



## Dr. Eugene A. Dickerson

### Home and Office

202 N. Mason Street

Dr. Eugene A. Dickerson, known as “Doc” Dickerson, practiced medicine in Harrisonburg for about 30 years and helped both white and black patients. He was born in Charlottesville on August 1, 1879 to Wilson Dickerson and Frances Reeves. He graduated from Shaw University Medical School and did post graduate work at Howard University. He and his wife Leona had three children.

He practiced both in Harrisonburg and Washington, D.C. His Harrisonburg patients in need of surgery went to the Freedmen’s hospital in Washington D.C. where he performed the surgery as he was not allowed to practice in the Harrisonburg hospital. He was an active member of John Wesley United Methodist Church and the Omar Masonic Lodge, No. 226. At the end of his life he moved to 1600 15th Street, Washington, DC. He continued to practice medicine there until his death April 23, 1955. He left his home to the Masonic Lodge, which maintains the house to this day.

Doris Allen recalls in her book, *The Way It Was, Not the Way It Is*, “Doc was a great doctor, kind, gentle personality, patient with seniors and children as his patients, yet he did not want us kids in his fruit trees.” Ruth Toliver writes in her book, *Keeping Up With Yesterday*, “Dr. Dickerson maintained a productive practice which included both black and white patients. He often laughed at the [time when] members of the local Ku Klux Klan decided to meet on Red Hill. They assembled in full regalia in order to hide their identity, but it was Doc Dickerson who went to several, spoke to those he recognized and even called them by name.”

—Robin Lyttle



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