



William DeWitt Mitchell

The Other William Mitchell

THOMAS H. BOYD AND DOUGLAS R. HEIDENREICH, PAGE 1

Over The Years ...

A century of notable leaders:

Sterling Club members you've read about:

- Lawyer and US Minister and Consul to Liberia William T. Francis
- Deputy Police Chief James S. Griffin
- Athlete and Sports Official Jimmy Lee
- Architect Clarence "Cap" Wigington

Sterling Club members you've heard of:

- Union Leader Frank Boyd
- Judge Stephen L. Maxwell
- Publisher Cecil Newman

Sterling Club members you've met:

- Former Police Chief William Finney
- Former School Superintendent Curman Gaines
- Former City Council President Bill Wilson

SOURCE: The Sterling Club Archives

One hundred years ago, thirteen talented gentlemen in St. Paul's African American community formed a social club to gather, celebrate, and stand strong against discrimination. Jeremiah E. Ellis shares this organization's long journey of engaging in civic action, creating social cohesion, managing through community upheaval, and acknowledging achievements in *St. Paul's Distinct Leadership Tradition: A Century of The Sterling Club*, beginning on page 11.

ON THE COVER



William DeWitt Mitchell served as the fifty-fourth Attorney General of the United States from 1929 to 1933. Danish artist John C. Johansen was commissioned to paint a portrait of Mitchell for the Department of Justice in 1935. He also painted likenesses of Georges Clemenceau, Ferdinand Foch, Herbert Hoover, Woodrow Wilson, and others. Painting by John C. Johansen. Courtesy of United States Department of Justice.

Contents

- 1 *William DeWitt Mitchell*
The Other William Mitchell
THOMAS H. BOYD AND DOUGLAS R. HEIDENREICH
- 11 *St. Paul's Distinct Leadership Tradition*
A Century of The Sterling Club
JEREMIAH E. ELLIS
- 22 *"I'm as Restless as a Lion"*
The Aspirations of St. Paulite Ruth Cutler
JOHANNES ALLERT, M.A.

Message from the Editorial Board

One of the joys of publishing local history is uncovering stories that have escaped previous notice from historians. We have three of those stories this month. Thomas H. Boyd and Douglas R. Heidenreich explore the life of attorney William DeWitt Mitchell, the son of legendary Minnesota Supreme Court Justice William Bell Mitchell. The "Other William Mitchell" had a distinguished career in his own right as solicitor general and attorney general in Washington, D.C., and this article gives him well-deserved recognition. Jeremiah E. Ellis brings us the history of the Sterling Club, which was formed by a select group of men from St. Paul's African American community. For a century, the club has celebrated important milestones of community members and advanced civil rights as it provided a haven from pervasive discrimination in the city. Finally, Johannes Allert depicts the life of Ruth Cutler through her journals and letters. Cutler, a young woman born into upper-class St. Paul society, committed to Progressive ideals during World War I. Despite family responsibilities, she managed to join the American Red Cross and travel to France before she tragically lost her life in the flu epidemic. These stories remind us of individual lives and collective actions that showed incredible talent and resolve.

Anne Cowie
Chair, Editorial Board

The Ramsey County Historical Society thanks Board Member James A. Stolpestad and affiliate AHS Legacy Fund for supporting the updated design of this magazine. Publication of Ramsey County History is also supported in part by a gift from Clara M. Claussen and Frieda H. Claussen in memory of Henry H. Cowie Jr. and by a contribution from the late Reuel D. Harmon. Thanks to Mitchell Hamline School of Law History Center and Thomas H. Boyd for their financial support.

A Century of The Sterling Club

JEREMIAH E. ELLIS

Well over a century ago, the Minnesota Club, the University Club of Saint Paul, and the Saint Paul Athletic Club debuted as social organizations with facilities for Ramsey County's elite to gather, host events, and entertain. For similar reasons, a select group of St. Paulites formed the Sterling Club to host dignitaries, civic forums, dances, and retirement celebrations. But this club was distinct from others in town. The new club's original members looked to create a haven from the racial and economic discrimination against African Americans and worked to solicit camaraderie within their community. This is how the Sterling Club grew from a leadership concept into a well-respected institution that this year celebrates its hundredth year.

A Bright and Sunny Start on a Cold January Day

New Year's Day tends to be spent at home, with time to reflect on the previous year and plan for the upcoming one. But on January 1, 1918, fifty St. Paul families experienced a disruption from their usual New Year's rhythms. On this cold, frosty day, eleven members of the newly formed Sterling Club cheerfully made house calls throughout the city's African American community.

A few days before on December 29, 1917, the African American newspaper, *The Appeal*, announced that "members of the Sterling Club will make a number of New Year's calls next Tuesday. This club, which recently organized, is composed of several well-known St. Paul citizens."¹



Sterling Club members at their annual meeting in 1921 at Union Hall on Aurora Street between Kent and Mackubin. Not all members are identified. Front row: John Q. Adams, fourth from right, and President Joseph E. Johnson, third from right. Middle row: Arthur H.P. Rhodes and Mattie Rhodes, far right. Back row: Orrington C. Hall, top left, and Clarence W. Wigington, ninth from left. Courtesy of the Sterling Club Archives.

Neighbors welcomed the enthusiastic gentlemen that New Year's Day, offering their blessings.

Out of a community of less than 4,000 African Americans,² the fledgling group organized themselves for effective leadership, engagement, and resistance against discrimination. The presidency went to railroad worker Joseph E. Johnson.³ Real estate entrepreneur Frederick D. McCracken became vice president. Bismark Camm Archer, a janitor, was named secretary. Architect Clarence W. Wigington was designated corresponding secretary and chairman of the executive committee, and Dr. Obadiah D. Howard accepted the position of critic. Prior to their incorporation, the board of directors included Orrington C. Hall, Howard F. McIntyre, J. E. Murphy, W. A. Hilyard, J. Homer Goins, Walter R. Dyer, J. H. Hickman, Jr., Dwight T. Reed, and E. C. Walker. The other founders included Hammond Turner, Richard Anderson, William B. Tandy, and W. E. Alexander.⁴ It took some time, but the club of thirteen mostly mid-career men positioned as the new generation of community leadership officially incorporated on August 28, 1919.

