

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

A News Item in the Atlanta Constitution

Washington, October 16 [1901]

NEGRO GUEST ENTERTAINED BY ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENT HAS BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR DINNER

ALL ROOSEVELT FAMILY PRESENT AT THE TABLE

WASHINGTON WAS IN EVENING DRESS
AND HE WAS ONLY GUEST — PROB-
ABLY THE FIRST NEGRO EVER
ENTERTAINED AT THE
WHITE HOUSE

Booker T. Washington, the well known negro educator, president of the Tuskegee, Ala., institute, was a guest of President and Mrs. Roosevelt at dinner at the white house tonight. Washington is probably the first American negro to dine with a president of the United States and his family, although it was reported that President Cleveland once entertained a negro friend at the white house board.

Since President Roosevelt occupied the white house there has hardly been a dinner or luncheon without its guests, and as the president has been so free with his invitations no special list of guests is prepared and the ushers do not know who the guests will be until they arrive. Tonight, just before 8 o'clock, a negro in evening dress presented himself at the white house door, and, giving his name, said that he was to dine with the president. Booker Washington has made several visits to the white house and his face is known there, so he was at once admitted into the private apartments and the president notified of his arrival. No other guest arrived and the dinner was soon served.

Dinner at the white house since the Roosevelts have occupied the mansion has been a family affair, Mrs. Roosevelt and the two children appearing at the table with father, mother and guests. After dinner the president takes his guests to the library, and there, over cigars, things political and otherwise are discussed.