

# Entering a 'white' profession:

How black physicians entered the medical field after the Civil War

# Entering a “White” Profession: Black Physicians After Slavery

**Todd L. Savitt, PhD**

**Department of Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies  
Brody School of Medicine at ECU**

# Entering a “White” Profession: Black Physicians in the New South

**Todd L. Savitt, PhD**

**Department of Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies  
Brody School of Medicine at ECU**

WANTS TO KEEP NEGRO PHYSICIANS DOWN!

Dr. C. F. Taylor, Ed. of the Med. World.

Dear sir:--What is the negro physician doing as a whole through out the country as a physician and surgeon? What are they doing financialy? How do they compare with the white aplicants in State examinations through out the country? I notice in some places they seams to be makeing more money then the white physicians. What is the best thing we can do to keep them down? Please let me here from you in the nex No. of the WORLD.

I am located in a town of 12,000 inhabitants, one-third of whom are colored, and am thoroughly convinced that there is a great field here in the South for the educated colored man. As a physician I am well received by my white professional brother. We ride in the same buggy, consult together, and read each other's books. I have a few white patients, but most of them are colored. I have purchased property on one of our best residence streets and also a business house on the main street of our town.\*

\* From W.E.B. DuBois, ed., The College-Bred Negro, 1900, p. 83.



DR. HENRY R. BUTLER

ATLANTA PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS IN 1908



# Black Physicians' Relationships

with:

- Black patients
- White patients
- White physicians
- Other black physicians



# Black physicians had to overcome:

- Reluctance of black and white patients to use black physicians
- Low remuneration for services
- Barriers from the white medical world

# Black Medical Schools in the United States 1865 - 1920

1. Baltimore, Maryland  
Medico-Chirurgical and Theological  
College of Christ's Institution
2. Raleigh, North Carolina  
Leonard Medical School
3. Louisville, Kentucky  
Louisville National Medical College
4. Louisville, Kentucky  
State University Medical Department
5. Washington, D.C.  
Howard University School of Medicine
6. New Orleans, Louisiana  
Flint Medical College of New Orleans  
University
7. Nashville, Tennessee  
Meharry Medical College
8. Chattanooga, Tennessee  
Chattanooga National Medical College
9. Knoxville, Tennessee  
Knoxville College Medical Department
10. Knoxville, Tennessee  
Knoxville Medical College
11. Memphis, Tennessee  
University of West Tennessee College  
of Medicine and Surgery
12. Memphis, Tennessee  
Hannibal Medical College
13. Oxford, Pennsylvania  
Lincoln University Medical Department
14. New Orleans, Louisiana  
Straight University Medical Department







CLASS OF 1906, LEONARD MEDICAL SCHOOL.



CLASS OF 1912, LEONARD MEDICAL SCHOOL.

Leonard Medical School



Young doctors just starting into the profession  
This man with the book is a graduate  
school and a member of the faculty

# **Black Patients' Responses**



CHARLES F. MESERVE, A.M.,





THE AUTHOR

DR. J. EDWARD PERRY



A STUDY OF THE NEGRO PHYICIAN  
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE  
TO CERTAIN TENNESSEE  
COUNTIES

By

James W. Martin, B.A.

East Texas State Normal College

-----

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Arts

In the

Department of Economics

Graduate School of Education

George Peabody College for Teachers

June, 1921

APPROVED:

Major Professor:

Minor Professor:

---

Chairman of Committee on Graduate Instruction

# Black patient bias against African American MDs:

- Only whites could be physicians
- Home treatments and rootwork
- Poorly trained or self-proclaimed AA docs

# The Hospital Herald.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO HOSPITAL WORK, NURSE TRAINING,  
DOMESTIC AND PUBLIC HYGIENE.

TERMS, 50 CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS.

Vol. 1.

JUNE, 1899.

No. 7.



# **White Physicians' Negative Responses**



THE AUTHOR

DR. J. EDWARD PERRY

A STUDY OF THE NEGRO PHYICIAN  
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE  
TO CERTAIN TENNESSEE  
COUNTIES

By

James W. Martin, B.A.

