

**The original documents are located in Box 15, folder “National Negro History Week, 1971-1972” of the Stanley S. Scott Papers, 1969-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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# History Week

Virginia school officials are cooperating with sponsors of Negro History Week, and we believe the result will be well worth the program. It would be disruptive, however, to recognize the role of black people in history and then deny them an opportunity to play an equal role in today's history.

Opponents of school desegregation are doing their best to relegate black teachers and principals in the public school system in the South, particularly in North Carolina and some other states, to an inferior position in the system and in some cases are dropping them altogether. This creates an ugly picture for the Negro history program.

But Negro History Week is important, and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History deserves the full support of black people. Dr. Woodson, father of Negro history, was born in New Canton, Buckingham county, Va., and not at Canton as has been widely publicized. His book, "The Miseducation of the Negro," tells how the Romans, the Greeks, the Jews and the French are dealt with at length in books used in black schools, but there was little or no mention of black people in books used in the education of black people.

The problem of black history has had a more prominent place in the development of black institutions and organizations in Virginia and other states of the South than many people today realize. Virginia Seminary and College at Lynchburg, Va., was founded by black leaders after the Civil War who were disturbed over the neglect of Negro history in the books and courses used at black schools and colleges in the state.

Prof. Gregory Willis Hayes, who was responsible for the philosophy of self-help and program of independence at Virginia Seminary and College, was on the staff at Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute at Petersburg, before he went to Lynchburg. He quit Petersburg after expressing his dissatisfaction with the omission of the Negro in books used at the school. He laid the foundation for the philosophy of Virginia Seminary and College during his administration from 1890 to 1906.

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Mankind lives in a changed world, and it is not safe for black people or white people unless we acquire a different measurement for determining the worth of all human beings. Negro History Week was intended in the beginning to create a new image of black people for their own enlightenment and mental development. But it becomes obvious that this is also necessary for white people.

The modern world is one geographical and ecological system. All mankind is a guest or prisoner, which ever suits your mood, of one world. The speed of travel, the advance of communications and the mobility of the population have made man's habitation one vast community. Add to this the existence of powerful and strategic weapons of death and destruction and it is logical to conclude that an appreciation of the dignity of personality and the worth of an individual is important for all people.

Sponsors of Negro History Week are creating a new mental attitude among black and white people toward each other. This is why they advocate black study courses in schools and colleges for white and black students. The objective, as we see it, is not for separation but integration. Man needs a revolution in his thinking about his neighbor no matter what his race or color is.

The public school system in an increasing number of localities is including texts with information on black people for use by pupils or supplemental reading on the background and program of black people.



IN AL  
REC

Left to Right: Robert J. Brown, Special Assistant to the President;  
The President; Leroy Jeffries, Executive Vice President, Johnson  
Publications; Dr. Charles Wesley, Director, The Association for  
the Study of Negro Life and History; Alex Poinsett, Senior Editor,  
Johnson Publications



January 25, 1971



**MEMORANDUM FOR HUGH SLOAN**

**FROM: BOB BROWN**

**SUBJECT: National Negro History Week**

**I would recommend one or more of the following activities for Presidential involvement during Negro History week:**

- 1. Meet with five or six of the top Black historians and poets. Example: Dr. John Hope Franklin, Chairman, Department of History, University of Chicago; Dr. J. Saunders Redding, Professor of History, Cornell University; Gwendolyn Brooks, poet laureate;**
- 2. Invite a well-known Black preacher to conduct the White House Sunday Service. The Howard University Choir could also be invited for this Service;**
- 3. An elementary school could be visited in the District of Columbia;**
- 4. An art exhibit consisting of the works of famous Black artists could be shown at the White House during that week;**
- 5. A special commendation could be made by the President concerning the contributions made by Blacks in various fields. Example: Dr. Charles Drew, blood plasma; Dr. George Washington Carver, the development of peanut products; Dr. Daniel H. Williams, performed first successful heart operation known to modern science in 1893.**

**cc: Pat Buchanan  
Len Garment  
Herb Klein  
Bill Safire**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

*National Archives and Records Service*  
Washington, D.C. 20408



January 29, 1971

Honorable Robert J. Brown  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20501



Dear Mr. Brown:

We would be honored to have you with us at the National Archives for any of the special programs which we have scheduled in observance of Negro History Week, February 7-14, 1971.

Dr. Dalbert A. Williams, Professor of International Relations at Bowie State College, will speak on "The African Heritage" at 3:30 p.m. in our theater on Monday, February 8. Black history films will be shown in the theater Tuesday through Friday, February 9-12, in accordance with the enclosed schedule.

If you can attend Dr. Williams' address or any of the film performances, please let us know by telephone (13-33434) and we will reserve seating. Our fifth floor theater is reached through the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Rhoads".

JAMES B. RHOADS  
Archivist of the United States

Enclosure



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

*National Archives and Records Service*  
Washington, D.C. 20408



Announcement

Please Post

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OBSERVES NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

The week beginning February 7, 1971, has been designated Negro History Week.

The National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration is sponsoring an address and a series of film showings as part of the observance. All who wish to attend are welcome.

Dr. Dalbert A. Williams, Professor of International Relations at Bowie State College, will speak on "The African Heritage" at 3:30 p. m. , Monday, February 8, in the National Archives theater.

Black history films will be shown in the National Archives theater at 11:30 a. m. and 1:30 p. m. Tuesday through Friday, February 9-12.

The film schedule is as follows:

✓ "Heritage of the Negro," narrated by Ossie Davis, 30 minutes.  
(Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon, Friday morning.)

"Omowale - The Child Returns Home," a Mississippi-born Negro explores ancestral roots in Africa, 30 minutes.  
(Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon, Friday morning.)

✓ "Black Men and Iron Horses," Black inventors and railroading, 18 minutes.  
(Tuesday afternoon, Thursday morning.)

"Black History: Lost, Stolen, or Strayed," narrated by Bill Cosby, 40 minutes.  
(Wednesday morning, Thursday afternoon, Friday afternoon.)

✓ "Our Country Too," 30 minutes.  
(Tuesday afternoon, Thursday morning.)

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT 8TH STREET, N. W.

February 3, 1971

**MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID PARKER**

**FROM: BOB BROWN**

Pursuant to our conversation this afternoon regarding Negro History Week, I feel very strongly that we should pursue the following items:

1. Exhibit significant pieces from the George Washington Carver Museum at Tuskegee Institute here at the White House. Dr. Carver, a former slave, was one of the foremost scientists in the country. I have talked with Dr. W. D. Mayberry, Vice President of Tuskegee and he indicated that the College would be more than happy to cooperate in such a project;
2. During that week, it would also be appropriate for Dr. Charles Wesley an authority on Negro history and Mr. John H. Johnson, Publisher of Johnson Publishing Company to present various volumes of their books on Negro History to the President for the White House Library. Dr. Wesley is Executive Director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History which was founded by Carter G. Woodson one of the foremost Negro historians in 1915.

