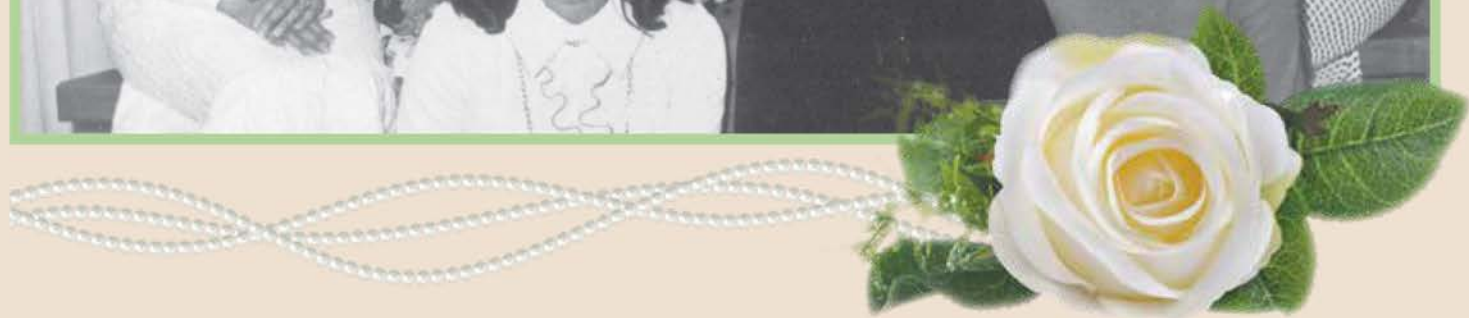


RAMSEY COUNTY  
**History**  
A PUBLICATION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*"We Learn What We Live and Live What We Learn"*

**Growing Up at 1022 Rondo Avenue**

MARION JONES KENNON, PAGE 13



*Fifty Years of Friendship Connected in Community Service*

**The Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Chapter  
of The Links, Incorporated**

MARION JONES KENNON, PAGE 1



## By the Numbers . . .

In 1946, nine African American women from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, formed a volunteer service organization to enrich friendships and help their community, with a focus on civic, educational, and cultural solutions in the fight for civil rights and against racial injustices.

The number of members of The Links, Incorporated across 292 chapters:  
**16,700**

The number of documented hours of community service annually:  
**Over \$1 million**

Since its founding in 1979, the amount The Links Foundation, Incorporated has contributed to charitable causes:  
**Over \$25 million**

The amount donated to Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU) scholarships and endowments between 2019 and 2021:  
**\$1.5 million**

The number of scholarships awarded to students attending HBCUs between 2019 and 2021:  
**Nearly 3,000**

The Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year. See *"Fifty Years of Friendship Connected in Community Service: The Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated"* by Marion Jones Kennon on page 1.

SOURCE: Mwika Kankwenda with The Links, Incorporated, email correspondence with editor, January 10, 2022.

### ON THE COVER



Charter members of the Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated at their first official meeting in 1973. *Courtesy of Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.*

NOTE: To see the names of the women in this photograph, go to endnote 1 on page 10.

## Contents

- 1 *Fifty Years of Friendship Connected in Community Service*  
**The Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated**  
MARION JONES KENNON
- 13 *"We Learn What We Live and Live What We Learn"*  
**Growing Up at 1022 Rondo Avenue**  
MARION JONES KENNON
- 21 *Forgotten to Time?*  
**The Search for Scottie Primus Davis**  
STEVE TRIMBLE

## Message from the Editorial Board

At times, many of us have observed our chaotic world and asked, "How can I make a difference?" But how many have acted on this question—fanning a spark of hope and growing an idea into something bigger?

This issue of *Ramsey County History* features writings by someone who did fan that spark: Marion Jones Kennon. Her desire to address the challenges facing local African American families led her to invite fifteen like-minded women to join the Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated as charter members. The community work by this group of leaders focuses on helping youth, promoting the arts, and addressing national, international, and health concerns all while celebrating the lives of women and nurturing the joy and strength found through friendship. In a second, more personal, article, Mrs. Kennon shares her memories of her upbringing in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood. The love and lessons her parents instilled in her and her siblings helped the young Jones children become changemakers in their communities.

Another person who spent her formative days in Rondo was Scottie Primus Davis, the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Minnesota. A century on, author Steve Trimble followed a few scant leads to fill in details of the nearly forgotten life of this formidable scholar and educator.

The racial injustice faced by African Americans is undeniable. Here, we celebrate the progress and impact made against great odds and recognize how much more work there is to do. We offer testament to how sparks of hope, family, friendship, and service can build strong communities and make a difference.

*Anne Field*  
Chair, Editorial Board

**Corrections in the Fall 2021 Issue:** In *"Tikkun Olam: Jewish Women Serving Their St. Paul Community,"* a quote associated with endnote 61 on page 19 should be attributed to Rhoda Redleaf. In *"Closing the Book: The James Jerome Hill Reference Library, 1921-2021,"* Samuel Pepys was misidentified. He was a seventeenth-century diarist during the English Restoration.

*The Ramsey County Historical Society thanks former 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.*

## The Search for Scottie Primus Davis

STEVE TRIMBLE

When Scottie Primus Davis became the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Minnesota in 1904, her quiet accomplishment marked a milestone for her St. Paul community. Her graduation was featured in newspapers of the day. *The Appeal*, a local Black-owned publication, called her “a pioneer woman,” and the *St. Paul Globe* said her achievements were talked about all around the city.<sup>1</sup> It’s easy to understand how people were excited about the event. But being first is only a beginning.

While the papers lauded Davis, it appears the University of Minnesota made no public note of her efforts. The young graduate left the Twin Cities shortly thereafter to work as an educator, and her accomplishments faded into history for nearly a century—until the university made mention in 2002 in the *Minnesota Alumni* magazine. In 2007, Davis was noted briefly in a book, and six years later, the *Minnesota Daily*, the campus newspaper, included Davis’s accomplishment as a bullet point in an historical lineup during African American History Month. It read, “1904 – Scottie Primus Davis becomes the first Black woman to graduate from the University.”<sup>2</sup>

Those short mentions, with little more than a name, date, and the highlighted “first,” ignited a spark to learn more. Here was a long-forgotten, mostly hidden story that needed to be researched and shared.

Davis, who spent her formative years in St. Paul, Minnesota, exceeded all expectations as a bold, strong-willed woman of color during her life. She was charged with an intense determination to learn, succeed, and make the world a better place through education. That she did.