East Texas State Normal College

-----

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Arts

In the

Department of Economics

Graduate School of Education

George Peabody College for Teachers

June, 1921

APPROVED:

Major Professor:

Minor Professor:

---

Chairman of Committee on Graduate Instruction

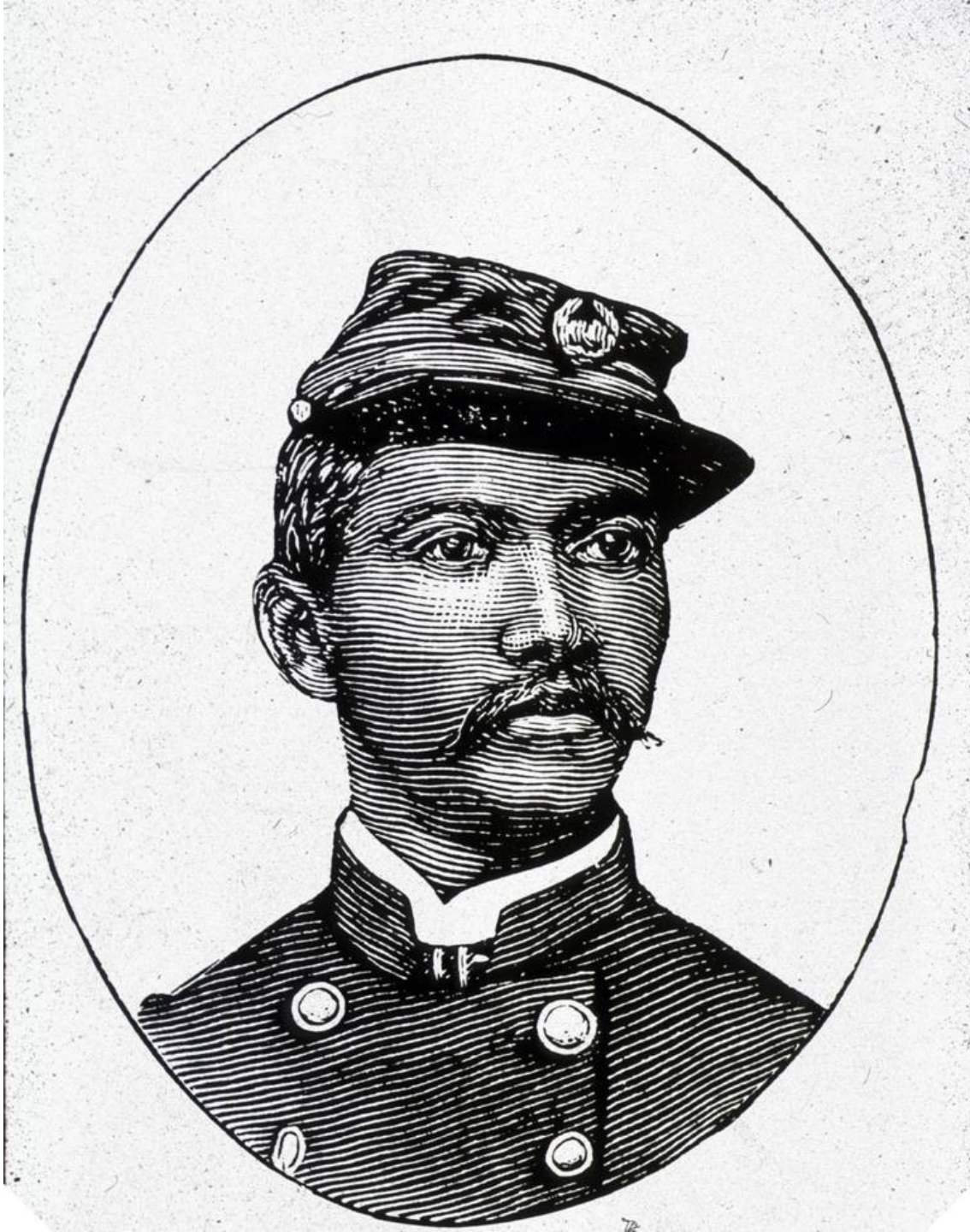


“Mr. Martin, you will find that the negro mind is incapable of any considerable development, and Dr. A., being a colored man, is not to be seriously regarded as a real physician. He is a good negro, but still a negro.”

