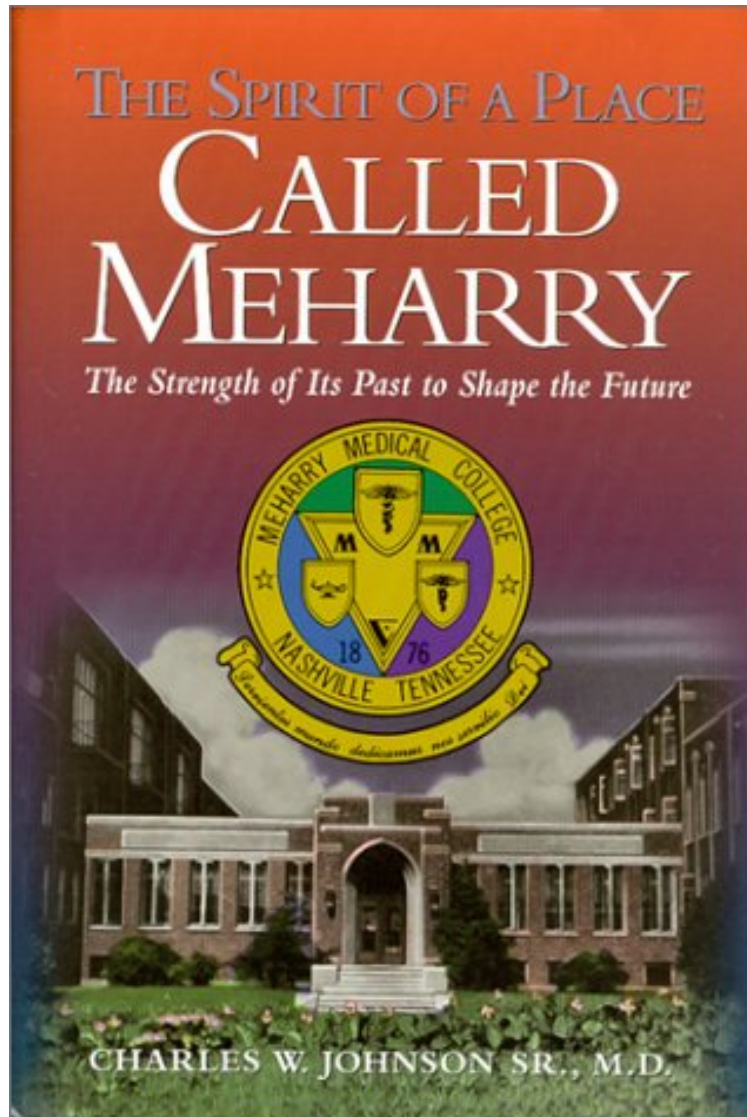


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The Spirit of a Place Called Meharry: The Strength of Its Past to Shape the Future

Charles W. Johnson Sr. M.D.

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Meharry Medical College is the nation's largest private predominantly black institution for the education of health professionals. Almost half of the nation's currently practicing black physicians and dentists are Meharry graduates. Today, many of Meharry Medical College's graduates work in rural areas and inner cities, fulfilling some of the greatest health needs of the United States. *The Spirit of a Place Called Meharry* tells of the early years of Nashville's famous medical school and of some of its distinguished professors and students. It recounts stories of the challenges Meharry faced in getting professional recognition from the medical community at large. Of particular interest is Dr. Johnson's story of his own successful fight to establish and fund the acclaimed Sickle Cell program. This book is an important account of African American history, particularly on the topic of higher education. It is also an important document on the history of medical education in the United States.

He tells his story through people, the real essence of the spirit of any place. Very personal, yet not "gossipy." -- Henry Moses, distinguished professor of biology and chemistry, Fisk University and professors emeritus, biochemistry, Meharry Medical College
Reading this book is a must for all Meharrians and those who wish to gain some insight into "The Spirit of a Place Called Meharry." -- Fred Jones, Ph.D., dean emeritus, School of Graduate Studies and Research, Meharry Medical College
[He] stands out as a quiet guide telling [this] story with accuracy and modesty... -- F. Tremaine Billings Jr., M.D., professor emeritus, medicine, Vanderbilt University
About the Author
The late Charles Johnson Sr., M.D. was the founder of Meharry's School of Graduate Studies and Research. He also organized a doctoral program in 1967, and remained the dean of graduate studies until 1981. He also served as Meharry's first vice president for research and as an interim dean in the School of Medicine. He retired as vice president of academic affairs and executive vice president. A native of Ennis, Texas, Johnson received his bachelor's degree in biology at Prairie View AM State College, Texas, and his master's at the University of Southern California. He began teaching as an instructor at Meharry in 1947, where he would receive his medical degree six years later. During his more than four decades at Meharry, Johnson also started and obtained funding for the institution's Sickle Cell program. Johnson conducted research and wrote many articles for medical and scientific publications in his lifetime. This volume is his first history. He died at age seventy-seven in August of 1999, and his wife, Mattie S. Johnson, undertook the task of making sure that his history was published. The Johnsons were the parents of three children: Charles W. Jr., Phillip Noel, and Livette Suzanne.