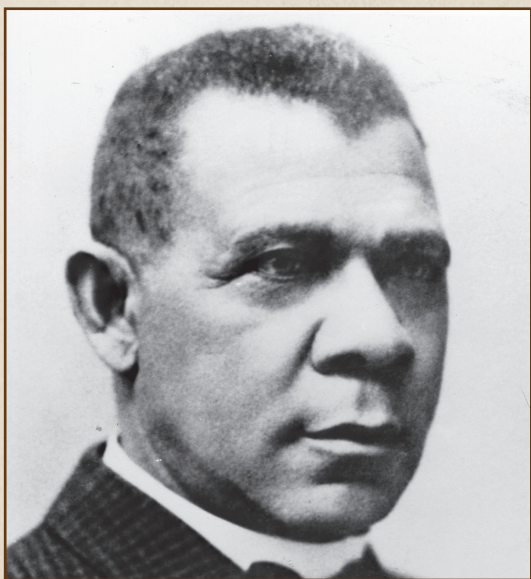




BOOKER T. WASHINGTON



Mr. Booker T. Washington, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, 1881-1915

“When I settled down for my life’s work near the little town of Tuskegee, Alabama, I made up my mind to do as an individual that which I am striving to get my race to do throughout the United States. I resolved to make myself, so far as I was able, so useful to the community, the county, and the state that every man, woman, and child, white and black, would respect me and want me to live among them.”

— August 6, 1914 —Booker T. Washington

Booker T. Washington was born into slavery and later educated at an all-black school. By 1896 he was the Principal at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, a school that was established to help young, African American students learn a trade or job skills.

Washington was looking for somebody to be Director of Agriculture at Tuskegee Institute. He invited George Washington Carver to take the job and Carver accepted. He believed it would allow him to help poor African American farmers. On the train ride south, he saw that teaching agriculture could make a real difference. “Everything looked hungry: the land, the cotton, the cattle, and the people,” he wrote.

Booker T. Washington wanted Tuskegee Institute to be successful and gave George Washington Carver many duties. Carver hoped he could spend most of his time in the lab and teaching classes, but Washington also needed him to inspect livestock, keep records, submit reports, work with students on the school farm, travel around the countryside demonstrating farming techniques, host special classes for farmers, write agricultural **bulletins**, and more.

Washington knew that many farmers could not come to Tuskegee Institute. He suggested using a special wagon to reach more



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*Washington Working in His Office,
Tuskegee Institute, AL*

farmers and families in rural areas. It was called the Jesup Wagon (after the person who donated the money to build it). The Jesup Wagon concept was later adopted by the USDA.

At times, George Washington Carver did not agree with Mr. Washington, but he was respectful and worked for the good of Tuskegee Institute. Booker T. Washington was pleased with Carver's work and believed he was a good representative for Tuskegee. When Washington died suddenly in 1915, Carver grieved deeply.

GLOSSARY

Bulletin - A short description or news story.

TIME LINE • THE TUSKEGEE YEARS: 1896 -1943

