

Humanity: The Care of Others

Dr. John S. Massey, first black physician of Monroe and Union County, NC

Dr. Massey built his hospital, seen below, around 1912. Located at 802 W. Windsor Street, it was known as Quality Hill Sanatorium. It remained the only hospital in the area for about a decade, serving all those in need within the community. Dr. Massey's ill health and WWII were the likely causes of the hospital closing.



Photo before 1930

Dr. J. S. Massey
Years ago Dr. J. S. Massey settled in Monroe for the practice of his profession. He started out poor with nothing but an education. He has worked with hands and brain ever since. And he has done for this county what no other colored man has done. —from The Monroe Journal, 7-28-1925, p.2 (at left)

Below, the Massey Home at 800 W. Windsor in 1985. It was next-door to the hospital.

About 1886, John S. Massey went with his parents & others to Liberia. His father would die there. Massey & his mother (as well as his future bride, Kate) would return to the states. John later graduated from the Leonard School of Medicine at Shaw University in 1896 & was practicing medicine here by 1900.

Background image is from the minutes of *The Union County Medical Association (1902-1922)*, stored in the Locked Files of the library. This page was the first time Dr. Massey was mentioned. Images of the hospital & Dr. Massey's home are from The Heritage Room (at the Old Courthouse). To learn more see "John S. Massey, First Black Physician of Union County: A Scrapbook" at R 921 Massey in the Dickerson Genealogy & Local History Room of the library. www.union.lib.nc.us