

Blake Hill-Saya. *Aaron McDuffie Moore: An African-American Physician, Educator, and Founder of Durham's Black Wall Street*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2020. 258 pp. \$26.95. ISBN 978-1-4696-5585-7.

Aaron McDuffie Moore, a notable contributor to African American medical history in North Carolina, intended to advance the condition of African Americans living in the area of Durham, North Carolina. Eventually, Dr. Moore attended Shaw University's Leonard Medical School (1885-1888). By his graduation date, Aaron Moore had to pay a \$20 graduation fee, defend a medical thesis, dissect a cadaver, and pass all of his exams with a 75% average or higher. Dr. Moore transported a dedicated work ethic from medical school with him directly into his medical practice. As Dr. Moore progressed in the medical field, he kept a "physician's visiting book" in which he documented visits with patients and also recorded his medical expenses. Dr. Moore only charged patients \$2.00/visit, but also accepted reluctantly a bag of grain or loaf of bread if patients couldn't pay. Besides being a doctor for the African American community, Dr. Moore served as a Sunday School teacher at White Rock Baptist Church. Dr. Moore's wife, Mrs. Sara McCotta (Cottie) Dancy Moore also performed extraordinary tasks for the times helping her husband sterilize instruments, sanitize linens, and make soap or disinfectant.

In this book, the author details specific accomplishments of Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore during his lifetime, namely the following: Dr. Moore's enrollment (in 1885) at Shaw University's Leonard Medical School (the first Black medical school in North Carolina and the first four-year medical school in the United States); Dr. Moore's collaboration with John Merrick and C.C. Spaulding to form the Old North State Medical Society (1887); the formation of the North Carolina Mutual and Provident Association in 1899; the founding of the Durham Drug Company (1895); establishing the Durham Colored Library (1913); working with John Merrick and C.C. Spaulding to form Durham's Black Wall Street; and writing a speech in 1915 which was called "Negro School Problem Condition-Remedy: Let Us Reason" where he called for change in African American school conditions and funding.

Besides the rich narrative outlined in the pages of the book, the author includes a Dr. Moore family tree, several photographs/maps, a chronology of notable events in Dr. Moore's life, and an extensive bibliography of both primary and secondary sources. Where possible, Blake Hill-Saya has included quotations from Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore as well as reminiscences from his two daughters, Lyda Vivian Moore Merrick & Mattie Louise Moore McDougald.

Blake Hill-Saya is a classical musician, opera singer and creative writer who resides in Los Angeles, California. Because of its specific scope and subject matter, *Aaron McDuffie Moore: An African American Physician, Educator, and Founder of Durham's Black Wall Street* would be suitable for inclusion in any academic or special library with a focus on the contributions of African Americans to the field of medicine.

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