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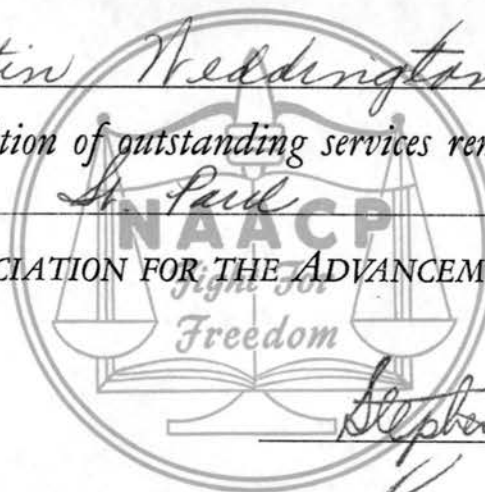
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Merit Certificate

Issued to:

Martin Waddington

In grateful recognition of outstanding services rendered in the Membership
Campaign of the *St. Paul* Branch
of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE



Stephen Gil Spottswood
Chairman, Nat'l. Board of Directors

Koy Wilkins

Executive Secretary

Dated at New York this

2nd day of *June* 19*61*

Allie Mae Hampton
Branch President

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ST. PAUL N.A.A.C.P.
by Arthur C. McWatt

The history of the St. Paul Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People really began on July 15, 1905, in Buffalo, New York, when representatives from fourteen states met to discuss methods for improving the conditions for Negroes in America. Among the leaders of the group was Frederick L. McGee from St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. McGee was a young black man who had been born in Mississippi and who received his college training at Knoxville College in Tennessee and then moved to Illinois to study law. He was admitted to the bar in 1884 and five years later he migrated to Minnesota to become the first Negro, in Minnesota history, to be admitted to practice before the state Supreme Court. W.E.B. DuBois came to St. Paul to personally invite Mr. McGee to attend the second annual meeting of the Niagra Movement, at Harper's Ferry to help them draw up a platform. After that meeting most members agreed that the movement should protect the rights of freedom of speech and criticism, the right of free press, full manhood suffrage and the abolition of all caste distinctions based on color. After returning to the Twin Cities, Mr. McGee helped to organize the Twin City Protection League which eventually became the Twin City Branch of the N.A.A.C.P., on March 25, 1912. The founders of the Twin City Branch were Reverend A.H. Lealtad, who was elected President; Dr. Robert S. Brown, Vice-President; John Q. Adams, Secretary; and Z.A. Pope who was elected Treasurer. The Board of

Governors was made up of Jose Sherwood, Frederick L. McGee and B.S. Smith. Other members were Dr. Valdo Turner, J.H. Loomis, G.W. James, S.C. Phillips and O.C. Hall.

On October 6, 1912, seventeen members of the Twin City Branch met at the St. Phillips Episcopal Church to form a new St. Paul Branch. Under the steady leadership of Father Lealtad and the activism of Dr. Turner the branch grew and in 1914 they sent Father Stephen L. Throbald, to the National Conference, in Baltimore, as their delegate. While there, Father Theobald addressed the conference on the topic, "The Catholic Church and the Negro". By the end of the year, the branch's membership had increased to over one hundred and Lieutenant Governor J.A.A. Burnquist was installed as the organization's second President. That same year, Dr. Turner led a group to City Hall to protest the downtown showing of the movie, "The Nigger", to Mayor Powers and the City Council. After some discussions and negotiations the group succeeded in getting the title changed to, "The New Governor", and Mrs. Thomas H. Lyles was invited to preview it before it was again shown to the public. Another crisis occurred on November 3, 1917, when a committee chaired by lawyer, W.T. Francis met with Commissioner of Education Wunderlich and Superintendent of Schools Hartwell, to protest the dropping of Miss Grace Lealtad as a Public School teacher. Miss Lealtad had recently graduated, with honors, from Macalester College and had been scheduled to teach at Hill Elementary School that Fall, but the offer had been withdrawn at the request of some bigoted parents. Miss Lealtad withdrew her application and decided to accept a teaching position in Columbus, Ohio, but before she left

she served as the Secretary of the St. Paul Branch. The second decade, of the century, ended with the St. Paul Branch donating \$40.00 to the defense of twelve black men, in Arkansas, who had been condemned to death, by a jury, in just seven minutes, according to the **Chicago Post**. Fortunately, the money they sent for their appeal resulted in six of them being saved from the gallows.

