The lost story of Dr. Dismukes - Black history in Appalachia

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DESCRIPTION

Rediscovering black history in an Appalachian coal town, MCC staff in Kimball West Virginia piece together the story of a black owned hospital that used to sit on the site of the current Appalachia Build program site.

mcc.org/dismukes

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SPEAKERS

Kristin Overstreet, Carol Thomson, Vivian Anderson, Christy Kauffman

Vivian Jockley

We knew that it was a hospital though that building that burned down, we knew that that was a hospital, but we didn't know the significance of the hospital. And I can only imagine how hard this doctor worked and how disappointed he was to be hoodwinked, you know, or to be tricked. And there was a time that Steven's Clinic Hospital, didn't want black patients. They didn't warn us.

Christy Kauffman

That was Vivian Anderson who lives in Kimball West Virginia. She doesn't even hear that train anymore. It's become such a common sound in the background of her life in this once bustling coal town in Appalachia. I met her at a community event in Kimball where black community members gathered together to tell their stories and their family stories. That hospital that she talks about here is a story that was once lost in the community. Today we're going to bring to light the history of Dr. Dismukes and his hospital that was here almost a century ago.

I'm Christy Kauffman and you're listening to relief, development and podcast a production of Mennonite Central Committee.

Vivian Anderson

It amazes me how you started. I mean you know. And it wasn't like... were you looking for it or did you stumble. "it was a stumble" It was a stumble. Where can you go with a stumble. And we've gone to history books that were lost, because of a stumble.

Vivian here talks about how Kristin came across this history. No one was looking for it at the time.

I was sitting with Kristin and Vivan after the Lost stories event. As a sat with them Clara was cleaning up the local storytelling event started by MCC in this small coal town.

The importance and reason for this event called lost stories will become clear as you listen to the history we will unveil in the next 30 mins through the story of the accomplishments and racial and injustices surrounding the history of the Henrietta Dismukes hospital and nurses home. We start with Kristen Overstreet recounting this rediscovery. And we'll go back to Vivian and Clara, to hear about how the community is working with MCC not only to preserve Dr. Dismukes story, but to also create a space to prevent other black stories and histories from being lost in this community.

MCC has worked in the Appalachia region doing home repair since 1985. The program Appalachia Build, formerly known as SWAP, moved to their Kimball West Virginia location more recently in 2019.

After arriving in Kimball, lost history starts to unfold before MCC staff and has inspired a project to go beyond the home repair they set out to do in the community. MCC Appalachia program director Kristen Overstreet begins to piece together clues from an abandoned building, some court records and a few old articles, she will now tell us about this story that she found.

Kristin Overstreet
so my name is Kristin Overstreet, and I'm the Appalachia build program director. I've been in this role since January 2020. Before I became the Appalachia build program director, I was a high school history teacher. But when I came on board, I was given the opportunity to visit the facilities that I would manage. One of those facilities is in Kimball, West Virginia, which is an Appalachian coal town. And they took me to all the properties and there was one particular piece of the properties to which I was very interested in. It was a building. It was covered in vines, and there was talk of tearing this building down. And I was like, Oh, what did that building used to be? It's just my history brain just kind of sparked an interest and really there was not a good answer of what the building actually was. Some people had mentioned it wasn't a former apartment complex, someone said, Well, we think there used to be a black hospital here in this town. So we didn't tear the building down.

Christy Kauffman
So what was the discovery that you made when you started to dig into what that building was? What?

Kristin Overstreet
Yeah, so months pass, we hadn't tore the building down we was actually thinking about making more parking. And I started thinking about the building again. And I just started asking questions to people in the community. What do you know about this building and just started looking up things online and connecting dots. And early the next year, I made the discovery that the the building that was remaining on the property was called the Henrietta DISMUKES nurses home. And it was also the former site at the Henrietta DISMUKES hospital. Now, the thing about this, this hospital was supposedly the largest black hospital in the country for its time. And at that time, when I was researching this out, I found a news article, which was printed in the Pittsburgh Courier, which is a black newspaper based out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, that had published an article about this hospital. So I found a lot, you know, with black history, it's so hard to find stuff, you know, anything related. When you find an article printed about something, it can give you clues of what happened. And so the article that was printed was like,

you know, this beautiful, remarkable hospital 50 beds, largest one for its time, this guy that created this hospital, his name was Henry Dodford, DISMUKES just had this passion to want to build the best black hospital, not just a black hospital, but the best black hospital to serve the community.

