

JULY · 1881

ings on it which we could make answer for school purposes for the present, besides this there is a young orchard on the place which is worth at least \$75 itself. The owner is a very nice, wealthy man, probably the most wealthy here. Every one says there is no question about his not having a good title. In case we get it, we expect to have it deeded so that the state will have no control over the land, then in case the state with drew its appropriation at any time the school could still live. The colored people here are very anxious that the school shall be a success and are willing to do what little they are able to do for it. The plan I have stated will, I think, ensure the complete success of the school. Shall not do any more towards it till I get your advice. At present we are renting a building. Love to all my friends. Please let Mr. Banks<sup>3</sup> read this letter. Yours truly

B. T. Washington

Later, Since the other part of my letter was written I have stated my plans to the other trustees — two intelligent and wealthy southern gentlemen and they agree with me in every particular.

B. T. W.

P.S. Could you not telegraph your approval or disapproval?

ALS BTW Folder President's Office Vault ViHaI.

<sup>1</sup> Lewis Adams.

<sup>2</sup> With a loan from J. F. B. Marshall, BTW did arrange for purchase of the land early in July and, upon payment of the full \$500 plus interest, received clear title to the property Apr. 10, 1882. He purchased the property from William Banks Bowen, a fifty-five-year-old white man who had operated a plantation there prior to the Civil War. During the war the residence burned, and Bowen abandoned the plantation, which became locally known as "the Old Burnt Place." Bowen served as postmaster of Tuskegee from 1871 to 1875. (Deed, Apr. 10, 1882, Deed Book 7, p. 661, Macon County Probate Court, Tuskegee, Ala.)

<sup>3</sup> Frank D. Banks.

To James Fowle Baldwin Marshall

Tuskegee, Ala., July 5th 1881

My dear friend: Your telegram was rec'd this A.M. worded as follows: "I advise the purchase of your representation of the farm." I thank you for the advice.