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The Tulsa Race Massacre: Teaching and Learning Resources

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# Primary Sources Related to the Greenwood neighborhood, Tulsa Oklahoma, 1900-1921 (Bibliography)

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## **Annotated Bibliography**

### Primary Sources

Related to the Greenwood neighborhood, Tulsa Oklahoma, 1900-1921

January 2022

By Rebecca Hayes, Corry Hinckley, and Patricia Schechter

#### Introduction

Items in this bibliography were selected for their illustrative power and are intended to serve as an introduction to some of the source material available digitally to those interested in doing historical research related to the African American community of Tulsa, Oklahoma, roughly 1910-1921. The researchers strove for balance, including materials that describe the development of North Tulsa and “Black Wall Street” before the notorious race massacre of 1921. Transcripts of news reports of that event are also included in the final section of the bibliography.

For ease of access, users should be logged into the PSU Library in order to make full use of the embedded links. Full citations are included for those unable to log in and who can track down these materials through other educational or research websites.

#### **Guy, William E. “Compulsory Education in the New State of Oklahoma.” *AME Church Review* vol. 24, no. 2 (October 1907): 116-135.**

This essay, written just as Oklahoma was declared the 46<sup>th</sup> state of the United States, is a defense of industrial and moral education as compulsory, state-wide. He celebrates Booker T. Washington and rather than disparage “liberal” education per se, Guy seems intent on warding off the exclusion of black students from the new publication system as it is assembled in this new state. He cites the Oklahoma Agricultural College at Stillwater as securing solid funding and a good sign for practical education. The main three reasons public education should be compulsory that Guy lists are the “wildness” of the state, the predominance of cotton agriculture, which pulls children and youth out of school for field work, and the general ethos of “commercialism” with its concomitant need to compete. He celebrates the new state of Oklahoma as a “composite of the best blood” in the country. The essay is thin on details in any particular community and more of a general philosophical statement.

Link: <http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/html/pageff2f.html?ID=2465&Current=P116>

#### **Booker T. Washington High School. *Yearbook*. Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1921.**

This book is an exquisite and detailed document that pictures, names, and describes the class of 1921 at Booker T. Washington High School in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa. Names,

photographs, and short sayings for the senior class of 18 and all members of the student body are included. There is a faculty photo and a portrait of school principal C.W. Woods. Clubs include YMCA and YWCA groups and basketball teams for boys, girls, and male faculty. In addition to poems, a play, and candid photographs there are 15 pages of advertisements from local businesses with numerous names, images, and addresses included.

Link: <https://thislandpress.com/2013/05/09/the-pages-of-the-1921-booker-t-washington-high-school-yearbook/>

### **1978 Class of 1921 Booker T. Washington High School Reunion. African American Museum of History and Culture, Washington, D.C.**

Handmade reunion booklet that includes some images clipped from the original 1921 Year Book but additional images added. Also includes current names and addresses of the class members, neatly typed and listed.

Link:

[https://nmaahc.si.edu/object/nmaahc\\_2014.75.145?destination=/explore/collection/search%3Fedan\\_q%3Dtulsa%26page%3D4](https://nmaahc.si.edu/object/nmaahc_2014.75.145?destination=/explore/collection/search%3Fedan_q%3Dtulsa%26page%3D4)

### **1910 Tulsa Enumeration Districts Map. Digital Map Collection, Tulsa Public Library.**

This is a series of four census maps from 1910 that show a number of very interesting details for Tulsa, including the northern section of the city that includes Greenwood. First, it notes both the political electoral districts (“wards”) as well as the “enumeration districts” used by the census. These numbers can be tracked into further census work or into explorations via ancestry.com. The maps illustrate the parts of the city that had been platted into lots with the names of lot owners for areas that had not been incorporated into the urban street grid. These names could be tracked back into Bureau of Land Management records. The map also indicates lines where Cherokee, Osage, and Creek Lands remained, which can aid further research.

link: <https://digitalcollections.tulsalibrary.org/digital/collection/p16063coll3/id/230/rec/8>

Source citation from Tulsa Public Library: "Enumeration District Maps for the Twelfth through the Sixteenth Censuses of the United States, 1900-1940." Images. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 2016. Citing NARA microfilm publication A3378. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C. Images 797-800.

