

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

urged him to accumulate his own "library," and employed him to peddle the produce she grew in her back yard. BTW became as punctilious in his habits as his mistress, and all his life he continued to practice the virtues she had taught him. "She was a stern, almost tyrannical woman," a neighbor remembered, "but she was good to Booker." (Charleston [W.Va.] *Daily Mail*, June 18, 1939, 8.)

After General Ruffner's death in 1883, Viola Ruffner lived with her son at his various army posts until her death. Both mother and son continued their interest in BTW, who paid them occasional visits during his speaking tours.

From Amanda Ferguson Johnston

[Malden, W.Va.] Jan 22/1896

Malden W Va Jan 24 Via Grand Rapids Mich

Uncle wash<sup>1</sup> is barely alive

Mrs Amanda Washington

HWSr Con. 539 BTW Papers DLC. Received at Ann Arbor, Mich.

<sup>1</sup> Washington Ferguson, BTW's stepfather.

From Amanda Ferguson Johnston

Malden W Va Jan 23 1896

Your message received we think furgeson is dying.

Amanda Johnson

HWSr Con. 539 BTW Papers DLC.

From James Nathan Calloway

Washington D.C. Jan 23 1896

Dear Mr Washington I got Mr. Harrison<sup>1</sup> of Opelika to take in a bill before the House today. I shall go for Senate tomorrow. Every thing looks very favorable now. I expect it will be good to have you come before the House committee when this bill come up for discus-