Both of these projects would be highly advantageous to the President in view of the strong emphasis in educational circles at all levels on Negro history.

cc: Leonard Garment  
Ken Cole



RJB:rm

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 8, 1971

**TO:** David Parker

**FROM:** Robert J. Brown

**For your information.**



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 5

Bob Brown -

Would you wish to  
bring this to Chapin's attention?

*Brad*





# NEWS

from the Office of Public Affairs  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C. 20560

Telephone: (202) 381-5911

BAP  
Lg - FYI

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NOTE: Press coverage of Mayor Washington's visit February 8 to the National Portrait Gallery is invited.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Negro History Week Acknowledgement



### MAYOR WASHINGTON TO VISIT PORTRAIT GALLERY

Mayor Walter E. Washington and two classes of Anacostia sixth graders will tour a special exhibition honoring the 45th annual Negro History Week in the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery at 11 a.m. on February 8. The showing is of 11 powerfully rendered portraits of noted black leaders by Winold Reiss.

While in the Gallery, located at 8th and F Streets N.W., the group will also view a teaching exhibition on civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson and 25 portraits of black leaders in the permanent and study collections.

The pupils will come from Moten and Turner Schools.

The visit by Mayor Washington will constitute an official District of Columbia acknowledgement of Negro History Week, scheduled February 7 to 14. On his tour of the Gallery, the Mayor will be accompanied by aides and by school and National Portrait Gallery officials. Louise Daniel Hutchinson, a research historian at the Gallery, will give the commentary.

MORE

The portraits by Winold Reiss constituting the special one-week showing are of Alain Locke, Charles S. Johnson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Langston Hughes, W.E.B. DuBois, Jean Toomer, James Weldon Johnson, Paul Robeson, Roland Hayes, Countee Cullen, and Elise McDougald. Near life-size pastels under glass, they are on loan from the estate of the artist, who executed them in the 1920s.

The portraits may be viewed by the public during museum hours, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day of the week. Admission to the Gallery is free.

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*For further information contact:*  
*Benjamin Ruhe 381-5503*  
*Mary Krug 381-5911*

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SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES • AMACOSTIA NEIGHBORHOOD MUSEUM • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY • NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SPACE • NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM • NATIONAL COLLECTION OF FINE ARTS • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DESIGN • NATIONAL ARMED FORCES MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD • RENWICK GALLERY • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MAN • COOPER-HEWITT MUSEUM OF DESIGN • NATIONAL ARMED FORCES MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD • RENWICK GALLERY • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MAN • SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM • NATIONAL COLLECTION OF FINE ARTS • NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SPACE • NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM • NATIONAL COLLECTION OF FINE ARTS • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DESIGN • NATIONAL ARMED FORCES MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD • RENWICK GALLERY • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MAN • SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES



By showing them for the first time in Washington, the National Portrait Gallery is hoping to elicit public interest in them here. "Because of the roles these people have played in our national life, their portraits belong more appropriately in our National Portrait Gallery than in any other place," says Mr. Sadik. "The Gallery is seeking a donor or donors to assist in acquiring these portraits."

The exhibition may be viewed by the public during museum hours, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Admission is free. The National Portrait Gallery is at 8th and F Streets N.W.

Visitors to the Gallery will also be able to see 25 portraits of black leaders in the permanent and study collections, in addition to a teaching exhibition on James Weldon Johnson.

The portraits in the permanent collection are of Dr. Charles Drew, developer of blood plasma; George Washington Carver, the educator and inventor; Harriet Tubman, a 19th century abolitionist; Harry T. Burleigh, a musician; Walter White, an executive secretary of the NAACP; Alain Locke, a writer; and Mary McLeod Bethune, an educator.

The seven portraits of black leaders in the permanent collection and the 18 likenesses in the study collection are gifts to the National Portrait Gallery from the Harmon Foundation, a philanthropy that during its time of existence between 1922 and 1967 devoted itself to aiding black culture. Forty-five portraits in all were presented to the National Portrait Gallery. A number cannot yet be shown in the permanent collection because of a museum rule that a sitter must have been dead 10 years before his portrait can be hung.

Taken together, the Harmon Foundation paintings constitute a unique pictorial commentary on the important role black Americans have played in shaping this nation's culture.

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For further information contact:

<i>Benjamin Ruhe</i>	<i>381-5503</i>
<i>Mary Krug</i>	<i>381-5911</i>



COOPER-HEWITT MUSEUM OF DESIGN • NATIONAL ARMED FORCES MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD • RENWICK GALLERY • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MAN • ANACOSTIA NEIGHBORHOOD MUSEUM • SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM • NATIONAL COLLECTION OF FINE ARTS • NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY • WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS • NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

February 3, 1971

**MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID PARKER**

**FROM: BOB BROWN**

Pursuant to our conversation this afternoon regarding Negro History Week, I feel very strongly that we should pursue the following items:

1. Exhibit significant pieces from the George Washington Carver Museum at Tuskegee Institute here at the White House. Dr. Carver, a former slave, was one of the foremost scientists in the country. I have talked with Dr. W. D. Mayberry, Vice President of Tuskegee and he indicated that the College would be more than happy to cooperate in such a project;
2. During that week, it would also be appropriate for Dr. Charles Wesley an authority on Negro history and Mr. John H. Johnson, Publisher of Johnson Publishing Company to present various volumes of their books on Negro History to the President for the White House Library. Dr. Wesley is Executive Director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History which was founded by Carter G. Woodson one of the foremost Negro historians in 1915.

Both of these projects would be highly advantageous to the President in view of the strong emphasis in educational circles at all levels on Negro history.

cc: Leonard Garment  
Ken Cole



**RJB:rm**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1971

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Staff Director to Mrs. Nixon

---

Mrs. Nixon will open the George Washington Carver Exhibit commemorating Negro History Week today, February 10 in the East Terrace of the White House at 4:00 p. m. Negro History Week began February 7.

Dr. Luther H. Foster, President of Tuskegee Institute since 1953 and a member of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission appointed by President Nixon in July of 1969 will be at the opening. Also in attendance will be Mrs. Elaine Thomas, Curator of the Carver Museum at Tuskegee Institute.

The Exhibit includes pieces from Tuskegee Institute where Carver taught for more than forty years and managed the Agricultural Research Station. There are also pieces in the Exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution. The Exhibit was prepared under the auspices of the Smithsonian under the direction of Dr. John Schlebecker, Curator of the Division of Agriculture and Mining.

The items on loan for the Exhibit from Tuskegee Institute include Carver's painting "Four Peaches" which the Luxemburg Galleries showed in Europe, scientific tools including Carver's microscope, a picture of Carver at Simpson College when he was a student of art, and his palette and brushes.

Also a part of the Exhibit is the painting of George Washington Carver by Betsy Graves Reyneau on loan from the National Portrait Gallery.