### **Parshina-Kottas, Yulia and Anjali Singhvi. “How we reconstructed the Neighborhood Destroyed by the Tulsa Race Massacre,” *New York Times* OpenSource, 2 July 2021.**

This open source documentary and map project was undertaken by New York Times journalists in cooperation with Tulsa libraries and other researchers. The project offers a number of

visualizations of the historic Greenwood neighborhood, including a map of the “burned area,” a 3D reconstruction of buildings in the original grid, and a business and professional map that conveys the human capital and talents of the area. The project also contains a convenient list of black businesses and residences reconstructed from the Sanborn insurance maps and the Tulsa City Directories. <https://github.com/nytimes/tulsa-1921-data/blob/main/tulsa-city-directory-1921.csv>

**Full project link:**

<https://open.nytimes.com/how-we-reconstructed-the-neighborhood-destroyed-by-the-tulsa-race-massacre-33fcf32dd086>

**Articles about Oklahoma from the *Chicago Defender* newspaper, 1910-1920.**

The *Defender* was the key newspaper for African Americans before World War II. Founded by Robert Sengstacke in 1905, it circulated all over the United States and internationally as well. Chicago was home to the Negro Press Association, run by Claude A. Barnett, and home as well to famous journalists like Ida B. Wells-Barnett (no relation) and Nettie Speedy. These two groups of articles document interesting features of black life in Tulsa before World War I. The first set of articles describe the legal fight that went all the way to the supreme court to dispute voter restriction in Oklahoma ([Guinn v. U.S., 1915](#)). The second set of articles are of more general interest and describe the kinship, cultural, and business connections between Chicago and Tulsa.

*Disputing Voter Restriction in Oklahoma*

[“Oklahoma Negroes in Arms to Fight for Votes; Militia Ready”](#) 5 Nov 1910 p. 5

[“Whites Pardoned by President”](#) 22 January 1916 p. 1

[“Southerners in Fight over Grandfather Clause,”](#) 16 February 1916 p. 1

*General Interest Articles about Tulsa*

[“Oklahoma”](#) 27 April 1918, p. 8

[“Oklahoma”](#) 4 May 1918, p. 8

[“Oklahoma”](#) 11 May 1918, p. 11

[“Oklahoma”](#) 8 June 1918, p. 10

[“Oklahoma”](#) 22 June 1918, p. 12

[“Oklahoma”](#) 6 July 1918, p. 12

[“Oklahoma”](#) 20 July 1918, p. 9

[“Oklahoma”](#) 31 August 1918, p. 3

[“Fights for Justice and Progress in Oklahoma”](#) 28 September 1918, p. 2

**“Independent Club Will Not Support Republicans.” *The Tulsa Star*, 18 Apr. 1914, pp. 1.**

Independent Colored Clubs focused on voting and politics were formed throughout America between the dates 1885-1922. These clubs served to channel the discontent of African Americans being represented in political parties. ICC’s only affiliated with political parties or endorsed candidates that ensured African American’s the fullest rights of free citizens. The earliest meeting was held in Paris, Kentucky at the Second Baptist Church—about 600 members attended. The main focus was education and decent schools for the children. While not much history is known about the start about ICC in Tulsa, it seems to have had some influence.

Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86064118/1914-04-18/ed-1/seq-2/>

**Unknown. “Historic Tulsa.” *Historic Tulsa*, 1 Jan. 1970.**

The BlogSpot known as *Historic Tulsa* was written by an Unknown Tulsa resident, but goes by the online persona “Tulsa Gentleman.” According to his “about me” section, he was born and raised in OK, and he also raised his only son there. His blog post has 100 different locations in Tulsa, OK from date ranges 1897-2009. Locations include the Carl K. Dresser House, Dawson School, Tulsa Little Theatre, and the Weber Root Beer Stand. Including the in-depth history of each of the locations, old photos are also included. A couple of the sources have the “before and after” of the city.

Link: <http://historictulsa.blogspot.com/2000/01/list-of-posts-for-historic-tulsa-most.html>

**“Colored Women Organize Democratic Club.” *The Tulsa Star*, 30 Jan. 1920, pp. 1–1. Accessed 10 Jan. 2022**

In St. Louis, OK, the “Colored Sister” chooses not to be outdone by her white sisters and decides to band together and form the Colored Democratic Club. 50 colored women gathered one Sunday and voted accordingly. Mrs. Lucile Wilborn, president; Mrs. Genevieve Mills, vice president; Mrs. Parsetta Callaway, secretary; Mrs. Irene Whetstone, recording secretary; Mrs. Annie Brunch, treasurer and Mrs. Esle Lawry, chairman of the executive committee.

**“Mission and History.” *YWCA Tulsa*, 5 Dec. 2018, <https://www.ywcatulsa.org/who-we-are/mission-and-history>**

Founded in 1914, the Young Women’s Christian Association of Tulsa was dedicated to support the needs of women and their families in the community. Typically, YWCAs were organized on

a segregated basis, into “Colored” YWCAs that affiliated with the state or national organization only a few times a year. Generally, they remained semi-autonomous. The YWCA offered recreation, clubs, education (skilled and occupational training) and in some cities, housing. In 1921, they opened their second center in North Tulsa. After the Massacre, YWCA offered support to citizens and provided housing, food, and job training, an important services maintained through the stressors of the Great Depression and World War II.

*The Tulsa Race Massacre and its aftermath as reported in the Chicago Defender newspaper - citations and transcripts of articles.*

**"POLICE AIDED TULSA RIOTERS: ARMED WHITE RUFFIANS WHO BEGGED FOR GUNS TO HELP MURDER FLAME SWEPT TULSA HOMELESS TULSA RIOT VICTIMS TELL STORIES OF HORROR." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Jun 11, 1921.***

Much of the front page *The Defender's* weekly national edition on June 11<sup>th</sup> 1921 was devoted to the riots in Tulsa as the paper attempted to take inventory and make sense of the events there for its readers. This sweeping account includes information about Dick Rowland and the allegations against him, times and locations as the day progressed, a labeled photograph of part of the burned street, accounts of financial losses and human tolls. Outside perspectives and sympathies as quoted from “a white daily” newspaper story, death estimates, and reports on political maneuverings along with national and local relief efforts convey the gravity of the violence, disruption to local economic activity and need for national reckoning over the actions of authorities in Tulsa.

link: <http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/police-aided-tulsa-rioters/docview/491891372/se-2?accountid=13265>.

**"SHIELD RIOTERS; HUNT CITIZENS AS CRIMINALS: RIDICULOUS SITUATION STIRS THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO DEMAND FAIR PLAY." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Jun 11, 1921.***

Ten days after Tulsa burned, the *Chicago Defender* recounted to its national readers the violent destruction of Mt. Zion Baptist church by a known ex-cavalryman. This emotionally charged feature compares the humiliation and maltreatment of Black residents during and immediately after the riots to the suffering of Jews in Russia in attempt to convey the brutality of the events to the outside world. Respected citizens such as the principal of the high school, editor of the newspaper, ministers, and others, including pregnant women, were terrorized by easily identifiable, gleefully racist white men and boys who remained unpunished while the Black victims who lost fortunes were treated as criminals. The disparity in consequences for White and Black Tulsans after the riots was clear, and by this account there wasn't much hope that city

officials would do anything to change that. (Copy of article is difficult to read; Transcription follows.)

link: <http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/shield-rioters-hunt-citizens-as-criminals/docview/491886822/se-2?accountid=13265>.

