

Obituary of Olivia America Davidson Washington Class of June 1881

Mrs. Olivia Davidson Washington, wife of B.T. Washington, principal of the Tuskegee Normal School, Alabama, died last night at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Mrs. Washington was born in Virginia, June 11, 1854, and while young removed to Ohio, where she received a common school education. Later she went to Memphis, Tenn. and became a teacher in the schools there. During her stay there the cholera epidemic broke out and she left her school and took up the work of nursing the sick. Afterwards she went to the Hampton Institute, where she graduated in 1879. While here she attracted the attention of Mrs. Hemingway of Boston, who becoming interested in her, aided her to complete her education at the Framingham (Mass.) Normal School, where she graduated in 1881. Immediately after her graduation she went to Tuskegee, where she and her husband started the institute the same year, which has since grown to an institution accommodating four hundred pupils, with property valued at \$80,000, mostly contributed by friends in the North. To this work Mrs. Washington had given her entire time. Almost the first money collected came through her influences, and since its establishment she remained a faithful and devoted teacher up to the time of her last illness. She had a large circle of friends in Boston. The remains will be taken to Tuskegee tomorrow for burial.