

How do I find a profile in American National Biography?

Step One: To locate an article about a *deceased*, notable person, select American National Biography.

Step Two: From the advanced search page, insert a name of interest. Options are available to include gender, special collections, and other parameters. A general search can occur through a full text search and date refining.

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Advanced Search

Search Full Text:

Search in: Article Bibliography

Search by Name:

Sex: Female Male All

Search Special Collections: Black History Women's History Asian Pacific American Heritage Hispanic Heritage American Indian Heritage

Articles with: Illustrations Online Resources

Occupations & Realms of Renown:

Birth Date: Enter range by month, day, and year.

Death Date: Enter range by month, day, and year.

Special Collections:
Guide your research with specially selected collections that celebrate the diversity of American history: Black History, Women's History, Asian Pacific American Heritage, American Indian Heritage, and Hispanic Heritage.

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Step Three: Search results now appear. Select the appropriate entry. Each byline features dates of birth and death, a brief description, and indication of available images.

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Search Results List

Your query matched (47) subjects from *The American National Biography*
Results (1-10) are displayed in alphabetical order

- [Atherton, George Washington](#) (30 June 1837-24 July 1906), *Educational Institution Officials*, 1450 words
- [Bush, George Washington](#) (1790?-5 Sept. 1863), *Cattle Raisers / Traders, Farmers, Frontiersmen / Pioneers*, 825 words
- [Cable, George Washington](#) (12 Oct. 1844-31 Jan. 1925), *Fiction Writers, Print Journalists*, 2075 words
- [Campbell, George Washington](#) (18 Feb. 1769-17 Feb. 1848), *Duehists, Lawyers, Political Figures*, 1175 words
- [Carver, George Washington](#) (c. 1864-5 Jan. 1943), *Science Educators, Agriculturists*, 1400 words
- [Cass, George Washington](#) (12 Mar. 1810-21 Mar. 1888), *Railroad Industry Leaders, Civil Engineers*, 1300 words
- [Corner, George Washington](#) (12 Dec. 1889-28 Sept. 1981), *Anatomists, Historians of Science, Endocrinologists*, 1575 words

Step Four: An individual biography features links to other persons or events of interest. A bibliography is available; all profiled subjects are deceased. Notable, American citizens enter the database after some time has lapsed following the date of death. Print and email options are found at the top of the left menu.

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Quick Search

SEARCH BROWSE

Return to Search Results or browse alphabetically
Campbell, George Washington

Article 5 of 47 search results
Cass, George Washington

George Washington Carver

Occupations and Realms of Renown:
Agriculturists, Science Educators

Article Sections

- [Bibliography](#)
- [Online Resources](#)

Cross-References in the ANB

- [Booker T. Washington](#)
- [James Wilson](#)
- [Henry C. Wallace](#)
- [Henry A. Wallace](#)
- [Theodore Roosevelt](#)
- [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#)
- [Henry Ford](#)

Carver, George Washington (c. 1864-5 Jan. 1943), African-American scientist and educator, was born in Diamond (formerly Diamond Grove), Missouri, the son of Mary Carver, who was the slave of Moses and Susan Carver. His father was said to have been a slave on a neighboring farm who was accidentally killed before Carver's birth. His mother was apparently kidnapped by slave raiders while he was very young, and he and his older brother were raised by the Carvers on their small farm.

Barred from the local school because of his color, Carver was sent to nearby Neosho in the mid-1870s to enter school. Having been privately tutored earlier, he soon learned that his teacher knew little more than he did, so he caught a ride with a family moving to Fort Scott, Kansas. Until 1890 Carver roamed around Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa seeking an education while supporting himself doing laundry, cooking, and homesteading.

In 1890 Carver entered Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, as a preparatory student and art major. Convinced by his teacher that there was little future in art for a black man, he transferred the next year to Iowa State, where he was again the only African-American student. By the time he received his masters degree in agriculture in 1896, Carver had won the respect and love of both faculty and students. He participated in many campus activities while compiling an impressive academic record. He was employed as a botany assistant and put in charge of the greenhouse. He also taught freshmen.

The faculty regarded Carver as outstanding in mycology (the study of fungi) and in cross-fertilization. Had he not felt obligated to share his knowledge with other African Americans, he probably would have remained at Iowa State and made significant contributions in one or both of those fields. Aware of deteriorating race relations in the year of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, he instead accepted [Booker T. Washington's](#) offer in 1896 to head the agricultural department at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Macon County, Alabama. Carver brought both his knowledge and professional contacts to Tuskegee. Two of his former teachers, [James Wilson](#) (1836-1920) and [Henry C. Wallace](#), became U.S. secretaries of agriculture, as did Wallace's son, [Henry A. Wallace](#). All three granted Department of Agriculture aid to Tuskegee and provided access to such presidents as [Theodore Roosevelt](#) and [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#).

Carver's strong will led to conflicts with the equally strong-willed Washington over Carver's incompetence at administration. His contacts and flair for teaching and research protected Carver from dismissal. In both his teaching and his research his primary goal was to alleviate the crushing cycle of debt and poverty suffered by many black farmers who were trapped in sharecropping and cotton dependency. As director of the only all-black agricultural experiment station, he practiced what was later called "appropriate technology," seeking to exploit available and renewable resources. In the classroom, in such outreach programs as farmers' institutes and a wagon equipped as a mobile school, and in agricultural bulletins Carver taught how to improve soil fertility without commercial fertilizer, how to make paints from native clays, and how to grow crops that would replace purchased commodities. He especially advocated peanuts as an inexpensive source of protein and published several bulletins containing peanut recipes.