Christy Kauffman
And what were the needs at that time for the hospital.

Kristin Overstreet
So the kind of the thing that happened after the Civil War, people migrated 10s of 1000s of African Americans migrated to coal Appalachia to get jobs. It wasn't that they had great freedoms here, because segregation still existed in the early 1900s in these coal towns, but people came here for jobs, so people came here for the jobs, but also the coal mines or the coal companies offered housing to the black people that settled here. So they were able to get housing, they were able to get jobs and get paid somewhat for the work that they done. So it felt like a good place to live. So as more people settled here, the need for black professionals also arose to treat the injuries that were sustained from the mining accidents that often occurred for black people who were working those dangerous jobs. So doctors came here, dentists came here, pharmacists came here, and they served the black community. One of the first black hospitals in the state of West Virginia, was here in this town. It was created by a doctor named Roscoe Conklin Harrison, and

Christy Kauffman
And this is a separate hospital?

Kristin Overstreet
So this is a separate. This is the first black hospital in the state of West Virginia. Now something interested about this physician was he was a former coal miner. So he saved his money working in the coal mines to go back to school and to attain his medical degree. And once he attained his medical degree, he came back to the community to which he worked out of established his his hospital. It was a 20 bed hospital. Unfortunately, he didn't have a very long life. He died in 1923. And when he left, it left a big hole in this community because he was the pillar for the black community to have good medical care. So a call went out nationally, to replace him. And that's when the story changes. And this is kind of the story of Dr. Dismukes happens at this point. Dr. Dismukes was a doctor that was practicing. He was asked actually an assistant surgeon in Washington DC at the Freedmen's hospital, and he received this call of a need to come and run a hospital in a little coal town in Kimball West Virginia. So he packs up his stuff. He comes here for a week he checks out this community and falls in love with this community. And so he goes back to Washington DC closes out his time there and comes back to Kimball West Virginia where he quickly gets to work being the new director of the Harrison Memorial Hospital. Now he practices in this hospital and treats people for a period of about four years. So from like 1924 to 1928, he is just actively running that hospital and serving the needs of the people that lived here. In 1928, he's approached by white hospital called the Bluefield sanatorium, one of its directors, Dr. Stevens comes to him and says, Hey, we've got so many coal companies that we're getting ready to go into contract with. And so we can't treat the black miners at our white hospital. But you can, but you're going to need a lot bigger hospital to treat all these miners that we're going to be sending you. So we would like for you to build a bigger hospital, a 50 bed hospital that will hold and be able to handle all of these coal miners and their families that we're going to send you. This is a verbal kind of

discussion that they have at first they talk about it. And he agrees to build this bigger hospital. And they tell him that they're going to pay him $3.50 for every coal miner and family member that they send him. So he agrees to this, he invests everything he has to build this bigger hospital, which is located basically across the street from the Harrison Memorial hospital, the hospital costs him about $75,000, to build. And to put that into perspective, that's about $1.3 million in today's money. So there's a lot of money for that time, a lot of money for him to invest in something that he really, at first didn't have anything in writing about, he just kind of acted on faith that they were going to pay him that they were going to, you know, support him in this mission. And they did to some extent, like they were involved in the building process. They were there on the scene, helping the architect and the builders lay out the design of the hospital. They even cosign on a loan for him to be able to have money when he opened up the hospital. So they were very much involved. And when I say they, I mean the Bluefield Sanitarium and directors, which included Dr. Stevens, in the planning, preparation of this hospital. On opening day, which was August the 16th of 1929. He opens up this hospital, and he just doesn't have this little opening. He has a gala to open up his hospital. And he invites people from all over to come, including some of the big coal barons, the people who had the most power and the money in this area. And they come to his black hospital. And one of them actually state to him. This is the best black hospital I've ever seen. Like they couldn't believe how well laid out it was in fact, it was nicer than probably some of the white hospitals that they had seen. He took much pride in what he had built and put together. So he starts his hospital and begins to take in patients. The day that he opens up his hospital. He sees in the newspaper that they're opening up another hospital five miles down the road from him. And when I say they, it's Bluefield sanitarium, they're opening up a hospital that would not only treat white coal miners and their families, but also black coal miners in their family. So Dr. Dismukes really doesn't know what this means for him. He sees this, you know, he's asked to build a black hospital to treat black coal miners, but he sees in the newspaper that the organization that asked him to build his hospital is also building their own hospital five miles down the road.

