

Maceo Conrad Martin



Maceo Conrad Martin (left) was a wealthy banker from Danville, Virginia. In the summer of 1948 Mr. Martin and his family traveled to the nearby Staunton River State Park for a vacation, but upon arrival the Martin family was denied entry due to their race. Knowing of the civil rights accomplishments of Oliver Hill and the law firm of Hill, Tucker, and Robinson, Mr. Martin filed a civil suit against the Commonwealth of Virginia, under the “separate but equal” doctrine, for the policy of only allowing State Park facilities to be utilized by white citizens.

As a result, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Development took an already existing recreation area for African-Americans located in Prince Edward County and converted it into a full fledged State Park facility. In 1949, Governor William Tuck appropriated \$195,000 for the development of the new Prince Edward State Park for Negroes (now known as Twin Lakes State Park). This money was used to create 6 housekeeping cabins, an expanded swimming area, expanded parking, a bathhouse, and concession stand. Much of which are still in use today.