

HISTORIC PICTURE OF TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA

Tuskegee, Alabama was chartered in 1833 by General Thomas S. Woodward, frontiersman and staff officer under General Andrew Jackson. Tuskegee, a community of over 11,000 people, is located in Macon County.

Tuskegee is the home for Tuskegee University, Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Lake Tuskegee Recreational Facility and the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

We are the Birthplace for ...

Osceola, famous Creek Indian who fled to Florida after the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, to become Chief of Seminoles. Chief Osceola was born in Macon County.

Black Aviation, and the home of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, which compiled such a record during World War Two that it became "The Most Decorated Unit in the U.S. Air Force."

Lewis Adams and George Campbell, founders of Tuskegee Institute, who employed Dr. Booker T. Washington to begin what is now a monument to education throughout the world.

Tuskegee University was founded in 1881 under the dynamic and creative leadership of Booker T. Washington. Academic programs, including both undergraduate and master's-level instruction, are concentrated in seven major areas: The College of Arts and Sciences (Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences), Computer Sciences and Mathematics and the Schools of Agriculture and Home Economics, Business, Education, Engineering and Architecture (Aerospace, Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical), Nursing and Allied Health, and Veterinary Medicine. Tuskegee University's sizable research program and substantial outreach/service programs combine to provide state, national and international impact.

Tuskegee University is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. National agencies have accredited these professional areas: Architecture, Chemistry, Dietetics, Engineering, Extension Service, Medical Technology, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Veterinary Medicine.

Facilities include 4,500 acres of land and more than 150 buildings and structures. Foremost among these are the General Daniel "Chappie" James Center for Aerospace Science and Health Education and the Tuskegee University Kellogg Conference Center.

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center - The Tuskegee VA Medical Center operates the largest healthcare facility for veterans in the state of Alabama. As one of the 172 medical centers operated nationwide by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Tuskegee VAMC offers a full spectrum of healthcare options for all veterans in: geriatrics, medicine and surgery, mental health and rehabilitation medicine.

The Tuskegee VA Medical Center was established in the aftermath of WWI to provide healthcare services for Black veterans, who had limited options for hospitalization in the South. Tuskegee Institute donated 300 acres of land on which to erect the hospital. White citizens donated land for the access road to the hospital.

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site - Tuskegee Institute was founded for Black Americans in 1881 by Booker T. Washington and continues today as Tuskegee University. The National Historic Site is located on the campus. It includes a museum depicting the accomplishments of scientist George Washington Carver, The Oaks (home of Booker T. Washington) and Tuskegee's Historic Campus District, which contains more than 27 historically significant landmarks.

The Commodores, entertainers and winners of over 15 gold records and three platinum records, had their start in Tuskegee. The Commodores are one of the most prolific groups in the recording field.

Lionel Richie, a former Commodore and a writer, producer and performer, has gained world-wide fame and has a true "super star" status in the music field. His compositions have sold millions, for both himself and other artists. His production of "We Are the World" has already broken the "all-time" sales records.

Tuskegee ...

... is the site of many landmark judicial decisions. "Gomillion -vs- Lightfoot" (also a novel) was a case where Blacks were gerrymandered out of the Tuskegee city limits to restrict their voting strength. This was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, but it triggered a shopper's boycott in 1957 that became a model for the civil rights movement across the nation. "Lee -vs- Macon" was a 1964 landmark desegregation case regarding public schools in Alabama.

... Black citizens registered several "First Since Reconstruction" victories in public office: Lucius D. Amerson, Sheriff of Macon County; Osie Burton, Coroner of Macon County; Eutha Martin, Tax Collector of Macon County; Johnny Ford, Mayor of the City of Tuskegee; Fred Gray and Thomas Reed, State Representatives.

... is the site for the appointment of the country's first U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Agent, Thomas Campbell. Campbell helped to pass the technology of Dr. Carver's discoveries on to the farmers of Alabama to change the economy and diversify productivity. His wife, Anna Campbell, was named "American Mother of the Year" in 1944, for her contribution to family life.