# # #



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

ROUTING SLIP

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ ROBERT J. BROWN

\_\_\_\_ PAUL JONES

\_\_\_\_ BRUCE RABB

\_\_\_\_ CECELIA FOREMAN

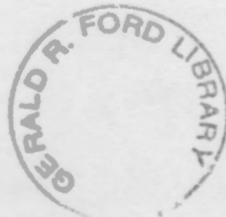
\_\_\_\_ LUCY HARRIS

ROSEMARY MANARIN

ACTION:

*cc: Connie Stuart  
Ken Cole  
H. R. Haldeeman*

*Sent 2/16*



LUTHER H. FOSTER, PRESIDENT

H. K. LOGAN, VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR BUSINESS AFFAIRS

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A. G. GASTON  
MELVIN A. GLASSER

**Tuskegee Institute**

FOUNDED BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, 1881

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE  
ALABAMA  
36088

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ERNEST STONE  
JOSEPH F. VOLKER

February 12, 1971

Mr. Robert J. Brown  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Mrs. Foster and I were pleased to share in the Carver Exhibit opening at the White House, under Mrs. Nixon's sponsorship, as were Mrs. Thomas and Dr. Henderson.

We are greatly heartened by Mrs. Nixon's interest in sponsoring the Carver Exhibit, for it brings to the attention of thousands of visitors to the White House the role of a great scientist and American citizen. We shall be very pleased to cooperate again if there are other opportunities you wish to bring to our attention.

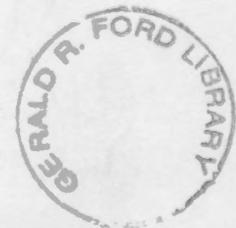
May I add a note of special thanks and appreciation for your effective work in connection with this activity, as well as with so many others of vital concern to American citizens. You are helping greatly to articulate the concerns of the black minority as a part of the total interest of this nation.

Kind regards.

Sincerely yours,



L. H. Foster  
President



LHF:p

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER EXHIBIT

In honor of Negro History Week, beginning February 7, Mrs. Richard Nixon opened a commemorative George Washington Carver exhibit in the East Terrace of the White House on February 10. <sup>opening of the</sup> Attending the exhibit were Dr. Luther H. Foster, President of Tuskegee Institute since 1953 and Mrs. Elaine Thomas, Curator of the Carver Museum at Tuskegee Institute. Dr. Foster is also a member of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission appointed by President Nixon in July of 1969.

The exhibit included pieces ~~from~~ from Tuskegee Institute where Carver taught for more than forty years and managed the Agricultural Research Station. The exhibit was prepared under the auspices of the ~~Smithsonian Institution~~ Smithsonian Institution, from which ~~some~~ some <sup>for</sup> of the pieces ~~in~~/the exhibit were taken.

Items on loan for the exhibit from Tuskegee Institute included Carver's painting, "Four Peaches," which the Luxemberg Galleries showed in Europe, scientific tools including Carver's microscope, a picture of Carver at Simpson College when he was a student of art, and his ~~palette~~ palette and brushes.

Also included in the exhibit was ~~the~~ the painting of George Washington Carver by Betsy Graves Reyneau on loan from the National Portrait Gallery.



*Negro History Week*

# Carver Research Foundation of Tuskegee Institute

ESTABLISHED, 1940 BY GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA, 36088

March 17, 1971

Miss Martha M. Doss  
Administrative Assistant to the  
Staff Director to Mrs. Nixon  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20000

Dear Miss Doss:

Thanks for the photograph of the group at the White House with Mrs. Nixon on the occasion of the presentation of Carver memorabilia.

I would, however, be very grateful to you if you would ask the photographer who took the picture if--or how--the photo of Mrs. Nixon, Dr. Foster and I viewing the painting of Dr. Carver's *Amaryllis* flower came out. If at all possible, I would like a copy (or copies) of these photos if they are available.

Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,



J. H. M. Henderson  
Director



JHMH:wmm

cc: Mr. Robert Brown  
White House Assistant to  
the President

March 18, 1971

Dear Dad:

I have indicated to you on a number of occasions that I feel that your idea for a Museum of Negro History and Culture is commendable. However, because of the many reasons which we have discussed from time to time over the last two years and, more importantly, because the Smithsonian is heavily involved in a wing to do exactly what your bill is intended to do, I feel that we cannot at this time support your proposal for a museum of this type in the Ohio area.

We want to be helpful in every way possible. If we can assist you by adding some of the top Negroes in your district to the invitation lists for White House functions, meetings, committees, etc., we would be happy to work with you.

We are deeply interested in Black Republicans and in all Republicans in your district and elsewhere across the country, and with the assistance of able men, like yourself, I know we can be successful in reaching them.

Please let me know how we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Brown  
Special Assistant  
to the President

Honorable Clarence J. Brown  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515



bcc: Clark MacGregor  
William E. Timmons  
Harry Dent

RJB:ljh



President Richard Nixon is shown with Black Leaders during Negro History Week. Left to Right: Robert J. Brown, Special Assistant to the President; The President; Leroy Jeffries, Executive Vice President, Johnson Publications; Dr. Charles Wesley, Director, The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History; Alex Poinsett, Senior Editor, Johnson Publications.

*The New Observer - 3/20/71*



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DWIGHT CHAPIN

FROM: CAROL V. HARFORD *CVH*

On or about May 31 the Museum of African Art and the Frederick Douglas Institute of Negro Arts and History will open its new museum to the public at 316-318 A Street, N. E.

Prior to that date, there will be three special events in connection with the historic inauguration of the Museum. On May 24 Secretary Rogers will host a reception for the diplomatic community, with their opposite numbers in Federal Government being included. On May 25 Senator Hubert Humphrey will host a reception for art patrons, and on May 26 the Museum will invite persons to preview the new gallery.

Warren Robbins, Director of the Museum, suggests that if the President and Mrs. Nixon could attend the Reception being given by Secretary Rogers that it could benefit the President internationally and nationally, i. e., an opportunity to meet with the diplomatic corps in somewhat of an informal setting, with special emphasis on the Black ambassadors in Frederick Douglas' house and a setting particularly honoring art of their countries.

The President and Mrs. Nixon's visit could be unannounced and brief.

Should you wish additional information on the Museum/Institute I will be pleased to send it over. Primarily they are directed toward portraying, through educational activities, built around exhibit materials and publications, the two-fold Afro-American facet of the American heritage-- the remote but culturally rich African past (with its relevance to modern Western creativity) and the significant contribution of black Americans to the growth of the United States, which is generally missing from our history books. The National Endowment for the Humanities has been a consistent supporter of the Museum/Institute.

Bob Brown concurs.



DRAFT:RJB:WB:ljh--5/7/71

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM E. TIMMONS

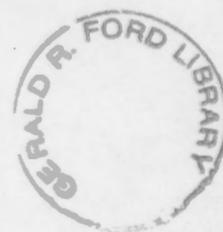
FROM: ROBERT J. BROWN

SUBJECT: Your Memorandum Regarding Congressman Brown's  
Bill to Create a Negro History Museum in His Congressional  
District

Please accept my apologies for the late acknowledgement of your memorandum.

We have, ~~subjs~~ subsequent to your memorandum, received a copy of the  
C ongressman's bill and are working on an appropriate response.

Thanks.



DRAFT 3/1/71

Thank you for your memorandum of February 16 on Rep. Clarence "Bud" Brown's Negro History Museum. This could prove to be a wonderful project.

We will give Bud a response as to our position as soon as we receive from you a copy of the reintroduced bill and have a chance here in the office to get the necessary information.

