

JUNE · 1885

Commissioners. You say Monday June the 1st is the time. You did not mention the place, I presume it is Montgomery.

Please let me know if you got all the *resolutions*. With kindest regards, I remain, Yours sincerely

G. M. Elliott

ALS Con. 84 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ The *Selma Dallas Post*.

² The Western Railway of Alabama in 1885 ran the 132 miles from Selma, Ala., through Montgomery, to West Point, Ga., where it connected with the Atlanta and West Point. First chartered in 1834, in 1875 it became part of the Central of Georgia Railroad, and in 1888 part of the Richmond Terminal system. To reach the Western station at Chehaw, 5½ miles from Tuskegee, residents of that town used the Tuskegee Railroad, of narrow three-foot gauge.

A News Item from the New York *Evening Post*

[June 9, 1885]

SELF-EDUCATION OF THE NEGROES

A SUCCESSFUL ALABAMA SCHOOL

I came to Tuskegee, a characteristic Southern village of about 3,000 inhabitants, for the sake of seeing the most successful effort of the negro at self-education in this country. Candor compels the admission that when left to his own resource the negro is apt to do slack work. This is the natural result of his residence in this country during the last two unhappy centuries. But there is one large school which has been under negro control from its inception, at which everything is done neatly, thoroughly, and with intelligent despatch. That school is the Tuskegee Normal Colored School. Here you have a small Hampton which was founded and has always been manned by the colored race. This baby Hampton has come into existence mysteriously and almost as suddenly as did Aladdin's palace.

In the winter of 1880¹ the Legislature of Alabama passed an act setting aside an annual appropriation of \$2,000 for the establishment and maintenance of a colored normal school at Tuskegee, with the condition that the money should be used in paying teachers' salaries. In order that advantage might be taken of this offer, somebody had