**"START PROBE IN TULSA ON RIOT CHARGES: CITIZENS ACCUSE OFFICIALS OF "STARTING BACKWARDS" IN PROSECUTION OF CASES." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Jun 18, 1921.***

This article from the *Chicago Defender* conveys to a national audience the local incredulity and mistrust on the part of Tulsa's Black residents a little over two weeks after the riots there as they observed Attorney General Freeling kicked off his investigation by filing charges against successful Black businessman J. B. Stradford, for rioting. The community who witnessed police harassment of Stradford in the past suspected white real estate interests of targeting Stradford and his hotel during the riots in order to benefit financially and they believed Freeling's goal was to blame them for the destruction rather than the white rioters and arsonists.

link: <http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/start-probe-tulsa-on-riot-charges/docview/491885844/se-2?accountid=13265>.

**Tucker, Charles M. "SAYS TULSA RIOT "DAMNABLE AND INEXCUSABLE": GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA FLAYS "JELLY-FISH" OFFICIALS FOR COWARDLY ACTIONS." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Jun 18, 1921.***

Notable for its exquisite writing, this opinion piece on the tragedy of Tulsa, written by Charles M. Tucker for the national edition of the *Chicago Defender* two-and-a-half weeks after the riots, is anchored by Oklahoma Governor J. B. A. Robertson caustic condemnation of the Tulsa police department and his call for a grand jury investigation into their dereliction of duty. The author's mention of the recent devastation of Flooding in Pueblo, Colorado is an adept comparison in both the acute suffering and national scope of both events.

link: <http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/says-tulsa-riot-damnable-inexcusable/docview/491885879/se-2?accountid=13265>.

**Correspondent, Staff. "INDICT 65 IN TULSA RIOT; NAB LEADERS: SEARCH HOMES FOR LOOT TAKEN DURING CONFLICT TULSA CITIZENS SEE WHITEWASH PROBE UNLESS GOVERNMENT TAKES HAND." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Jun 25, 1921.***

The *Chicago Defender's* National headline story three weeks after the race riots in Tulsa begins with accounts of authorities returning furniture, pianos, and record players to the wealthy Black

families from which they were stolen, and a satisfying story of a policeman forced to strip out of looted clothing in the police station. There is no satisfaction in the rest of the piece recounting Ed Lockett's murder as he attempted to escape the mob on horseback, that several hundred witnesses watched US government airplanes shoot on civilians and many possessed casings as proof, the brazen falsity of the allegations against Dick Rowland reinforcing suspicions of White pre-meditation. The article ends with previously financially independent folks being offered jobs as servants in White homes, leaving the city in "humiliation."

link:

<http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com.proxy.lib.pdx.edu/historical-newspapers/indict-65-tulsa-riot-nab-leaders/docview/491889709/se-2?accountid=13265>.

**"TULSA IS SAID TO HAVE SHUNNED ITS LEGAL DUTY: NATIONAL RED CROSS OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF ALLEGED NEGLECT." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Aug 27, 1921.***

This snapshot of Tulsa relief efforts for national readers of the *Chicago Defender* two months after the riots demonstrates the coordination of local and national efforts to raise funds and the difficulties involved in holding local relief workers, insurance companies and municipal authorities responsible so business owners might have recouped their losses. Significant donations from Chicago are acknowledged by S. D. Hooker's Tulsa relief committee. A meeting between national Red Cross officers and local leaders raised hope that patients could be moved from the high school to a tentatively planned hospital on Greenwood Street which hadn't yet begun construction. (Copy of article is difficult to read; Transcription follows.)

link: <http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/tulsa-is-said-have-shunned-legal-duty/docview/491910563/se-2?accountid=13265>.