Again, thank you for your interest and assistance on this matter.

OK



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 16, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB BROWN  
THROUGH: CLARK MacGREGOR *CM*  
FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *WT*

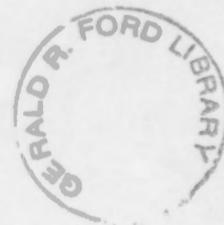
You will recall conversations last year with Rep. Clarence "Bud" Brown (R-Ohio) about his bill to create a Negro History Museum in his Congressional district.

Bud has reintroduced the bill and seeks Administration support. He is sending me a copy which I shall forward to you.

Rep. Brown believes the Democrats will move on this and we'll be caught short if we don't lend support. Also, he reports that Ohio Democratic Governor John Gilligan has expressed interest in the museum.

When you get the bill could you start the staff work to give Brown an appropriate response?

Thanks, Bob.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 28, 1972

1972 JAN 31 PM 3 50

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVE PARKER

*TO: WILL*  
FROM: William Blair

SUBJECT: National Negro History Week

National Negro History Week begins February 13, 1972. On Monday, February 14, 1972 at 11:00 a.m., the National Capital Service, U. S. Department of Interior, will dedicate the Frederick Douglas Home. Among the platform guests will be Secretary Morton, Senator Philip A. Hart, Mayor Commissioner Washington, Congress Charles Diggs and Roy Wilkins.

This may be an event that Mrs. Julie Nixon Eisenhower may wish to attend. The purpose would be to indicate to the Washington, D. C. community, mainly black, that the Presidential family is not insensitive to minority members. I have attached hereto more detailed information.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

*Julie will be in Fla. &  
therefore not available  
to do this.*



FREDERICK DOUGLASS HOME DEDICATION

PROGRAM

PRELUDE MUSIC.....D. C. Youth Symphonette  
Lynn McLain, Director

PRESENTATION OF COLORS.....Anacostia High School Color Guard

WELCOME.....George B. Hartzog Jr.  
Director, The National Park Service  
(Master of Ceremonies)

INVOCATION.... REV. FAUNTROY

REMARKS.....Walter E. Washington, Mayor  
District of Columbia

(Reading of a Poem).....Student, Frederick Douglass Club  
Frederick Douglass High School

DEDICATORY ADDRESS.....Rogers C. B. Morton  
Secretary of the Interior

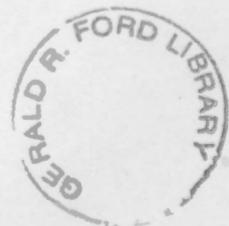
MUSICAL SELECTION.....Ketcham School Glee Club  
John W. Gravitt, Director

DOUGLASS' FOURTH OF JULY ORATION.....Jay Williams

BENEDICTION.....The Rev. Channing Philips

RETIRING OF COLORS.....Anacostia High School Color Guard

IN FORMAL TOUR OF HOME



WORKING PAPER

PLATFORM GUESTS  
FREDERICK DOUGLASS HOME  
February 14, 1972

Mr. George B. Hartzog Jr.  
Director, National Park Service

The Hon. Philip A. Hart  
United States Senate

The Hon. Charles C. Diggs Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Hon. Walter Fauntroy  
U.S. House of Representatives

Mrs. Mary E. C. Gregory  
President, Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Assn.

Mrs. Myrtle Olison  
President, National Assn. of Colored Women's Clubs

The Hon. Rogers C. B. Morton  
Secretary of the Interior

The Hon. Nathaniel Reed  
Asst. Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Abner M. Bradley  
Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East

The Hon. Walter E. Washington  
Mayor-Commissioner, District of Columbia

Howard Robinson  
Executive Director, The Black Caucus

Dr. Rosa Gragg, National President-Emeritus  
National Assn. of Colored Women's Clubs, Detroit, Mich.

Mr. Russell E. Dickenson, Director  
National Capital Parks

Dr. Joseph Douglass

Mrs. Fannie Douglass

Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary  
National Assn. for Advancement of Colored People

Vernon E. Gordon  
Executive Secretary, Washington Urban League Inc.

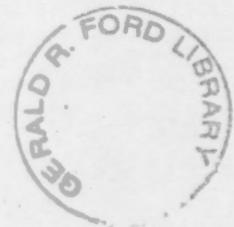
Mrs. Gladys Parham, Caretaker  
Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Assn.

REV. Channing Phillips

Jay Williams

Shirley Kyle, Special Assistant To  
Secretary of the Interior (D.C. Affairs)

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# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

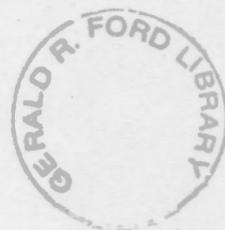
news release

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Capital Parks  
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For Immediate Release

*Cedar Hill in Washington*  
DEDICATION CEREMONIES SET FEB. 14th  
TO OPEN THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS HOME

Event Among Major Milestones  
During Park Service Centennial



The Frederick Douglass Home, undergoing restoration since 1970, will be formally dedicated and opened to the public at ceremonies scheduled at 11 a.m. February 14.

In making the announcement, Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton said the home's dedication honors the internationally known 19th-century statesman, equal rights leader, orator and educator, as well as officially opening the home as a unit of the National Park system.

*"Frederick Douglass' achievements in his prophetic vision made him one of the great Americans whose heritage all of us share," Secretary Morton said.*

*"Under President Nixon's mandate to promote the preservation of our historic legacy, it is appropriate that all Americans now will be able to visit the home of a man who never hesitated to remind us that our future demands that we strive constantly to be a united people," the Secretary said.*

Also known as Cedar Hill, the 19-room home overlooks the Anacostia River, and much of the Nation's Capital can be seen from its eight-acre site at 14th and W Streets, Southeast.

The dedication ceremony is being conducted cooperatively by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service, which administers the site, and the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association.

add one--Douglass Home Dedication

Participants will include Mrs. Mary E. Gregory, president, Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association; Mrs. Georgia Anderson, president, Washington-Area Chapter of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs; and other local and national "friends of Douglass."

Cedar Hill, purchased by Douglass in 1877 and built in stages from about 1855 to 1892, became a part of the National Park system in 1962 through an Act of Congress (PL 87-633). Full-scale restoration of the home and its furnishings began in 1970 after Congress authorized over \$400,000 for this purpose in November of 1969.

Douglass spent the later years of his life there until he died in 1895.

To preserve the home in honor of Douglass, Helen Pitts Douglass, the orator's second wife, organized the Memorial and Historical Association, chartered by Congress in 1900.

In 1916, the association joined with the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, and the estate and house were opened briefly to the public. Continued preservation of the house was assured in 1962 by Congress when it entrusted the National Park Service with the care of the home and its contents.

Restoration of the two-story brick home and many of Douglass' furnishings and personal belongings was done by the National Park Service.

The dedication ceremonies and opening of Cedar Hill come as one of the first major milestones during the Centennial Celebration of the National Park Service which is celebrating its 100th anniversary during 1972.

