

George W. Carver Collection (AC138)

Introduction:

The George W. Carver Collection contains documents along with 4 microfilms related to the life and legacy of George W. Carver.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: George W. Carver

Title: George W. Carver Collection

Date Range: 1932-1975

Bulk Dates: 1932-1952

Size: 0.21 Linear Feet (1 Box)

Collection Number: AC138

Citation Note:

George W. Carver Collection (AC138), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri

Administrative Information:

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Biographical Sketch:

George W. Carver was born into enslavement shortly before the end of the American Civil War,. He was kidnapped by raiders from the plantation along with his mother and sister and sold in Kentucky, and later “returned” to his original enslavers. In his pre-teenage years, Carver attended a Black school in Neosho. While living on his own, he adopted the middle initial of W. to avoid confusion with another George Carver, but it had no inherent meaning for him. Carver eventually graduated with a high school diploma from Minneapolis High School in Minneapolis, Kansas. After graduating, he went on to college, first studying art and music at Simpson College and later studying botany at then-Iowa State Agricultural University, where he would get both a Bachelor’s degree in science and later a Master’s degree. He would then go on to teach at the then-Tuskegee Institute, where he would work for several decades as a teacher and researcher of

agriculture and botany. During his years of research, he created inventions such as vinegar and a type of gasoline, and was able to help Southern farmers by showing how planting peanuts and soybeans could help bring back nitrogen into soil. He died on January 5, 1943.

Scope and Content Note:

Series 1: Microfilms

This series contains 4 microfilms with papers on them. Because of technological limitations, they are not able to be viewed inside of the Black Archives.

Series 2: Booklets

This series contains biographical booklets on George W. Carver.

Series 3: Documents

This series contains documents related to George W. Carver's legacy. These include biographies, some written manuscripts on Carver, documents related to different methods of honoring Carver's legacy, and some photocopies of original letters written by Carver.

Series 4: Images

This series contains three images in the collection. There is a photo of Carver's bedroom, an image of a sculpture of Carver as a young boy, and an image of Carver as an older man with a brief biography attached.

Collection Inventory:

Series 1: Microfilms

- f. 1 George W. Carver Papers Box No. 87
- f. 2 George W. Carver Papers Box No. 88
- f. 3 George W. Carver Papers Box No. 89
- f. 4 George W. Carver Papers Box No. 90

Series 2: Booklets

- f. 5 Booklets

Series 3: Documents

- f. 6 Brief Biographies
- f. 7 “Carver-The Man”
- f. 8 Photocopies of Letters
- f. 9 Pages from “One of His Boys”
- f. 10 Monument Progress Update Request
- f. 11 Ad for Commemorative Coins
- f. 12 Peanut Butter Commemorative Label Project

Series 4: Images

- f. 13 Images

Processed by David Rocha, AmeriCorps VISTA Member, 2025.

Sources:

Piccotti, Tyler. “George Washington Carver.” *Biography*, January 24, 2024.

<https://www.biography.com/scientists/george-washington-carver>.