

*USDA Commemorates
Dr. George Washington Carver*

Past, Present and Future



*George Washington Carver Center
Beltsville, Maryland*

March 8, 2001

1:30 until 3:00

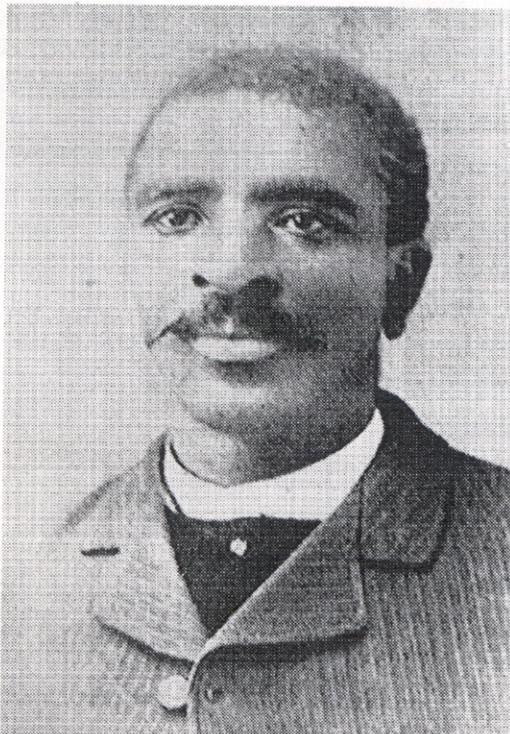
George Washington Carver

Hailed as the savior of southern agriculture, George Washington Carver became the first black man of science to emerge as an American folk hero. Born around 1865, Dr. Carver grew up on a Missouri farm, where he developed a strong interest for plant life. He worked his way through high school and college, eventually receiving a master's degree in agriculture from Iowa State College in 1896. That same year, he accepted a teaching post at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and became director of the school's agricultural research program. He also managed the institute's two farms, ran its agricultural experiment station, and extended the benefits of Tuskegee's research program to poor black farmers in outlying areas.

Carver's efforts to improve the fortunes of other blacks ultimately turned him into a living legend. A deeply religious and humble man-as eccentric as he was charming-Carver captured the nation's fancy as a creative chemist who found hundreds of new uses for the peanut, the sweet potato, and other crops. By the early 1920s, he was billed by the white-controlled press as an example of what blacks could accomplish in a racially segregated society.

Carver's popular appeal ultimately surpassed the scope of his scientific achievements. Yet his desire "to help the 'man farthest down'" never diminished. Throughout his life, the Wizard of Tuskegee pursued his lab and fieldwork the same way he embraced man and nature: with wonder and affection.

Gene Adair



UNVEILING CEREMONY OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SEAL

March 8, 2001

1:30 p.m.

George Washington Carver Building
Beltsville, MD

MASTER OF CEREMONY	Toussaint L. Tingling-Clemons Benjamin Banneker Academic Senior High School
INVOCATION	Dr. Ronnie B. Lowenstein, Ph.D. Educational Technology Think Tank
MUSICAL SELECTION	Katherine Hill, Mezzo Soprano Departmental Administration
OPENING REMARKS	Pearlie Reed, Chief Natural Resources Conservation Service Priscilla Carey, Director Office of Operations
SPEAKERS	Dr. Sande McNabb, Ph.D. Iowa State University Dr. Walter Hill, Ph.D. Tuskegee University
RECOGNITIONS	
CLOSING REMARKS	Paul Fiddick, Assistant Secretary Departmental Administration
UNVEILING OF EMBLEM	Reception following

About the Speakers

Dr. Harold Sande McNabb: (Perspective on Dr. Carver at Iowa State University)

Dr. McNabb is a Professor of Plant Pathology and Forestry at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. He received his Baccalaureate in Botany/Chemistry, University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1949; Masters and Doctorate from Yale University in 1951 and 1954, respectively. He has served as visiting research scientist in England and the Netherlands; a visiting Fellow in the Netherlands, France and Belgium. Dr. McNabb is the recipient of many awards and honors. Award of Merit for Distinguished Achievement and Service from the Gamma Sigma Delta National Honor Society for Agriculture, April 1998; Minority Student Affairs Recognition Citation for Outstanding Leadership in the area of Diversity and in continuing the Legacy of George Washington Carver, April 1994; Excellence in Teaching Award from the American Phytopathological Society, August 1989. He is a member of numerous agricultural and scientific organizations. He is accompanied here in Beltsville, Maryland by his wife, Margo.



Dr. Walter Hill: (Perspective on Dr. Carver at Tuskegee University)

Dr. Walter Hill is the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental and Natural Sciences and Director of the George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station at Tuskegee University. Dr. Hill received his Baccalaureate from Lake Forest College in 1968; Masters from the University of Illinois and University of Arizona; and Doctorate from the University of Illinois. Dr. Hill has written many publications. He has also received numerous honors including the Faculty Achievement Award for Tuskegee University. As Dean, he provides leadership in the development of research, teaching and outreach programs in food and agricultural sciences, biological and chemical sciences, forestry, natural resources and environmental sciences and rural development. Dr. Hill uses the sweet potato as a model crop to study food production and utilization in advanced life support systems (for space missions) and in sustainable agricultural systems.

EQUIPMENT

Figure it out for yourself, my lad,
You've all that the greatest of men have had;
Two arms, two hands, two legs, two eyes;
And a brain t use if you would be wise,
With this equipment they all began.

So start for the top and say "I can
Look them over, the wise and great,
They take their food from a common plate
And similar knives and forks they use,
With similar laces they tie their shoes.
The world considers them brave and smart,
But you've all they had when they made their start.

You can triumph and come to skill,
You can be great if you only will.
You're well equipped for what fight you choose;
You have legs and arms and a brain to use,
And the man who has risen great deeds to do
Began his life with no more than you.

You are the handicap you must face,
You are the one who must choose your place,
You must say where you want to go,
How much you will study the truth to know;
God has equipped you for life, but He
Lets you decide what you want to be.

Courage must come from the soul within
The man must furnish the will to win,
So figure it out for yourself, my lad
You were born with all that the great have had,
With your equipment they all began,
Get hold of yourself and say: "I can."

Edgar A. Guest

“The primary idea in all of my work was to help the farmer and fill the poor man’s empty dinner pail,” said Carver, shown here in 1940. “My idea is to help the ‘man farthest down’, This is why I have made every process just as simple as I could to put it within his reach.”



The Black Memorial Foundation would like to thank you for your participation in this event

Our Honored Guests

Mae Massey
Randall Carter
Donna Sharp
Clifford Herron
Carol Fields
Sue Harris-Green
Charles Stoutamire
David Lewis

The Black Memorial Foundation would also like to especially thank

Program Committee Members
Office of Operations Staff
Office of Communications Staff
Coalition of Minority Employees
Blacks in Government
Black/Minority Employee Organization
Priscilla Carey
Sam Fruits
Esther Edwards

“To those who have as yet not learned the secret of true happiness,” Carver said, “which is the joy of coming into the closest relationship with the Maker and Preserver of all things: begin now to study the little things in your own door yard, going from the known to the nearest related unknown for indeed each new truth brings one nearer to God.”

Dr. Carver

