

BOOKER TALIAFERRO WASHINGTON
BIOGRAPHICAL AND COMMEMORATIVE NOTES: PEOPLE, PLACES,
NAME, IDEAS

1856, April 5 Born, Franklin County, Virginia. Plantation of James Burroughs near Hale's Ford, Virginia.

Note: In the Court Records of Franklin County Virginia, Will Book 12, page 150, are listed the slaves of James Burroughs:

- 1 Negro Man, Monroe, \$600.00
- 1 Negro Woman, Sophia, \$250.00
- 1 Negro Man, Lee, \$1,000.00
- 1 Negro Boy, Green, \$800.00
- 1 Negro Girl, Mary Jane, \$800.00
- 1 Negro Girl, Sally , \$700.00
- 1 Negro Woman, Jane, \$250.00 (Mother of Booker T.)
- 1 Negro Boy, John, \$550.00 (Brother of Booker T.)
- 1 Negro Boy, Booker, \$400.00 (Booker T. Washington)
- 1 Negro Girl, Amanda, \$200.00 (Sister of Booker T.)

Signed: B. N. Hatcher, James Wright, T. Holland

Test: Robert A. Scott, C. F. C.

“Of my ancestry I know almost nothing. I have been unsuccessful in securing any information that would throw any accurate light upon the history of my family beyond my mother. No doubt, my ancestors on my mother's side, suffered in the middle passage of the slave ship while being conveyed from Africa to America. She I remember, had a half-brother and a half-sister. In the days of slavery not very much attention was given to family history and family records—that is, black family records. My mother, I suppose, attracted the attention of a purchaser who was afterward my owner and hers. Of my father I know even less than of my mother. I do not even know his name.

- 1863 Assembled with other slaves at the Burroughs Plantation to reading of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 1865 Moved with Mother, Jane Ferguson, brother John and sister Amanda to Malden, West Virginia.
- 1867 Secured first book – Webster's “Blue – back” speller
- 1868 Meeting of General and Mrs. Lewis Ruffner.

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Attended a primary school taught by a young black teacher, William Davis (d. 1938) from Ohio, a former Union soldier, whom the children's parents paid a certain amount each month with the understanding that the teacher was to board 'round,' -- that is, spend a day with each family. Most of his schooling had to be done at night since he had to work in the day time.

- 1872, October 5 Entered Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.
- "The sweeping and dusting of a recitation room served as my entrance examination. General S. C. Armstrong was the Principal and Miss Mary F. Mackie was the head teacher."
- 1874 Death of mother, Jane Ferguson
- 1875, June 18 Graduated from Hampton with honors
- 1875-1878 Taught school in Malden, West Virginia
- 1879 Entered Wayland Seminary, Washington, D. C. , for a year of study
- 1879 Delivered the Commencement "post graduate" address, The Force that Wins at Hampton Institute; appointed at Hampton Institute as teacher in charge of the American Indian dormitory And the night school, and as secretary to General S. C. Armstrong, the principal.
- 1881, July 4 Founded and became first principal of Tuskegee Normal School. Back of this was the work of Lewis Adams, an ex-slave and George W. Campbell, an ex-slave holder. Lewis Adams bargained the black votes of Macon County, very substantial at that time, to back two candidates for the Alabama House of Representatives and the Senate, A. L. Brooks and W. F. Foster. The Bill was introduced by Rep. Brooks on November 16, 1880; passed by the House on November 24, 1880; Passed by the Senate on February 12, 1881. An annual appropriation of \$2,000 became law by act of the General Assembly of Alabama.

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The first buildings and the initial payment on the land came largely out of the proceeds from church suppers and entertainment given by the black people of the community who loyally supported the Founder in all his efforts from the very beginning.

- 1882, May 4 Married Fannie N. Smith of Malden, W. Va. (d. May 4, 1884)
- 1882 Started night classes
- 1883 Completed first permanent structure, Porter Hall
- 1883 Birth of daughter, Portia M. Washington, at Tuskegee
- 1884, May 4 Death of wife, Mrs. Fannie N. Washington.
(She fell from a wagon and died of internal injuries)
- 1884 Delivered address, The Educational Outlook in the South
before the National Education Association, Madison, Wisconsin.
This speech began his public speaking career.
- Founded Teachers' Institute
- 1885 Graduated first class at Tuskegee
- Married Miss Olivia Davidson of Ohio (d. 1889)
- Began publication and distribution of The Southern Letter
- 1887 Birth of son, Booker T., Jr. (d. 1945)
- 1889 Birth of son, Ernest Davidson (d. 1938)
- Death of Mrs. Olivia Davidson Washington
(Died after a fire from exposure, when younger son was a few days old)

BOOKER TALIAFERRO WASHINGTON

- 1890 **Organized Farmers Conference**

 Participated in founding Afro-American National League
- 1892 **Organized the Phelps Hall Bible Training School**

 Expanded Farmers Conference to Annual Farmers and Workers Conference

 Participated in founding National Baptist Convention

 First Negro Conference at Tuskegee Institute
- 1893 **Married Margaret James Murray of Mississippi (d. 1925)**

 The Tuskegee Normal School incorporated by the Alabama Legislature under the name of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute with independent Board of Trustees.
- 1895, September 18
 Delivered address at the Cotton States and International Exposition, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1895 **Established Building and Loan Association**
- 1896, June 24
 Spoke at the Harvard University Commencement exercises when President Charles W. Eliot conferred upon him the M. A. degree, the first such degree conferred upon a black man by a New England university; Delivered speech at the Harvard Alumni dinner.
- 1896 **George Washington Carver joined faculty at Tuskegee**

 Secured legislation from State of Alabama in establishing the first Agricultural Research and Experiment Station in a black school at Tuskegee.