A Talented Group

The African American community desired representation from leaders who had first-hand experience combatting the challenges of living on the color line and withstanding abject racial discrimination, as well as men who were clear mentors and changemakers. Club members seemed to have a supernatural capacity to rise above the barriers placed in their way:

In 1906, Orrington Clifford (O.C.) Hall ran Hall Brothers Barber Shop with his brother at Fourth and Wabasha.⁵ Serving prominent political and business clients eventually connected him to a clerk position in the Ramsey County auditor's office. He leveraged both roles to link underemployed community members with opportunities through *The Helper*⁶ news bulletin. In 1914 when Hall learned of layoff threats to asphalt workers, he penned a letter to the *Pioneer Press* in protest. This eventually led to the Afro-American Industrial League's establishment, which battled economic and employment discrimination prior to the development of the Urban League.⁷ Hall's unabashed support for African American people

made him a natural leader in the development of the Sixteenth Battalion Minnesota Colored Home Guard.⁸ While the Sixteenth Battalion was restricted to serve in Minnesota, Hall took his leadership to Rochester, France, through the YMCA and received accolades for stopping a riot, hours after his arrival.⁹ He returned home "covered with glory."¹⁰

Similarly, Frederick D. McCracken became an influential member within Minnesota's African American community prior to the club's formation. St. Paul's Republican Congressman Frederick C. Stevens¹¹ hired McCracken in 1900 as private stenographer and clerk. In succeeding political cycles, McCracken's earned trust "to look after Mr. Stevens' political fences"¹² while the Congressman worked in Washington, D.C. After Democratic candidate Carl Van Dyke¹³ won the congressional seat in 1914, the community honored McCracken with a large silver trophy cup engraved "... by Colored Citizens of St. Paul, in appreciation of services rendered to the community and the race."¹⁴ Van Dyke later recommended McCracken as a housing investigator for the US Department of Labor. After helping establish the Sterling Club, McCracken earned a promotion to Town Manager of the Truxtun Community in Portsmouth, Virginia, which was the first wartime government housing community for African Americans working at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.^{15,16} McCracken eventually returned to St. Paul and served as Sterling Club president in 1926 and 1927.¹⁷

A third founding member, Clarence Wigington, worked as the country's first African American municipal architect. Wigington moved to St. Paul in 1914 from Nebraska with significant architectural experience but little formal training. After achieving a high score on a civil service exam, the city hired him to help develop the growing metropolis.¹⁸

During World War I, Wigington led the effort to convince Governor J. A. A. Burnquist to authorize the African American Sixteenth Battalion of the Home Guard. Wigington became captain.¹⁹ After the war, he returned to work in St. Paul, designing numerous buildings, including the Highland Park Water Tower, the Harriet Island Pavilion, and the St. Paul Auditorium.²⁰

These three men, along with the other members, exemplify a vision of winning battles

against racism and serving as influential leaders. Their success in those early days, however, rested on the help of an older gentleman named John Q. Adams, who encouraged the men to work hard, host visiting guests, and build up community.

A Place of Their Own

When Adams passed away, club members wished to fulfill their mentor's vision as leaders and hosts. For that, they needed a permanent home. While St. James A.M.E. Church regularly shared their meeting space for the club's annual graduation tributes for students, awards ceremonies, and moving picture shows,²¹ the men couldn't depend on other venues forever; besides, alternate venues were hard to find. Former club president Ben Alexander retold the experience of that era: "[Members] would be meeting at different homes because they would want to go downtown to have their little events

or dances and the hotels would say, 'We don't rent to Blacks [or] we're booked up. We don't have any room.' So, the men said, 'Well, we'll get us a place of our own.'"²²

At their 1921 annual meeting, members approved \$20,000 for construction of a stand-alone building after club member and architect Wigington presented designs. Initial plans called for a two-story building with a clubhouse on the top level and a street-level storefront to generate additional revenue.²³ But the city and some neighbors initially objected, resisting the possibility of "just another joint"²⁴ in the community. The city said, "No, you have to build a house,"²⁵ expecting a clubhouse to meet residential zoning requirements with bathing and sleeping facilities.

By 1924, excavation began at 315 North Dale Street between Carroll and Rondo Avenues. Relaying the community's high expectations, *The Northwest Bulletin* reported, "... when

John Q. Adams, Honorary Member

John Quincy Adams's vision of leadership shaped the Sterling Club's style of engagement. Almost thirty years older than most members and the organization's original honorary member, Adams served as the club's mentor. As editor of *The Appeal* newspaper, Adams boosted the organization's public profile and increased attendance at events by writing about their accomplishments and accolades.

Adams journeyed to Minnesota from Louisville, Kentucky, at the request of his own champion, James Kidd Hilyard, in 1886.^a Hilyard recruited Adams to work at *The Western Appeal*, the predecessor to *The Appeal*.^{b,c} As editor, Adams knew the community well. With his connections, he arranged engagement opportunities for visiting African American speakers, including Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. Du Bois, and William Monroe Trotter and hosted them in his home.^d

One of the Sterling Club's own objectives was "the proper entertainment of persons of note who may visit."^e Remember, in turn-of-the-century Minnesota, restaurants and hotels denied service and lodging to African Americans. Former club president Martin O. Weddington relays the experience of early members and their guests:

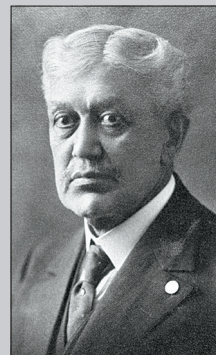
"Oh, yes, there was [discrimination]. Take the St. Paul Hotel. Famous. Blacks couldn't get a room there. You could work there. You could wait tables . . . But you couldn't get a room there."^f

The *Appeal's* editor publicly gave his stamp of approval to the club, announcing in his paper that the group was his heir apparent for community hospitality.

In 1922, a motorist accidentally hit the seventy-four-year-old Adams while he was boarding the University Avenue trolley. The club offered this heartfelt statement about their guardian:

"... being charter, honorary member of the Sterling Club, of which club he expected expression of highest social and civic ideals . . . leader of an unpopular people . . . he chose the more useful but rougher courage where he must take unkind rebuffs with his fellows in a world that rates character largely by color."^g

The expectations Adams left the Sterling Club resonated and compelled them to continue to bring the community together to address ever-evolving challenges.



John Q. Adams was editor of *The Appeal* and first honorary member of the Sterling Club. Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.