White Tennessee physician to James Martin, 1920.

# White MDs Isolate Black MDs:

- Refuse admission to medical societies



# White MDs Isolate Black MDs:

- Refuse admission to medical societies
- Refuse admitting privileges to hospitals
- Refuse assistance and consultations

# **White Physicians' Positive Responses**

Dr. J. W. Dupree to Dr. T. A. Walker (Baton Rouge):

“You are my colored medical brother, and I will go with you at any time.”

*The Christian Educator*, January 1887



DR. ROBERT F. BOYD

# **White Patients' Positive Responses**



# Whites patronized AA MDs because:

- They felt they received good care
- They paid lower or no fees
- They had special problems best cared for by black physicians



Blackstone

THE FIRE IN  
THE FLINT

WALTER F. WHITE



NEGRO UNIVERSITIES PRESS  
NEW YORK



THE FIRE IN  
THE FLINT

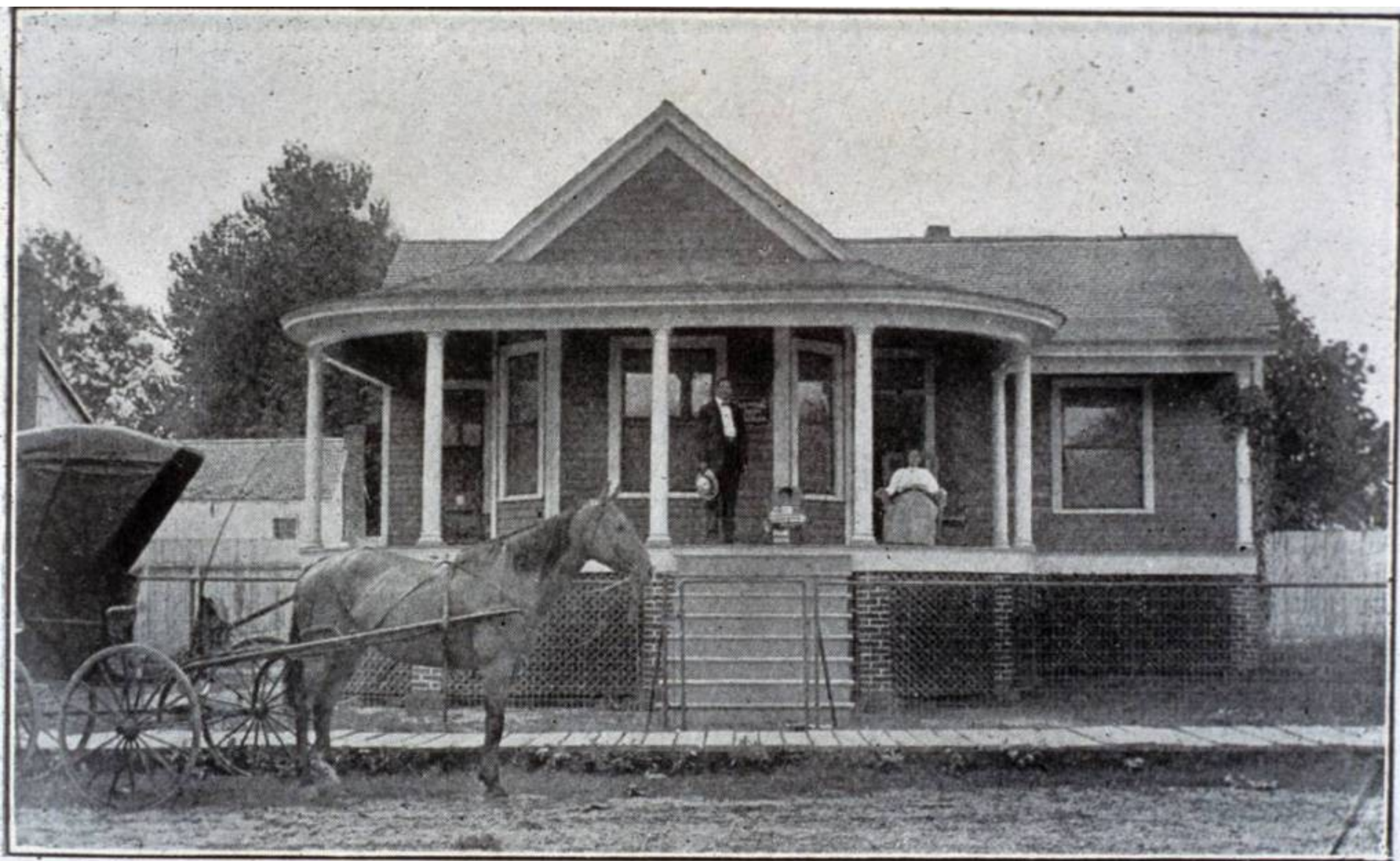
WALTER F. WHITE



NEGRO UNIVERSITIES PRESS  
NEW YORK



*The residence of Dr. J. W. Jones of Winston-Salem, North Carolina*

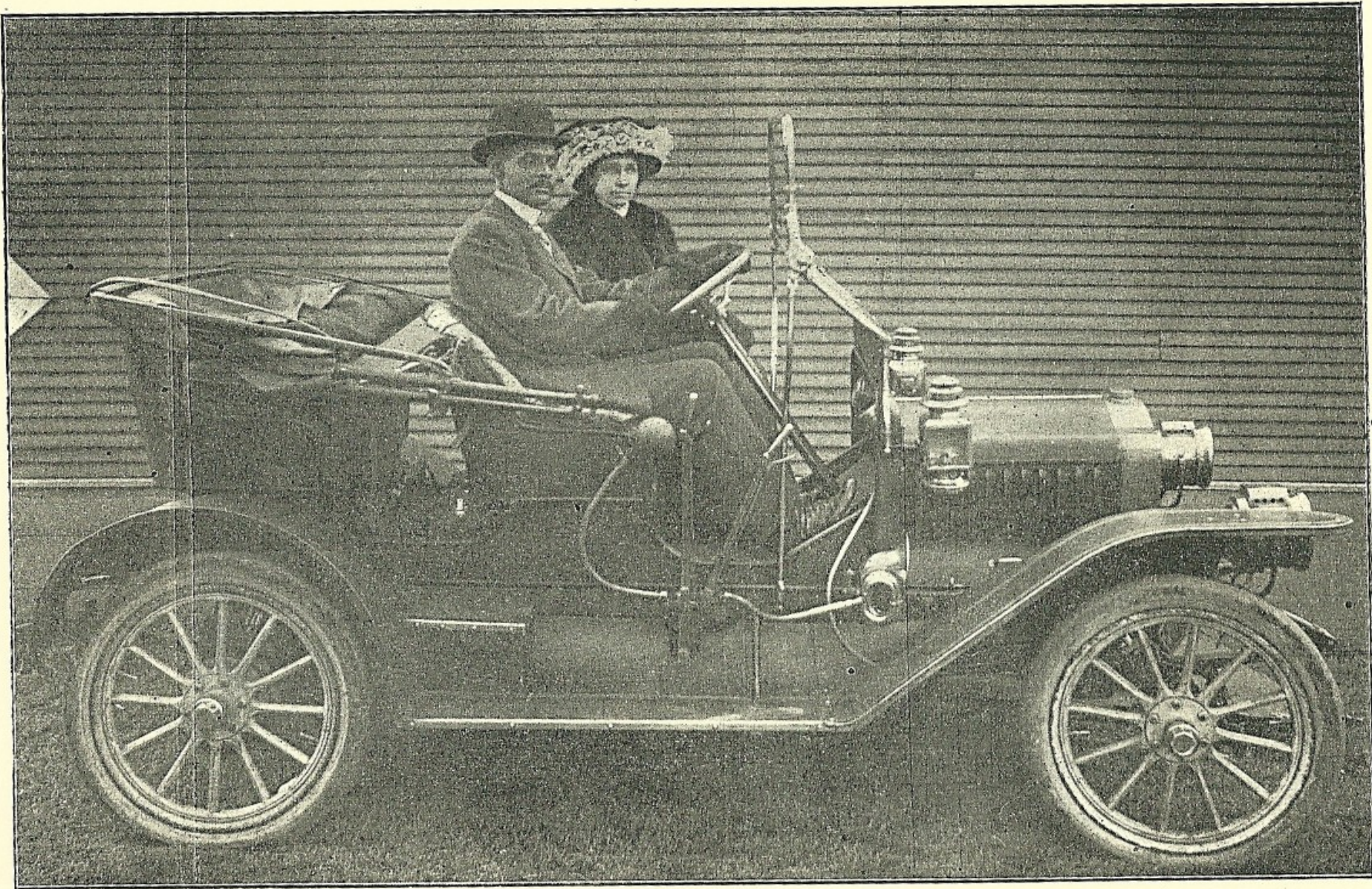


RESIDENCE OF DR. R. A. WILLIAMS



*Dr. Boyd's residence in Nashville, Tennessee.*





R. T. HAMILTON, M. D., AND WIFE, DALLAS, TEXAS

# **Black Physicians Work Together**

# Black MDs gained success because:

- Some white physicians lent a helping hand
- Black physicians overcame negative racial attitudes of whites and African Americans by:
  - practicing good medicine
  - trying to build good race relations
  - addressing obstacles in their paths

You and Your Friends are Invited to Attend the  
**OPENING**

of the

**PERRY SANITARIUM**

1214 Vine Street

**Tuesday, November 1st, 1910**

Short Program at 8:45 P. M.

Addresses by Prof. G. N. Grisham, Atty. L. A. Knox and Dr. S. H. Thompson

Music Selections by Prof. J. G. Tyler, Mrs. Edmonia Brown,  
S. E. Jackson and Sarah L. Hammett.

Ladies 3 to 5 P. M.