### Growing Up Scottie

Scottie Primus Davis was born on November 20, 1882, in Lebanon, Kentucky, sixty-five miles southeast of Louisville to Addison Davis and

Hattie Smith Primus Davis. When she was five years old, she relocated with her parents to Chicago. She enrolled at St. James Catholic School and later entered public school. The family moved north to Minnesota around 1896.<sup>3</sup>

Over the dozen years the Davis family lived in St. Paul, Mr. Davis worked as a waiter at various hotels and clubs, including the Aberdeen Hotel, The Minnesota Club, The Commercial Club, and the Merchant’s Hotel. He managed the laundry department at Valet Tailoring in 1906. The family lived the longest at 415 Charles Avenue (three years) and at a couple of locations on Aurora Avenue (four years).<sup>4</sup>

It is likely the Davis family was Catholic given their daughter’s early education in the Windy City. Also, various St. Paul news stories noted their involvement with St. Peter Claver Church, including serving on a picnic committee, attending a parish bazaar, and holding a church fundraiser at their home with music, “elegant refreshments,” and raffles.<sup>5</sup>

The Davis’s daughter enrolled at St. Paul Central High School, having completed some secondary education in Chicago. She graduated three years later with high honors. She was not mentioned in school documents but for a short article she wrote for the January 1900 issue of *The World*, the school’s literary publication. Titled “Thirty Years of Freedom,” she opined on the progress of African Americans since the end of slavery.<sup>6</sup>

The unprecedented leap, the Negro made, when freed from bondage is more than deserving of a high place in history. The world needs . . . to understand the vast possibility of a race so much despised and so thoroughly able to prove without blair [sic] and flourish of trumpets, its ability to hold its own and compete, after only thirty years. . . .<sup>7</sup>



Scottie P. Davis as a Central High School graduate in 1900. Courtesy of Central High School Archives.



Davis commented on the African American soldiers who fought in the Civil War, the successful businesses residents developed since that time, the taxes they paid, and the number of people employed in communities as educators, lawyers, doctors, inventors, and other professionals.<sup>8</sup>

Her essay ended with a flourish:

This is the colored man that is standing today at the progressive door of American civilization and asks for a man's chance, for an American citizens [sic] chance in the race of life . . .<sup>9</sup>

Davis might have discussed these issues with and been influenced by family friend Nellie Francis. A decade older than Davis, Francis often attended the same social events, and the two women visited one another's homes. They also had much in common. For example, Francis (known as Nellie Griswold prior to marriage) was the only African American student in her 1891 class at Central High School, and she gave a graduation speech titled, "The Race Problem." Like Davis, she refused to accept the idea of white superiority and emphasized the unprecedented strides made by previously enslaved people in "but a single quarter of a century."<sup>10</sup>

Newspapers at the time applauded Griswold's graduation and achievements. Likewise, when Davis graduated from Central in 1900, *The Appeal*, reported:

. . . the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Addison Davis, enjoys the distinction of being the only Afro-American graduate from Central high school this year . . . She will enter the State University next term. . .<sup>11</sup>

Mr. Davis was a good role model to his daughter and active in the community. He was inducted into the Business Men's Club, a Twin Cities philanthropic organization, at the same time as T. H. Lyles, a barbershop owner and funeral director, and Harry Shepherd, a noted local photographer. He served as the second vice president of the Roosevelt-Dunn Afro-American Republican Club and was a member of the T. S. T. C. Club along with Fredrick McGhee, a prominent lawyer, and Dr. Valdo Turner, the community's first Black physician who, like McGhee, was active in civil rights.<sup>12</sup>

Mrs. Davis participated in community work, as well. In 1898, local African Americans hosted a first-of-its-kind Cuba Pageant—a theatrical drama performed in support of Afro-Cuban freedom struggles. The production featured almost three hundred players on stage in front of a crowd of 2,000 people. Mrs. Addison Davis, as she was named in the *St. Paul Globe*, was listed with other women as "active patronesses" of the event. In 1901, she was elected treasurer of St. Paul's Adelphi Club, which focused on social, educational, and philanthropic projects.<sup>13</sup>

The family matriarch also hosted events. One was a picnic in Como Park in 1898. McGhee, Turner, and J. Q. Adams, the editor of *The Appeal* newspaper, attended. Davis's teenage daughter was there alongside the local leaders.<sup>14</sup>

Sometimes, the younger set gathered at the family home. *The Appeal* reported that the Cosmos Club, a young men's organization, entertained lady friends at a theater party. After the performance, "a sumptuous repast was served by the ladies at the home of Miss Scottie Davis on Aurora Avenue." One attendee, S. E. Hall, was the president of the Cosmos Club, a barber, and a community activist. He later helped establish the St. Paul Urban League.<sup>15</sup>

## Life as a Coed

Davis lived at home while an undergraduate. Calling her “comely,” *The St. Paul Globe* stated that “few realized when they saw the young woman in the modish street suit on the interurban cars from day to day that she was a student at the state university. . . .”<sup>16</sup>

There is little information about her life on campus other than short articles in newspapers. For example, in March 1903, *The Appeal* reported that Davis, “the charming Co-ed of our State University,” spent Tuesday socializing with friends.<sup>17</sup>

There is a bit more documentation of Davis’s community activities. During her freshman year, she and her father attended an elaborate luncheon for visiting dignitaries from Washington, DC. It was hosted, in part, by Mattie McGhee and Nellie Francis. Later that week, Davis escorted the out-of-town guests to the spectacular Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis.<sup>18</sup>

Davis’s community activities made the papers often, especially in 1902. Early that year, the college student attended a farewell reception for a friend with Amanda Lyles, a businesswoman who owned and operated a hair salon and was active in politics and temperance movements, and Minnie Farr, who was the first African American to graduate from Saint Paul High School in 1881. Ms. Farr eventually became a public school teacher, as did her younger sister, Bessie. Davis may have shared the day with these respected educators. Perhaps, Davis’s future career decisions came from conversations with the admirable Farr sisters.<sup>19</sup>

The young woman also took part in the Impromptu Club’s summer kickoff event at Wildwood Amusement Park on Decoration Day. She and other members of the social organization enjoyed a two-hour boat ride on White Bear Lake, followed by a meal at West Side Delicatessen Café and an evening of dancing. Of course, back then, the young people were accompanied by a chaperone, thanks to Mrs. Valdo Turner, who graciously volunteered.<sup>20</sup>

On another occasion, Davis attended and worked on the fifth annual national convention of the Afro-American Conference that came to St. Paul July 9 to 11. Even as a college student, she was one of the officers and served on multiple committees. She may have mingled with prominent leaders, including Booker T.

Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells, and other national figures.<sup>21</sup>

When Davis graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1904, local papers picked up the story. *The Appeal* lauded the scholar, who excelled in mathematics, spoke German and French, and was proficient in reading Greek and Latin. “She is a prime favorite in society and has a host of friends among her classmates and wherever she has been.”<sup>22</sup>

The *St. Paul Globe* announced that a “St. Paul colored girl . . . [was] “the first of her sex of the colored race to receive a degree . . . at the state’s highest institution of learning.”<sup>23</sup> She graduated well toward the head of her class of 481 students. The article surmised that “it is said to be not improbable that she will take a professional course in either law or medicine.”<sup>24</sup> That she did not do. Rather, Davis became an educator and accepted her first teaching assignment in Louisville, Kentucky.