-30-

January 5, 1972

*Editor's Note: Reporters and Photographers are invited to cover the dedication ceremonies. For further details, directions to the site, and a media information kit, please contact the Office of Public Affairs, National Capital Parks, 1100 Ohio Drive S.W., 20242. Phone (202) 426-6700.*



February 8, 1972

Dear Mr. Badillo:

I would like to thank you for writing to the President concerning Negro History Week which will be observed during the week of February 14.

I have been informed that this observance is under the auspices of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Annually, the Association contacts the State Governors and officials of local governments requesting that a proclamation be issued to mark Negro History Week. There has been no Presidential proclamation at any time since its inception in 1926. In connection with the observance of Negro History Week in 1971, a group of Negro publishers and authors called on the President to present a number of books for the White House Library.

As you may know, it is not customary, except in unusual circumstances, for the President to issue a proclamation setting aside a particular period for special observance unless authorized to do so by the Congress. I am told that there is no record of such a resolution regarding a Negro History Week having been adopted by the Congress. Should such action be taken by the Congress with respect to such an observance, the matter would, of course, receive most careful attention.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

William E. Timmons  
Assistant to the President

Honorable Herman Badillo  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

bdc: w/incoming to Bob Brown - FYI  
1st para. - input from Ma. Blair

WET:EF:VO:vo



1  
HERMAN BADILLO  
21ST DISTRICT  
NEW YORK

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(202) 225-4361

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND LABOR

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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1-31  
January 28, 1972

B/T  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

3/9  
In 1926, President Carter G. Woodson (supported by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History -- which he founded in 1915) first set aside a date for a national observance and recognition of the Black man's contribution to America. Succeeding Presidents have proclaimed the week surrounding February 14 as Negro History Week.

The fabulous history of the Negro in America is amplified by the fact that he contributed and excelled at a time when not only the body, but the very soul of Black men was being tortured and oppressed by slavery. Up from bondage -- Dr. George Washington Cargher (born around 1864) is illustrative of such Negroes.

Contributions of modern-day Negroes such as Dr. Charles Drew, Dr. Ralph Bunche and others appear in history books and are aired by the news media -- thanks to the Black movement. However, many white, and for that matter, Black Americans recognize the names of notable Americans of color, but still are not aware that they are Black or what their contributions are.

The responsibility of educating America about the contributions of Black men is shared by us all, but the major burden is being undertaken by various racial and interracial organizations, societies, etc. While this process is on-going, efforts are accelerated this time of year as Negro History Week approaches.



HERMAN BADILO  
21ST DISTRICT  
NEW YORK  
210 CANTON SQUARE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011  
COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND LABOR

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(212) 692-6000

Washington, D.C. 20515  
1972 FEB 1 AM 9 15

January 28, 1972

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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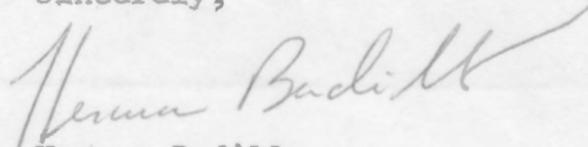
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The President

In making your official proclamation, I urge you to emphasize the role of Black men in the building of this country -- urging full national participation in observances and recognitions honoring Negro-Americans.

Sincerely,

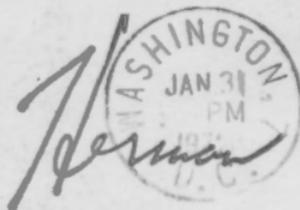
  
Herman Badillo  
Member of Congress

HB/djl



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



*Bedill*

M.C.

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500



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## GREETINGS

We heartily welcome you to the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM. For more than sixty years Dr. Carver labored at Tuskegee Institute in ceaseless effort to improve the living conditions and surroundings of rural and farm people—particularly those who lived in the South—and to extract from nature through scientific research those elements and resources which could be made useful for the benefit of mankind generally.

Many honors came to him during his lifetime, but none gave him more genuine pleasure and satisfaction than the setting up of this Museum. It was always his wish that everything he did would be available to the public for the general good of all. We are therefore pleased to have you visit us and see some of the work of Dr. Carver.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM was authorized by the Trustees of Tuskegee at the request of President F. D. Patterson, in 1938, to house Dr. Carver's extensive collections of native plants, minerals, birds; his products from the peanut, sweet potato, and clay; the permanent exhibit of vegetables that he had started in 1904, and his more than 100 paintings.

The Museum was formally dedicated by the late Henry Ford and Mrs. Ford in 1941.

In 1947 a disastrous fire caused great loss in the Museum. Fortunately, many of Dr. Carver's products were not seriously damaged. Only a few paintings were saved.

When the building was restored in 1951, it was enlarged by a second exhibit room. This made it possible to display an extensive collection of African Art and twenty beautifully executed dioramas showing the contributions of the Negro to civilization.

For serious students of African Culture, the Museum is fortunate to have over 300 bound volumes and rare pamphlets on South, Central and West Coast Africa and more than a thousand photographs of life in Ghana and Nigeria in the Etta Moten African Literature Corner adjacent to the African Art Collection.

The art gallery on the lower level is a recent addition to the Museum. Outstanding traveling exhibits of contemporary and traditional paintings and sculptures, as well as a permanent collection, are shown.

Thousands visit the Museum each year to study the exhibits and to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Carver and Dr. Booker T. Washington.

The Museum exhibits have been arranged to show:

1. *The meager beginning of what is now the George Washington Carver Museum.* Using crude equipment Dr. Carver set up his first laboratory and began his research. It was necessary for him to salvage parts from the discarded materials, out of which he fashioned the needed apparatus and equipment to do the work that he had in mind.
2. *Specimen results of the labors of Dr. Carver to improve rural and farm life.* Finding the people in this vicinity impoverished and with no money, but with unused natural resources all around them, he attempted to show them how these things could be made to serve useful purposes. The exhibits of rugs, table mats, scarfs, made from burlap, rags, string and the like, hats and other articles made from feathers, fruits and vegetables grown on native soils, all resulted from these efforts.
3. *Specimen results of his research in agriculture, chemurgy and chemistry.* Dr. Carver felt that the ravenous one-crop system not only impoverished the fast-eroding soils, but the people and the region as well. The exhibits showing some of the new uses he developed for cotton, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and even the clay, among other things, resulted from his efforts to change the system and bring new wealth and better living conditions to his beloved South.
4. *Examples of his hobbies which served useful purposes.* The exhibits of paintings, embroidery and needlework resulted largely from the way he used his time while he relaxed and pondered the problems which confronted him.
5. *Evidences of honors which came to him during his lifetime and since his death.*

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Though born a slave, George Washington Carver, through genius and perseverance, was an outstanding servant of humanity.

Later to be called "The Father of Chemurgy," and "The Peanut Wizard," he was born of slave parents on a farm near Diamond Grove, Missouri, about 1864.

In his infancy, he lost his father, and was an orphan by the time he was three or four years of age: with his mother, he was kidnapped and carried into Arkansas where he was ransomed for a horse valued at \$300, and where he saw and heard the last of his mother. He was returned to the plantation of Moses and Susan Carver in Missouri where he—a physically weak child—was to be reared.