At the beginning of the next decade, the BRanch moved its offices to 303 Court Block near what is now the Union Depot. Dr. Valdo Turner, again led a committee before Commissioner of Public Parks and Playgrounds-J.M. Clancy to protest his designation of the Welcome Hall Playground, on Western and Rondo Streets as "exclusively for colored". Two years later the Branch Secretary, Roy Wilkins organized the fund raiser which was needed to start the St. Paul Urban League. In 1922, Dr. Turner brought charges against the St. Paul Police Department for their brutal treatment of packing house workers, Frank Hardy and Nick Beavens. The following year, Mr. Wilkins, who had been serving as the managing Editor of the Appeal, left St. Paul to accept a position on the Kansas City Call. In 1925, Judge John W. Willis assumed the office of Branch President and introduced N.A.A.C.P. Secretary, Walter White when he spoke at the Pilgrim Baptist Church on Summit and Cedar Streets. The meeting raised \$521.17 which was sent to help defend Dr. Sweet, of Detroit, who was on trial for shooting into a mob who had surrounded his home after they had moved into a newly integrated neighborhood. The following year, Pierce Butler, Jr., the son of the Associate Justice of the U.S.

Supreme Court was elected President of the St. Paul Branch. He gave much needed support to branch member Blanche S. Brookins, who was suing the Pullman Company for "insult and mortification and injury to her nervous system after being ejected from a Pullman Car in Palatka, Florida on July 1, 1926". The National N.A.A.C.P. office praised her suit as having, "Presaged a new era in legal and judicial contention concerning the interpretation of the laws governing interstate travel and the intent and meaning of passenger accommodations".

At the beginnings of the 1930's the St. Paul Branch was re-organized under the leadership of Mrs. Josie Williams, with the assistance of Ted Allen and Mrs. Clarence Mitchell, Jr., who helped to build up the membership. During that decade, a legal redress committee, headed by John Culver, demanded a grand jury investigation of the death of Thomas Johnson, who was murdered by white thugs, Edward Schmidt and Ernest Lukes at 7th and Wacouta Streets. They succeeded in getting S.E. Hall selected as a member of the Grand jury.

In the 1940's, largely through the efforts of the Branch's legal redress committee, Governor Harold Stassen refused the pleas of Governor Carl Bailey, of Arkansas, to extradite 67 year old, Paul DuWalt, who, it was alleged, had stolen two tires in Pine Bluff, nineteen years earlier. Later in that decade, Maceo Littlejohn, persuaded Commissioner Fred Truax to end discrimination at the City Roller Rink on Harriet Island. On January 24, 1947, Arthur Sternberg, Dean M.A. Morrill of Hamline University and Reverend T.R. Nelson, staged a sit-in from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. in the lobby of the Hamline Hotel, before the

management finally allowed Bayard Rustin to register.

In the 1950's, Carl L. Wescheke became the first fully paid Life Member of the St. Paul Branch after he led the first drive for a fair housing ordinance which was finally passed by the City Council. Near the end of the decade, the Branch enjoyed the dynamic organizational leadership of Leonard Carter, who persuaded the State Fair Employment Practice Commission to rescind their practice of requiring applicants, for employment, to submit a photograph prior to their being called for job interviews.

Pilgrim Baptist Church became the first St. Paul institution, in the 1960's to complete its payment on its life Membership. In April, President Addie C. Few announced that picketing of Woolworth and Grant stores would begin during the first week of the month. The seven members of the James O. Mann family became the first paid-up family the of the Branch's Family Club. That summer, in 1960, President Donald Lewis brought St. Paul a National N.A.A.C.P. Convention and not only supervised 18 committees, with over 200 members, but also organized the barbequing of 2,000 ^dpuns of ribs over a pit ten feet deep and ten feet long by a crew who worked seventy-two hours straight. Leonard Carter was promoted from Midwest Regional Director to the West Coast Directorship and the 1969 Spingarn Medal was awarded to Clarence Mitchell, Jr., who three decades earlier had almost single-handedly ended race discrimination in the auto-risk insurance field in Minnesota.

In any assessment of the Branch's history, credit must be

given to Kenneth Grisvold, who was the Branch's main legal advocate from 1955-75 and the strength and forthrightness of reverend Denzil Carty who was not only a powerful voice in the 1970's, but who also was responsible for expanding the work of the N.A.A.C.P. in Minnesota by organizing Branches in both Duluth and Rochester as well as Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Over the years the St. Paul Branch has been blessed with strong, creative and dedicated leadership and has continued to crusade, safeguard ⁿad to sustain the many causes of Civil and Human Rights on a broad frontier and to carry on the fine tradition which began three quarters of a century ago.