

MARCH · 1883

I have written Mr Chaney.²
All send love to you and Mrs. Marshall. Yours faithfully

B. T. Washington

ALS BTW Folder President's Office Vault ViHaI.

¹ Probably R. R. Varner, a white contractor in Tuskegee, twenty-six in 1880. The Varner family owned a large tract of land including a beautiful plantation house, "The Grey Columns," on the old Montgomery road out of Tuskegee. During the Civil War, General James Wilson's Union raiders marched through the town with orders to burn Tuskegee to the ground. An officer in Wilson's command discovered, however, that Ed Varner, who had been his fraternity brother at Yale, lay wounded at "The Grey Columns." The officer interceded to save the town. The Varner mansion became a monument of the Old South far more appropriate than the stereotyped Confederate soldier, facing north, who later appeared in the courthouse square. R. R. Varner was apparently the member of the family with whom BTW negotiated in the school's first years concerning use and purchase of Varner land, the fitting up of a school brickyard, and the sale of bricks. (See BTW to R. R. Varner, Jan. 6, 1886.)

² George Leonard Chaney (1836-1922), a Unitarian minister in Atlanta. After graduation from Harvard and Meadville Theological Seminary, Chaney served in the U.S. Sanitary Commission during the Civil War and then was minister of the Hollis Street Unitarian Church in Boston until 1877. He went to Atlanta to establish the Church of Our Father in 1881, formed a southern conference of the church in 1883, and became southern superintendent of the American Unitarian Association. He edited the *Southern Unitarian*. From 1883 to 1904 he was a Tuskegee trustee. After 1898 he lived in retirement in Leominster, Mass.

To Cora M. Folsom

Tuskegee, Ala., Mar. 31 1883

Dear Miss Folsom: About all I hear of the Indian Department is through the "Workman" and then I can not make out who writes the "Incidents."

I have thought of you many times, but my spare moments are *few*. The school is full. I have a little more time for writing now since we have added another teacher.

I do wish you could see our new building. It is beautiful.

We expect to start a brick yard soon. Gen Marshall says he is going to send us a printing press, so look out for a young "Workman."¹

Gen. Marshall's visit was a *real* treat.