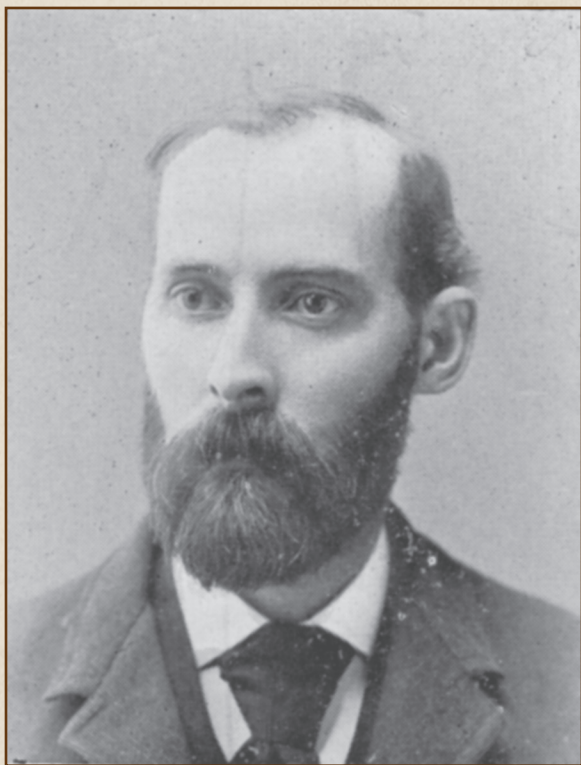


LOUIS PAMMEL



Dr. Louis Pammel

“Professor Pammel knows as a student in botany at Ames, I had my mind trained to see one thing at a time.”

— George Washington Carver

Louis Pammel was born in Wisconsin in 1862. He earned a college degree in Agriculture from the University of Wisconsin and became a botany professor at Iowa State College. He led field tours on campus, encouraged nature study in schools, made extensive plant collections, and was an influential mentor to his students.

Pammel was one of the professors who had a tremendous influence on George Washington Carver. By the time George arrived at Iowa State College, his plant collecting skills had developed into a talent that awed his teachers and classmates. Frequently discovering rare and valuable species with apparent ease, Carver won recognition, a faculty position, and a lifelong friendship with the **reputable** Dr. Pammel. Carver always talked about him later in life and the two men stayed in touch through the years.

Pammel made Carver’s stay at Iowa State a little more acceptable and pleasant. There are many letters between the men, with a tone of friendship and respect.

Pammel wrote that Carver “was the most wonderful collector I ever have known, and much interested in collecting fungi, among other things.”

George Washington Carver’s work at Tuskegee Institute was greatly influenced by Pammel. In April 1918 Carver wrote to Professor Pammel that it was “a distinct honor to have been a pupil of yours,

LOUIS PAMMEL



Pammel Collecting Plant Specimens

and as I have said to you a few times and to others many times, you influenced my life possibly more than anyone else, for which I am far more grateful than my words can express.”

Pammel even visited Carver at the Tuskegee Institute on several occasions during the 1920s, including one visit in March 1928 that Carver felt was like a “delightful dream.”

Carver wrote bulletins on nature gardening in schools, made plant collections, and mentored his students. He continued adding specimens to the Iowa State collection, sending in more than 1,500 discoveries. Dr. Pammel retired from Iowa State College in 1927.

GLOSSARY

Reputable - Having a good reputation.

TIME LINE • GAINING AN EDUCATION: 1876 – 1896