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Vivian Anderson
When we first heard it, it was mind boggling. Because we knew we always knew that there was a hospital here, we knew that. But when we actually had a name put on to things, it became different, it was different. It kind of left me with cold chills for a minute, to think that here we are sitting here with all of this history. That is almost like it's stored in a place where it wasn't privy to us, because we didn't know or somebody didn't want us to know. Or the reason why things happen. Or why did we have Stevens clinic hospital. Thats unbelievable. You know, or, like Dismukes, or the graveyard on the hillside, when you all found the graveyard on the hillside. All of that was mind boggling, because we knew that stuff. But it had never been opened to us. And And with that, it allowed us to think on another level that there really is more to this place than what we see right now. Or what we see today. You know, what else have we missed? Or what else did we not get? Or what reason did we not understand all of this stuff, you know

*music transition

Kristin Overstreet

So something seems fishy, or something seems off to him. And but yeah, he goes ahead, he starts taking patients. And months after months, he's taking patients, and he's not getting paid. So something's wrong here. So he approaches the Bluefield Sanitarium and says, Hey, I'm not getting paid for these patients. You all promised me $3.50 for every patient that you would send me and I'm not getting paid. They didn't go into a written contract until September of 1929. So it was a month after he opened up his hospital got it up off the ground. One month later, September of 1929. They go into a written contract, and they write down the terms of agreement that he would be paid $3.50. So now it's official. He's got something written. He's got something that verifies what his mission is. In terms of providing service and care to the patients, so he doesn't end up getting paid of course. And when he approaches the Bluefield sanitarium, and its directors, “Hey, where's my pay?” they change the terms of the agreement, and they offer him $2.50 per patient. And because he's not getting paid, and he needs the money, he accepts the new terms of $2.50. Eight months later, the Bluefield Sanitarium opens up their new hospital five miles down the road, called the Stevens clinic named after its director, when they open up their hospital DISMUKES no longer receives patients. And if he does receive patients, it's people who are in need of the most treatment, such as their legs need amputated, or it was some of the worst conditions that they didn't want to treat at the hospital. And he still didn't get paid. He sees that he was pushed into this position to build this hospital. He does what he has to do to treat the people and the help the people in this community. But in his own words, he says I smell a rat, and he did smell a rat. They didn't treat him the way that he, you know, understood the agreement to be. So he does the only thing that he knows. And he goes and files a lawsuit against the Bluefield Sanitarium in the amount of $150,000 to cover all the money that's owed to him to cover the cost of the hospital, which he was asked to build. And from that point, a court hearing takes place.

Christy Kauffman
This court case comes to light what what happens next? What is the significance of the court case, then?

Kristin Overstreet
Yeah, so the court case, according to the Pittsburgh Courier, stated that it was the first time that a black man had ever filed suit against a white Corporation for breach of contract. Now, when you put that in perspective, what does that mean in terms of black history, that means that it had never been done before, a black man had never filed a suit, lock that against a white Corporation. And that's important. So he files this suit, and instantly, every coal miner around, wants to come and testify on his behalf. To validate that they were told they couldn't come to his hospital, because what happened was, they wanted to continue treatment at Dr. Dismukes hospital. But when they were injured, or when their family member were sick, they were refused privileges to go to the black hospital. Instead, they were told they had to go to the Stevens clinic. So what ended up happening was, they bypassed him, they bypassed him to the point that he had no patients at all, and bankrupted him.

Christy Kauffman
Is there a difference of care that was shown? Obviously, this patient wanted to go to Dismukes,

