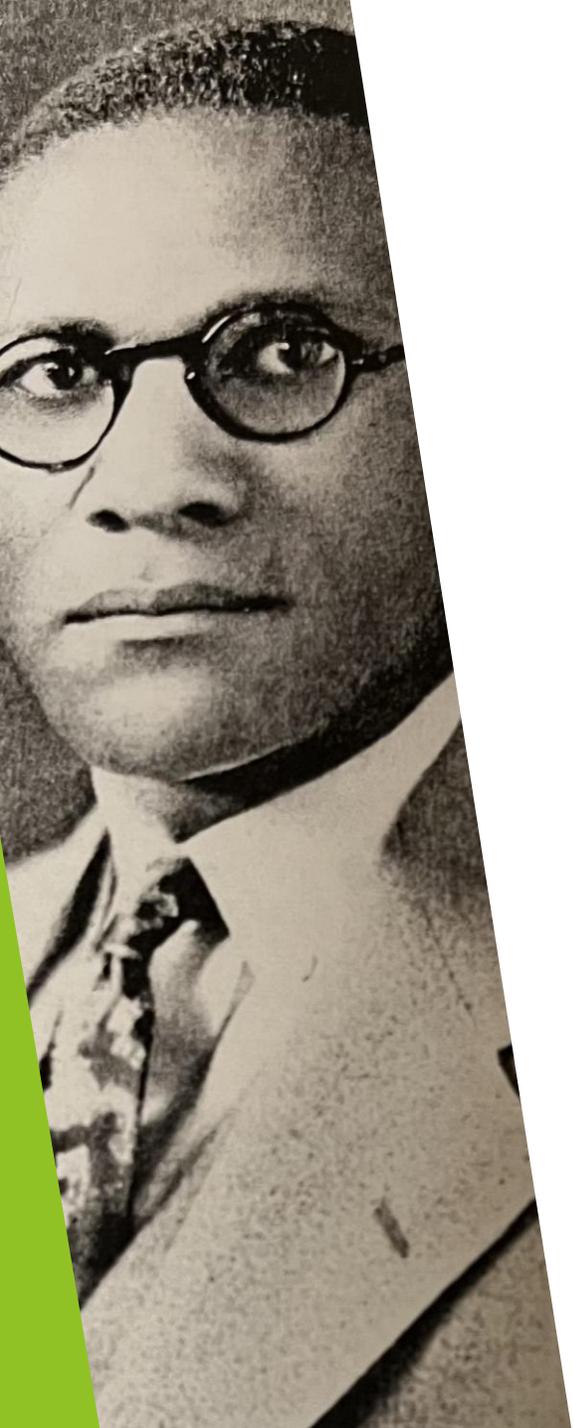


FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

The Tuskegee Civic Association
and the
Crusade for Civic Democracy: 1941-1970

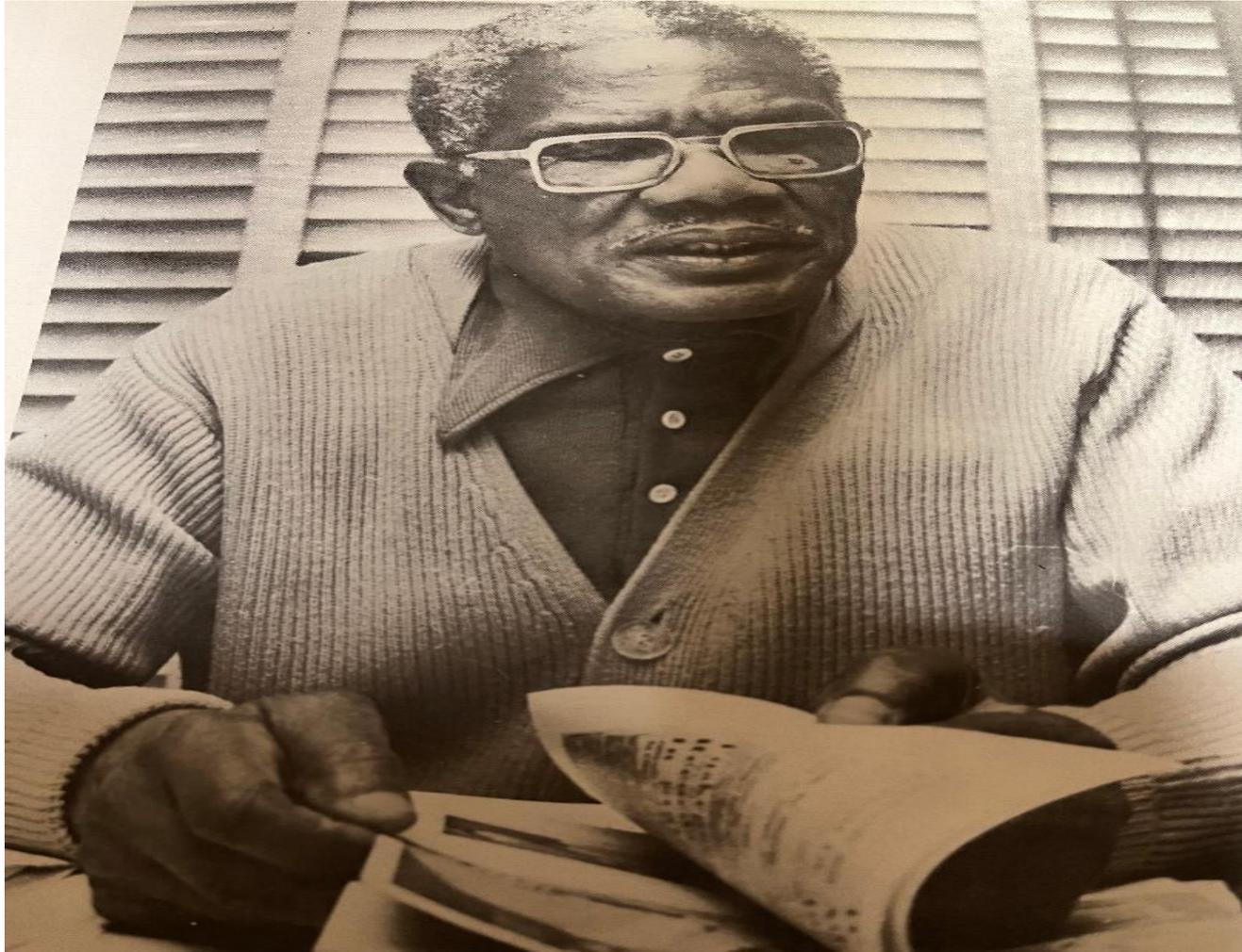
- ▶ **ANALYZE, ORGANIZE, STRATEGIZE,**
- ▶ **EXECUTE!**



Charles Goode Gomillion, age 32

- ▶ Born, Johnston, South Carolina, April 1, 1900.
- ▶ Attended Paine Institute, Augusta, Georgia.
- ▶ On faculty of Tuskegee Institute in 1928.
- ▶ Studied Sociology at Fisk under Charles Hamilton and E. Franklin Frazier.
- ▶ Founded Tuskegee Civic Association in 1941.
- ▶ Began to address community issues facing Tuskegee & Macon County.
- ▶ Earned Ph.D. from Ohio State University, 1948.

WILLIAM P. MITCHELL, OUTSPOKEN ORGANIZER





The “New”
Tuskegee. Around
3,500 black
citizens, including
400 out of 410 Black
voters, eliminated
from city limits. Summary
from Gomillion Papers.



Prosperous Downtown Tuskegee, ca. 1957



**Tuskegee citizens attend 1st Mass Meeting of TCA, June 25, 1957.
Butler Chapel AMEZ, where Tuskegee Institute was founded in 1881.**

Dr. Gomillion explained meaning of gerrymander. W.P. Mitchell may have spoken about voting rights. The “Trade With Your Friends” campaign was initiated. Attended this initial meeting with my parents, Edward and Woodia Pryce, lifetime members of the TCA. One speaker stated: “They don’t want us in their town, let them have their square. We’ll trade with our friends,”—(Black businesses in Greenwood Village and Carver Court.)