Scottie P. Davis’s official graduation photo from the University of Minnesota. From the *University of Minnesota Archives*, courtesy of *Saint Paul Almanac*.

Miriam F. Carpenter, Registrar,  
Graduate School of Education,  
Harvard University,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

B

RECEIVED

Certificate of collegiate and university study. For candidates for higher degree. (This blank should be filled and signed by an authorized officer of the college or university. Use one blank for each institution attended. Extra blanks may be obtained from the Registrar. An institution may substitute its own blank if it desires.)

This is to certify: that the applicant, Scottie P. Davis

(1) was a student in University of Minnesota for a period of 4 years beginning Sept. 1900 and ending June 1904 (2) was duly graduated therefrom with the degree of B.A. in the year 1904; (3) completed satisfactorily the subjects named below; and (4) left the institution in good standing.

SUBJECT (Exact name of each course should be listed)	No. of weeks studied	No. of periods per week		Grade of Scholarship	SUBJECT (Exact name of each course should be listed)	No. of weeks studied	No. of periods per week		Grade of scholarship
		Lect.	Lab.				Lect.	Lab.	
* Mathematics	12	4		78					
* Rhetoric	36	4		82-84-75					
* Physical Culture	36			P-P-P					
* 19th Century Literature	36	4		85-88-85					
* Latin	36	4		87-87-93					
* Mathematics	12	4		80					
Latin	36	4		93-85					
18th Century Literature	36	4		80-P					
History English Const.	36	4		88-90					
Chemistry -short	36	4		P-83					
Rhetoric Work	36	1		85-89					
Europe since 1789	36	4		P-P					
Teacher's Course in Latin	36	4		P-P					
General Psychology	18	4		P					
English Milton	18	4		P					
English Prose	18	4		P					
Hist. Historical Masterpieces	36	2		P-P					
Senior Latin	36	4		P-P					
Mak. Constitution of U.S	36	2		P-P					
Pedagogy	36	4		P-P					
Oratory	36	4		P-P					
Literary Criticism	18	4		P					

The University of Minnesota college transcript for Scottie P. Davis provided to Harvard University upon application to graduate school. Courtesy of Harvard University, Graduate School of Education.



## Leaving the Nest—A Job in Louisville

Davis said goodbye to friends and family and moved from the North to the South. She landed a job as an assistant teacher at the Louisville Central Colored High School at the corner of Sixth and Kentucky Streets beginning in the 1904-1905 school year. Her starting salary was \$80 a month. She boarded near the school, including at 1431 W. Chestnut.<sup>25</sup>

The Davis family stayed in contact. In January 1905, Davis's mother visited Louisville for a week. It may have been difficult for her parents to be apart from their only child. Two years later, they left St. Paul to reside in "Falls City."<sup>26</sup>

Again, Rondo mourned. "The loss of Mr. and Mrs. Davis to this community," *The Appeal* stated, "will be very much felt." Farewell teas and luncheons were held in their honor. The couple moved to a home at 2009 Magazine Street, where it appears their daughter boarded at times.<sup>27</sup>

In 1908, Davis earned a promotion. "Assistant" was dropped from her title, and she likely earned a pay raise as a full-fledged instructor of English. It is not surprising that even as a busy, young teacher, the ambitious woman got involved in her new community. For example, when the National Negro Business League announced they would meet in Louisville in August 1909, the local chapter began making plans with help from the Young Men's Business Club and Women's Auxiliary League, of which Davis was a member.<sup>28</sup>

Her tenure ended abruptly when she was dismissed in June 1913. She was considered an efficient teacher, however, she "did not cooperate

fully" with the school principal at that time. Interestingly, her personnel file indicates that "Miss Davis worked well previously with two earlier principals." Records show she submitted applications to be rehired in Louisville, but she was not returned.<sup>29</sup>

## Listen to the Teacher

Davis moved on to Sumner High School in Kansas City, Kansas, another segregated institution. She taught English there with a firm, effective approach. One student wrote this in the 1919 edition of *The Sumnarian*, the school's yearbook:

Many and varied were the experiences we had under Miss Scottie Davis our main English teacher. Though Miss Davis thought us an intolerable set . . . she certainly made us learn English. We, too, appreciate her efforts, for they were strenuous ones. I am sure that before we left her control we were . . . really civilized Sophomores, ready for Sophomore English.<sup>30</sup>

According to the *Sumner Courier*, the school newspaper, Davis required her senior students to read a book of no less than 300 pages and then write a story similar to their book before sharing with the class "how you were able to do it."<sup>31</sup>

Davis was a no-nonsense instructor who once wrote "Hookworm Attitude in English," a stern, nearly full-page essay that appeared in the school newspaper. In it, she observed that students often felt they could speak any way they chose, and she hoped for a time when they would "feel the same pride in fine speech that they have for fine clothes." She proclaimed, "Along with our Flag, our language is a portion of our precious national heritage which it is our duty to keep unimpaired 'in vigor, in variety, in freshness and in nobility.'"<sup>32</sup>

In conclusion, she shared with her students a creed—a call to action—for better speech, encouraging young people to take notice:

I believe that my mother tongue is worthy my admiration, respect and love.

I believe that slang is language in the making and that until it is made, it is not proper to use.

The original Sumner High School was built in 1905 at the corner of Ninth and Washington in Kansas City, Kansas. Courtesy of Sumner High School Archives.





Faculty at Sumner High School in 1919. *Back Row (L-R):* Scottie P. Davis (English), George H. Mowbray (manual training and auto mechanics), Beulah E. Burke (domestic art), Garfield A. Curry (Latin), Erma Z. Pendleton (commercial subjects), Thomas H. Reynolds (music and history), and Mary F. Clifford (English). *Front Row (L-R):* J. P. King (biological sciences), Henry S. Williams (physical sciences and physical training), Kate T. Davis (domestic science), John A. Hodge, (principal), Frances Kealing (physical culture, mathematics, and French), G. B. Buster (history and civics), and John Joseph Lewis (vice principal and mathematics). *Courtesy of Sumner High School Archives.*

I believe that the proper accompaniment to pure, clearly enunciated language is a musical voice.

I believe I'll try it.<sup>33</sup>

Sumner faculty knew there was a need for extracurricular programs that could develop into positive approaches for student character. The school offered Girl Reserves and other clubs. Davis oversaw the senior class, debate teams, student council, and senior plays.<sup>34</sup>

A Sumner Junior College was started inside the high school building in 1924, and Davis was its first English teacher. Sumner graduates could attend at no cost, prospered through small classes, and had the advantage of staying home for two years to save money before continuing on to a four-year school. Class credits were accepted by the University of Kansas and other colleges. Eventually, the junior college moved to another building on campus.<sup>35</sup>

When she wasn't teaching, we can assume that Davis was active in her community. In fact, she was an early member of a local sorority.

