

Humanity: The Care of Others

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

Dr. Massey was the first to build hospital here in 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.

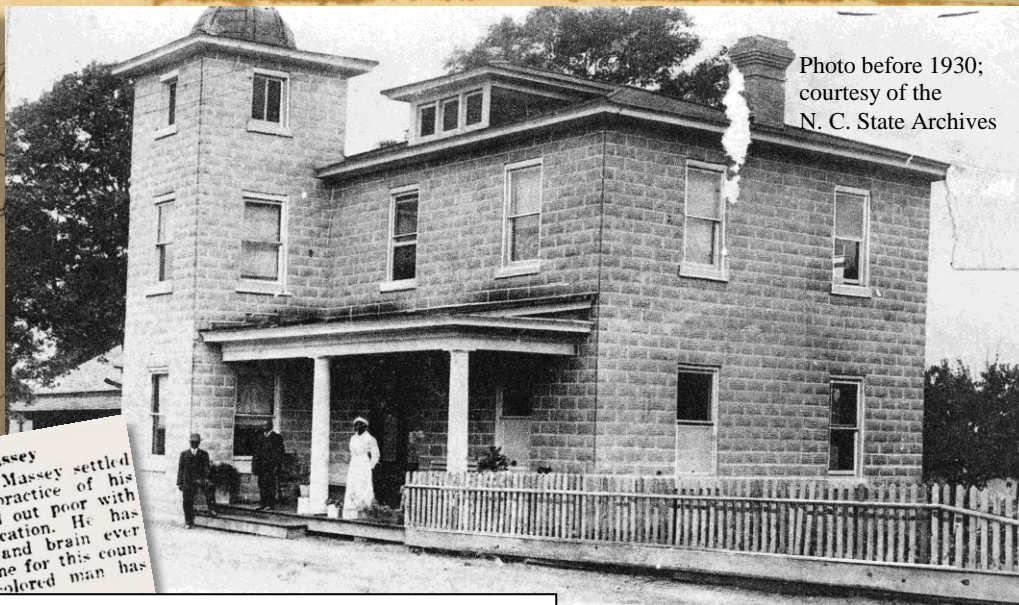


Photo before 1930; courtesy of the N. C. State Archives

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. While the colored man has not had the means to work and provide for himself into the public, he has asked help from the public, and now he has a nice hospital, a credit for any county.

"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)

In 1886, John Massey's parents & others went to Liberia. His father would die there. Massey's mother & some siblings returned to the states. John, already a school teacher, would graduate from the Leonard School of Medicine at Shaw University in 1896. He was practicing medicine here by the end of that year.



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

Background image is from the minutes in 1914 of *The Union County Medical Association (1902-1922)*, stored in the Locked Files of the library. Dr. Massey's name first appears in the minutes in October 1903. Image Dr. Massey's home 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. Revised Aug 2012 www.union.lib.nc.us