Kristin Overstreet
All of his patients were treated with high levels of care. And so people trusted him too, I think there was a sense of trust to him. And knowing that he treated them well, and served them well. And so people

knew him. He wasn't just the doctor in the town, he was a good doctor, respected doctor. So people wanted to go to him naturally. So when they were refused, or told they couldn't go, you know, of course, there were lots of questions from the black community as to why are we not being allowed to go to the black doctor anymore. They actually even started a petition, the black coal miners in the community started a petition that that they were going to present to the coal company, saying, We don't want to go to the white hospitals, you know, hospital, we want to go to Dr. Dismukes hospital. And they took this petition to the coal company, and it basically was just overlooked, and they were like, we can't change the terms. We we are asking you to do this. And so we're expecting you to do this. So they still were refused privileges to go to the black hospital. They were told they had to go to the Stevens clinic. So naturally, when the when it came to trial, it was it was big news back then if there's such thing as big news, it was big news for the white newspapers. It was big news for the black newspapers, because it had never been done that a black man was suing this, you know, this big white corporation and this was a big hospital during its time. So when it goes to trial Dismukes has lots of people who want to testify on his behalf. He has over 100 people, coal miners that show up that say, we want to testify on your behalf that we were told we weren't allowed to come to your hospital. That wasn't provided to us as an option. And that we received good care while we were at your hospital, so he had all these character vouches for him. Only 15 People were allowed to testify on his behalf. Now, Bluefield sanitarium, the white hospital, of course, had very powerful white men testifying all on their behalf. And they basically denied that they ever went into any formal agreement with him, and that basically, the agreement that they drawed up was not an actual contract. So that's how they defended it. So they denied that they, you know, pursued him, they asked him to build the hospital to change it to change from the Harrison Memorial Hospital to building the bigger hospital, they denied that they cosign for him, they denied, denied denied on everything that Dismukes was trying to defend and say that they did. So naturally, given the conclusion of what happened to that court case, it sounds like they rule in favor of Dismukes, because they do award him $4,070 of the $150,000. But what happens is, you know, $4,070, when I looked and discovered what that represented, it was the exact number that the Bluefield Sanitarium had on their books that they sent to him in terms of patients. And it wasn't based on the $3.50 either. It was it was based on the $2.50, which was the change of terms of the agreement. So he was he was awarded the $4,070. Of course, he's devastated that barely covers his legal fees, he files a state appeal and is denied, so naturally can't do anything else to recover his money. He leaves the Kimball, West Virginia community with absolutely nothing. And he closes his hospital in 1932. So the largest privately owned black hospital, founded by Dr. Henry Dr. Dismukes was only open from 1929 to 1932. And a lot of what we know about that hospital is because of the court case, which I was able to find and retrieve. And I know his story, because he told his own story through that court case. I know how he felt because he told how he felt about things. And one of the things that stands out to me was how he viewed Dr. Stevens. Dr. Stevens was the white, director of the Bluefield Sanitarium. He said I trusted him and looked up to him as a friend. And you know, to me, when you say I trust somebody, and I look up to them as a friend, naturally, you don't think that's going to be a person that's going to deceive you or mistreat you in some way. So he looked up to him, he trusted him. And he he went through with this process of building this hospital, because of that trust, to later realize that, you know, he really wasn't a person to be trusted.

Christy Kauffman
I wonder what your experience was, while you were discovering this? What were the emotions of discovering the injustice in his story? And as you were reading this,

Kristin Overstreet
Why is this story only come to light 100 years after the fact? Why has someone not already told this story? Like as I started stewing and wrestling with what to do with this story. Like it's one thing to tell it, but what do we do with it, to preserve it, to acknowledge it to honor it. And the first thing that came to mind is we gotta have a day set aside each year to honor his history. So on August 16th, which is the day that he opened up his hospital, we asked the mayor of the town of Kimball, West Virginia, if he would sign a proclamation to make that day set aside as Dr. Dismukes day and thankfully, he respected our wishes and he signed that proclamation. So each year we celebrate Dr. Dismukes day on August 16th. All of this that also turned into another project for us is the lost Stories project. Because what happened was when I sat down and started telling this story from you know, one person to the next person, what I found was people started sharing with me their own story. And so I was like, you know, we got to do something with all of this history. So we created this project called, called the Lost Stories Project, which basically stemmed from the DISMUKES project, that basically, is a monthly meeting where black men and women share their stories of overcoming things or, and just the courageous things that they've accomplished and done. And then we meet once a month, and we, we basically give them that space to share their story, we record it, we preserve it, and we give it back to them, so that they could give it to their families. So it's, it's kind of like stories are so powerful. But if they're not shared, if they're not stored in some way, they're lost. And Dr. Dismukes story is one of those ones that was lost. It's been lost for almost 100 years. And he accomplished so many things. And you know, beyond the hospital and beyond the court case, he was a wonderful doctor, the lost stories evolved from the idea that Dr. Dismukes story got lost, but we're not going to let other people's stories get lost, too. So the Lost Stories project is all about preserving black history, from McDowell County, West Virginia

