Roscoe Conklin Harrison, noted physician and founder of Harrison Hospital, was born on February 19, 1880.

CSO: SS.8.7, SS.8.24, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Bluefield Daily Telegraph, November 22, 1923)

1. Although printed in the Bluefield Telegram (Mercer County), Dr. Harrison’s body was laid to rest in Kimball, located in this county whose government resides in Welch.

2. Reverend Johnson used a metaphor to describe Dr. Johnson’s passing and felt that it would difficult to find any man who could fill his place. What was the metaphor that was used to describe Dr. Johnson’s larger-than-life impact?

Think Critically: What obstacles do you think Dr. Harrison had to face as an African American physician during the early twentieth century? Do you think that African American physicians were trusted as equally as their white counterparts? What made McDowell County a lucrative opportunity for a young Dr. Harrison?
A GREAT CROWD ATTENDS FUNERAL

Last Sad Rites Over Dr. Harrison, Well Known Colored Physician, Took Place at Kimball Yesterday.

Never in the history of the city of Kimball has such solemn and sincere homage been paid to the memory of an honored citizen as that which marked the passing of the last and rose over the body of Dr. H. C. Harrison yesterday afternoon at the Ebenezer Presbyterian church.

Dr. Harrison was the leading figure of the colored race in the medical fraternity, and a man generally esteemed by both races.

In compliance with the request of the deceased and the wishes of his family, the services were conducted by the First Presbyterian Church, of which the deceased was a member and staunch worker. Dr. J. W. Pickens, of Charleston, president of the state medical association, was master of ceremonies.

As the church bell slowly tolled, the cortege wound its way to the little church perched upon the hillside of one of West Virginia's picturesque mountains.

A bush fell upon the waiting crows as the white-robed figures with heavy hearts, the pall-bearers, life-long friends and professional associates, lifted the casket and bore it between lines of school children who chanted "Nearer My God to Thee," and as the procession reached the door of the church the organ pealed forth the strains of "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

The casket, literally handed with, was received by the friends at the altar and for the last time all that was mortal of Roscoe C. Harrison rested within the walls of God's house, the one in which he had been so active and the one in whose dominions he found so much of solace and relief when burdened with the cares and strife of a busy world.

The edifice was taxed to its utmost capacity and hundreds of loving friends were turned back at the door, unable to gain admittance.

The services were impressive indeed and the music seemed to be inspired from above.

Program follows:

1. Hymn, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee,"
2. Invocation, Rev. W. H. Sanders, board of education.
3. Hymn, "Jesus Loves of My Soul."
5. Sermon, Dr. W. G. Hoge, Jejun.
7. Solo, Dr. Hoge.
8. Solo, Dr. Hoge.
9. Hymn, "One Sweetly Solomon Thought." (On behalf of Flat Top Medical Association.)
10. Hymn, "Jesus Loves of My Soul."
11. Remarks on behalf of the medical profession (Hogge), Dr. Campbell and Rutherford.
12. Remarks on behalf of the citizens. Judge I.

C. Herndon and Judge Bostick.


13. Hymn, "Is the Hour of Trial." "Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown?"

Resolutions from the Pythian, Klan, Golden Rule, Senior Class (Negro school), schools, and the first independent church were presented and read.

Roscoe Conklin Harrison was born on February 10, 1876, in Raleigh, N. C., where he attended the public schools and later attended the schools in Sumter County, Ala., being of poor but honest parents, remained the responsible for his younger brothers and sisters, and found them upon his shoulders and true to his trust he never failed.

He later attended the Bluefield Institution and from there Minniss graduated prior to taking medicine, from which he graduated up the study of medicine at Meharry in 1904.

He selected Kimball as his field of operation and he devoted his efforts to the work which he had planned but Allah aided him materially in building up the splendid institution which will always stand as a monument to the incomparable and unselfish spirit of a man caused by God to be a friend and helper to mankind.

His devotion to his blood kin never wavered, and just a short time before his death, he journeyed far to visit the kin of his brother and brought them back to Kimball to love on his own children. His brother Roscoe Harrison passed away just one month and three days before. Roscoe Harrison married Miss Edna H. Grimes in 1907, there were two children to bless this union, Willis H. and A. Troye Edna Harrison.

During the course of his remarks, Rev. Johnson, the pastor of the Ebenezer church, said in part that "God and Nature strove to do their best in the creation of Dr. Harrison, and his accomplishments prove that neither God nor nature could fail and that words will be a hollow mockery unless those of the medical profession carry on the work at the institution started and built by Harrison."

"A truly great heart belongs to no race but instead belongs to all mankind. Born not to die but created for the infinite. Nations of the world have come for his healing touch and none been unappreciated, in order that he might better understand and serve his foreign patients, he learned to speak their language and over all of the defects of all mankind he cast the maize of his charity. God made him a man and he made himself the foremost surgeon of this section of the country."

A mighty oak has fallen and to find a man large enough to fill his place will be a task of no little difficulty, yet God in his infinite wisdom will need to be found shining forth with a greater luminance and throughout the sons of his name will grow and his memory linger in the hearts of men, and God will grant unto his tired soul rest and peace eternal."

As the sun was slowly setting behind the western hills that was mortal of Roscoe C. Harrison was lowered into the tomb and consigned to rest within the bosom of the earth from whence he sprang.
Noticeable among the vast throng assembled at the grave were many foreigners, patients of the deceased, who clad in their picturesque attire gathered to pay the last tribute of love and respect at the bier of their friend and benefactor.

The pallbearers were: Dr. J. S. Brown, Dr. A. A. Staples, Dr. J. C. Kinslow, Dr. J. E. Hereford, Dr. C. E. Yancey, Dr. W. A. Brown, Dr. G. Wanen, and Dr. Luther Drew.

The honorary pallbearers were: Dr. Barnett, Huntington; Dr. R. R. Jones, Charleston; Dr. C. A. Rogers, Bluefield; Dr. Gamble, Charleston; Dr. Critchlow, Denmar; Dr. Low, Hinton; Dr. W. C. Mitchell, Bluefield; Dr. E. W. Lomax, Bluefield; Dr. E. S. Loung, Welch; Dr. J. S. Hamfield, president of State Medical Association, Omar; Dr. W. L. Colston, Welch; Dr. Sadler, Keystone; Dr. Wewen, Dr. Mae Whittico, Williamson, Dr. W. A. Holley.

A large number from all sections of southern West Virginia attended the funeral and Hon. A. G. Floc, recorded of deeds of the district of Columbia, came from Washington to be present.