

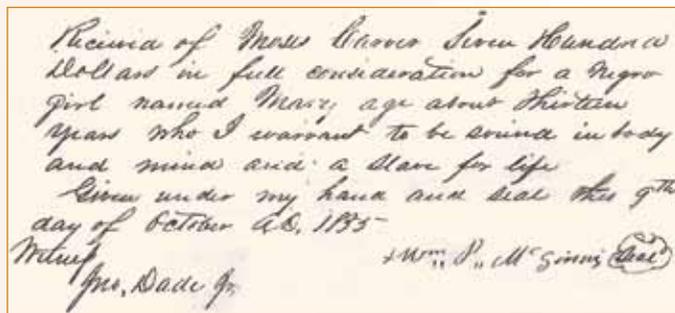
*As a very small boy exploring the almost virgin woods of the old Carver place I had the impression someone had just been there ahead of me. . . . I was practically overwhelmed with the sense of some Great Presence. . . . I knew even then it was the Great Spirit of the universe. . . . Never since have I been without this consciousness of the Creator speaking to me through flowers, rocks, animals, plants and all other aspects of His creations.*

George Washington Carver



### It All Started Here

During the Civil War guerrilla warfare intensified along the Missouri-Kansas border. Born a slave on the Moses and Susan Carver farm about 1864, George Washington Carver was caught up in the turmoil. When George was an infant outlaws kidnapped him and his mother Mary. George was found in Arkansas and returned to the Carvers, orphaned and nearly dead from whooping cough. His mother was never found. He never knew the identity of his father, although George believed he was a slave on a nearby farm. George's frail health freed him from many daily chores, giving him time to explore. "Day after day I spent in the woods alone in order to collect my floral beauties and put them in my little garden I had hidden in brush." The flowers thrived under his care, and George acquired the nickname "The Plant Doctor" in his community. George left the farm about 1875. He never again lived with the Carvers, but many of his values were shaped during his years on the farm. His life work was rooted in his ability to retain the child's wonder of nature.



Bill of Sale \$700, 1855. Mary, 13-year-old Negro (George Carver's mother).



The Boy Carver statue, sculpted in 1960 by Robert Amendola, rests in a natural area much like the one George loved to explore (*far left*).

The 1930s Williams Pond is named for Sarah Jane Williams, Moses Carver's niece, whose family lived on the farm. Take time to read the meditative plaques (*middle*).

The Carvers built this house in 1881. George did not live here, but he visited occasionally (*left*).

PHOTOS (LEFT): © CLIFF KEELER

### Planning Your Visit

**Visitor Center** The visitor center has information, a museum, interactive exhibits about history and science, classrooms for programs on Carver's life, an observation deck, a film, and bookstore. It is open daily, except Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1.

**Carver Trail** This one-mile, self-guiding loop leads you into woodlands, across streams, and along a tallgrass prairie restoration area. You can see the Boy Carver statue, see the Moses Carver house, and visit the graves of Moses and Susan Carver. (George Washington Carver is buried at Tuskegee University in Alabama.)

**Accessibility** The visitor center is wheelchair-accessible. Ask about accessibility on the Carver Trail. Service animals are welcome.

**Safety Tips** • Stay on established trails. • Watch your footing around the streams and pond. Do not drink the water. Swimming, wading, or fishing are not allowed. • Be alert for poison ivy, ticks, and stinging insects. • Do not climb on fences or cemetery headstones. • Pets must be leashed and attended. • For fire-arms regulations see the park website. • Do not damage or remove plants, wildlife, or historical features; all are protected by federal law. **Emergencies: call 911.**



You can learn about Carver's work in the visitor center's lab.



**More Information**  
George Washington Carver National Monument  
5646 Carver Road  
Diamond, MO 64840  
417-325-4151  
[www.nps.gov/gwca](http://www.nps.gov/gwca)

George Washington Carver National Monument is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn about national parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

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