

MEMORIAL WHICH ENDURES



MRS. AMELIA CROMWELL ROBERTS
(Deceased)

The late Mrs. Amelia Cromwell Roberts gave 40 years of dedicated service to the Department of Physical Education at Tuskegee Institute. She came to Tuskegee in 1905 as a teacher of women's physical training. She was a graduate of the Sargent School of Physical Education of Boston University.

Mrs. Roberts was a pioneer in the development of athletics for women in Negro schools and colleges. She believed that physical training improved a young woman's poise, development, carriage and attitude toward health.

In 1910 she had the first women's demonstration of exercises and dances on White Hall lawn. This demonstration became an annual affair which faculty, students and community looked forward to each spring.

Mrs. Roberts was the first women's basketball coach at Tuskegee Institute. The first girls game was played in 1908. Mrs Roberts teams won many championships and from 1923 to 1931 the girls basketball team did not lose a game.

Mrs. Roberts took an active part in community activities and gave her support to the development of all programs of the Institute.

She belonged to many professional organizations. She gave lectures on women's sports and conducted clinics in dance, basketball, track and field in Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

Due to the influence she had on many women at Tuskegee and her outstanding service to the Institute, she was awarded the Meritorious Award from Tuskegee Institute in 1946.