**"EXPOSE PLOT OF REALTY MEN IN TULSA RIOT: OPPRESSED AND NEGLECTED VICTIMS FIGHT TO SAVE THEIR PROPERTY." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Sep 03, 1921.***

Describing efforts by the Black community of Tulsa to hold onto their property, this short, page 3 article from September 1921 tells of residents pooling their funds through the East End relief committee in order to buy Cy Williams' theater on North Greenwood to prevent it from falling into white ownership. An attempt at rezoning spurred by white real estate interests aimed at preventing rebuilding by Blacks was declared void by court ruling, with attorney Elisha Scott holding evidence that those interests wanted the district for manufacturing business purposes.

link: <http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/expose-plot-realty-men-tulsa-riot/docview/491922224/se-2?accountid=13265>.



**"FORMER TULSA POLICE EXPOSES RIOT PLOT: EX-POLICE BARES PLOT OF TULSANS OFFICER OF LAW TELLS WHO ORDERED AEROPLANES TO DESTROY HOMES." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Oct 15, 1921.***

Information from an affidavit of a white former Tulsa policeman's statements regarding the events of the day is featured in this article written in October after the riots. It fleshes out the events of the day, describing orders given to law officers prior to the riot, the failure to guard against or punish looting by Boy Scouts and policemen. The officer's account demonstrates white disapproval of lawlessness with the privilege of distance and safety. He opined that Black Tulsans were acting out of self-defense except for those he called out who went to the courthouse to prevent Dick Rowland from being lynched, even as he stated a police Captain rode in one of the incendiary planes that day.

link: [http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/former-tulsa-police-exposes-riot-plot/docview/491920153/se-2?accountid=13265.](http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/former-tulsa-police-exposes-riot-plot/docview/491920153/se-2?accountid=13265)

**"J. B. STRADFORD CIVIC LEADER IS TAKEN IN DEATH." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Jan 04, 1936.***

J. B. Stradford, an example the excellence that built Tulsa's Black Wall Street, the chaos and loss during the 1921 riots and the injustice in the aftermath, is remembered in this obituary published in Chicago for their national readership. Announcing his death, the Defender lists his accomplishments before the riots, his persistent besting of Oklahoma authorities' repeated extradition attempts, and his efforts to establish himself in Chicago, culminating in a warm circle of friends and relations as well as a legacy of advocating for civil rights for those that survive him.

link: [http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com.proxy.lib.pdx.edu/historical-newspapers/j-b-stradford-civic-leader-is-taken-death/docview/492568479/se-2?accountid=13265.](http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com.proxy.lib.pdx.edu/historical-newspapers/j-b-stradford-civic-leader-is-taken-death/docview/492568479/se-2?accountid=13265)

**"FORMER TULSA POLICE EXPOSES RIOT PLOT: EX-POLICE BARES PLOT OF TULSANS OFFICER OF LAW TELLS WHO ORDERED AEROPLANES TO DESTROY HOMES." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967), Oct 15, 1921.***

[http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/former-tulsa-police-exposes-riot-plot/docview/491920153/se-2?accountid=13265.](http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/former-tulsa-police-exposes-riot-plot/docview/491920153/se-2?accountid=13265)

**EX-POLICE BARES PLOT OF TULSANS**

**Officer of Law Tells Who Ordered Aeroplanes [sic] to Destroy Homes**

Tulsa, Okla. Oct 14 – Elisha Scott of Topeka, Kan., one of the attorneys retained by the Tulsa riot victims, has a signed affidavit in his possession that when produced will throw an entirely new light on the insurrection carefully planned by the whites here on May 31 last.

It is the confession of a former Tulsa policeman, Van B. Hurley (white) and consists of 21 pages. Hurley, who was honorably discharged from the force and given splendid recommendations by his captains and lieutenants, names several prominent city officials who he declared met in a downtown office and carefully planned the attack on the segregated district by the use of airplanes. He gives in detail a description of the conference between local aviators and the officials.

