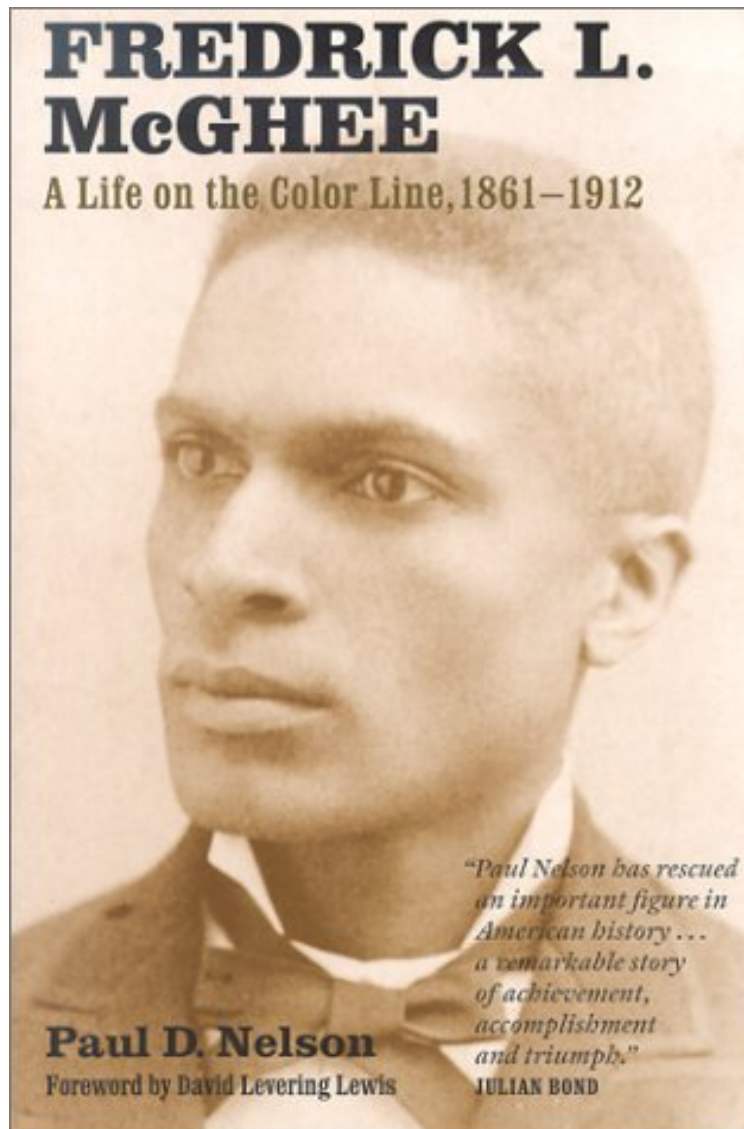


[Download] Fredrick L. McGhee: A Life on the Color Line, 1861-1912

## Fredrick L. McGhee: A Life on the Color Line, 1861-1912

*Paul D. Nelson, David Levering Lewis*  
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**Paul D. Nelson, David Levering Lewis : Fredrick L. McGhee: A Life on the Color Line, 1861-1912** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fredrick L. McGhee: A Life on the Color Line, 1861-1912:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fred McGhee Was a Great AmericanBy Paul NelsonI've read this several times, and like it every time. Am I biased because I also wrote it? Fred McGhee was a great American -- not only Minnesota's first black lawyer, but its first (locally) famous African American. He was famous in the Twin Cities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a criminal defense attorney, regularly on the front pages of the newspapers

for his dramatic cases. He was also an early collaborator of W.E.B. DuBois's and a founder of the Niagara Movement.

The biography of a pioneer in early desegregation, anti-lynching, and civil rights cases, as well as a tireless activist and organizer for African American civil rights.

From Booklist\*Starred \* McGhee, born a slave but later able to achieve a substantial career as an attorney and civil rights activist, was a contemporary of Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois, but he is nonetheless a fairly obscure historical figure. Nelson explores the life of this extraordinary man and the reasons for his obscurity--partly attributable to geography--despite his achievements. Although he began his legal career in Chicago, McGhee settled in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he became the first black lawyer admitted to the bar. With a much smaller black population from which to attract clients, McGhee primarily represented whites, gaining a reputation for competence and oratory. McGhee's conversion from the Baptist faith to the Catholic faith put him in position to work with Archbishop John Ireland to use the church as a positive vehicle for racial equality. Politically, McGhee converted from Republican to Democrat at a time when the latter party was dominated by segregationists. Although initially allied with Washington, McGhee later sided with DuBois when the two giants in the struggle for racial equality clashed on tactics and philosophy. A very fascinating read. Vernon Ford Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Paul D. Nelson is an attorney-at-law and former managing editor of the Minnesota Law . For the last ten years, he has served as the executive director of Centro de Estudios Multiculturales in St. Paul. David Levering Lewis has twice been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography for W.E.B. Du Bois, *A Biography of a Race, 1868-1919* and *W.E.B. Du Bois: The Fight for Equality and the American Century, 1919-1963*. His other books include *W.E.B. Du Bois: A Reader* and *When Harlem Was in Vogue*. He holds the Martin Luther King, Jr., chair in history at Rutgers University.