

BEN SEYMOUR



Mr. Ben Seymour

*“After my first few lessons in reading and writing, I **resolved** to get an education, to get all that I could out of books. I went to the little schools that were available and then began saving money to go to colleges. I did laundry, worked at all sorts of things. Everybody tried to help me, when they found out my intentions. Indeed, I feel that I owe my success to the help that was given me then.”*

— George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver met Ben and Lucy Seymour in Olathe, Kansas, when he was a teenager. He had just left Fort Scott after seeing a terrible crime against an African American man. Olathe was near Kansas City. The Seymours took the orphaned teenager into their home and were much like parents to him. They had a laundry business and George helped with their business.

Ben may have been a well-digger at one time and later became a farmer.

Ben and Lucy helped George attend the Old Rock School in Olathe. Sometimes, he played marbles with friends but usually he was more interested in exploring nature. While living in Olathe, George began teaching Sunday school.

When the Seymours moved to Minneapolis, Kansas, George moved to the town of Paola. He stayed there for a short time and attended school; then he followed the Seymours to Minneapolis, Kansas, about 200 miles away. There, he attended high school with white students and lived with the Seymours. He studied Latin and Greek, along with other classes. He also played accordion for school programs. He liked school.

The Seymours took George to church and his membership was listed in 1883.



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Old Rock School Carver Attended, Olathe, KS

To help pay for school and his lodging, George opened a laundry business and worked odd jobs. After high school, he said goodbye to the Seymours and moved to Kansas City.

GLOSSARY

Resolved - Vowed. Came to a decision

TIME LINE • GAINING AN EDUCATION: 1876 – 1896