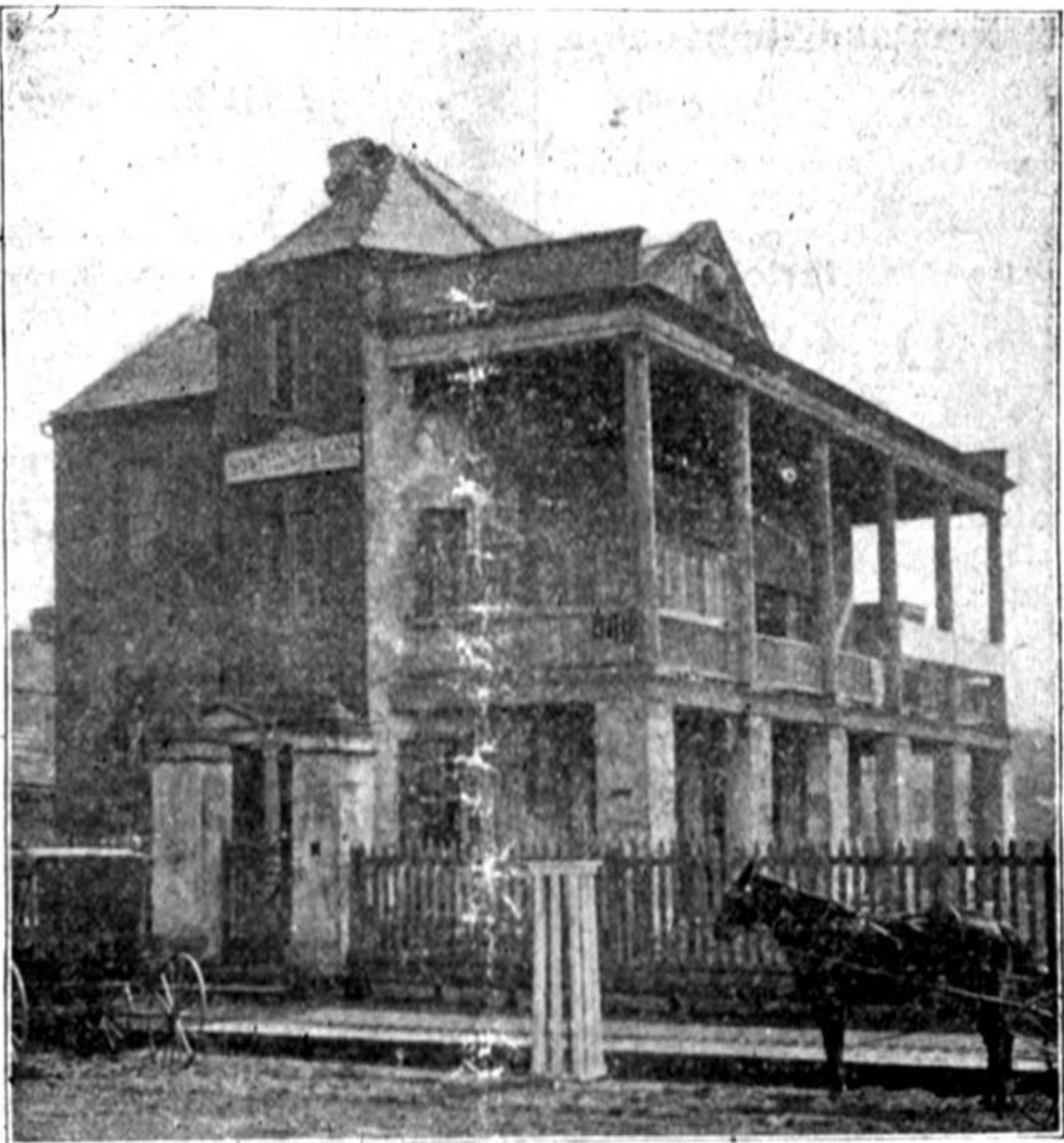
Ladies and Gentlemen 7:30 to 11 P. M.

Music by the Great Western Orchestra.



PERRY SANITARIUM BUILDING

1214 Vine Street Kansas City, Missouri



HOSPITAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES, CHARLESTON, S. C.





*South Carolina's first black physician, Matilda A. Evans, in surgery (front, right) in her Taylor Lane Hospital in Columbia, c. 1900. Courtesy of the South Caroliniana Library.*





*The well-equipped drugstore of Dr. Burwell.*



Dr. Davis in his drug store in 1911, Oklahoma City. He opened the store in 1910 shortly after moving to this city. In the photo Dr. Davis is second from the left behind the cash register.



DR. DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS



*Dedication of the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital in 1912.*

# **Early Black Medical Societies**

1884 - Medico-Chirurgical Society of DC

1886 - Lone Star State Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association (TX)

1887 - Old North State Medical Society (NC)

1895 – National Medical Association

## THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WAS FOUNDED IN THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN OCTOBER, 1895. IN COMMEMORATION OF THIS EVENT AND THE SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION OF MEMBER PHYSICIANS TO THE NATION'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS, THIS PLAQUE AND THE DOCUMENTS IN A CONTAINER BURIED AT THIS SITE ARE DEDICATED. COMMEMORATED AT THE SEVENTY-FIFTH DIAMOND JUBILEE CONVENTION AND SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY.

AUGUST 3, 1970

JULIUS W. HILL, M. D., PRESIDENT

# Medical and Surgical Observer.

M. VANDAHURST LYNK, M. D., Editor.

VOL. I. JACKSON, TENN., DEC., 1892.

INITIAL  
NUMBER

## Original Communications.

Vol. I.]

