

Booker T. Washington National Monument



Flax Shirt

As an enslaved child, Booker T. Washington wore a shirt made of flax fiber. He recalled that wearing the flax shirt was a “trying ordeal”. The prickly flax felt like having a hundred tiny pins scratch at his skin. His older brother John often wore the shirt until it was softer and more comfortable for Booker.

To learn more, visit: www.nps.gov/bowa

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