Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

1 What Happens When Negros Don’t March? 23

2 “We Are Americans, Too”: MOWM’s Institutionalization 48

3 Wartime St. Louis and the Genesis of MOWM in the Gateway City, 1942 74

4 Pickets, Protests, and Prayers: St. Louis MOWM’s Campaign to Integrate the Defense Workforce 101

5 “These Women Really Did the Work”: Marching on More than Defense Plants 129

6 “An Economic D-Day for Negro Americans”: MOWM’s Transition and Dissolution, 1944–46 150

Conclusion 175

Appendix A: MOWM Chapters and Local Chairpersons 193

Appendix B: Approximate Racial Composition of Major St. Louis Defense Contractors during World War II 195