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**Dr. R. Garland Chissell (1914-1975)**

*MSA SC 3520-*

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Louise Kerr, *This Week We Salute*,

Baltimore Afro-American, 4, December 8, 1945.

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*Born 1870 in Petersburg, Va. Virginia State College, Boston University, Howard University Medical School, 1902. Senior Medical Examiner at Provident Hospital. Vestryman, St. James Protestant Episcopal Church. Member, Masons, Elks, Nazarites, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, National Medical Association, Maryland State Medical Society, Monumental Medical Society.*

Dr. Robert Garland Chissell was born in Petersburg, Va. In 1870. He attended the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, the precursor to Virginia State University, one of the country’s first four year institutions for African Americans. He taught history and math at his alma mater before attending Howard University Medical School, graduating in 1902 and choosing to begin his career in Baltimore, where he would practice for 62 years until his death. He lived and kept his office at 1534 Druid Hill Avenue for many years, an address which made him suitable as the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit to enjoin the conversion to one-way streets. He had been one of the first African-Americans to inhabit that block shortly after his arrival in Baltimore in 1902. Called the “dean of Baltimore doctors,” he became the senior medical examiner at Provident Hospital, and he was very well respected in the African American Community. At his death in 1964, he received a lengthy obituary in the Baltimore Sun, which article mentions him as “the first negro physician in Baltimore to drive an automobile.”

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**Sources:**

Louise Kerr, “This Week We Salute,” *Baltimore Afro-American*, 8 December 1945.

“Dr. Chissell,” *Baltimore Afro-American*, 23 May 1964.

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“Provident Officials Turn Thumbs Down on Old Sinai,” *Baltimore Afro-American*, 18 June 1960.

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**Images:**

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**Related Collections:**

[R. Garland Chissell, et al v. Mayor and City Council of Baltimore Papers Collection, MSA SC 5905](http://speccol.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/catalog/cfm/dsp_number.cfm?speccol=5905).

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