

George Washington Carver

by William Federer (2008)

He was born into slavery about 1864 & died 1943. His dad died weeks after he was born, then his family was kidnapped. Moses Carver traded his best horse to get them back, but he only got the baby. George never saw his mom or sister again. He was fortunate to go to school. He did typing, laundry & painting to make a living. He went to Simpson College & Iowa State College for agriculture & was the 1st black faculty member at Iowa. 1896 Booker T. Washington invited him to Tuskegee. He accepted it along with a pay cut.

Cotton was devastating the soil in the south & then the boll weevil came & destroyed the cotton. Farmers were hurting & receptive to hear what he had to say. He told them to rotate the crops & plant peanuts, soybean & sweet potato to replenish the soil with nitrogen. Then he found 100's of uses for peanuts, soybean & sweet potato to help them sell them.

During WWI Ford tried to convince him to work for Ford & derive rubber from soybeans, but he declined. Edison offered him a six-figure income, but was also turned down. He was receiving more awards & mail than he could keep up with. Many schools, libraries & parks are named after him.

The book has many letters written by him. He is very humble & gives credit to God for all he has done.

GWC Quotes: [taken from the internet] "I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in." "Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses." "When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world." "Fear of something is at the root of hate for others, and hate within will eventually destroy the hater. Keep your thoughts free from hate, and you need have no fear from those who hate you." "Anything will give up its secrets if you love it enough."