In 1924, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, a national organization for college-educated African American women welcomed the chartering of the Mu Omega graduate chapter

in Kansas City, Kansas. It was organized, in part, through the efforts of Beulah E. Burke, another Sumner teacher, who also helped found the national organization. Burke invited Davis to join the chapter in its first year. Early on, the Mu Omega Chapter, which included Sumner teachers, presented the national body's Program of Vocational Guidance at multiple Sumner High School student assemblies. These programs introduced students to job opportunities, professionals, and mentors.<sup>36</sup>

### Dear Harvard . . .

#### Very Truly, (Miss) Scottie P. Davis

Davis kept busy taking additional university classes to upgrade her professional credentials. In 1911, when she was still teaching in Louisville, she attended Columbia University during the summer. When she arrived at Sumner High School in 1914, she enrolled in extension classes from that year through 1920 at the nearby University of Kansas.<sup>37</sup>

Her most adventurous educational journey was the pursuit of a master's degree in education from Harvard University. It wasn't an easy go. She started the summer of 1927 and traveled again to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1931. By 1933, the Great Depression had wreaked havoc on people, businesses, and institutions. In fact,

To read Scottie Primus Davis's 1920 article, "Hookworm Attitude in English," go to <https://publishing.rchs.com/publishing/magazine/ramsey-county-history-magazine-volume-56-4-winter-2022/>.

To learn more about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and its members in Kansas and Minnesota, go to <https://publishing.rchs.com/publishing/magazine/ramsey-county-history-magazine-volume-56-4-winter-2022/>.

Davis wrote a letter to university officials explaining that the Sumner School “entered upon a retrenchment program involving half a million dollars. Certain departments . . . have been eliminated entirely while salaries have been cut twenty-five percent. Returning to Harvard this year for summer work is simply a financial impossibility.”<sup>38</sup> A sympathetic registrar responded that an extension to complete coursework might be possible, but that Davis was still highly encouraged to attend classes. And, so, she ultimately did.

Davis completed her course work in the summer of 1934. A thesis was due at that time, but she requested an extension, arguing that she had traveled from her home to Cambridge most years at great financial sacrifice, “and it would truly be most unfortunate for me if I were to lose credit toward the degree for the work which I have done.”<sup>39</sup> The school responded that she had until January 1, 1935, to complete her work. This would be the last possible date.<sup>40</sup>

Davis planned to examine the “highly selective character of our segregated high school here [and] how it ministers largely to the college preparatory group with a curriculum that probably needs readaptation to the actual life needs of practically ninety-five per cent of the pupils.”<sup>41</sup>

Davis made the January deadline and submitted her thesis titled, “Implications Relative to Curricular Offerings in Urban High Schools for Negroes Drawn from a Distribution of Teachers’

Grades in Sumner High School, Kansas City, Kansas.” In the introduction, the master’s student explained that her work included a two-year investigation into how curricula affected urban students’ scholastic achievement based on teachers’ grades.<sup>42</sup>

She made it clear in her literature survey that current studies refuted the long-held assumption that differences between Black and white achievement were based on innate racial abilities. For example, one study argued that “. . . we have never with all our searching found indisputable evidence for belief in mental differences which are essentially racial,”<sup>43</sup> and another suggested that differences in school training and social conditions contributed to differences in testing.<sup>44</sup>

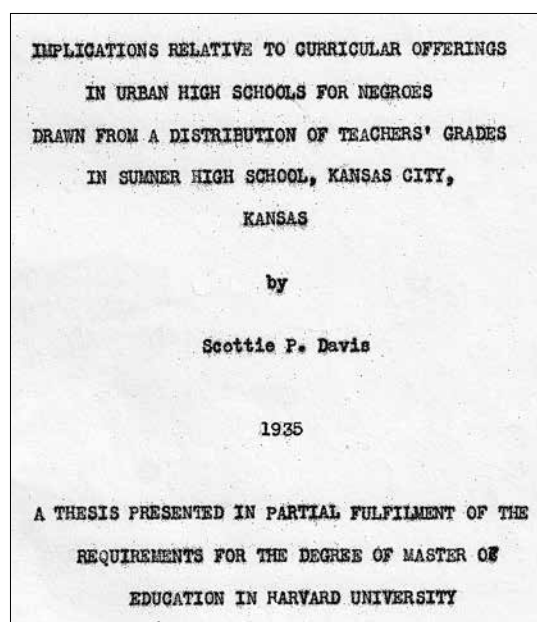
In her research, Davis tracked 27,408 grades given by Sumner teachers over two years in industrial arts, mathematics, social and physical sciences, drawing, modern language, English, commercial, home economics, and music. Industrial arts, drawing, and home economics had the lowest number of failing grades. Science, mathematics, and English presented the highest number of failing grades. This concerned Davis because “[t]he concentration of the Negro population in cities with their crowded conditions renders biological knowledge necessary in order to safeguard public health,” and “English is the vehicle for all subjects . . . the most the school can do for a pupil is teach him to read. Retardation and low achievement condition the achievement in all the other subjects of study.”<sup>45</sup> She noted that 40.05 percent of students failed or nearly failed most of their classes, reducing opportunities for success, if and when they graduated. She argued grades at Sumner and likely other schools reflected standards that are only reached by 5 percent of high-achieving students. She listed recommendations for consideration, including:

Adapting lessons, encouraging vocational arts and home economics, and giving more attention to the 95 percent who end their education after high school;

Focusing more on reading and language arts;

Adding educational and vocational guidance through classes and counselors along with specialists to teach students how to study;

Cover page of Scottie P. Davis’s master’s thesis submitted to Harvard University in 1935. Courtesy of Harvard University, Graduate School of Education.



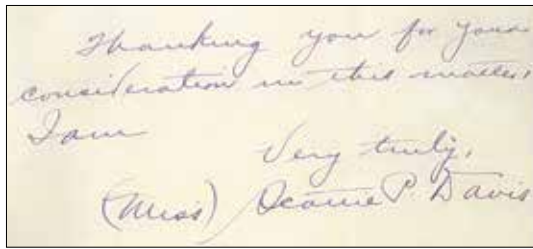


Working with gifted students separately to encourage ‘competition and inspiration for the fullest development.’<sup>46</sup>

The first reader of Davis’ thesis was impressed that she had “clearly conceived her problem and collected her data” and had carefully analyzed the material. Then, in a statement that says more about his own perceptions, he added, “I have been interested in the objective attitude which she consistently maintains; the fact that she is a Negro apparently does not blind her vision.”<sup>47</sup>

Her advisor, Edward A. Lincoln, also followed up with a recommendation for acceptance:

This thesis seems to me an [sic] high grade piece of work. The review of the literature is very well done, and indicates a substantial understanding of the problem and its ramifications. Miss Davis has apparently collected her data carefully and used the material intelligently . . . There is valuable material in the appendix, and the bibliography is excellent.<sup>48</sup>



Scottie Primus Davis wrote many letters to professors, advisors, and the registrar at Harvard University while working on her master’s thesis. She made a point of signing each with “(Miss)” before her name to avoid any confusion, as she did here in this letter from June 17, 1934, to the registrar. *Courtesy of Harvard University, Graduate School of Education.*

A few years later, Davis wrote to Harvard to solicit her transcripts. From the beginning, Davis, in almost all of her university correspondence, signed off as (Miss) Scottie P. Davis, to make sure she was not mistaken for a man. However, she did not employ this signature in 1939, and so transcripts were mailed to Mr. Scottie P. Davis.<sup>49</sup>

### The Story of Sumner High School

With degree in hand, Davis was back to work at Sumner. That same year, she and six of her students completed a small booklet with photographs for the school’s thirtieth anniversary. It was a history titled, *The Story of Sumner High School*.