**music transition*

Vivian Anderson
And then once the stories started coming out, it's almost like when you turn the pages in a book. And every time you turned another page, you get some new information. That's what these stories are like. And it all in if you you connect it all together, we all have a connection to each other, all of us do based on these little stories that that that you've heard. So it seems that every time you have a lost story, you find lost history. And once you find the lost history, it makes you know that you're a lot richer than where you started out to be. And that's where I feel like I am with the situation and the hospital that burned down. Our children played in it. They played down there. And when you put all of that together in a way it makes you angry. You know, it kind of ticks you off to think that this was our history that we didn't know nothing about, you know and why not, its mind boggling.

Christy Kauffman
What does it mean to be able to know that history and be able to link it to now?

Vivian Anderson
It lets me know that we didn't slough we were not sloughers, we, we didn't drag our feet, we really did keep what was going on going. We did. We produced a lot of things here in Kimball. We produced doctors and lawyers and teachers. The chief of police was Arthur King, who was a black man that lived

in this town. And it let me know that even though we didn't have all the doors opened to us, we opened a lot of the doors ourselves. And it's made us a lot richer. We didn't know that it wasn't the home for nurses. We didn't know what that was. We knew that it was a hospital though, that building that burned down, we knew that that was a hospital. But we didn't know the significance of the hospital. And I can only imagine how hard this doctor worked. And how disappointed he was to be hoodwinked, you know, or to be tricked. And there was a time there, Stevens, didn't want black patients. They didn't want us, but we never knew the significance. And I'm sure that if we knew what the significance was then, things would have been different. Yeah. Things would have been different. Yeah. But it's just, it's awesome. It's almost like you find yourself, you know, there's a piece of you that's missing. And you kind of wonder where is it, you know? Yeah. And now when we talk about Kimball, they talk with a different tone, about what used to be here, what really used to be here, you know, we just got cheated out of a lot of stuff. And, but we didn't let it defeat who we are. Kimball has always been a good town. And it made a difference. But I'm glad you stumbled. And I'll be glad when we can really, really, really tell the story. So it means more than just Kimball to me, it's not isolated to Kimbal. Because when you finish with just story, you will probably find that there's a lot more to this story than just this right here. Everybody's interested in knowing what the what the real story is. We didn't know but now we do. And now we want to know, now we still want to know, we still want to we want to know the end result. And that little house down there has value. I'm old, I'm an old woman. And I'd like for my grandchildren and my great grandkids to know, to be able to know what they had here in, in this town. And what happened. You know, I was we were You know, and we knew we heard bits and pieces of it. But we had nobody to put it together for us. You know. And we we learned a lot. We didn't realize that the library had some stuff that we didn't have privilege to. We found that out. We didn't know that. there that we didn't you know, it wasn't public knowledge. We didin't know that. Now I know that if I want to know something from back in the day, they're gonna let me see the real stuff. They're gonna open real door for me. But they didn't let us know that

Christy Kauffman
We went to the lost stories monthly event and listened to one of these local story's told in a cornerstone building of this community, the ww1 memorial that is here specifically to honor the African Americans who served in the war. It is the first memorial built to honor black solders in the US. This is where the lost stories event takes place in Kimball each month.

Another community member, Clara, showed us around the memorial building, where the event is being held. Vivian and Clara have both become a part of the Dismukes project planning committee in the last few years.

**Excerpt of audio from memorial tour, Clara Thompson*

"and so like I said, this is our oral history room. And we invite anybody that had any dealings to come and record, you know, whatever their experience was here."

Clara Thompson is the administrator of Kimballs World War 1 memorial, It's quite clear that preserving the black history in this town is important to her and her community.