Although need required that much of his time be devoted to various jobs during his academic career, he was, nevertheless, a brilliant scholar. His early training was in a small, one-room school at Neosho, Missouri, about eight miles from the Carver Plantation. He continued his education in Minneapolis, Kansas, where he received a high school diploma.

His continuing thirst for knowledge led him to enroll at Simpson College, at Indianola, Iowa, to study piano and art. The following year, he transferred to the State Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa, and received the bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture from Iowa State College in 1894 and 1896, respectively.

In 1896, Dr. Carver was on the faculty of Iowa State College when he accepted the invitation of Booker T. Washington to join the faculty of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama. He began his work at Tuskegee on October 8 of that year as director of the Department of Agriculture. He served also as director of the Agricultural Experiment Station which had been authorized for Tuskegee by the Alabama Legislature.

Too, he taught chemistry and biology, made extensive experiments in soil building, cotton-growing and developed by-products from the peanut, the sweet potato and other southern plants. His investigations yielded nearly 300 products from the peanut, 100 from the sweet potato and scores of others from Alabama's red clay. An authority on plant diseases—especially of the fungus variety—Dr. Carver sent hundreds of specimen to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The peanut industry—in this country and around the world—is indebted to Dr. Carver for demonstrating the commercial possibilities of peanuts for many of the products on the world markets today. Similarly, his genius with the sweet potato was internationally acclaimed.

Frequently he did not accept money in return for suggestions he gave and the scientific problems he solved for various industrial concerns and individuals the world over. At the peak of his career, his fame and influence were known in every continent. People, far and near, wrote thousands of letters asking his opinion on scientific questions, requesting his financial assistance, seeking advice concerning physical disabilities and seeking the privilege of working with him in his laboratory.

Dr. Carver received many medals, scrolls, citations, and honorary degrees for his achievements in creative scientific research and for his contributions to the improvement of health and living conditions of the southern farmer. In 1948, the United States honored him with a three-cent postage stamp.

His prize-winning art, mastery of the piano and several other musical instruments, and creativity in such crafts as knitting and weaving attested to his phenomenal versatility. Many critics believe that had he chosen to do so, Dr. Carver could have had a distinguished career in art. As evidence, two of his paintings were exhibited at the World's Fair in Chicago, in 1893.

Deeply religious, Dr. Carver became a Presbyterian when he was a high school lad. A thorough student of the Bible, he taught Bible classes on the Tuskegee campus, and sang in church choirs. Yet, a deep quality of self-reliance was reflected in the fact that he mended his own clothes, fashioned his own neckties and laboratory aprons, and even made the needles and looms he used to crochet and weave.

A few years before his death, Dr. Carver used his life savings (about \$33,000, later supplemented by royalties and other interests to total about \$62,000) to establish the George Washington Carver Foundation for the perpetuation of his work in creative research.

Dr. Carver died January 5, 1943, at Tuskegee where he was buried on the campus near the grave of Booker T. Washington, the school's founder. Never married, he left no known relatives. On January 5, 1945, the United States Congress gave national recognition of his birth.

In 1956, Simpson College dedicated a new science building in his honor. His Diamond Grove, Missouri, birthplace is a national monument. It seems likely that despite his unflinching modesty, the tributes paid to his genius and humility would have pleased Dr. Carver greatly.

Perhaps his greatest gift was that he gave the poor of the war-ravaged South something to live for. And certainly the gentleness and compassion which he instilled in his many thousands of students affected the American attitude for all the decades that were to follow.

Tuskegee  
Institute  
about  
1920



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Still other awards came to Carver. In 1939 he received the Theodore Roosevelt medal for out- standing contributions to agriculture, and three years later the *Progressive Farmer* named him "Man of the Year in Southern Agriculture." Honor societies elected him to their membership and other organizations awarded him numerous certificates, plaques, and trophies for distinguished services in research and teaching. He received honorary de- grees from his alma mater, Simpson College (1928), the University of Rochester (1941), and Selma University (1942).

On 5 January 1943, Carver died at his home in Tuskegee. Friends buried him on the campus near the grave of Booker T. Washington. Messages mourning his passing came from around the world, and President Roosevelt led the nation in paying him honor. In April, Senators Dewey Short and Harry S. Truman from Missouri introduced legis- lation creating the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond Grove, Missouri. Governors from seven states proclaimed the week of 5 January in the following year as "Carver Week" in his memory. Under President Truman the Post Office Department issued a commemora- tive postage stamp in honor of George Washing- ton Carver which was first placed on sale 5 January 1948 at Tuskegee Institute.

Visitors to the Carver National Monument or the Carver Museum at Tuskegee Institute learn about the man's distinguished contributions as teacher, scientist, and humanitarian. For his stu-

dents, he left the legacy of practical self-reliance that characterized his life. As a research scientist he made numerous discoveries for substituting common products for scarce resources. The peanut industry, which hardly existed in 1896, arose almost directly as a result of Carver's work. For poor farmers—white and black—he offered extension services to improve their agricultural productivity and their lives. Carver saw poverty's heartaches— among sharecroppers in the South and among southerners in the Nation—and he cared enough for the poor to give his talents to solving their problems.

#### SOURCES

- HARRY ALBUS. *The Peanut Man*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1949.
- CHRISTY BORTH. *Pioneers of Plenty: The Story of Chemurgy*. New York City: Bobbs, Merrill Co., 1939.
- LAWRENCE ELLIOT. *George Washington Carver: The Man Who Overcame*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1966.
- JESSIE PARKHURST GUZMAN. *George Washington Carver a Classified Bibliography*. Tuskegee, Ala- bama: Tuskegee Institute, 1953.
- RACKHAM HOLT. *George Washington Carver: An American Biography*. New York City: Double- day and Co., 1943.

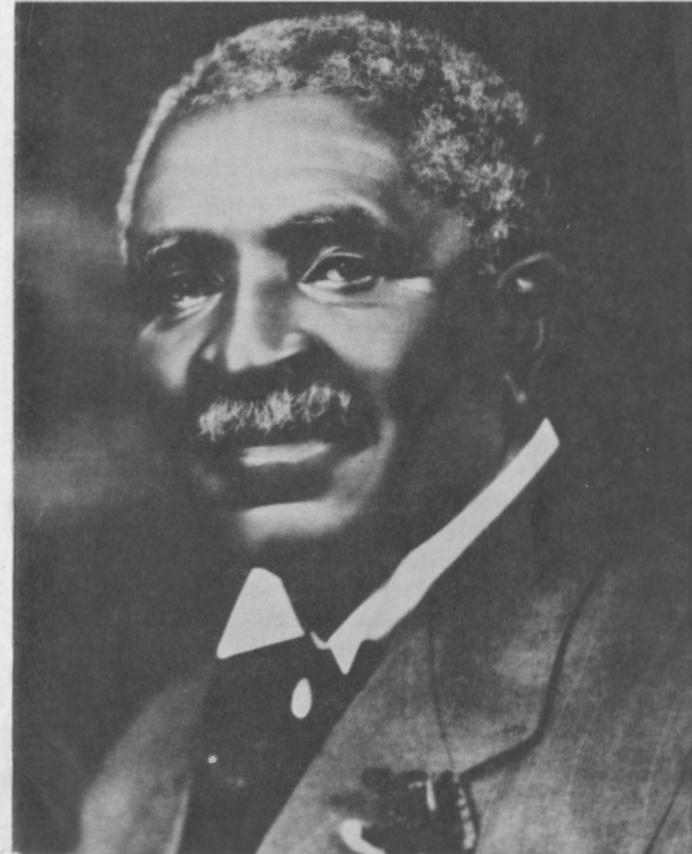
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# George Washington Carver

