal justice program.

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## Scope and Contents

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Invitations, mostly to weddings, but also to cocktail parties and debutante balls, sent to Jean Kane Foulke du Pont (Mrs. E. Paul du Pont) (1891-1985) between 1932 and 1971. Most involve members of the du Pont family, but there are some for other prominent people, including Jamie Wyeth's (1946-) wedding in 1968.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

Ashley Williams 2021

## **Access Restrictions**

No restrictions on access; this collection is open for research.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Materials**

Mrs. E. Paul du Pont collection, Delaware Historical Society, Wilmington, Delaware.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Social history
- Leisure
- Du Pont family