The Original Clubhouse, 315 North Dale Street, was designed by Sterling Club member Clarence W. Wigington. Photograph by Arthur H.P. Rhodes. Courtesy of the Sterling Club Archives.



completed [their clubhouse] will rank with any in the country.”²⁶ While the city and neighbors restricted their space to a residential building, limited funds prevented members from building a 150- to 200-person venue. One-hundred-fifty “Third Mortgage Gold Bond” certificates issued to members expanded the club’s financial ability to complete construction.²⁷

In the end, the Sterling Club featured two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a kitchen in a white-framed bungalow.^{28,29} Bernadine McGee, who as a teen served at club-hosted tea parties, recalls the living room could accommodate seventy-five guests.³⁰

The house became home base, not just a place for member exercises in parliamentary procedure. There, the club hosted children’s birthday parties, mayoral forums, fundraisers, and graduation events. It became the community living room within walking distance for many. It also served as a sanctuary where members problem solved against continued discrimination in Ramsey County. For example, in 1926, four African American women were refused entrance to a St. Paul theater’s main level.³¹ In 1951, 53 percent of St. Paul manufacturing firms reported they would never hire African Americans.³² In 1972, St. Paul police officers beat pre-law student Bill McGee for an alleged traffic violation.³³

Civic Action

Consider the lived experiences of African Americans in Ramsey County prior to World War II: Northwest Airlines hired no African American employees; manufacturer Brown and Bigelow, Inc., employed African Americans but only as janitors; and only after receiving war contracts that specified employers could not discriminate

did other Twin Cities manufacturers implement fair employment policies.³⁴ The public’s slow walk toward equality encouraged the community to keep pushing for greater civic participation and integration. Still, according to Jimmy Griffin, a Sterling Club member and St. Paul’s first black police sergeant, the club made a point of working “within the system” to solve community issues.³⁵

In 1933, the club’s civic committee welcomed the public to hear from Father Charles Keefe.³⁶ The new priest with St. Peter Claver Catholic Church impressed upon the Wednesday gathering that successful civic action comes through creating a formal organization based in religious teachings.

By 1937, the club earned the attention of St. Paul Mayor Mark H. Gehan. That January, for a “large and appreciative audience,” the reform-minded, former state legislator gave “inspiring remarks.”³⁷

A few years later, a group of Minnesota state legislators met with concerned club and community members at the conclusion of the 1943 legislative session. The Senate passed Equal Rights legislation barring discrimination based on religion or national origin.³⁸ But House approval did not come until the final hours of the session; community members wanted to understand the particulars.

Hammond Turner, a lawyer and club member, orchestrated the gathering. Conservative Senate Majority Leader Charlie Orr explained “Procedures in Legislation,” while fellow conservative Senator Milton Lightner, conservative House Majority Leader Roy Dunn, and liberal Senator Boleslaw Novak attended to provide secondary commentary.

Following the presentation, Dunn, the only legislator from the House and from rural Minnesota, allowed himself to be baited into discussing the House’s delayed action on the approval of the bill. In his response, Dunn blurted out, “nobody had anything against *you people*, but certain complication arose.”³⁹

By exposing the disregard for African Americans by some lawmakers, the Sterling Club highlighted their ongoing battle against racism. They also expanded the respect of local elected officials and the community as trustworthy partners known for speaking truth to power.

The Women's Auxiliary

Since the inception of the Sterling Club, members' wives provided support at functions and shared in the responsibilities to maintain the reputation of the organization. For example, in November 1922, Broadway actor Charles S. Gilpin visited St. Paul as the star of Eugene O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones*. The club wives created a spectacular party in Gilpin's honor and earned media accolades by hosting "one of the most unique and brilliant affairs ever held in St. Paul."^a They decorated Union Hall with palms, ferns, and white and yellow chrysanthemums in Bohemian style and dressed the part as hostesses to a celebrity, wearing gold lace, king blue silk, mink fur, diamonds, and pearls.^b

Once the first clubhouse was built, the wives selected the furnishings and decorations to create a tasteful and welcoming living space. However, it wasn't until 1930 that the relationship between the men and women formalized with the establishment of the Ladies Auxiliary, later, the Women's Auxiliary.^c

The role of the auxiliary grew in importance as the Great Depression descended. Club members had fewer financial resources to contribute toward dues and social activities, yet the clubhouse mortgage had to be paid. To address the challenges, membership criteria^d were adjusted and fees reduced. The club even tried renting space in the clubhouse, with little success. That's when the auxiliary stepped up their efforts, hosting cabaret-style events to earn extra income. Thanks, in part to the women, the club stayed afloat through the Depression and World War II years to enjoy post-war prosperity.^e

Through the 1940s and 1950s, the auxiliary partnership remained pivotal to the success of club activities. During golf and bridge tournaments, women shared parenting tasks, including feeding and supervising one another's children, so more adults could participate.

Bernadine McGee, niece of Sterling Club member Arthur H.P. Rhodes helped with many activities: "A lot of the places were not so-called elegant buildings. But by the time we had the flowers and the people to do everything, you would think you were in the Taj Mahal or something."^f At one event, the women even had flowers flown in from Hawaii.^g

Beginning in the 1960s, Auxiliary President Jewell Alexander created a cohesive balance between fundraising and socializing. The women's group contributed finan-



Offering moral and fundraising support, the Women's Auxiliary ensured the Sterling Club's longevity from the start of the club through present day. *Front row:* Jossie Holloman. *Second row (L-R):* Faustina Robinson, Pat England, Dorothy McFarland, Jewell Alexander, Unidentified, Edna Small. *Third row (L-R):* Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified, Louise Gooden, Lucille Burroughs. *Back row (L-R):* Unidentified, Betty Maxwell, Idella Patto, Unidentified, Unidentified. *Undated photo courtesy of the Sterling Club Archives.*

cially to community-based organizations and toward the upkeep of the forty-year-old clubhouse. They also hosted an annual picnic at Cedar Lake Farms and a Palm Sunday Tea and Musicales.^h

In the late 1970s when the organization was out a clubhouse, Jewell worked beside her husband Ben, who served as president of the Sterling Club. The pair led through a rough transitional period. Jewell encouraged the women to maintain morale and continue fundraising to support the new location and regular programming.ⁱ

In 1983, Daisy Young created the Sterling Club newsletter. This three-page monthly mailer kept members of both organizations connected.^j Auxiliary-sponsored fundraising excursions, such as trips to Iowa for a day of greyhound racing, received special attention in the newsletter.^k

At their meetings, the women organized fruit basket distribution to honorary or shut-in members. They created fundraising events, including style shows with the latest fashions,^l and sponsored luncheons and cocktail parties to thank contributors. They also supported other non-profits, including the American Cancer Society.^m

For their continued service to club and community, former Auxiliary President Mari Harper Finney remarked, "It has been a privilege to be associated with such distinguished membership."ⁿ

Social Cohesion

When not pushing for civil rights, members liked to enjoy one another's company. In the first half of the twentieth century, the game of golf grew in popularity, but for African Americans, the activity was, of course, saddled with discrimination. Private golf courses like Town & Country Club and Midland Hills Country Club remained off limits. Regardless of their skills, African Americans in the Twin Cities could play only on public courses.