... Mount Olive Baptist Church is one of Alabama's oldest Black churches. Founded in 1858 (out of First Baptist - White, 1837) while slavery was still in existence, it was incorporated in 1903. Mt. Olive was the church home of Dr. Booker T. Washington and other Tuskegee Institute faculty.

Tuskegee Luminaries

... Alabama's only city to have three native sons as federal judges on the bench simultaneously: Honorable Robert Varner, Honorable Myron Thompson and Honorable Theodore Newman.

... "Chief" Alfred Anderson, the first Black to earn a commercial pilot's license, taught most of the Black pilots of WWII at Tuskegee. Some of the luminaries he taught are: LTC Eugene Carter, Lieutenant General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. (Pt. Benjamin O. Davis National Guard Post is named for Davis and his father, Brigadier General B. O. Davis, Sr.), General Daniel "Chappie" James. These men began their training in the 66th Army Primary; moving through basic and advanced training to become the 99th Pursuit Squadron. The Tuskegee Air Force Base was home for the 99th, the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bomber Group.

... Honorable Fred D. Gray was attorney for Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Leadership Conference. Gray won case after case on behalf of the civil rights movement in the 1960's. Sammy Younge, Tuskegee activist, became the first casualty of the movement in this nation. Activists under the leadership of Tippy Jackson and the Paris brothers staged many state and national campaigns for civil rights.

... Prentice Polk, premiere photographer of Negro lifestyle, served as official photographer of Tuskegee Institute for over fifty years.

... Alice Coachman won 34 national titles, including 10 consecutive Amateur Athletic Union high jump titles - a record. In 1948, she was the only American woman to win a gold medal in track and field in the London Games - and the first woman of color in the world to win one. Coachman resides in Tuskegee.

... Dr. Nell C. Jackson, inspired by Olympic Gold Medalist Mozell Ellerbe, won her Gold Medal in the women's 100 meter dash in 1952.

... Dr. Edquard Freeman composed works of graphic art in all media and in many varied techniques. Of special note is his one-man art show at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in the 1960's. His daughter, Elaine Freeman Thomas, Professor of Art and former Curator of the Carver Museum, lectures across the country, exhibits and has compositions in many museums nationwide.

... Rosa Parks, a Tuskegee native, was jailed for remaining seated when municipal segregation laws required her to move for a white man on a city bus. Her defiance led to a yearlong boycott of Montgomery's buses by Black riders and, ultimately, to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down that city's segregation codes.

Tuskegee/Macon County Historic Sites

CALEBEE BATTLEFIELD SITE (WHEAT PLACE) - U.S. Hwy 80 near the Union Church; January 27, 1814; the site of a bloody confrontation between the Creek Indians and the Georgia Militia during the Creek War.

LIPSCOMBE HOUSE - South Main Street; 1857-1859; two-story frame structure was the home of Andrew Adgate Lipscombe when he served as the President of the Alabama Conference Female College and is an outstanding example of nearly pure Gothic Revival.

THOMPSON HOUSE - 302 Main Street; 1855; two-story frame mansion was a hotel until 1890 when William Thompson purchased it for his home. President McKinley spoke from the second floor balcony in 1898.

CUBAHATCHEE BAPTIST CHURCH - Shorter; 1852; with a congregation founded in 1841, the one-story frame building with a side bell tower is in excellent condition. Gothic Revival.

POLECAT SPRINGS AGENCY SITE - U.S. Hwy 80 at Shorter; 1805-1836; the first county post office was located at this stagecoach stop on the newly established Federal Road, which was also the site of several Creek territorial meetings.

STAGECOACH INN (COX HOUSE) - Macon County Hwy 26, east of Tuskegee; 1830; two-story frame structure with a gable roof and two end-exterior chimneys was a stopping place for travelers and a residence for its proprietor, but is now in poor condition. Plantation Style.

WHITAKER HOUSE - 700 North Maple; 1852; two-story frame structure was the home of William F. Perry during his presidential term at East Alabama Female College (1852-1862). Perry was also the first state superintendent of education (1854-1858). Victorian.

Annual Visitation Tuskegee Institute NHS

