**Overcoming**

**George Washington Carver was fourteen when Mariah Watkins found him asleep on her woodpile in 1878. The young black had set off to make his way in the world with his few possessions tied in a bandana. Mariah took him in. He attended Lincoln School, a fourteen-by-sixteen foot room with seventy-five students. During recess, he’d go through the yard to Mariah’s house to do chores and study. Carver learned as much as he could and then wandered off, taking odd jobs and picking up schooling where he could. At twenty-five he was accepted at Highland University, but the school quickly changed its mind when he showed up. “We don’t take Negroes here,” he was told. Finally, at age thirty, Carver was accepted at all-white Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, but the twelve-dollar tuition took at his savings. After he paid it, he had ten cents left. He got through school by taking in laundry, washed in two tubs he’d bought on credit. When he graduated, Carver went on to teach at Iowa State College and Tuskegee Institute. He began experimenting with the lowly peanut and eventually came up with 300 peanut products, ranging from soap to ink. He made 118 products from the sweet potato, 75 from the pecan, and won international fame as a scientist. *(John Whitcomb & Claire Whitcomb, in Oh Say Can You See, p. 149)***

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