



**Booker Taliaferro Washington**  
**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**  
**1856-1915**

- 1856 Born in Franklin County, Virginia, on the farm of James Burroughs
- 1865 Moved with mother, Jane Ferguson; brother John; and sister, Amanda
- 1867 Secured first book, Webster's *Blue-Backed Speller*
- 1868 Attended primary school taught by the young black teacher William Davis
- 1872 (October 5) Enrolled at Hampton Institute, Virginia
- 1875 (June 18) Graduated from Hampton with honors
- 1875-1878 Taught school in Malden, West Virginia
- 1878 Entered Wayland Seminary, Washington, D.C. for 1 year of study
- 1881 ( July 4) Became the first principal of Tuskegee Normal School for Colored Teachers
- 1882 (August 2) Married Fanny N. Smith (died 1884) of Malden, West Virginia
- 1883 Completed first permanent Institute structure, Porter Hall
- 1883 Birth of daughter, Portia M. Washington (died 1978) in Tuskegee
- 1884 (July 16) Delivered address "The Educational Outlook in the South" before the National Education Association in Madison, Wisconsin. Speech marked the beginning of his public speaking career
- 1885 Graduated first class at Tuskegee Normal School
- 1885 (August 11) Married Oliva Davidson (died 1889) of Ohio
- 1887 Birth of son, Booker T. Washington , Jr. (died 1945) in Tuskegee
- 1889 Birth of son, Ernest Davidson (died 1938) in Tuskegee
- 1890 Organized Farmer's Conference
- 1892 First Negro Conference at Tuskegee Institute
- 1892 Married Margaret James Murray (died 1925) of Mississippi
- 1893 Tuskegee Normal School incorporated by the Alabama Legislature under the name of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute with independent Board of Trustees
- 1895 Delivered address at the Cotton States International Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia
- 1896 (June 24) Received honorary Master of Arts degree from Harvard University. The first such degree presented to an African American by a New England University
- 1896 Secured legislation from state of Alabama in establishing the Agricultural Research and Experiment Station at Tuskegee
- 1896 Invited George Washington Carver to join the Tuskegee faculty
- 1898 (December 16) President William McKinley visited Tuskegee
- 1899 Traveled to Europe, had tea with Queen Victoria, met Mark Twain and Susan B. Anthony



- 1899 The Oaks, residence of Booker T. Washington family, constructed
- 1900 (August 23) Founded the National Negro Business League
- 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt visited Tuskegee Institute
- 1906 (April 3) Started the Jesup Agricultural Wagon, an agricultural extension school on wheels. Farm demonstration work began at Tuskegee
- 1912 (April 17) International Conference on the Negro held at Tuskegee Institute
- 1912 Authorized the publication of the first edition of the *Negro Year Book*
- 1914 Established Baldwin Farms, a farming community for graduates of Tuskegee Agricultural Department
- 1915 (August 19) Last address before the National Negro Business League, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1915 (October 22) Last public address before American Missionary Association and National Council of Congregational Churches, New Haven, Connecticut
- 1915 (November 14) Died at Tuskegee Institute
- 1917 Observance of First Founder's Day at Tuskegee Institute
- 1922 The Booker T. Washington Memorial Monument is unveiled at Tuskegee Institute. Sculpted by Charles Keck.
- 1940 (April 7) Issuance of the Booker T. Washington postage stamp
- 1942 (September 29) Launching of the Booker T. Washington Liberty Ship
- 1945 (October 31) Elected to the New York University Hall of Fame for Great Americans
- 1947 Booker T. Washington coin (half dollar) minted
- 1954 Elected to the Alabama Hall of Fame
- 1956, (April 5) Booker T. Washington Centennial 3 cent stamp issued
- 1966 (April 2) Tuskegee Institute becomes a National Historic Landmark, U.S. Department of the Interior
- 1974 (October 26) Congress approved legislation providing for Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
- 1977 Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site established
- 1981 (March 29) Dedication of the Oaks, family home of Booker T. Washington, and the Carver Museum as a part of Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site

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For seasonal park hour changes and special event information contact:

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