Despite the restrictions, the Sterling Club, under the presidency of S. Vincent Owens, who also served as executive director of the St. Paul Urban League, hosted its first invitational golf



While African Americans could golf at public courses, they were not welcome in most clubhouses, so the club moved tournament ceremonies to the Sterling Club after a day on the course. *Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.*



Formal balls hosted by the Sterling Club remained important to the community, even as discriminatory practices at some facilities were eventually lifted. *Front row (L-R): Bernadine (Foster) McGee, Herbert Foster Jr., Hugh Schuck, Betty Lou Dodd, Elizabeth Schuck. Back row (L-R): Mattie Rhodes, Marion Mackey, Unidentified, Arthur H.P. Rhodes, Reginald Harris, Sr. Undated photo courtesy of Bernadine D. McGee.*

tournament in the summer of 1944 at Como Golf course. Sixty players from Minneapolis and St. Paul gathered for a Sunday-morning tee off. After thirty-six holes, members John Garner and Cornelius Tucker earned top honors. Celebrations followed at the Sterling Club, where winners received prizes of war bonds, stamps, and trophies.⁴⁰

The club also hosted formal dances with up to 300 guests. Unfortunately, the clubhouse wasn't big enough as a venue. Early on, larger events often were held at Union Hall or other locations within the community. By 1961, however, the Ryan Hotel and Lowry Hotel⁴¹ opened their doors to African Americans.

If the venue lacked aesthetics, the coordinating committee added decorations and flowers. The events may have looked lavish, but attendees brought the true quality with them. Part of the magic was the mix of meat packing plant workers, railroad workers, elevator operators, postal workers, flight attendants, and professionals.^{42,43} The smaller population within St. Paul's African American community removed employment-based cliquishness. Members of fraternities, sororities, and other social clubs attended and reciprocated with invitations to their parties and events. In fact, one could attend six to eight such formal events a year.⁴⁴

Fashion was especially important, and ball gowns were usually worn only once. Patricia Allen, a former auxiliary secretary and daughter of club member Wilbur Cartwright, attended the dances in the 1940s and 1950s and purchased gowns at Field-Schlick, Frank Murphy, Jackson-Graves, or others stores. After World War II, saxophonist Percy Hughes⁴⁵ and his Navy band frequently provided music.⁴⁶

Community Upheaval

But it wasn't all fun and leisure for the members of the Sterling Club and the auxiliary. The midcentury destruction of Rondo Avenue⁴⁷ to make room for Interstate 94 caused community upheaval, affecting the club and its network. Neighbors whose homes were demolished were forced to search for adequate housing, the value and equity in homes evaporated, institutional resources were drained, and businesses closed.⁴⁸

The destruction/construction path spared the clubhouse, but members faced a dilemma:

join in challenging highway construction officials or seek to preserve their safe place for themselves. The club beat back any temptation to take the easy path of self-preservation, choosing instead to embrace those pushing for a greater community voice in public decisions. In Reverend Floyd Massey, they identified an inspiring leader resisting pressure. Massey, with the help of others, convened the Rondo-St. Anthony Improvement Association to combat efforts to further dismantle the community where 93 percent of St. Paul's African American residents lived.⁴⁹ The group labored for community input into the inevitable highway construction and compelled officials to construct the highway below street level and keep sound barriers from encumbering views from across the highway. This intentional design reinforced the connection between the south and north sides of Rondo that still exists today.

Just as Adams' purposely promoted exemplary leadership in his newspaper, the club pedestaled Massey, creating their first "Man of the Year" award to recognize the minister for his exceptional community service.⁵⁰

At a Crossroads

In 1962, as construction of Interstate 94 continued, Wigington presented designs for a "new" clubhouse.⁵¹ The remodeled building was set to include a full banquet hall and commercial kitchen, along with ample parking spaces in the back. As drafting moved toward pre-construction feasibility, Redeemer Arms,⁵² a four-story 150-unit housing complex, was built just behind the clubhouse in 1963. This meant the club rested on land key for future control of the block. "The City came through and Redeemer Arms wanted our place . . . they [wanted to buy] us out," said former president Ben Alexander.⁵³

Members were at a crossroads: they could cash out or try to carry on as a club in a new location. In the bylaws, if the board of directors dissolved the club, funds from the sale of the property would be divided among active members. In considering this option, members thought about the club's fifty-year history and how laws permitting public discrimination had improved, but intolerance lingered. The second option—to remain a club—left questions about their future. Where would they go? How would



they pay for a new building? Would some members leave?

In the weeks prior to the clubhouse demolition, members were nostalgic, thinking back on the many events and accomplishments at their first location. After a half century as *the* social club with an actual house, would they continue to exist as an organization without a home base? The answer was—yes. The members continued to meet—for nearly two years—at various locations, including Hallie Q. Brown Community Center and at members' homes.^{54,55}

The Rebuild Team

Ben Alexander, a local mortician, was president of the club at the time and was tasked with breathing new life into the homeless organization. Years earlier in the 1950s when invited to join the club, Alexander wasn't interested. "They tried to get me to join and I said, 'No, I don't want to be there with the old men.' But I ended up with them." By 1976, President Alexander—not yet sixty—found himself assembling a team to revive the Sterling Club.

Obtaining the mortgage for a new clubhouse happened with little effort. Alexander explained, "We had this inside dealer, see, which was [club member] Cecil Newman. He was with Twin City Federal. He was on the board. All we had to do was go to him and he went to the board members and they okayed it."⁵⁶

John L. Banks, a Twin Cities Assembly Plant retiree with lending expertise, also helped. "I worked with the Credjafawn.⁵⁷ That is quite an organization. And we had our own credit union. I was on the board of directors of that."⁵⁸

According to former club secretary Donald Colbert, many other members offered their

Final meeting in the old clubhouse, December 14, 1976. Front row (L-R): Ira P. Allen, Otto Burroughs, Ben L. Alexander, Anthony "Tony" Saunders, and Richard M. Mann. Back row (L-R): Merrill L. Taylor, Green Watson, John Scott, Charles Bradley, Donald Colbert, Alpheus Owens, John Preston, Herman Bailey, Abram H. Weaver, Raymond Bledsoe, Paul L. Wood, John Whitaker, John W. Garner, J. Nathaniel Smith, and George Brooks. Courtesy of club photographer John L. Banks, in the Sterling Club Archives.