Weekly mass meetings in churches.
Parking lots filled as well.

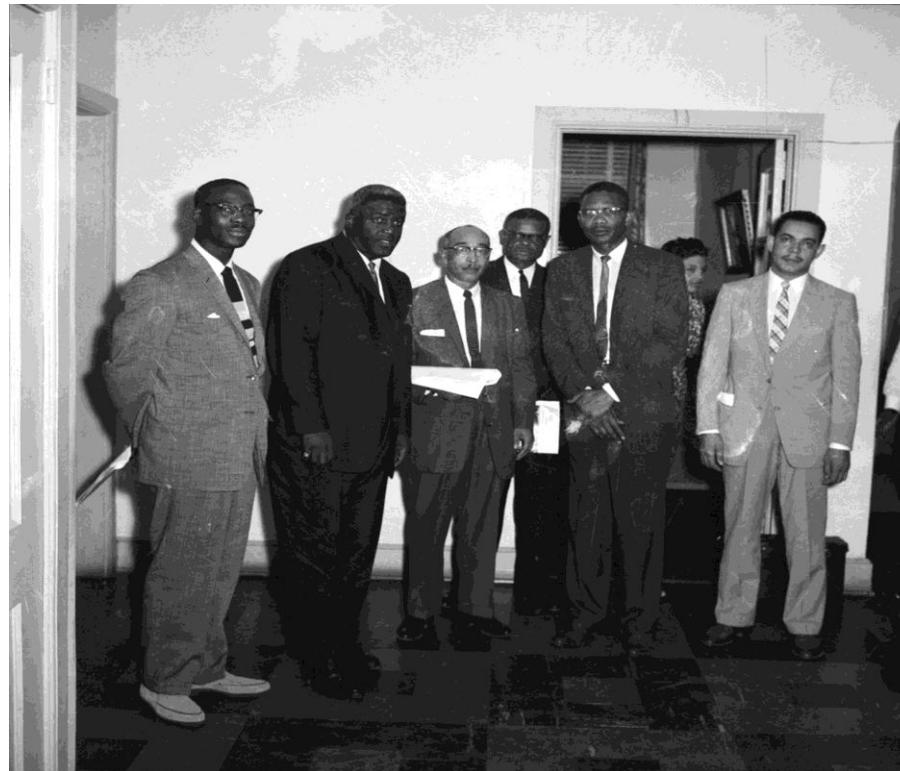


THE STRUGGLE CONTINUED

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
AT MASS MEETING



JACKIE ROBINSON AT
ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM



TAKING IT TO THE COURTS: 1945-1960

- ▶ Booker T. Washington facilitated two legal challenges to disenfranchisement in 1903 & 1904. U.S. Supreme court rejected both cases.*
- ▶ *Mitchell v. Wright*: TCA Executive Sued Board Of Registrars 1945
- ▶ *State of Alabama v. The Tuskegee Civic Association* 1958
- ▶ *C.G.Gomillion, et al v. Phil M. Lightfoot, et al.*, 1958
- ▶ *The United States of America v. the State of Alabama.* 1959
- ▶ *William P. Mitchell et al. and United States of America*
v. Edgar Johnson, et al.

▶ *Washburn Law Journal, Vol 50, p. 134



They continued to fight in court.

GOMILLION V. LIGHTFOOT AT UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, 1960



GOMILLION LAWYERS AT SUPREME COURT, 1960

Fred D. Gray, Esq.

TCA (Montgomery Advertiser)



Robert L. Carter, Esq.

