

Dr. Emmett Jay Scott

Birth: February 13, 1873 in Texas, United States

Death: December 12, 1957

Occupation: Educator, Publicist

Source: *Dictionary of American Biography, Supplement 6: 1956-1960*. American Council of Learned Societies, 1980.

Scott, Emmett Jay (Feb. 13, 1873 - Dec. 12, 1957), educator and publicist, was born in Houston, Tex., the son of Horace Lacy Scott, a civil servant, and Emma Kyle. He graduated from the Colored High School in Houston at the age of fourteen, and was persuaded to go to Wiley University--a small Methodist school in Marshall, Tex.--by Reverend (later Bishop) Isaiah B. Scott, pastor of a Methodist church in Marshall and formerly a minister in Houston.

From 1897 to 1915, Scott was Washington's closest confidant and adviser. The two meshed so well that it is difficult to tell which of them composed some letters. Scott played a major role in the intrigues by which Washington dominated black organizations and media. He was chief architect of what Washington's arch rival, W. E. B. Du Bois, called the "Tuskegee Machine." Ironically, Washington and Scott took an idea of Du Bois's, and created the National Negro Business League (1900). Washington was president, but the league was actually administered by Scott, who was secretary from 1900 to 1922.