



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Wilberforce versus Tuskegee College Football Program

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[[image - black & white photograph of F. D. Patterson]]
[[caption]]
F. D. PATTERSON
President Tuskegee Institute
[[/caption]]

Tuskegee Institute was founded in 1881 by Booker Taliaferro Washington in answer to a request made by Mr. George Campbell, white, and Mr. Lewis Adams, Negro, of Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama. The Alabama legislature provided for the establishment of a normal school at Tuskegee and made an annual appropriation of \$2000.

The school opened formally on July 4, 1881, with one teacher, Booker T. Washington, and thirty pupils in an old church. From that humble and simple beginning Tuskegee Institute has become an institution with an annual enrollment of over 2,000 students, a faculty and staff of 275 members, and a physical plant of 132 buildings.

Tuskegee Institute, having organized a four-year college department in 1927, has been classified as an A rated college by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. With a college graduating class of three in 1928, the annual number of college graduates continued to increase until in 1943 the graduates numbered 129 in the May commencement. Over a thousand and five hundred students have been graduated from the Tuskegee Institute College since its organization.

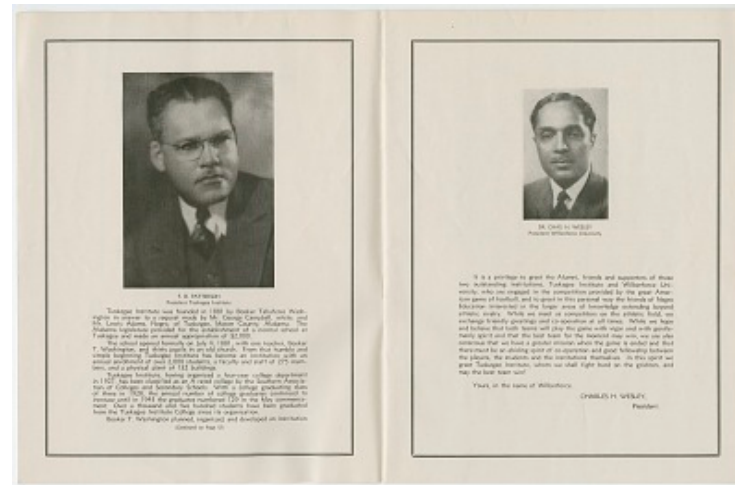
Booker T. Washington planned, organized, and developed an institution

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[[image - black & white photograph of Dr. Chas. H. Wesley]]
[[caption]]
DR. CHAS. H. WESLEY
President Wilberforce University
[[/caption]]

It is a privilege to greet the Alumni, friends and supporters of these two outstanding institutions, Tuskegee Institute and Wilberforce University, who are engaged in the competition provided by the great American game of football, and to greet in this personal way the friends of Negro Education interested in the larger areas of knowledge extending beyond athletic rivalry. While we meet as competitors on the athletic field, we exchange friendly greetings and co-operation at all times. While we hope and believe that both teams will play the game with vigor and with gentlemanly spirit and that the best team for the moment may win, we are also conscious that we have a greater mission when the game is ended and that there must be an abiding spirit of co-operation and good fellowship between the players, the students and the institutions themselves. In this spirit we greet Tuskegee Institute, whom we shall fight hard on the gridiron, and may the best team win!



Yours, in the name of Wilberforce.

CHARLES H. WESLEY,
President.
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