

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

To Elbert B. Williams<sup>1</sup>

[Tuskegee, Ala.] June 24, 1905

*Personal and Private*

Dear Mr. Williams: We have been making a request of the Secretary of War for the detail of a band master from the Army, to come to Tuskegee and take charge of our band.

The Secretary of War has very kindly consented, I beg to say for your private information, to detail you on furlough for the position. I very much hope that you will feel disposed to take up this new service at Tuskegee. Mr. Townsend<sup>2</sup> was with us only for the year.

As I understand it, under this regulation, your salary will be paid by the army, and you will in every way be to the army just what you are now, simply that your service will be at Tuskegee.

President Roosevelt will be here in October, and we are very anxious to have a good band when he comes, and so for that reason, I have asked the Honorable Secretary of War to detail you at once, if you decide to accept this service. Very truly yours,

Booker T. Washington

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<sup>1</sup> Elbert B. Williams, born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1862, served for some thirty years after 1895 in the U.S. Army, principally as a bandsman in the 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th infantry regiments. He was furloughed from August 1905 until June 1907 to serve as bandmaster of Tuskegee Institute. He also played the trumpet and clarinet.

<sup>2</sup> William H. Townsend.

From Clinton Joseph Calloway

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. July 3d, 1905

Dr. B. T. Washington: I succeeded in getting an opportunity to speak to two audiences as well as do some personal canvassing on the whiskey, home improvement, and school building questions