The new clubhouse in 1979, on the corner of Carroll and St. Albans Streets, is virtually indistinguishable from area residential homes. *Courtesy of the Sterling Club Archives.*

expertise: Richard Morris Mann, a bar owner and advocate for equal employment opportunities within the community, advised on entertainment venues and event planning. Otto Burroughs, a Navy veteran and law-enforcement professional, understood how to maintain and protect investments. Committee chair Charles W. Bradley, Minnesota's first licensed African American Realtor, brought real estate expertise. "Ben Alexander, Charles Bradley, Dr. Herman Bailey were always in on the negotiations with the city to acquire the new location—to acquire the property there. And they did a hell of a job."⁵⁹

Eventually, the group settled on three vacant lots totaling a half acre, not far from their previ-

ous clubhouse. The club broke ground on June 24, 1978. With less than six months of construction oversight—but after twenty-three months without a permanent home—the Sterling Club held its first meeting at 300 St. Albans Street North on December 3.

The Sterling Club Today

Today, a three-minute walk from where the original clubhouse once sat, stands a one-story, ranch-style, single-family house. For the last forty years for a small cross section of St. Paul's African American community, the Sterling Club has remained a place to meet friends, serve the community, and address issues that arise related to race and social justice.

In addition to club gatherings, the house has served as a voter registration location, the setting for Ramsey County community engagement sessions, and monthly meetings of an Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity chapter. The club also hosts an open house during Rondo Days⁶⁰ weekend where parade commentators telecast from the deck.

The entryway boards display names of the current club officers and forty-five active members. In the open-plan main room hang portraits



Sterling Club members at the new clubhouse in 1983. *Front row (L-R):* Henry Patterson, Anthony M. Saunders, Donald Colbert, Clarence Young, John Garner, Levi Brady, Ben Alexander, Herman Bailey, Otto Burroughs. *Middle row (L-R):* Jon M. Whitaker, Donald Banham, Albert A. Brewer, Martin O. Weddington, Dr. George O. Berry, Fred Williams, Ira Allen, James Griffin, Syd Williams, Judge Stephen Maxwell, Paul Wood, Unidentified, Unidentified, Joseph G. Waters, George Staples. *Back row (L-R):* Merrill L. Taylor, John Scott, Ray Cabaniss, Willard Jones, Hayward "Honey Boy" Toussaint, John Banks, George H. Key, Abram H. Weaver, Fred Ingram, Edward Hicks, Bradford Benner, Charles Bradley, Melvin Lawrence. *Courtesy of the Sterling Club Archives.*

of former club presidents, while the separate auxiliary room is furnished like a living room.

One long-standing goal of the Sterling Club is continued community involvement. Most recently, members have volunteered with the cross-generational, St. Paul-based New Lens Urban Mentoring⁶¹ organization, which focuses on cultural, mental, physical, and social development of African American young men and boys. The older, more-seasoned members listen, offering support and advice about the increasingly complex society in which they live. This bonding reflects the way James K. Hilyard mentored John Q. Adams as the young editor arrived at *The Western Appeal*. Adams, in turn, encouraged and supported that small band of enthusiastic men who formed the Sterling Club a century ago. And at the 1924 tribute to graduates, Fredrick McCracken, echoing the wisdom of Hilyard and Adams, encouraged the next generation to “choose for your life’s aim the success accomplished by a black man who has had to struggle against the greatest of odds, ‘prejudice,’ and yet make his work noticeable.”⁶²

Ramsey County is still not a just and equal place in many ways, but it’s improved and will continue to improve through the efforts of current and future members. Club archivist Abram H. Weaver noted the relevance of the club a quarter-century ago with his words that still ring true today:

“By its presence across the years, the Sterling Club has created a legendry that pervades the St. Paul ‘black’ community. That presence will continue to undergird local stability. The Club’s outlook is to



Spring “Breakfast with the Fellas” event at the Sterling Club in 2006. (L-R): Member Arthur L. Long and former presidents John W. Garner (1970-71), Levi L. Brady (1981-83), and Henry S. Wesley (2006-07). Courtesy of the Sterling Club Archives.

maintain its social character and remain committed, not only to the demands of its civic responsibilities, but also to stand dedicated in providing benevolent benefits for African American social programs.”⁶³

In recognition of their centennial, the Sterling Club’s hundredth anniversary celebration will be held Saturday, September 14, 2019. Call 651-208-2920 or visit <https://www.thesterlingclub.org/events> for additional information.

Jeremiah E. Ellis co-created the 2017 Cap Wington History and Architecture Bike Tour to uplift local African American history. Ellis is a member of the African American Interpretive Center of Minnesota (AAICM) and a seventh-generation Minnesotan. He studied strategic management at St. Catherine University in St. Paul and theology at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas. Ellis plans to dine with the Sterling Club at their anniversary celebration in September.

NOTES

1. “The Members of the Sterling Club Will Make a Number of New Year’s Calls Next Tuesday,” *The Appeal*, December 29, 1917, 3.

2. David Vassar Taylor, *African Americans in Minnesota: The People of Minnesota* (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2002), 30. St. Paul’s African American population in 1920 was 3,376. Conservatively estimating four people per household, yields 844 total African American households. It is estimated the new club connected with over five percent of the city’s African American population.

3. “J. E. Johnson Retired from Railroad Service,” *Minneapolis Spokesman*, August 8, 1941, 2.

4. “The Sterling Club: A New Organization Formed for Various Purposes,” *The Appeal*, January 5, 1918, 3.

5. *St. Paul African American Cultural Context, 1837-1975* (Ramsey County, MN: 106 Group, 2017), accessed July 11, 2019, https://www.historicsaintpaul.org/sites/default/files/2017-05-19%20St%20Paul%20AA%20Context%20FINAL_o.pdf.

6. Arthur C. McWatt, “St. Paul’s Resourceful African-American Community,” *Ramsey County History* 26, no. 1 (Spring 1991): 7-8. Hall and his brother relayed information they heard in the barbershop to Thomas Morgan, a fellow parishioner at St. James African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church and publisher of *The*

Helper, a church bulletin that listed church affairs, social events, and job opportunities.

