

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

it was not to be a book or anything of the kind this is only a fragmentary list.

I knit chrochet, and made all my hose mittens ect. while I was in school.

If this is not sufficient please let me know, and if it ever comes out in print I would like to see it.

God bless you all,

Geo. W. Carver

AMS Con. 138 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ Mrs. W. A. Liston, a former student at Simpson College, became a friend and benefactor of Carver when she learned from Etta M. Budd that he needed help to stay in school. She provided him with lodging and some household items and encouraged others to support Carver's laundry business. She continued her interest in Carver when he transferred to Iowa A & M in 1891, visiting him there. Mrs. Liston persuaded school officials to allow Carver to eat with the other students rather than in the basement with the hired help.

Mrs. Liston, at BTW's request, asked Carver for a sketch of his life. Carver wrote this account for her unaware that it was to be sent to BTW. Mrs. Liston wrote to BTW: "You can use any thing in it that is of int[er]est to you, but I must add that incidents of most int[er]est to me are left out by him." She thought that Carver might have been saving some episodes for a book. "The sever[e] trials mistreatment and hardships I know about are omit[t]ed," she wrote. "If I could see you," she continued, "I could relate many strange incidents and special interventions of Divine providence." (Liston to BTW, Nov. 1, 1897, Con. 130, BTW Papers, DLC.)

² The original was dated "1897 or thereabouts" in another hand, perhaps at a later time.

³ Moses Carver, who had owned George's mother, and his wife Susan had no children of their own and raised George and his brother Jim. The Carvers made it clear to the youths that they were not slaves and were free to leave at any time.

⁴ John Milholland was a medical doctor in Winterset, Iowa, and his wife was director of the church choir there. Carver took singing lessons from Mrs. Milholland, and he taught her painting. The Milhollands became Carver's closest friends and encouraged him to enter Simpson College.

⁵ Etta M. Budd befriended Carver and was instrumental in getting him to study at Iowa A & M, where her father, J. L. Budd, was head of the horticulture department.

To Herbert Wrightington Carr¹

Tuskegee, Ala., Nov. 6th 1897

Dear Sir: Few persons who have not been engaged in educational work among my race in the South can appreciate just how far clothing of