DECEMBER, 1892. [Initial Number.

# THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL OBSERVER.

M. VANDAHURST LYNK, M. D.,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF

MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND PHARMACY.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Subscription Price, \$2.00 Per Year in Advance. To Students, \$1.00  
Per Year in Advance.

JACKSON, TENN.:  
PUBLISHED BY M. VANDAHURST LYNK, M. D.  
1892.

Entered at the Jackson Post-Office as Second-class mail matter.

HICH WAS BOTH  
MITTENT TYPES.

ARK, N. J.

married, four children,  
quite well up to two  
l" to "The Swamps"  
being high-land and  
suffered from a tired,  
limbs, in fact pains  
d without treatment  
d when patient was  
ound patient had had  
which a profuse sweat  
ee days, there being  
ig stage and the next  
nt, but the fever and  
three previous days.  
he had a fever which  
o well after this fever  
day she had another  
at, after this she was  
38½°. She conversed  
"felt well." In four  
warm, a severe head-  
a trace of sweating  
ave her, falling from  
ig of the 6th she had



DR. MILES V. LYNK



2023 ml 0

# The Hospital Herald.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO HOSPITAL WORK, NURSE TRAINING,  
DOMESTIC AND PUBLIC HYGIENE.

TERMS, 50 CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS.

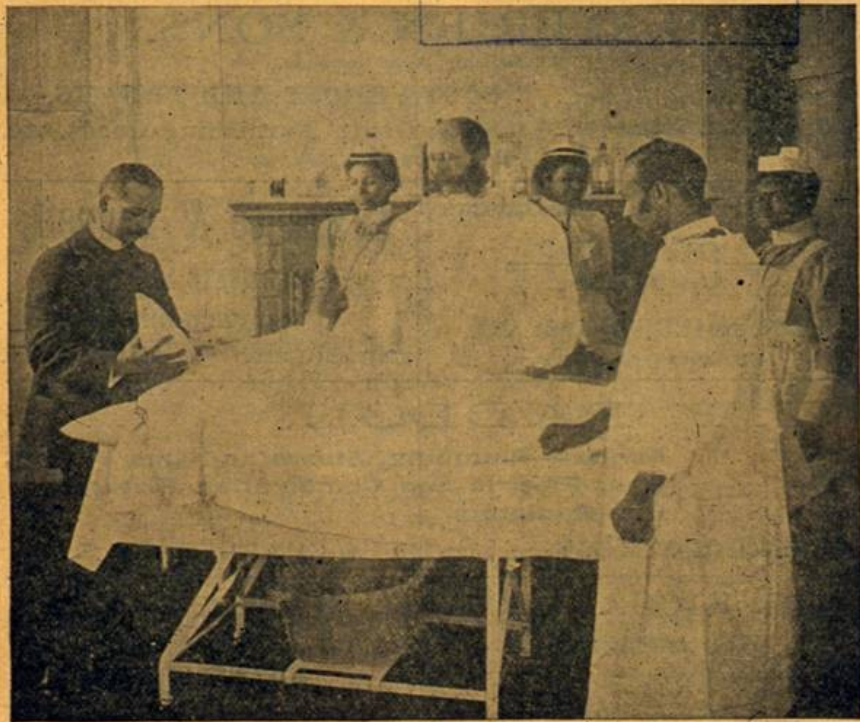
Vol. II.

MARCH, 1900.

No. 3.

LIBRARY  
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE

APR. 21. 1900



# JOURNAL

## NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS OF MEDICINE, SURGERY, DENTISTRY AND PHARMACY

Vol. 1      January - March, 1909      No. 1

"Conceived in no spirit of racial exclusiveness, fostering no ethnic antagonism, but born of the exigencies of American environment, the National Medical Association has for its object the banding together for mutual co-operation and helpfulness, the men and women of African descent who are legally and honorably engaged in the practice of the cognate professions of Medicine, Surgery, Pharmacy and Dentistry"



PUBLISHED AT TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA.