NAACP (US Park Service)



TCA ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER:
DEPUTY US ATTORNEY GENERAL, CIVIL RIGHTS
DIVISION, JOHN DOAR, 1963

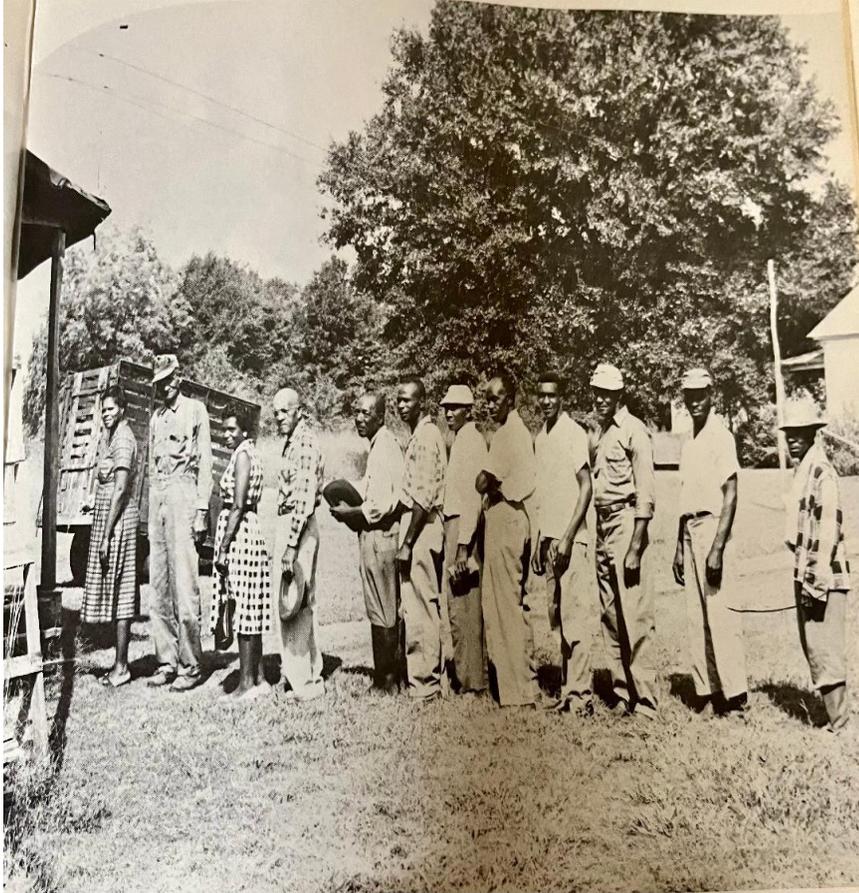


RESULTS

- ▶ TCA documentation and meetings with Department of Justice led to
 - ▶ **CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1957**
- ▶ *GOMILLION V. LIGHTFOOT* AT UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, 1960
- ▶ **RACE-BASED GERRYMANDER OF CITY OF TUSKEGEE DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL**
- ▶ 5TH District Court of Alabama tried case, city boundaries returned to pre-gerrymander configuration!
- ▶ Federal government used evidence provided by TCA to support passage of
 - VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965**

PEOPLE REGISTER TO VOTE, 1960

HARDAWAY, MACON COUNTY



RURAL MACON COUNTY





Seven of the persons who worked as officials at the polls in 1964. Left to right—Mrs. Jessie P. Guzman; Mrs. Orié Mae Flood; Mrs. Wilhelmina Jackson. Second row, J. O. H. Amakyi,

INTEGRATED CITY COUNCIL, 1964



The first interracial council of the city of Tuskegee which was elected in 1964. From left to right—Dr. Stanley H. Smith, L. M. Gregg, J. Allan Parker, John L. Sides, Mayor C. M. Keever, and the Rev. K. L. Buford.

HISTORY IS REPEATING ITSELF!
OPPONENTS USING A RECONSTRUCTION
PLAYBOOK.

THE TUSKEGEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION HAS LEFT
US A ROADMAP.

LET'S USE IT AGAIN!
ANALYZE, ORGANIZE, STRATEGIZE
&
EXECUTE!

SOURCES

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<https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/voting-rights-act-of-1965-in-alabama>.

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Photographs from Guzman, *Crusade for Civic Democracy* attributed to Hawkins and Prentiss Polk.