

ROBERT MOTON



Mr. Robert Moton, President of Tuskegee Institute
1915-1935

“Dr. Moton, I hope that you and Mrs. Moton can rest and recreate much this summer. You have succeeded (in almost a phenomenal way) in carrying this great institution safely through one of the most trying years of its history.”

— George Washington Carver to Robert Moton, 1932

Robert Moton was born right after the Civil War. He was educated at the same school Booker T. Washington attended. He came to Tuskegee after the death of Booker T. Washington in 1915 and became the head of the school. Under Moton’s leadership, the school grew both in size and in reputation.

Moton valued George Washington Carver as a staff member and knew his role at Tuskegee was important. He encouraged Carver to continue his research. In September of 1919, Carver informed President Moton that he had discovered a way to make peanut milk. Shortly afterwards, Carver learned that another scientist had created peanut milk in 1918.

In 1920, Robert Moton was invited to speak to a group of white students to help build understanding between blacks and whites, called interracial cooperation. He knew these types of speeches were helpful. Soon, he encouraged Carver to participate. He wanted Carver to become a speaker on racial **harmony**, working with the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

Carver toured the South for over 20 years speaking on the subject to groups of young, white men, mostly at local YMCAs.



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View of Tuskegee Institute, AL

President Moton worked hard to make sure that a new hospital for African American military veterans that was set to open on the campus of Tuskegee Institute would be staffed by African American nurses and doctors.

After many years of working to improve Tuskegee Institute, Robert Moton retired from Tuskegee in 1935. He died five years later.

GLOSSARY

Harmony - Agreement.

TIME LINE • THE TUSKEGEE YEARS: 1896 -1943