### Sumner High School: A Brief History

Sumner High School came into being in the early twentieth century following a fatal shooting of a white student at track practice. A twenty-year-old Black man was convicted. This man was not a student, yet the incident provoked racial tensions across the city, and after several meetings attended by angry white protestors, the Kansas City (KS) School Board lobbied the state legislature to change the law that had previously prohibited segregated schools. And so it did in 1905. As a result, the school board built a new high school strictly for African Americans.<sup>a</sup>

The board proposed calling the school Manual Training High School, but African American community leaders argued for a name that would emphasize academics. They eventually agreed upon Sumner High School in recognition of the abolitionist and US Senator Charles Sumner (1811-1874).<sup>b</sup>

The school opened at Ninth and Washington later that same year with instructors trained in classic languages, algebra, physics, botany, and other science courses. Its first principal—J. E. Patterson—believed there was a great potential in all Black youth and strived to develop the highest intellectual, moral, and practical values.<sup>c</sup>

By 1920, Principal J. A. Hodge, a respected educator and community advocate, had established four educational tracks—college preparatory, general arts, commercial arts, and a general track. An alumna of the school once said of Hodge, “[He] believed in the capability of all Black youth. He did not want them to think of themselves as inadequate, and he did everything in his power to see to it that his students were successful.”<sup>d</sup> The school offered industrial classes such as typing and shop, as well as classic education, public speaking, and literature. It also emphasized African and Black history. Sumner attracted highly regarded teachers who developed leadership through these courses. English instructor Scottie P. Davis was one such teacher.<sup>e</sup>

A Sumner Junior College opened in 1924, developed especially for students who wanted to become teachers. Davis began teaching English in this setting that year and remained in the role until 1951.<sup>f</sup>

In 1978, Sumner closed as part of a “federally mandated plan for racial integration of schools in Kansas City, KS.”<sup>g</sup> Today, the building houses the Sumner Academy of Arts & Science.

One statement in the publication has been quoted often. It reflects the fact that Sumner's founding emerged out of a racist context, but the school soon developed into a respected institution because of strong leadership in its dedicated administration and staff and their connectedness to the community.

Sumner is a child not of our own volition but rather an offspring of the race antipathy of a bygone period. It was a veritable blessing in disguise—a flower of which we may proudly say, “The bud had a bitter taste, but sweet indeed is the flower.”<sup>50</sup>

### Unforgettable

A former student, Chester C. Owens Jr., who still lives in Kansas City, Kansas, admits he and other students were intimidated by Davis as they began their first English classes with her at Sumner High School, but he is grateful for the introduction to classic writers, including William Shakespeare and Ralph Waldo Emerson. The students memorized passages and recited them in front of the class.

Owens, today a retired business owner, veteran, and historian, got used to his strict teacher by the time he had her again at Sumner Junior

College between 1949 and 1951. He remembers she always took her evening meals at the local S. S. Kresge, although she, like other African Americans, had to sit at the rear of the store.<sup>51</sup>

Davis retired from teaching at Sumner Junior College in 1951. The longtime English teacher returned to Kentucky, the state of her birth, and lived in Louisville for the rest of her life, although little is known of her time there. Her death certificate indicates she suffered a fall on September 3, 1963, while in Anchorage, Kentucky. The immediate causes of death were listed as a fractured right hip followed by bronchial pneumonia after an extended stay in the hospital. A brief obituary noted that Davis passed away on December 9, 1963, at the age of eighty-one. The funeral was held at St. Boniface Catholic Church, with burial at Calvary Cemetery.<sup>52</sup>

There is no evidence that Minnesota newspapers published her obituary, but that does not mean she was forgotten in the North Star state or elsewhere by family, friends, and, most especially, her students. In an oral history interview in 2011, John H. Adams, a Sumner High School graduate and World War II veteran, reminisced:

My favorite teacher . . . was an English teacher, Mrs. [sic] Scottie P. Davis. She . . . was very particular, she wanted the best of her students to perform in any way possible. And she was very adamant about making sure that you had prepared for your class work when you came to class.<sup>53</sup>

Cordell D. Meeks, the first African American district court judge in Kansas, added:

She was the best English teacher I ever had. Grammatical error was an abomination to her and she let everyone know it. Miss Davis had the ability to instill in her students a deep seated and burning desire to excel in and master the spoken and written English language.<sup>54</sup>

Many people have fond memories of one or two teachers who pushed students to “get it right,” all because they wanted them to succeed in the world. Miss Davis, as she was known to her pupils, was one such educator who made a profound difference in her students’ lives. Yet,

Sumner High School English Teacher Scottie P. Davis shortly before retiring in 1951. From the private collection of Chester C. Owens Jr.

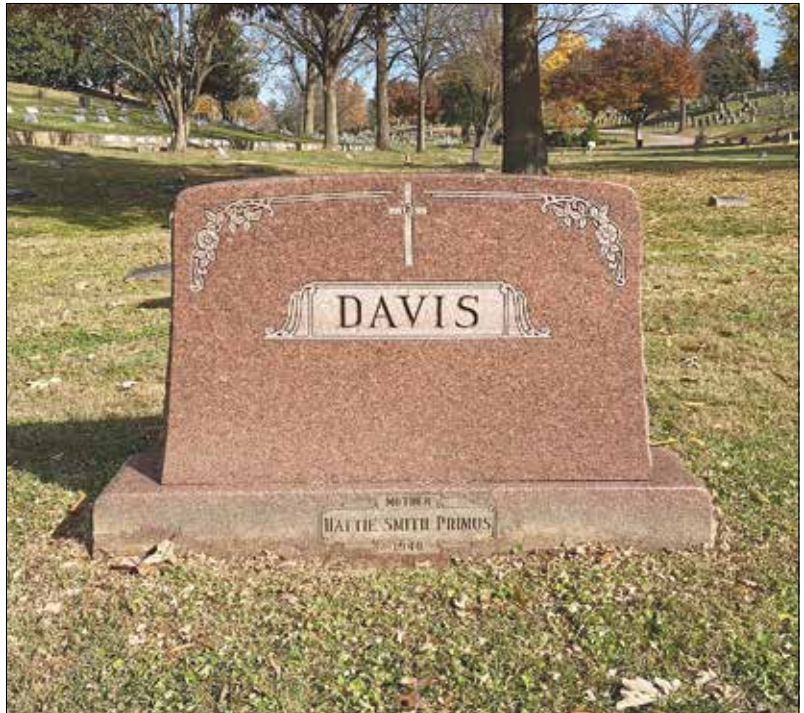




while those she taught may have remembered and appreciated her lessons and guidance, they likely did not know her backstory.