7. McWatt, "St. Paul's Resourceful African-American Community," 7.

8. During World War I, segregation prevented African Americans from joining the Minnesota Home Guard. Captain Clarence Wigington led the effort for Governor Joseph A. A. Burnquist's authorization of an African American Sixteenth Battalion of the Minnesota Home Guard, the first of its kind in Minnesota. Companies A and B were captained by Wigington and O.C. Hall, respectively.

9. "Orrington Clifford Hall: YMCA Secretary Returns from Overseas Covered With Glory," *The Appeal*, June 7, 1919, 3.

10. "Orrington Clifford Hall," 3.

11. "Stevens, Frederick Clement (1861–1923)," in *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, accessed June 18, 2019, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodyisplay.pl?index=S000878>.

12. "Mr. F.D. McCracken, Private Secretary to Congressman F.C. Stevens, Arrived in the City Thursday," *The Appeal*, October 3, 1914, 3.

13. "Van Dyke, Carl Chester (1881–1919)," in *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, accessed June 18, 2019, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodyisplay.pl?index=V000034>.

14. "Honor To Whom Honor Is Due: Frederick Douglas McCracken Tendered a Banquet By His St. Paul Friends," *The Appeal*, March 27, 1915, 3.

15. "F.D. McCracken, Wife, and Baby Returned Home from Truxtun, Va.," *The Appeal*, July 23, 1921, 3.

16. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, "Truxtun Historic District," *African American Historic Sites Database*, accessed June 17, 2019, <http://www.aahistoric-sitesva.org/items/show/443>.

17. "Fred D. McCracken Elected President of Sterling Club," *Northwestern Bulletin*, June 20, 1925, 1.

18. "Clarence W. Wigington: Architectural Draughtsman, St. Paul," *The Appeal*, September 18, 1915, 4.

19. Peter J. DeCarlo, "Sixteenth Battalion, Minnesota Home Guard," Minnesota Historical Society, accessed June 18, 2019, <http://www.mnopedia.org/group/sixteenth-battalion-minnesota-home-guard>.

20. Known today as the Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

21. "The Sterling Club Will Give Its First Annual Public Meeting Sunday, May 5," *The Appeal*, May 4, 1918, 3; "Testimonial to Graduates by the Sterling Club at St. James, A.M.E. Church Sunday, June 20," *The Appeal*, June 12, 1920, 3; "Sterling Club Honors Grads at Testimonial," *Northwestern Bulletin*, July 15, 1922, 1; "Graduates Praised by Sterling Club," *Northwestern Bulletin*, June 21, 1924, 1.

22. Benjamin Louis Alexander, interview by Kateleen Hope Cavett, "Hand in Hand's Rondo Oral History Project," Minnesota Historical Society, 2004, accessed June 17, 2019, https://media.mnhs.org/things/cms/10265/364/AV2007_22_1_M.pdf.

23. Alexander, interview.

24. Abram H. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc., 1919-1994: A Historical Review" in 75th Anniversary Booklet (St. Paul: The Sterling Club, 1994), 4.

25. Alexander, interview.

26. "'Round the '2' Towns," *Northwestern Bulletin*, October 18, 1924, 3.

27. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc.," 4.

28. Alexander, interview.

29. Richard Morris Mann, interview by Kateleen Hope Cavett, "Hand in Hand's Rondo Oral History Project: Minnesota Historical Society, 2004, accessed June 17, 2019, <http://collections.mnhs.org/cms/display?irn=11119639>.

30. Bernadine McGee, interview by Jeremiah E. Ellis, April 4, 2019.

31. "Charles Smith Held Guilty of Discrimination," *St. Paul Echo*, December 13, 1926, 1, 3.

32. O. H. Newman, "Owens Charges Sainly City Firms Practice Wide Job Bias," *St. Paul Recorder*, February 2, 1951, 1.

33. "'U' Student After St. Paul Police Questioned Him," *St. Paul Recorder*, November 27, 1972, 1.

34. Governor's Interracial Commission. What is the Negro's Opportunity for Securing Employment in Minnesota? *The Negro Worker in Minnesota: A report to Governor Edward J. Thye of Minnesota by The Governor's Interracial Commission* March 10, 1945 16-17.

35. Don Boxmeyer, *A Knack for Knowing Things: Stories from St. Paul Neighborhoods and Beyond* (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society, 2017), 44-45.

36. "Rev. Keefe Speaks at Civic Meeting," *Twin City Herald*, May 20, 1933, 1.

37. "Mayor Gehan Addresses Sterling Club," *Minneapolis Spokesman*, January 22, 1937, 1.

38. "'Equal Right' Bill is O.K.'d by State Senate," *The Minneapolis Star*, February 18, 1943, 4.

39. "Sterling Club Hears Members of State Legislature," *Minneapolis Spokesman*, April 30, 1943, 1.

40. Golf tournaments held in 1978, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1989, and 1992.

41. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, "The Travelers' Green Book: 1961: Guide for Travel and Vacations," New York Public Library Digital Collections, accessed June 20, 2019, <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/5ae34320-942e-0132-7630-58d385a7bbd0>. The first year that large St. Paul venues are listed in *The Green Book*, which lists facilities that are friendly to African Americans, was 1961. That year, Hotel Ryan, Hotel Lowry, and Hotel St. Paul were all listed.

42. McGee, interview.

43. Patricia Allen, interview by Jeremiah E. Ellis, April 4, 2019.

44. Allen, interview.

45. John Bream, "Obituary: Percy Hughes, 93, excelled at playing jazz and teaching tennis," *Star Tribune*, January 8, 2016, <http://www.startribune.com/percy-hughes-93-excelled-at-playing-jazz-and-teaching-tennis/364580701/>.