Clara Thompson

So once they found out about that, and then Dr. Dismuke, and some of the others, it was like Oh lord I want to find out more and more and more and more, and that's when they started the Lost stories. And it's held the first Tuesday of every month. Starting at six o'clock at the building. And I'm telling you some of the stories that we've heard from some of the speakers, well, my brother, he's, uh, his he has the gift of gab, he was the first speaker that we had there. And just listening to him. I mean, it was like What? McDowell County?, even we had, according to one of his stories, there was a lynching in McDowell County, you think I knew about that? Absolutely not. And then listening to some of the stories of some of the others that have been on program, for example, Barbara Ward, who was a female, she was one of the first females to go in the mines. And then to think about all the stuff that she went through in the mines and everything that was going on, you know, but I'm telling you the stories that we've heard from individuals that have been on the program, it is just amazing. You live in a place and you know nothing about its history, and the backs of people that you're standing on. But I am thankful to Kristin and to you all's organization for allowing that lost stories to take place over there at the building, when we found out about the hospital and Dr. Dismuke in the cemetery and the fact that this man is buried there. And then the fact that the his he lived right down here, above my parents house, you know, I mean, it's absolutely amazing. What you find out, you know, you you had no idea that all of this existed. So, what can I say? I mean, oof, it just, it is absolutely amazing. Yeah.

Christy Kauffman
Have you met others in the community who have found the lost Stories Project meaningful for them?

Clara Thompson
Listen. I'm sure. I am sure that they have enjoyed the stories as much as I have, or, I mean, because I mean, it's just amazing what has happened, you know, the history of the county, the history of this city period, we could use a change in our community, for sure. We we do need somebody that's interested in, all, the people you know, all and I do mean, all, quotation, mark, all the people. But my how things have changed. And you all know, and I know what, you know, things are just not the same. Look at the history books, where is black history? It's not just February. It's every day, you know, all month, every year. And so, I mean, well, I don't think the history books will be rewritten. But I'm telling you, you will never erase what has happened in America. Never. It's a sad story. Sad story. But hey, it happened. It happened. So. But yeah, this has sparked a lot of interest, I think, especially from the older in terms of some of the things that have happened. It has brought this stuff back to memory for them as well, you know, and so you think, Oh, well, she told that story. And maybe I remember a little bit of that, but oh, I don't know that happened. You know, and that's why I think the kids need to know the kids, the kids, the kids, but the history is there. We have really enjoyed the stories I'm telling you, I have, and I'm sure the others have as well. So yeah, I've enjoyed it.

Christy Kauffman

As an organization committed to anti-racism, Justice and Equity, MCC holds this story and celebrates the legacy and the incredible resilience of people like Dr. Dismukes, Dr. Harrison and the African American nurses who worked there. We lament the Jim Crow segregation that prevented Black people from getting treatment in other medical facilities and the racist treatment of Dr. Dismukes that led to the closure of the hospital. We hope that shedding light on this story can lead to a better future for all people.

This year on Dr, Dismukes day, August 16th at the Henrietta Dismukes Nurses home, MCC will reveal a historical marker that has been placed on the site.

I know this episode is dropping on August 15th so some of you will likely be listening on Dismukes day! Happy dismukes day! If you are interested in some ideas as to how to celebrate Dr. Dismukes day this year on August 16th MCC has some suggestions, including supporting a local minority business owner or praying for and honoring medical professionals in your life.

The most important action you can take after hearing this story is to share it with others to be a part of preventing lost black history.

Currently MCC Appalachia Build is raising funds to go towards rehabilitating the building on their property that previously was the Henrietta Dismukes Nurses Home and has fallen into disrepair after decades of vacancy. Our hope for the future of the building is that once it is rehabilitated, it will be repurposed for use by the local community. If you are interested in contributing to this historical future community space, you can go to mcc.org
/dismukes where can learn more about the project. history of Dr. Dismukes and Black history in Appalachia, consider attending the upcoming Dismukes Learning Tour on October 9-13 in Kimball, West Virginia. Participants will visit various sites connected with Dr. Dismukes, hear first-hand from local speakers and learn about MCC's work to preserve Black history in the area. During this learning weekend there is also an opportunity to contribute to this project through a fundraising gala on the 12th of October.

MCC is also still looking for more stories and connections to record a more full and complete history of the area, if you or someone you know might have relation to Dr. Dismukes, Dr. Harrison, or any of the nurses who served in these 2 hospitals you can connect with the Dismukes project coordinator Tylah Cline at tylahcline@mcc.org. Her email is in the show notes along with the link learn more and donate to the project.
Thanks for listening.

This episode of Relief, Development and Podcast was produced on the traditional land of the Algonquin, Lenape, Nanticoke, Piscataway, Shawnee and Susquehannock people groups. This episode was hosted and produced by me, Christy Kauffman. The head producer is Leslie Boctor.

Thanks and take good care

**Outro*