STATEMENTS ABOUT GEORGE CARVER WHICH INDICATE HIS EXPERTISE

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Aunt Mariah Watkins: Second surrogate mother and mid-wife to young George Carver. “Be like Libby”, “Go out in the world and give your learning back to our people. They’re starving for a little learning”.

Helen Milholland: Friend and director of the Baptists Church choir in Winterset, IA. “George, how do you do so many things well”?

Etta Budd: Art professor at Simpson College, Indianola IA. “I will always wonder if I advised him properly, after all he is the best artist in Iowa”.

Dr. Louis H. Pammel: ISC Botany professor and Mycologist. “Carver was the best collector (of mycological specimens) I have ever had in the Department or have ever known. His knowledge of nature and good habitat for finding fungi was uncanny.”

Dr. James G. Wilson: Professor of Dairy Science and soils, Director of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station and eventually the Secretary of Agriculture, under President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft. “I do not want to lose him from our station staff here, except for the respect I owe the professors, I would say he is fully abreast of them and exceeds in special lines in which he has taste. We have nobody to take his place and I would never part with a student with as much regret as George Carver.”

Henry A Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, 1933-1940 under Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vice-president: “George Carver took me with him on botany expeditions, and it was he who first introduced me to the mysteries of plant fertilization. This scientist, who belonged to another race, had deepened my appreciation of plants in a way I could never forget.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt, to George Carver, “You are a great American, Professor, What you have done in your laboratory has made all the nation stronger.”

Henry B. Steagall, Alabama Congressman, Sept 13, 1920: “Following the speaker who has just addressed this meeting I certainly would feel greatly embarrassed if I attempted to talk about peanuts in a way to instruct anybody. No man who has heard this address here today could stand in the face of the argument that here is an industry that touches the necessities of life throughout every nook and cranny of the nation. Certainly here is an infant industry that could plead a case of protection for itself. And when the time comes that this question must be thrashed out before the American Congress, I propose that Professor Carver is there in order that he may instruct them about peanuts, as he has done here on this occasion.”

Congressman Joseph W. Fordney, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee, Schedule G, Agricultural Products and Provisions, January 21, 1921: Mr. Carew to Carver, “You have rendered this committee a great service.” Chairman Fordney complimented Carver on the way he had handled his subject. Mr. Garner suggested a robust and standing round of applause.

Ralph Bunche, Secretary of State, 1956, “It is impossible to calculate the good that has resulted from the social ‘chain reaction’ which began when Simpson College admitted this unimposing black man in 1890,” speaking of George W. Carver.

Will Rogers, after a long afternoon conversation with George W. Carver. “But your most valuable possession is that gentleman right there, pointing to Carver. Then mimicking Carver, “He is the only tenor I ever say who amounted to anything.”

Henry Ford, 1937. “Professor Carver can answer all of your questions, he thinks exactly as I do.” “Professor Carver has taken Thomas Edison’s place as the world’s greatest living Scientist.”

New York Times, 1939, “What other man of our time has done so much for agriculture and the South.”

Walter B. Hill, 1903, Chancellor of the University of Georgia, proclaimed about a lecture given by Carver to a farmer’s conference at a black school for blacks in Savannah GA: “That was the best lecture on agriculture to which it has ever been my privilege to listen. The speaker (G.W. Carver) has not only shown himself a master of the subject, but is also possessed of pedagogical ability to impart it clearly and forcibly to others – a combination which is possessed by only five or six men in the entire country.”

Sir Harry Johnston, 1910, *The Negro in the New World,* wrote of Carver, p. 410: “He is, as regards of complexion and features, an absolute Negro; but in the cut of his clothes, the accent of his speech, the soundness of his science, he might be professor of Botany not at Tuskegee, but Oxford or Cambridge. Any European botanist of distinction, after ten minutes’ conversation with this man, instinctively would deal with him “de puissance en puissance.”

Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture (1961-1969) lauded Carver as a seer as well as a doer: “His vision built opportunities and new industries out of the soil and inspired researchers to look for buried treasures in farm commodities.”

Jacob Jones, Attorney, Oklahoma City and former student of Carver: “Carver taught me that the human brain----my brain---had incalculable wealth, and all I had to do to free it, was to want to.”

Austin W. Curtis, Jr. PhD: “I graduated from Cornell University but got educated by Dr. Carver.”

Booker T. Washington, Principal, Tuskegee Institute: Had a high regard for Carver’s ability as a teacher and his breathtaking common sense problem solving ability.

John W Chennault, MD. : On Carver. “He had genius for the care of muscular injury, and overwhelming knowledge of anatomy. He could run his fingers over an afflicted leg and say, “life ends about here, setting out a paralyzed muscle and going to work on it with more competence than I have seen in the most professionally trained physical therapists.”