Their teacher—this bold, determined woman—spent her formative years in St. Paul, Minnesota. It was a time that shaped her outlook on life. She had been surrounded by supportive and progressive African American community members, including J. Q. Adams, the Farr sisters, Nellie and William Francis, S. E. Hall, T. H. and Amanda Lyles, Fredrick and Mattie McGhee, Dr. and Mrs. Valdo Turner, and others, who likely cheered her on as she later did her own students. Her Rondo neighborhood was home to successful businesses, churches, and social and political clubs that certainly had an influence and helped her move upward step by step. In the Twin Cities, she was a young community leader and the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Minnesota. She gained a good education from her parents, mentors, and teachers and formed her lifelong sense of social activism. From all these influencers, it appears she purposely centered her personal and professional life so she could share values with generations of students and others in the various communities in which she lived. There is no doubt, the legacy of Scottie Primus Davis cannot be forgotten.

**Acknowledgments:** The author is grateful for all who helped uncover the story of Scottie Primus Davis. Special thanks to Deborah Dandridge,



field archivist and curator of African American Experience Collections at the University of Kansas; Mary Beth Redmond, lead clerk, Central High School in St. Paul; and former student Chester C. Owens Jr. of Kansas City, Kansas.

*Steve Trimble is a St. Paul resident and local historian who is a member of the Ramsey County Historical Society's editorial board and a frequent contributor to the magazine.*

Scottie Primus Davis is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky. However, the only name on the family marker is that of Davis's mother. *Courtesy of Calvary Cemetery.*

## NOTES

1. "Miss Scottie Primus Davis," *The Appeal*, May 28, 1904, 3; "St. Paul Colored Girl Will Be Graduated by State University," *St. Paul Globe*, May 31, 1904, 10.

2. Tim Brady, "Almost Perfect Equality," *Minnesota Alumni*, September/October 2002, 49. Tim Brady, *Gopher Gold: Legendary Figures, Brilliant Blunders, and Amazing Feats at the University of Minnesota* (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, September 1, 2007), 187-188; "Black History at the University of Minnesota," *Minnesota Daily*, February 25, 2013, 4.

3. Harvard University, Graduate School of Education, student folders, Scottie Primus Davis, application for admission, July 29, 1927, UAV 350.284, Box 152, Harvard University Archives (hereafter Harvard University Archives); "Miss Scottie Primus Davis," 3.

4. "Addison Davis," *Saint Paul City Directory* (St. Paul: R. L. Polk & Co, 1896-1907), 451, 449, 444, 465, 484, 494, 493, 500, 549, 556; "Announcement," *The Appeal*,

August 18, 1906, 3. The house on Charles Avenue still stands.

5. "Miss Scottie Primus Davis," 3; "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, July 28, 1900, 3; "Prizes at Bazaar," *St. Paul Globe*, November 25, 1900, 2; "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, August 2, 1902, 3.

6. "St. Paul Colored Girl Will Be Graduated," 10; Scottie Davis, "Thirty Years of Freedom," *The World* (St. Paul, Central High School, January 1900), 7-8.

7. Davis, "Thirty Years of Freedom," 7-8.

8. *Ibid.*

9. *Ibid.*, 8; "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, August 27, 1904, 3.

10. "Nellie Francis Griswold," *The Appeal*, June 13, 1891, 3; See Leetta M. Douglas, "Votes for Everywoman: Nellie Griswold Francis, the Women of Rondo, and Their Suffrage Crusade," *Ramsey County History* 55,