46. Allen, interview.
47. "Rondo Neighborhood & I-94: Overview," *LibGuides*, Minnesota Historical Society Library, accessed June 21, 2019, <https://libguides.mnhs.org/rondo>.
48. Rondo Avenue was St. Paul's African American business corridor, around which 90 percent of African American lived. Beginning in 1956 and for about a decade, hundreds of residents and businesses were displaced for the chosen path of Interstate 94, which cut through the historic neighborhood. "Learning Panels," Rondo Commemorative Plaza, St. Paul, MN, <https://rondoplaza.org/about-us/>.
49. Arthur C. McWatt, *Crusaders for Justice: A Chronicle of Protest by Agitators, Advocates, and Activists in their Struggle for Civil and Human Rights in St. Paul, Minnesota 1802-1985* (Minneapolis, MN: Papyrus Publishing Inc., 2009), 150.
50. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc.," 6.
51. David V. Taylor and Paul Clifford Larson, *Cap Wigington: An Architectural Legacy in Ice and Stone* (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society, 2002).
52. City of Saint Paul Housing Redevelopment Authority *Report to Commissioners*, June 23, 2010, accessed July 11, 2019, http://stpaul.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=40&clip_id=1786&meta_id=99290. Redeemer Arms is the former name of the housing complex at 313 North Dale, which was long associated with the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, located across the street from the complex. The building is now known as Dale Street Place Apartments.
53. Alexander, interview.
54. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc.," 5.
55. Donald and Novi Colbert, interview by Jeremiah E. Ellis, April 3, 2019.
56. Alexander, interview.
57. Lori Williamson. "Credjafawn Social Club, 1950," *Collections Up Close* (blog), Minnesota Historical Society, February 1, 2018, <https://www.mnhs.org/blog/collection-supclose/9667>. The Credjafawn Social Club was another organization for African Americans started in 1927 by ten young adults looking for more social opportunities with men and women their own age. The creative club name comes from the first initial of each founding members' first name. The club formed a credit union with low-interest loans and a co-op grocery store.
58. John L. Banks, interview by David Vassar Taylor, "Minnesota Black History Project," Minnesota Historical Society, 1974, <http://collections.mnhs.org/cms/display?irn=10445817>.
59. Colbert, interview.
60. Rondo Avenue, Inc., "News & Events," accessed June 20, 2019, <http://rondoavenueinc.org/news-events/>. For over thirty years, the community has hosted Rondo Days to celebrate their history.
61. New Lens Urban Mentoring helps African American adolescent males in the Twin Cities.
62. "Graduates Praised by Sterling Club," *Northwestern Bulletin*, June 21, 1924, 1.
63. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc.," 4.

Notes to Sidebar on p. 13

- a. Molly Huber, "Western Appeal," Minnesota Historical Society, accessed June 18, 2019, <http://www.mnopedia.org/thing/western-appeal>.
- b. David Vasser Taylor, "John Adams and the Western Appeal: Advocates of the protest tradition," (MA diss., University of Nebraska Omaha, 1971), <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/studentwork/460/>.
- c. Samuel E. Hardy, John T. Burgett, and Frederick Douglass Parker launched the *Western Appeal* in 1885 for the professional African American community in the upper Midwest. The name changed to *The Appeal* in 1889. See National Endowment for the Humanities, "About Western Appeal," accessed June 17, 2019, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83016811/>.
- d. Adina Adams Gibbs, interview by David Vassar Taylor, "Minnesota Black History Project," Minnesota Historical Society, December 18, 1970, <http://collections.mnhs.org/cms/display?irn=10445830>.
- e. "The Sterling Club," January 5, 1918, 3.
- f. Martin O. Weddington, interview by Saylor Thomas, "Minnesota's Greatest Generation Oral History Project: Part I," Minnesota Historical Society, 2003, <http://collections.mnhs.org/cms/display.php?irn=10803273#transcript>.
- g. "Crowds Throng to Adams' Rites: Fill Pilgrim Baptist Church to Capacity," *The Appeal*, September 16, 1922.

Notes to Sidebar on p. 15

- a. "The Sterling Club Bohemian Party a Brilliant Affair," *The Appeal*, November 25, 1922, 3.
- b. "The Sterling Club Bohemian Party," 3.
- c. Abram H. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc., 1919-1994: A Historical Review" in 75th Anniversary Booklet (St. Paul: The Sterling Club, 1994), 5.
- d. "The Sterling Club," *The Appeal*, January 5, 1918, 3. When the club first formed, membership was limited to sixteen, with unlimited honorary members. All elections to membership were by unanimous vote.
- e. Donald Harold Boxmeyer, *A Knack for Knowing Things: Stories from St. Paul's Neighborhoods and Beyond* (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2003), 44-45.
- f. Bernadine McGee, interview by Jeremiah E. Ellis, April 4, 2019.
- g. McGee, interview.
- h. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc.," 7.
- i. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc.," 7.
- j. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc.," 4.
- k. "Don't Forget," *Sterling Club Newsletter*, October 1987.
- l. Patricia Allen, interview by Jeremiah E. Ellis, April 4, 2019.
- m. Weaver, "The Sterling Club, Inc.," 7.
- n. Mari Harper Finney, "Auxiliary Club President Letter," in 75th Anniversary Booklet (St. Paul: The Sterling Club, 1994), 13.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

President

Chad P. Roberts

Founding Editor (1964-2006)

Virginia Brainard Kunz

Editor

Meredith Cummings

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

Jo Anne Driscoll

Chair

Jerry Woelfel

First Vice Chair

Mari Oyanagi Eggum

Second Vice Chair

Roxanne Sands

Secretary

Kenneth H. Johnson

Treasurer

James Miller

Immediate Past Chair

Jo Emerson, Thomas Fabel, Martin Fallon, Tim Glines, John Guthmann, Richard B. Heydinger, Jr., Elizabeth J. Keyes, Judy Kishel, David Kristal, Carl Kuhrmeyer, Joe Lutz, Robert W. Mairs, Jonathan H. Morgan, Robert Muschewske, Peter Nguyen, Chad P. Roberts, George T. Stephenson, James A. Stolpestad, Chris Taylor, Glenn Wiessner.

Editorial Board

Anne Cowie, *chair*, James B. Bell, Thomas H. Boyd, John Diers, Thomas Fabel, Martin Fallon, John Guthmann, Lisa L. Heinrich, James Miller, John Milton, Laurie M. Murphy, Robert Muschewske, Paul D. Nelson, Richard H. Nicholson, Jay Pfaender, David Riehle, Chad P. Roberts, George T. Stephenson, Steve Trimble, Mary Lethert Wingerd.

Honorary Advisory Board

William Finney, George Latimer, Joseph S. Micallef, Marvin J. Pertzik, James Reagan.

Ramsey County Commissioners

Commissioner Jim McDonough, Chair

Commissioner Toni Carter

Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire

Commissioner Rafael Ortega

Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt

Ryan T. O'Connor, Manager, Ramsey County

Ramsey County History is published quarterly by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 (651-222-0701). Printed in U.S.A. Copyright © 2019, Ramsey County Historical Society. ISSN Number 0485-9758.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors. Email address: info@rchs.com; website address: www.rchs.com

RAMSEY COUNTY History

A PUBLICATION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving our past, informing our present, inspiring our future.