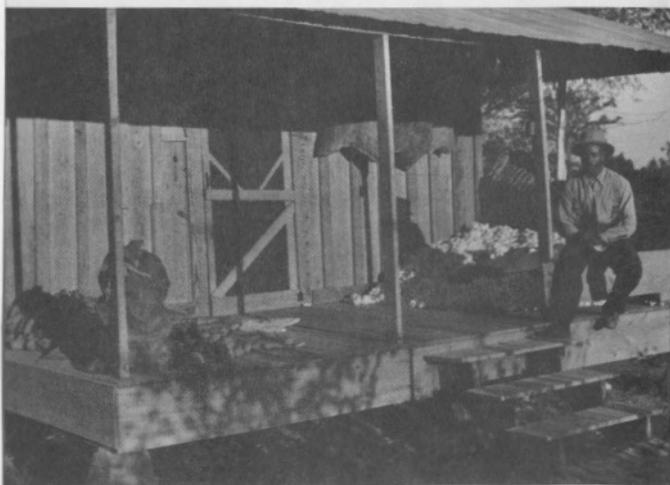
BY GEORGE TERRY SHARRER



soap, linoleum, medicinal oils, and cosmetics. From Alabama clays he derived paint pigments and face powder. His clay dye pigments became important during World War II when Germany cut off the supply of aniline dyes. From cotton waste and other native materials he made paving blocks, rope, a synthetic marble, insulating board, and scouring powder. He showed that agricultural products offered a wide variety of uses.

In January 1921, the United Peanut Association asked Professor Carver to appear in Washington before the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee hearing on the forthcoming agricultural tariff. He accepted the offer and agreed to demonstrate his discoveries from the peanut. When Carver arrived, he found that the committee would allow him only ten minutes to say what he had come to say. He started the demonstration by showing how peanut powder mixed with water produced a cream indistinguishable from a dairy product. Then he showed dyes and stains. The committee chairman, Joseph W. Fordney, urged him to go on. For two hours Carver demonstrated vanishing cream, rubbing oils, a flour high in protein and low in carbohydrates for diabetics, and other peanut derivatives. He impressed the committee by showing them a way of escape from the cotton complex, which injured both landlords and

A Southern sharecropper



Tuskegee  
Institute  
about  
1920



sharecroppers. When Congress approved the Fordney-McCumber tariff in the following year, it included a three- to four-cent duty on unshelled and shelled peanuts. Carver's demonstration helped to firmly establish the peanut industry.

He continued research and lecturing in chemistry and received recognition from many quarters. As early as 1916 the London Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce had elected him a fellow of the Society. In 1921 the North Carolina Negro Farmers Congress awarded him a special trophy for distinguished scientific research. The following year, he received the Spingarn Medal for service to science from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As Carver experimented with various crops for food, he publicized his findings in the Experiment Station's bulletins. He produced a harvest of 265 bushels of sweet potatoes per acre—more than six times the usual yield. Having established what good farming could do in the field, he then explained how these foods could be used. He wrote *How to Grow the Cowpea and Forty Ways of Preparing It as a Table Delicacy* and *How to Grow the Peanut and 105 Ways of Preparing It for Human Consumption*. Few farmers raised any peanuts, and those who did had them only as treats for children. But Carver listed recipes for protein-rich peanut soups, cakes, mock chicken, veal, liver, sauces, and sausages. In other bulletins he listed ways of preparing dandelions, pokeweed, sour grass,

red and white clover, and milkweed as edible vegetables. In more than forty pamphlets, Carver told farmers how to use plants that normally were considered weeds. Landlords could not seriously object to the use of weeds for food, even under the old sharecropping system.

Although food products improved living standards for farmers, Carver knew that—because of the peculiar social and economic conditions of the South—cotton would continue as an important commercial crop. He experimented and improved local varieties and managed to produce an unprecedented yield of 500 pounds of cotton per acre. Carver explained that he had simply matched the needs of the plants with what the soil had to give—the results spoke for themselves. In this endeavor, at least, landlords could join tenants and sharecroppers, for all could obviously benefit.

During the Great Depression, from 1929 to about 1940, conditions in Southern agriculture grew increasingly worse. Banks foreclosed farms when owners failed to make mortgage payments. The bottom fell out of the cotton market, vindicating Carver's view that too many people in too small an area depended too much on this single crop of uncertain price. For years Carver had lectured on diversification as the foundation of the agricultural economy. Bad times caused others to heed his contention that everyone might benefit from crop diversification.

During the agricultural depression Carver had many opportunities to leave Tuskegee for more

lucrative and prestigious positions. Though flattered when asked by Thomas Edison to join his staff, Carver declined. In 1937 he met Henry Ford at the third Farm Chemurgic Council meeting in Dearborn, Michigan. The following year, Ford visited Tuskegee and offered to set up a special research laboratory if Carver would come to Dearborn. Carver declined even this attractive offer and remained with Tuskegee earning the same salary he received when he started in 1896. He accepted an appointment as collaborator with the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, for work at Tuskegee in mycology and plant diseases. His talents lay primarily in plant science, and in that field he made a considerable contribution.

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# George Washington Carver

BY GEORGE TERRY SHARRER

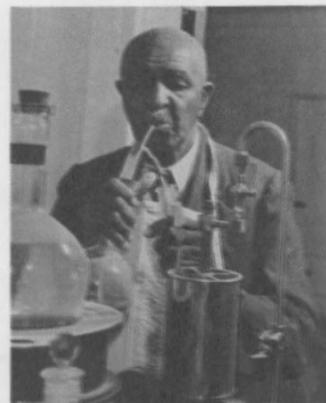
**G**EORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, scientist, teacher, and humanitarian strove throughout his life to ease the burdens of the poor in America. He saw that the poverty cycle of too little money, too little food, too little education, and too little income left its victims not only miserable and helpless, but often ignorant of the extent and hopelessness of their situation. Carver especially sought to correct rural poverty by showing Southern sharecroppers how improved production methods and different food crops could lessen their hardships, and on this same principle, he tried to help the South share more equally in the wealth of the nation.

Born a slave, sometime in 1860, on a small farm near Diamond Grove, Missouri, Carver knew poverty firsthand. His mother, Mary, belonged to Moses Carver. She named her baby George and, according to custom, gave him her master's surname. (He later chose Washington as his middle name.) The baby's father probably belonged to another nearby slaveowner; but that, like much of Carver's childhood, is uncertain. In 1863 or 1864 kidnappers stole Mary and her son and sold them to traders in Arkansas. Moses Carver tried to ransom his property, but succeeded in getting only the child in exchange for a good riding horse. George Carver never saw his mother or father again.