After this meeting Hurley asserted the airplanes darted out from hangars and hovered over the district, dropping nitroglycerin on buildings, setting them afire. When questioned regarding instructions from police officials shortly before the riot, his answer was as follows:

“They gave instructions for every man to be ready and on the alert and if the niggers wanted to start anything to be ready for them. They never put forth any efforts at all to prevent it whatever, and said if they started anything to kill every [?]------ son of a b---- they could find.” Gustafson, who was chief of police at the time, was later dismissed.

“On the morning of June 1, they gave me orders to go over to the Negro district.” Hurley said. “There was a bunch of rogues, the lower class of white people, stealing and robbing and bursting open trunks and carrying off stuff. Well, I found conditions unspeakable in the way of robbery. I arrested eight and turned them over to the patrol, but that is the last I ever saw of them or heard of them. I don’t suppose they ever reached the jail.”

Hurley says [?] came later and moved the stolen articles away, despite the fact that the Boy Scouts, guarding the district, had strict orders to permit only Red Cross cars. It was the former policeman’s opinion that members of our Race fought in self-defense. However, he [?] his [?] with an exception, naming those who came to the courthouse to avoid the proposed lynching of Dick Rowland.

The confession also involves a well known police official. He is Capt. George G. Blaine. Hurley stated that Blaine rode in one of the airplanes that hovered over the district during the riot.

"TULSA IS SAID TO HAVE SHUNNED ITS LEGAL DUTY: NATIONAL RED CROSS OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition) (1921-1967)*, Aug 27, 1921.

<http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/tulsa-is-said-have-shunned-legal-duty/docview/491910563/se-2?accountid=13265>.

TULSA IS SAID TO HAVE SHUNNED ITS LEGAL DUTY

## National Red Cross Officials Investigate Charges of Alleged Neglect

Tulsa, Okla., August 26.

S. D. Hooker, chairman of the Tulsa relief committee, declares that immediately after the riot there the city [caused?] to be published the news that it was going to restore the value of the \$1,000,000 worth of property which was destroyed. Up to the present time it has made no pretense toward keeping its word. The Tulsa Bar Association has even gone so far as to give an opinion freeing the city of all liability in connection with the great conflagration.

### Red Cross to Act

Despite new hindrances which are coming up every day, the work of rebuilding the burned area is making steady progress. Following up on reports that the Tulsa Red Cross division had been derelict in its duty, national officers of the organization came to the city and held a conference with local leaders, including representatives of the citizens' relief committee. Only tentative plans were drawn up. It is believed that the plan to build a Red Cross hospital to house the relief work and sick people that are now in the high school will be consummated. It is proposed to construct the building on Greenwood Street, near Dunbar school.

The relief committee has acknowledged the check for \$1,012 from the Chicago Tribune, sent to it through the Chicago Defender. It was the second largest donation received so far, the largest being \$1,200 sent by the Chicago Peace and Protective Association.

### Countrywide Campaign On

Agents of the relief committee have been touring the different states in order to create interest in providing more funds for the sufferers. J.B. Garret made a successful tour of Texas and S. D. Hooker, H. S. Hughes and G. A. Gregg established eastern headquarters in Washington.

An injunction proceeding to restrain the city from interfering with building [operation?] in the burned district has been filed against the city. At the same time expert attorneys have been brought to Tulsa by the [?] insurance companies in what is [?] to be an effort to [?] [property holders?] to [swear?] away their chances of recovering their insurance.

A complete report covering all [receipts?] and expenditures of the Tulsa relief committee is being prepared and will be available [?] for all those who may have an interest in the work of the committee.

"SHIELD RIOTERS; HUNT CITIZENS AS CRIMINALS: RIDICULOUS SITUATION STIRS THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO DEMAND FAIR PLAY." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition)* (1921-1967), Jun 11, 1921.