*The mission statement of the Ramsey County Historical Society
adopted by the Board of Directors on January 25, 2016.*

The Ramsey County Historical Society's vision is to be widely recognized as an innovator, leader, and partner in preserving the knowledge of our community, delivering inspiring history programming, and using local history in education. Our mission of *preserving our past, informing our present, inspiring our future* guides this vision.

The Society began in 1949 when a group of citizens acquired and preserved the Jane and Heman Gibbs Farm in Falcon Heights, which the family had acquired in 1849. Following five years of restoration work, the Society opened the Gibbs Farm museum (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974). Originally programs focused on telling the story of the pioneer life of the Gibbs family. In 2000, with the assistance of a Dakota Advisory Council, the historic site also began interpreting Dakota culture and lifeways, building additional structures, and dedicating outdoor spaces to tell these stories. The remarkable relationship of Jane Gibbs with the Dakota during her childhood in the 1830s and again as an adult encouraged RCHS to expand its interpretation of the Gibbs farm to both pioneer and Dakota life.

In 1964, the Society began publishing its award-winning magazine, *Ramsey County History*. In 1978, an expanded commitment from Ramsey County enabled the organization to move its library, archives, and administrative offices to downtown St. Paul's Landmark Center, a restored Federal Courts building on the National Register of Historic Places. An additional expansion of the Research Center was completed in 2010 to better serve the public and allow greater access to the Society's vast collection of historical archives and artifacts. In 2016, due to an endowment gift of \$1 million, the Research Center was rededicated as the Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center.

RCHS offers a wide variety of public programming for youth and adults. Please see www.rchs.com for details of upcoming History Revealed programs, summer camps at Gibbs Farm, and much more. RCHS is a trusted education partner serving 15,000 students annually on field trips or through outreach programs in schools that bring to life the Gibbs Family as well as the Dakota people of Cloud Man's village. These programs are made possible by donors, members, corporations, and foundations, all of whom we appreciate deeply. If you are not yet a member of RCHS, please join today and help bring history to life for more than 50,000 people every year.

R.C.H.S.
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life
Experience | Understand | Grow



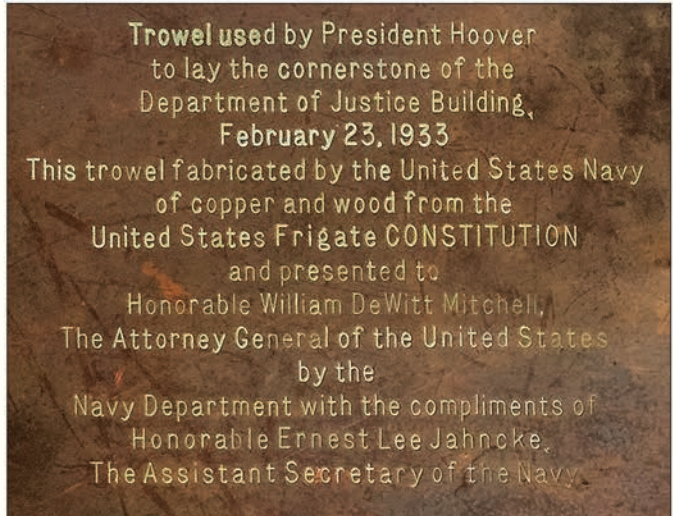
The Tale of the Trowel

DOUGLAS R. HEIDENREICH

William DeWitt Mitchell was presented with a trowel upon leaving his post as United States Attorney General. President Hoover had used the trowel to lay the cornerstone of the new Department of Justice building in 1933.

The trowel was fashioned from wood and copper from the USS *Constitution*. That wooden sailing vessel earned the sobriquet “Old Ironsides” because of her refusal to sink or strike her colors during a great naval battle in the War of 1812.¹ Supposedly a British sailor aboard the ship with which the *Constitution* was engaged in battle exclaimed that her sides must be made of iron to withstand the fierce shelling to which she was being subjected.

Some years later, the *Constitution* was scheduled to be dismantled. Public opinion, however, influenced largely by the publication of the poem, “Old Ironsides,” prevented this. The stirring opening line, “Ay, tear her tattered ensign down,”² had struck a chord with the public. The author of that poem, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., became the father of the great US Supreme Court Justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. The frigate was at various times decommissioned, recommissioned, rebuilt, and used as a training vessel. The *Constitution*, open to visitors, remains in the Charlestown Navy Yard today,³ a



Photographs by Bob Muschewske. Courtesy of William Mitchell School of Law Archives.

symbol of the days when America truly was “the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.”⁴

It is said that the copper that sheathed her hull, a bit of which was used to fashion this trowel, came from Paul Revere’s shop. The trowel today rests in the Mitchell Hamline School of Law Archives.

NOTES

1. United States Navy, “USS Constitution,” in United States Navy Fact File, accessed July 12, 2019, https://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=100&ct=4.
2. Oliver Wendell Holmes, “Old Ironsides,” accessed July 12, 2019, <http://www.ibiblio.org/eldritch/owh/oldiron.html>.
3. United States Navy, “USS Constitution,” in United States Navy Fact File, accessed July 12, 2019, https://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=100&ct=4.
4. “The Star-Spangled Banner,” Smithsonian National Museum of American History, accessed July 12, 2019, <https://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/>.



Facing Change: Advancing Museum Board Diversity & Inclusion

The Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) has been selected by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) to participate in “Facing Change: Advancing Museum Board Diversity & Inclusion.” This unprecedented national initiative to diversify museum boards and leadership is taking place across five US cities and includes a cross-section of museums.

With the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Alice L. Walton Foundation, and the Ford Foundation, this program will provide the framework, training, and resources for museum leaders to build inclusive cultures within their institutions that more accurately reflect the communities they serve.

According to Chad Roberts, RCHS president, “Ramsey County Historical Society has been a trusted partner in preserving the history of the people and institutions in Ramsey County for seventy years. Enhancing our leadership to ensure inclusive representation of everybody who calls this community home is a strategic priority.

Published by the Ramsey County Historical Society
323 Landmark Center
75 West Fifth Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage

PAID

Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 3989



St. Paulite Ruth Cutler on her graduation day at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1912. Her future was full of possibilities. *Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.*