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1897, May 31 Delivered address at dedication of the Robert Gould Shaw Monument
Boston, Mass.

Addressed 'Open Letter' to Louisiana State Constitutional
Convention- appealed that the black voter not be disfranchised
Because of his race.

1898 Began Annual tours of the Southern States.

Addressed "Peace Jubilee" at Chicago, Ill.

President William Mckinley visits Tuskegee

1898, January 23

First presentation of The Tuskegee Song by Paul Lawrence Dunbar
And N. Clark Smith.

1899

~~1898~~, May 10

Visited Europe (Aboard the "Friesland" of the Red Star Line)

1899 Completion of "The Oaks" – Residence of Booker T. Washington

1900, August 23

Founded the National Negro Business League, Boston, Mass.

1901 Honorary Degree, Dartmouth College

1902 Established Greenwood Village Improvement Association

1903 Contracted for the extension of Tuskegee Railroad to the Tuskegee
campus.

1904 Started Rural School Improvement Campaign

Formation of Committee of Twelve, New York City
(see History of NAACP)

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- 1905 **Founded a weekly farm paper, a Ministers Institute, developed a bookmobile.**
- Visit to Tuskegee Institute by President Theodore Roosevelt who Afterwards, became a member of the Board of Trustees**
- 1906 **Started the Jesup Agricultural Wagon (an agricultural school on wheels)**
- Erected Institute Chapel**
- 1906, April 3
- Celebrated 25th Anniversary of Tuskegee Institute**
 Speakers included: William Crosswell Doane, M. C. B. Mason, Robert C. Ogden, Seth Low, William H. Taft, James C. Napier, John W. Abercrombie, E. C. Morris, Lyman Abbott, Charles W. Eliot, Oswald Garrison Villard, Andrew Carnegie and Hollis Burke Frissell.
- Farm Demonstration work began at Tuskegee**
- 1907 **Seth Low, former Mayor of New York and President of Columbia University becomes Chairman, Board of Trustees**
- Established the Anna T. Jeanes Foundation with the cooperation of Hollis Burke Frissell.**
- 1909 **U. S. Commission to Liberia appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt with Emmett J. Scott representing Booker T. Washington.**
- Special Citation to Matthew Henson**
- 1910 **Participated in the organization of the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation**
- Opened first summer school for teachers**

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- 1911 Visited Denmark
- Cooperated in establishing the Phelps-Stokes Fund and Carnegie Foundation.
- 1912 Established First Annual Medical and Surgical Clinic at Tuskegee Institute Hospital
- 1912, April 17
International Conference on the Negro held at Tuskegee Institute
Authorized the publication of the first edition of the Negro Year Book
- 1913 Cooperated in building the first of 4,500 Rosenwald Schools in the South at Notasulga, Alabama.
- 1914 Established "Baldwins Farms" – a farming community for the graduates of Tuskegee Agricultural Department
- Organized National Negro Health Week
- 1915, August 19
Last address before National Negro Business League, Boston, Mass.
- 1915, October 15
Last Sunday evening talk to teachers and students in the Institute Chapel. Topic: Team Work
"I do not wish to speak too much in praise of this institution, Tuskegee Institute has been built up, and been sustained largely through the co-operation of a number of individuals who have been willing to sacrifice their all, nearly; who have pinned their faith to it, who have worked in season and out of season in order that it might succeed. Thus far I think there are few institutions in the history of the country that can present a more perfect example in the form of team-work than is true of this institution. But it is most important that this team-work continue, if we are to continue to hold our own, if we are to continue to grow—so far as the future is concerned."

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1915, October 22

Last public address before American Missionary Association and
National Council of Congregational Churches, New Haven, Conn.

1915, November 14

Died at Tuskegee, Alabama.

1915, November 17

Buried on campus at Tuskegee Insititute.

1917

Observance of First Founder's Day at Tuskegee Institute
Speaker: Honorable William G. Willcox

1922

Unveiling of the Booker T. Washington Memorial Monument,
Tuskegee Institute. Sculptor: Charles Keck
Speakers: Wallace Buttrick, Josephus Daniels, George C. Hall,
Emmett J. Scott, William G. Willcox

1940

Song: Tuskegee's Washington – words and music by Alberta Lillian
Simms. (“Dedicated to those who have caught the spirit of Booker T.
Washington.”)

1940, April 7

First day of issuance of the Booker T. Washington Postage Stamp.
10 – cent denomination.

James A. Farley, Postmaster General (Founder's Day Speaker)

1942, September 29

Launching of the Booker T. Washington Liberty Ship
Christened by Marian Anderson at Wilmington, California
Commanded by a black captain, Hugh Mulzac
10,000 ton vessel

1945, October 31

Elected to the New York University Hall of Fame for Great
Americans

1946, May 23

Unveiling of the Bust and Tablet of Booker T. Washington
New York University Hall of Fame for Great Americans

BOOKER TALIAFERRO WASHINGTON

- 1947 **The Booker T. Washington Coin (Half-dollar) minted**
- 1953, July 11 **Dedication of the Booker T. Washington Memorial Highway
(sixty miles extending from Big Island to Rocky Mount, Va.,
formerly route 122)**
- 1954 **Elected to the Alabama Hall of Fame**
- 1956, April 5 **Booker T. Washington Centennial 3 -- cent stamp issued**
- 1966, April 2 **Tuskegee Institute become a National Historic Land Mark U. S.
Department of Interior**