After the Civil War ended, even though legally free, George Carver stayed with his former master. Moses Carver took care of him until he reached school age. At that time, George went to live with a Negro couple, Andrew and Mariah Watkins, in Neosho, about eight miles from Diamond Grove. The Watkins sent him to elementary school, but since the town had no grades beyond that level, George had to move to Minneapolis, Kansas, to complete high school. He lived with friends of the Watkins, but made frequent trips back to Neosho to visit his beloved adopted family, whose kindness and religious inspiration he never forgot.

Before he had finished high school, George Carver knew his interests lay in botany and art, but in either field he needed still more education. After working several years and saving enough money for college tuition and expenses, he enrolled at Simpson College, in Indianola, Iowa, in 1890, determined to study art. He excelled in painting, especially still-life plant studies. With much encouragement from his teachers, George entered two canvases in the Chicago Columbian Exposition in 1893 and won an honorable mention for his "Yucca, Angustifolia, and Cactus." (The Luxembourg Galleries eventually showed his "Three Peaches" in Europe.) He might have well become an accomplished artist in either the United States or abroad, but he found other interests pushing him into plant science.

In 1891 Carver transferred from Simpson College to Iowa State Agricultural College in Ames,



Professor Carver  
in his laboratory  
at Tuskegee

where he studied botany and mycology under Professor Louis Pammel. Carver also took classes from Professors James Wilson and Henry C. Wallace, two future Secretaries of Agriculture. He completed requirements in agriculture at Iowa State in 1894 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. For the next two years, he remained at the college and worked as Assistant Station Botanist, while completing the requirements for a Master of Science in agriculture.

Well before completing his graduate work at Iowa State, Carver received offers to teach. The Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College in Mississippi asked him to join their faculty, among others, but he postponed all offers until he completed his studies. In 1896 Booker T. Washington asked him to serve as director of the newly formed Department of Agriculture at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama. The position paid fifteen hundred dollars a year and Carver immediately accepted. In a letter to Booker T. Washington, he observed that although work in art and research could benefit his people, teaching offered the best opportunity to help the greatest number. Shortly after he joined the faculty at Tuskegee, the Alabama legislature designated the school an Agricultural Research Station. Carver assumed the job of director, in addition to his teaching duties. For more than forty years, Professor Carver taught at the Institute and managed the research station at Tuskegee.

When Carver organized the school's Department of Agriculture, he began with practically nothing. The college had no funds for laboratory equipment or agricultural implements, so he simply had to make do with what he could scavenge. He and the thirteen students in his first class collected old jars, boxes, and pots from the school dump. Teacups became mortars, jam jars made beakers and retorts, discarded kerosene lamps served as Bunsen burners. The amazed students learned from their professor how to make scientific equipment from junk. This resourcefulness, making useful the seemingly useless, marked his entire career. Neither Carver nor Tuskegee had the resources available to most other scientists and institutions of learning.

The work load of a typical day at Tuskegee



Carver's alma mater -- Iowa State College of  
Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Circa 1895

would have dismayed most college teachers. Carver wrote "today my classes run thus: from 8:00 to 9:00, agricultural chemistry; 9:20 to 10:00, the foundation and harmony of color to the painters; 10:00 to 11:00, class of farmers; and one period more in the afternoon. In addition to this I must try—and rather imperfectly—to overlook seven industrial classes scattered here and there over the grounds. I must test all the seed, examine all the fertilizer based upon the examination of the soil of the different plots. I must also personally look after every operation of the experiment station. I must endeavor to keep the poultry yard straight. In addition to the above I must daily inspect 104 cows that have been inoculated, looking carefully over the temperature of each one, making comparisons and prescribing whatever is necessary, besides looking after the sickness of other animals."

Carver's various plots covered twenty campus acres that the college allowed him for practical

demonstrations for students and local farmers. He taught that better farm products could be produced "doing common things uncommonly well." He showed the value of fertilizer and urged that farmers could not buy chemicals to make their crops grow. Cotton culture produced little animal products, one made do.

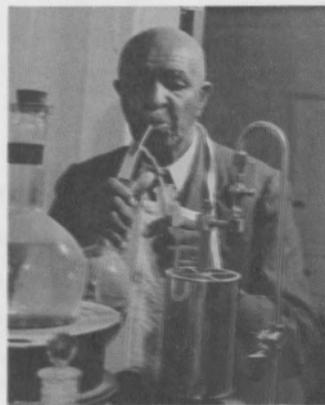
During his life Carver taught and mentored a long line of first-class scientists and farmers. Among those in his first class were many who remained at Tuskegee after graduation, teaching and continuing further research. Thomas Cambell, who learned his farming at Tuskegee and became the first African American agent in the United States Department of Agriculture. Many other students came to Tuskegee, and Professor Carver's influence spread far from Tuskegee—and for a long period.

Through the Research Station Extension, Professor Carver directly tried to help poor farmers

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During his life Carver taught and sent forth a long line of first-class scientists and teachers. Among those in his first class were J. H. Palmer, who remained at Tuskegee after graduating—teaching and continuing further research—and Thomas Cambell, who learned his basic agriculture at Tuskegee and became the first Negro field agent in the United States Department of Agriculture. Many other students came after that first class, and Professor Carver's influence radiated far from Tuskegee—and for a long period of time.

Through the Research Station Extension Service, Carver directly tried to help poor farm families in

Alabama and throughout the South. He insisted that cotton, the area's major cash crop, depleted soil fertility and resulted in diminishing returns for farmers who grew it year after year. The sharecropping system, based on cotton production, tended to keep families dependent on the landlord and the country store. When the boll weevil added still more misery to cotton farming, poverty deepened throughout the South. Carver believed that this poverty could end if sharecroppers would grow high-protein foods. Peanuts, cowpeas, and soybeans, since they belonged to the legume family, would not rob the soil of nitrogen. Unlike cotton, they actually helped maintain soil fertility and, furthermore, provided the proteins essential for better health.

When cotton prices fell, farmers could do little except sell their crop at a loss. If peanut or soybean prices fell too low, farm families could either eat the harvest or feed it to livestock. In this way, food crops could nourish the families and at the same time reduce their dependence on the landlord and the country store. In order to make the shift to food crops attractive to land owners, however, Carver had to show that their cultivation could generally be profitable. Otherwise no change could be expected in crop patterns.

Besides freeing the sharecroppers from the tyranny of cotton culture, less dependence on cotton offered other results. Carver knew that diversification in Southern agriculture was possible only if money lenders and landlords were assured of profits which more than compensated them for their loss of power over the labor force. As early as 1896, therefore, Carver had been working on what came to be known as chemurgy, or the science of finding non-agricultural uses for farm products. Many scientists looked for industrial products from agriculture; they formed the "chemurgic" movement. William J. Hale's books, *Chemistry Triumphant* (1932) and *The Farm Chemurgic* (1934), popularized what Carver had long preached.

Carver's chemurgic discoveries formed an impressive list. He found that sweet potatoes—in addition to their value as food crops—could yield vinegar, ink, a synthetic rubber, and postage stamp glue. From peanuts he made plastics, wood stains,