

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON *Papers*
A Petition from Tuskegee Students

[Tuskegee, Ala.] October 7, 1897

Sirs: We believe heartily in the spirit of work which characterizes the Tuskegee Normal & Industrial Institute. This condition we would not change if we could. We would have no less work; but we feel sure that if you will give the matter a few seconds consideration, you will agree with us that we ought to be given more time for recreation. We feel that Tuskegee ought to hold her own, even in the field of athletics, which is not true now, because of the fact that our teams do not have time for proper practice.

We cannot finish a game of ball between the hours of three and four. We therefore petition that we be given Saturday afternoons, say from three o'clock till tea for base ball and other games.

Hoping for a favorable reply, we remain, Yours truly,

TLS Con. 864 BTW Papers DLC. The petition was signed by 259 Tuskegee students, and addressed to BTW and members of the Executive Council.

An Excerpt from the Diary of Claude Gernade Bowers¹

Indianapolis, Oct. 20 [1897]

Oct 20 This afternoon as I was walking down Penn. St, I met Brooker T. Washington, reading a newspaper in front of The Denison. I talked with him for awhile concerning his magazine article and found that he had sent it last Saturday. Its delay is probably due to the prevalence of yellow fever in the south.

Tonight I heard him address a monster convention of the Christian church people.² He is a magnificent orator — one of the Phillips type. His style is mostly conversational. Now and then as he becomes especially eloquent his voice rises and his form expands. His voice is rough in the higher scale but that is lost sight of in what he says. He has a limitless store of original antedote gleaned from personal experience with which he keeps his audience in a constant roar. I noticed one man on the platform — an old grey haired man — who went into fits over