

Booker Taliaferro Washington

By Sam

It is a sunny day in Tuskegee, Alabama. I'm very nervous, because I am going to school for the first time. The school is a Black only school and Booker Taliaferro Washington will be the principal. The school is a new school, but it does not look as if it were new. The principal, luckily, will be a Black so it will not be as bad as a White. I just hope to make some new friends and learn some things, so I can get a college degree in some other place. School doesn't start until July 4, but at least I can meet the kids that are going to school. It hasn't been very fun in my new neighborhood but I haven't met any other kids so I'll just have to wait.

Jun.18, 1881

Dear Grandma,

I am going to be starting at a new school on July fourth. I have never been to school before, but I think it will be fun. At least I hope it will be fun, but I've seen my new school and it is all torn up and dirty, but at least it will be a Black only school. The principal's name is Booker T. Washington. Do you know him? Does his name sound familiar to you? If you know any thing about him or you have heard of his name, please write back. Bye!

Your Grandson,
Matthew

Jul. 1, 1881

Dear Matthew,

I do know Booker T. Washington, he used to be the slave of James Burroughs of Virginia. He was a slave who worked out in the fields. He happened to be a slave with me. He did not know much about his father. His mother was Jane, who raised him. He was put to work earlier than me for some reason. Booker never received an education as a slave, but he learned quickly in high school. I hear that he will be the principal at your school, oh, and the school is torn up because it's for Blacks only, which is a very horrible reason just to make a school dirty.

Hope to see you soon,
Grandma

July 18, 1881

Dear Grandma,

Thank you so much for the information. I really appreciated it. My first day of school was excellent. I learned a lot, and even made a friend. Mr. Washington is a great principal, even though he catches everyone running in the hall. If you can get any more information it would be great.

Sincerely,
Matthew

Aug. 18, 1881

Dear Matthew,

I'm glad that you have already made some friends. I do know some more information, I'll just tell you all I know: Booker T. Washington was born in 1856. In 1865 his family went to Malden, West Virginia, to live near Booker's step-father, his step-father happened to be packing salt. In 1872 Booker left to go to Hampton for school. Later in 1875 Booker graduated from college. Now he is going to be the principal of Tuskegee Institute.

Got to go,
Grandma

Aug. 29, 1881

Dear Grandma,

Thank you for writing back. School is going great. I hope to hear from you soon. Your information was very accurate. Thank you for it.

Your Grandson,
Matthew

*My grandma has not written to me in a long time. I sometimes wonder if something has happened to her, but I still rush to the postman to get the mail. After a while one a sunny day I went to the postman, and there was a letter from her!
It read:*

Nov. 4, 1891

Dear Matthew,

I have very good news, Booker T. Washington is now a leader in education, and a famous speaker. He speaks in the U.S. and Europe. That just shows you how you could become after you go to college and get more education. I also know that you've finished high school and now you're ready to go to college. I'm so happy for you.

Bye,
Grandma

P.S. I hope to visit you soon.

My Grandma visited me for Christmas and had to leave in order to catch the train back to her hometown. Anyway, I hadn't written a letter to my grandma in a long time, so I went outside and wrote a letter to her.

June 31, 1896

Dear Matthew,

I am sorry I could not write back sooner. I do agree that Mr. Washington is a great man, and that he was very good as an educator. I also think that he was very good at inspiring others to get an education. I did get some more information too. Mr. Washington has been an advisor of two presidents and is going to be the advisor of another one soon. The presidents are Theodore Roosevelt and William Taft. I will visit you a year from now.

-Grandma

January 2, 1899

Dear Grandma,

Thank you for the letter and Happy New Year. You were also very right, Mr. Washington is now the advisor of another president. He has also retired from his job as the principal of Tuskegee Institute. My mother has been talking about coming to visit you, so I hope to see you soon.

-Matthew

Dear Matthew,

June 18, 1902

I am glad to hear that I was right about Mr. Washington being the advisor of another president. I am also sad that he has retired from his job in Tuskegee, Alabama. Hope to see you soon.

-Grandma

Jul. 3, 1905

Dear Grandma,

I think that Mr. Washington is getting ready to make another speech soon, but don't spread the news I'm not sure. Anyway, I hope to see you soon.

-Matthew

Sep. 21, 1908

Dear Matthew,

I am sorry to say, but Mr. Washington is not going to make another speech. Maybe another time. Anyway, I am going to be visiting you again this summer, maybe even this upcoming month. Who knows?

-Grandma

My Grandma visited me the next month until Oct. 1, then she had to go back home. I am going to miss her, just like I missed my high school principal, Booker T. Washington. Anyway, I went outside the day she left and wrote a letter to her. I was not going to send it to her right away, I think I would send it to her years away. Anyway, I went outside and wrote a letter to her.

Nov. 12, 1911

Dear Grandma,

I have missed you, I can't write to long because my mother and I are going to go to the grocery store. Anyway, I hope to see you soon.

-Matthew

Jan. 21, 1915

Dear Matthew,

Today has been a very sad day for the country, Booker Taliaferro Washington has died. He has inspired many lives and families, including yours, to get an education. He is very famous because of this and will be honored as an educator. I also will be visiting you soon.

-Grandma

Today I am very sad after I received my Grandmas letter, but I am still glad that Mr. Washington inspired thousands of people to get an education. Mr. Washington was a great principal who loved to teach, and he has changed my life forever.

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