

MOSES CARVER



Mr. Moses Carver

“Mr. and Mrs. Carver were very kind to me . . . They encouraged me to secure knowledge helping me all they could, but this was quite limited.”

— George Washington Carver

Moses Carver and his wife Susan moved to Missouri from Illinois in the 1830s. They settled on land near Diamond and built a log cabin. Moses worked to acquire more land and grew many crops, including Indian corn, oats, wheat, and flax. He raised livestock, such as cattle, horses, and sheep. He also planted an orchard and had beehives. His farm became one of the most valuable in the area.

In 1855, when he was in his forties, Moses purchased an **enslaved** girl named Mary, about 13 years old. Around 1859, Mary gave birth to her first son, James. Near the end of the Civil War (few records were kept of births of enslaved children), Mary gave birth to her second son, George.

During the Civil War, Moses Carver’s farm was a target of the outlaw gangs that frequently terrorized the area. One story handed down through time says that outlaws once hung Moses in a tree, by his thumbs, in an attempt to steal his money.

When George was a baby, he and his mother were kidnapped! A band of outlaws took them. His older brother Jim may have hidden during the raid. Moses Carver hired a man to bring Mary and George home. The man found George, who was very sick from whooping cough. His mother, Mary, was never seen again.

MOSES CARVER



George Washington Carver's Sketch of the Log Cabin

This meant that George and his brother Jim were orphans. The Civil War ended and so did slavery. Moses and Susan Carver raised the boys.

After George traveled eight miles to enroll in a school in Neosho, Moses built a new house that still stands at George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri.

Although George never lived with Moses and Susan Carver again, he stayed in touch and went back to the farm for occasional visits. He visited Moses Carver for the last time in 1908. Moses died in 1910 and is buried in the Carver Family Cemetery at George Washington Carver National Monument. .

GLOSSARY

Enslaved - A life without freedom or choice.

TIME LINE • THE EARLY YEARS: 1834 – 1876