- no. 2 (Summer 2020): 2. Nellie Francis was the wife of W. T. Francis, a prominent lawyer and activist; Nellie Griswold, *The World* (Central High School, July 1891), 10.
11. "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, June 16, 1900, 3.
  12. "Notice Member B. M. C.," *The Appeal*, September 8, 1900, 3; Arthur C. McWatt, "Small and Cohesive: St. Paul's Resourceful African American Community," *Ramsey County History* 26, no. 1 (Spring 1991): 6; "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, August 27, 1904, 3; "T. S. T. C. Club 46 Years Old Honors Wives," *Minneapolis Spokesman*, July 16, 1943, 1.
  13. "Cuba in St. Paul," *St. Paul Globe*, October 23, 1898, 56; "Work of the Adelphi Club," *St. Paul Globe*, December 1, 1901, 12; Dave Riehle "'300 Afro-American Performers': The Great Cuba Pageant of 1898: St. Paul's Citizens Support the Struggle for Civil Rights," *Ramsey County History* 33, no. 4, (Winter 1999): 15-20.
  14. "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, August 6, 1898, 3.
  15. "The Cosmos," *The Appeal*, May 30, 1903, 3.
  16. "St. Paul Colored Girl Will Be Graduated," 10.
  17. "Minneapolis: Doings In and About the 'Great Flour City,'" *The Appeal*, March 28, 1903, 3.
  18. "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, September 8, 1900, 3.
  19. Saint Paul High School was renamed Central High School in 1888; "Minneapolis: Doings In and About the 'Great Flour City,'" *The Appeal*, February 15, 1902, 3; Stephanie Kiihn, "Minnie T. Farr and Lincoln School," *Kiihn Art Maps*, accessed December 1, 2021, <https://kiihn.com/2020/07/26/minnie-t-farr/>.
  20. "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, June 7, 1902, 3.
  21. *Ibid.*; Paul D. Nelson, "A Different Sesquicentennial: Remembering Fredrick McGhee," *Ramsey County History* 46, no. 3, (Fall 2011): 13-14; "Leaders of Their Race," *The Appeal*, April 12, 1902, 4. The same week the National Convention of Afro-Americans was taking place in St. Paul, so, too, was the convention of the Afro-American Press Association and the National Educational Association.
  22. "Miss Scottie Primus Davis," 3; "William Leonidas Ricks," *The Appeal*, June 10, 1905. The first African American to graduate from the University of Minnesota was Andrew F. Hilyer ('82). Other early graduates included E. P. Holmes ('93); W. B. Holmes ('94); J. Frank Wheaton ('94); McCouts Stewart ('01) and W. L. Ricks ('05); Archival records, *Central High School Magnet Career Academy, Louisville, Kentucky*; "Louisville Central High School/Central High School Magnet Career Academy," Notable Kentucky African Americans Database, accessed December 2, 2021, <https://nkaa.uky.edu/nkaa/items/show/375>. Louisville Colored High School opened in 1882 and was originally funded through African American taxes. It moved to Twelfth and Chestnut Streets in 1952, still a segregated school. Today, the building houses the Central High School Magnet Career Academy.
  23. "St. Paul Colored Girl Will Be Graduated," 10.
  24. *Ibid.*
  25. "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, September 17, 1904, 3; "Create," *The Courier-Journal*, September 6, 1904, 2; "Davis, Scottie, P.," *Louisville City Directory* (Louisville, KY: Carson Directory Co., 1906, 1908, 1914), 203, 196.
  26. Louisville was sometimes called Falls City because of its proximity to the Falls of the Ohio.
  27. "St. Paul: A Week's Record in Minnesota's Capital," *The Appeal*, July 27, 3. We can assume the Davis family stayed in touch with their St. Paul friends, likely through correspondence and occasional trips north. The August 27, 1943, issue of the *Minneapolis Spokesman* noted that Davis spent a month there visiting before returning to Kansas City.
  28. "To Arouse Interest in National Meeting," *The Courier Journal*, May 17, 1909, 5.
  29. Mary Margaret Bell, with Archives and Record Center, Jefferson County Public Schools, email correspondence with author, June 7, 2016.
  30. *The Sumnarian* (Kansas City, KS: Sumner High School, 1919), 27.
  31. "Miss Davis requires . . .," *The Sumner Courier*, December 1920, 3.
  32. "Hookworm Attitude in English," *The Sumner Courier*, April 1920, 7.
  33. *Ibid.*
  34. *See The Sumnarian* (Kansas City, KS: Sumner High School, 1913, 1921, 1922, 1927).
  35. *The Sumnarian* (Kansas City, KS: Sumner High School, 1925), 31.
  36. Martha A. Carpenter, AKA Mu Omega Chapter historian, email to author, March 21, 2021, and editor January 5, 2022.
  37. Scottie Primus Davis, application for admission, Harvard University Archives; "Miss Scottie Davis," *The New York Age*, June 29, 1911, 8; Geronimo Sarmiento, University of Chicago Library, email with author, February 8, 2016. Even after graduating from Harvard, Davis took courses at the University of Chicago and the University of Iowa in the 1940s.
  38. Scottie P. Davis, letter to Director of the Summer School, June 13, 1933, and letter from Charles Swain Thomas, memorandum regarding summer enrollment, July 6, 1933, Harvard University Archives.
  39. Scottie P. Davis, letter to Registrar, June 17, 1934, 1-4, Harvard University Archives.
  40. Scottie P. Davis, letter to Director of the Summer School, June 19, 1934, 1-2 and letter from Assistant to the Registrar, June 21, 1934, 1, Harvard University Archives.
  41. Scottie P. Davis, letter to Dr. Holmes, Dean, October 31, 1934, 1-2, Harvard University Archives.
  42. Scottie P. Davis, "Implications Relative to Curricular Offerings in Urban High Schools for Negroes Drawn from a Distribution of Teachers' Grades in Summer High School, Kansas City, Kansas" (master's thesis, Harvard University, 1935), 8, Gutman Library, Harvard University.
  43. Davis, "Implications," 33, as noted by T. R. Garth, *Race Psychology* (NY: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1931).
  44. Davis, "Implications," 26, as noted by Ada H. Arlitt,



"Relation of Intelligence to Age in Negro Children," *Journal of Applied Psychology* 6, (1922); Davis, Implications, 43, as noted in Truman L. Kelly, "What is meant by a 'G' Factor?" *Journal of Educational Psychology* 22, (1931): 364-366.

45. Davis, "Implications," 129-135.

46. Ibid, 133-135.

47. Charles Swain Thomas, "Report on Thesis by Scottie P. Davis, January 15, 1935, 1-2, Harvard University Archives.

48. Edward A. Lincoln, "Report on Thesis by Scottie P. Davis," February 12, 1935, 1, Harvard University Archives.

49. Records Secretary, transcripts of Mr. Scottie Primus Davis," May 16, 1939, 1, Harvard University Archives.

50. Erma Lee Brewer, Louise E. Calhoun, Anita P. Davis, Bessie Lee Ellis, Luana Jean Franklin, Olie Kelley, and Scottie P. Davis, *The Story of Sumner High School* (Kansas City, KS: Sumner High School, 1935); Chester C. Owens Jr., former student, phone interview with author, January 7, 2022, and phone conversation with editor, January 14, 2022. Sumner alum and historian Chester Owens said that as House Bill 890 was being written in 1905, Governor Edward Hoch insisted that the new Black school be on par with the white school and that the educators be paid the same as their white counterparts.

51. Owens, interview and conversation; "Chester C. Owens Jr.," *TheHistoryMakers*, accessed January 11, 2022, <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/chester-c-owens-jr>. Owens observed his teacher and others sit at the rear of the store that was reserved for Black Americans. When he was discharged from the military in 1955 and returned to Kansas City, Kansas, the segregation policy had not changed. He was a part of the local chapters of the NAACP and the Congress of Racial Equality, (CORE), who, through protest and demonstrations, forced Kresge to change its policies.

52. *The Sumnarian* (Kansas City, KS: Sumner High School, 1953); Owens, interview; "Scottie P. Davis," Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Death File #116, Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, December 31, 1963; "Miss Scottie P. Davis," *The Courier Journal*, December 10, 1963, 19.

53. John H. Adams, oral history interview (transcript)

with Deborah Dandridge, in *World War II: The African American Collection*, University of Kansas, accessed December 6, 2021, <https://digital.lib.ku.edu/ku-wwii/2?search=%2522john%2520H.%2520adams%2522>.

54. Cordell D. Meeks, *To Heaven through Hell: An Autobiography of the First Black District Court Judge of Kansas* (Kansas City, KS: Corcell Publishers Inc., 1986); "School History," Sumner Academy of Arts and Science, accessed December 6, 2021, [https://sumner.schools.kckps.org/?page\\_id=376](https://sumner.schools.kckps.org/?page_id=376).

#### Notes to Sidebar on p. 27

a. "Cold Blooded Murder," *The Wyandotte Herald*, April 14, 1904, 3; "High School Boy Killed," *Kansas City Star*, April 12, 1904; "Negro Students Kept Out," *Kansas City Star*, April 13, 1904; "Special Election Proclamation," *Kansas City Gazette*, May 12, 1905, 1; Hazel Blair Anderson, "The History of Sumner High School," Sumner Alumni Association of Kansas City, KS, Incorporated, accessed December 7, 2021, [https://www.classcreator.com/Kansas-City-Kansas-Sumner-1905-1978/class\\_custom.cfm?page\\_id=952397](https://www.classcreator.com/Kansas-City-Kansas-Sumner-1905-1978/class_custom.cfm?page_id=952397); "Site is Selected," *Kansas City Globe*, April 19, 1905; "High School Problem," *Kansas City Globe*, August 1, 1905, 1.

b. "School News," *The Press*, June 8, 1906, 1.

c. "School History," Sumner Academy of Arts and Science, accessed December 6, 2021, [https://sumner.schools.kckps.org/?page\\_id=376](https://sumner.schools.kckps.org/?page_id=376).

d. "John A. Hodge," Kansas City Black History, accessed December 6, 2021, <https://kcblackhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/kcblackhistoryV9web-1.pdf>.

e. Harvard University, Graduate School of Education, student folders, "Vita: Scottie Primus Davis," UAV 350.284, Box 152, Harvard University Archives. Davis taught English at Sumner High School from 1914 to 1924 before moving up to the junior college level where she taught until 1951; See Granvile O'Neal speak about Sumner High School, <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10154991886034334>.

f. "Vita: Scottie Primus Davis."

g. Anderson.

## RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

### President

Chad P. Roberts

### Editor

Meredith Cummings

### Editor Emeritus (2006-2018)

John Lindley

### Founding Editor (1964-2006)

Virginia Brainard Kunz

## RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Board of Directors

Jerry Woelfel

#### Chair

Mari Oyanagi Eggum

#### First Vice Chair

Robert W. Mairs

#### Second Vice Chair

Elizabeth J. Keyes

#### Secretary

Peter Nguyen

#### Treasurer

Jo Anne Driscoll, Jo Emerson, Anne Field, Tim Glines, Lorraine Griffin Johnson, John Guthmann, John Hamburger, Judy Kishel, Debbie Lee, Joe Lutz, Marc J Manderscheid, James Miller, Chad P. Roberts, Roxanne Sands, George T. Stephenson, Joe Twomey, July Vang, Glenn Wiessner, Lee Pao Xiong

### Directors Emeriti

W. Andrew Boss, George A. Mairs, Richard T. Murphy Sr., Paul A. Verret

### Editorial Board

Anne Field, *Chair*, Thomas H. Boyd, Anne Cowie, John Diers, Kate Dietrick, Renoir W. Gaither, John Guthmann, Lisa L. Heinrich, Kyle Imdieke, James Miller, John Milton, Laurie M. Murphy, Paul D. Nelson, Richard H. Nicholson, Jay Pfaender, David Riehle, Chad P. Roberts, Linda Schloff, George T. Stephenson, Mark Taylor, Steve Trimble, Mary Lethert Wingerd, Matthew Wright

### Honorary Advisory Board

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

### Ramsey County Commissioners

Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo, *Chair*

Commissioner Toni Carter

Commissioner Nicole Joy Frethem

Commissioner Jim McDonough

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire

Commissioner Rafael E. 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, Saint Paul, MN 55102 (651-222-0701). Printed in U.S.A. Copyright © 2022, 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.

# RAMSEY COUNTY History

A PUBLICATION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

The Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) strives to innovate, lead, and partner in preserving the knowledge of our community, deliver inspiring history programming, and incorporate local history in education.

The Society was established in 1949 to preserve the Jane and Heman Gibbs Farm in Falcon Heights, which the family acquired in 1849. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the original programs told the story of the Gibbs family. In 2000, with the assistance of a Dakota Advisory Council, RCHS also began interpreting Dakota culture and lifeways, now telling the stories of the remarkable relationship between Jane Gibbs and the Dakota people of Heyáta Othújwe (Cloud Man's Village).

In 1964, the Society began publishing its award-winning magazine *Ramsey County History*. In 1978, the organization moved to St. Paul's Landmark Center, a restored Federal Courts building on the National Register of Historic Places. An expansion of the Research Center was completed in 2010 and rededicated in 2016 as the Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center.

RCHS offers public programming for youth and adults. Visit [www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com) for details of upcoming History Revealed programs, summer camps, courthouse and depot tours, and more. The Society serves more than 15,000 students annually on field trips or through school outreach. Programs are made possible by donors, members, corporations, and foundations, all of whom we appreciate deeply. If you are not a member of RCHS, please join today and help bring history to life for more than 50,000 people every year.

### Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, & Inclusion

RCHS is committed to ensuring it preserves and presents our county's history. As we continue our work to incorporate more culturally diverse histories, we have made a commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion that is based on this core idea: RCHS exists to serve ALL who call Ramsey County home. To learn more, please see [www.rchs.com/about](http://www.rchs.com/about).

### Acknowledging This Sacred Dakota Land

Mnisóta Makhóche, the land where the waters are so clear they reflect the clouds, extends beyond the modern borders of Minnesota and is the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Dakhóta (Dakota) people. It is also home to the Anishinaabe and other Indigenous peoples, all who make up a vibrant community in Mnisóta Makhóche. RCHS acknowledges that its sites are located on and benefit from these sacred Dakota lands.

RCHS is committed to preserving our past, informing our present, and inspiring our future. Part of doing so is acknowledging the painful history and current challenges facing the Dakota people just as we celebrate the contributions of Dakota and other Indigenous peoples.

Find our full Land Acknowledgment Statement on our website, [www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com). This includes actionable ways in which RCHS pledges to honor the Dakota and other Indigenous peoples of Mnisóta Makhóche.

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

[www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com)

[info@rchs.com](mailto:info@rchs.com)

  
GIBBS FARM  
Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life  
Experience | Understand | Grow

(651) 222-0701



## Gibbs Farm 2022 Summer Camps

Dates, descriptions, and additional information at [www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com)

Registration opens February 7



**Ages 4-5**  
PeeWee Mini-Camps

**Ages 6-9**  
Dakota Camp  
Farm Kid Camp  
Life of a Gibbs Girl  
Nature Detectives



**Ages 10-13**  
Farm Survivor  
Minnesota Time Traveler



651-222-0701  
[www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com)  
[gibbs@rchs.com](mailto:gibbs@rchs.com)



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



### Mairs & Power at 90

A RICH HISTORY,  
A BRIGHT FUTURE



DAVE BEAL

New Publication!  
***Mairs & Power at 90:***  
***A Rich History,***  
***A Bright Future***  
by Dave Beal

St. Paul's Mairs & Power is the oldest independent investment management firm in Minnesota and one of few in the U.S. to survive the Great Depression.

Hardcover, with more than 150 photos and graphics,  
fully indexed.

Member Pricing: \$40.00

(tax included & free shipping in Minnesota for members)

Nonmember Pricing: \$45.00

(plus \$5 shipping & handling, tax included)

For more information and to order books:

<https://publishing.rchs.com/publishing/books>

### RCHS Podcasts

#### *March of the Governors*

The "March of the Governors" podcast series provides brief snapshots of Minnesota's governors during their terms in office. A new podcast is posted every month.

To hear the podcasts, go to:

<https://www.rchs.com/news/rchs-podcasts/>



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

U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 3989

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Forgotten to Time?*

## **The Search for Scottie Primus Davis**

STEVE TRIMBLE, PAGE 21



With degrees from the University of Minnesota and Harvard University, former St. Paulite Scottie Primus Davis was a lifelong learner and strict and well-respected educator. *Courtesy of Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, Kentucky.*