

AUGUST · 1883

her mature years she seldom played without including one of Coleridge-Taylor's works.

In Washington were born Portia Pittman's three children, William Sidney, Jr., Booker T., and Fannie Virginia. Her husband found the opportunities for a black architect too limited, however, in a time and place where most of the housing was built and owned by whites. He won the competition for the design of the Negro Building at the Jamestown Exposition in 1907 and he secured contracts for occasional black churches, schools, and lodge halls, but this was not enough to support his growing family. In 1913 the Pittmans moved to Dallas, Tex., where Portia had a piano recital at an A.M.E. church on Apr. 25, 1913. For fifteen years she taught music at Booker T. Washington High School in Dallas.

Portia Pittman returned to Tuskegee in 1928 to teach music, at the request of Principal Robert R. Moton. She directed the Tuskegee Institute choir, taught piano, and devoted much attention to the spirituals and other black folk music her father had sought to preserve and promote. She organized her own music school in Greenwood, a housing development adjacent to the institute. Retiring in 1955, she lived in Washington, D.C., with her eldest son Sidney, a graduate of Howard University and for many years a post office employee. After his death in 1967, she lived for two years in Kansas City with her daughter Fannie and her husband, Alphonso Marcelle Kennedy, a physician. After her son-in-law's death in 1969, she and her daughter returned to Washington. Her second son, Booker, became an accomplished jazz clarinetist, playing in the 1920s and 1930s in America and Europe with such leading jazz musicians as Louis Armstrong and Count Basie. He moved permanently to Brazil in 1937 and continued his musical career there until his death in 1969.

To James Fowle Baldwin Marshall

Tuskegee, Ala., Aug. 7, 1883

Dear General: I am very sorry to hear of Mr. Parrott's non success. I think your suggestion good, but it is impossible for us to carry it out this summer. Logan¹ is engaged for the summer and we will be compelled to have him here Sept 1st.

I thought of Logan before Mr. P. went but I was under the impression that [I] heard either you or Mr. Banks² say that he was inclined to be careless with accts.

Miss Davidson suggests the idea of letting Mr. Parrott and Logan *together* take the books for next term — making each responsible for certain work. I think that will be an improvement but not what we want. I shall not rest till our books are in the hands of a responsible