

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

¹⁸ George B. Bradley, graduate of the class of 1876, was born in Edgecombe County, N.C., in 1854. He taught in Campbell County, Va. (1876-82) and in Charlotte County, Va. (1882-88), before going into the coal business in Naruna, Va.

¹⁹ Robert Smoot, Jr., of Charleston, S.C., graduated in 1876. He taught in Aiken County, S.C., until rheumatism forced his retirement after seventeen months.

²⁰ Frank D. Banks (1855-1930), a Hampton graduate of the class of 1876, was born in Appomattox County, Va. He taught briefly in Southampton County, Va., before becoming a clerk in the Hampton treasurer's office in 1877. He rose to the position of head bookkeeper at Hampton and held that position until his retirement in 1923. During these years he was the treasurer and business manager of the Hampton Supply Company. He also helped found the People's Building and Loan Association, serving as a director, and founded and served as manager of the Bay Shore Hotel on Chesapeake Bay.

²¹ Patrick W. Oliver of Big Lick, Va., graduated in 1877 and returned home to teach. In 1882 he purchased a lot and constructed a store and home, building a successful grocery business.

²² J. C. Robbins worked in the principal's office at Hampton after graduation in 1876. He also worked with the Indian students and in 1880 went west to work with them in their homes and in a mission school. Robbins later studied medicine and then became a divinity student.

²³ Tapley S. D. Berger was born in Pittsylvania County, Va., in 1859. He graduated from Hampton in 1876, studied at Wayland Seminary, and graduated from Howard University in 1883. He attended Howard Law School briefly, supporting himself with a position in the Treasury Department, until stricken with malaria. After teaching at a private school in Washington, D.C., for two years, Berger took a position as teacher in Clarksville, Tex.

Three News Items on the 1875
Graduation Exercises at Hampton Institute

Fortress Monroe, Va., June 10th 1875

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THE SEVENTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

To-day, Thursday, June 10th, the exercises of the seventh annual commencement have been held. Your correspondent has had some experience of college commencements in New England and elsewhere, but he has never witnessed or listened to exercises so completely satisfactory from beginning to end, nor which, taking into consideration the objects and aims of the course of instruction, gave such ample proof