<http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/shield-rioters-hunt-citizens-as-criminals/docview/491886822/se-2?accountid=13265>.

## SHIELD RIOTERS; HUNT CITIZENS AS CRIMINALS

### Ridiculous Situation Stirs the Outside World to Demand Fair Play

Tulsa, Okla. June 10 – The Jews in Russia suffered little in comparison to members of our Race here during the recent riot. The best the Race offered to the city of Tulsa was humiliated, beaten and shot to death, while officers stood by and laughed with glee.

The cry went out, “Let’s get the rich niggers.”

Policemen, boy scouts, guardsmen and aviators from a local concern joined hands to murder and pillage. It appeared as if the attack had been planned for months as everything worked in unison. Taxpayers who gave their money to pay the salaries of policemen were shot indiscriminately. Prof. Woods, principal of the Booker Washington high school, was forced to walk several miles with his hands in the air. Guardsmen robbed him. Dr. Wayne was shot at several times and the ministers of the various churches were sought as if they were hardened criminals.

### Aviators Burn Church

An airplane hovered above the Mt Zion Baptist church, dropping large lumps of liquid fire, while an ex-Tenth cavalryman, prominently known here, fired on it with a Winchester rifle. His bullets gave out and within a few hours the church went up in smoke. White boys between 14 and 16 years old broke into homes on Detroit avenue, hurled furniture in the street and set it on fire. Although they are known and can be identified, the chief of police has failed to order their arrest.

The most ridiculous aspect of the whole situation is that instead of placing the rioters under arrest, the city authorities are seeking such men as A. J. Smitherman, editor of the Tulsa Star, J. B. Stradford, owner of the Stradford Hotel, and other prominent men who had nothing whatever to do with the rioting but fled to points of safety to escape death. The aviators, who committed arson, are permitted to go about free and are said to have discussed how they “killed bunches of niggers.”

Women were driven like cattle and those in a delicate state were forced to walk miles with hands upraised. Three babies were born in Convention Hall, mothers being without medical attention for hours. Men were driven to the fairgrounds by white boys ranging from 18 to 20 years old had been commissioned as “special officers.” These lads used automatic revolvers and shot whenever they felt like doing it.

### Fortunes Ruined

Men who labored years to accumulate wealth lost it within twenty-four hours. The city of Tulsa is indifferent as to their welfare. White real estate men see their chance to wax fat on the ruined area. Insurance companies are seeking to dodge payment by declaring that the policy does not cover 'damage by mob violence.'

The whites took advantage of the fact that our Race was segregated un a district where the system of riot slaughter was easily carried out. This was the fatal move, made by the Race many years ago – having a segregated district. Unless the government orders a probe by a committee composed of members of both races nothing will ever be done. The city officials here simply “don’t care.”

"START PROBE IN TULSA ON RIOT CHARGES: CITIZENS ACCUSE OFFICIALS OF "STARTING BACKWARDS" IN PROSECUTION OF CASES." *The Chicago Defender (National Edition)* (1921-1967), Jun 18, 1921.

<http://stats.lib.pdx.edu/proxy.php?url=http://search.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/start-probe-tulsa-on-riot-charges/docview/491885844/se-2?accountid=13265>.

## START PROBE IN TULSA ON RIOT CHARGES

### Citizens Accuse Officials of “Starting Backwards” in Prosecution of Cases

Tulsa, Okla. June 17 – That officials are starting backward in the prosecution of the riot cases is the opinion of many here. Attorney General S. P. Freeling is conducting an investigation into the [race?] fighting and incendiarism. The first step toward prosecution of alleged leaders of the race riots and subsequent burning of homes in the business district controlled by our Race was taken with the filing of charges against J. B. Stradford, owner of Hotel Stradford, and three other men, none of whom is in custody. They are charged with rioting.

When it became known that these charges had been filed against such a citizen as Mr. Stradford, who suffered over \$100,000 loss in the conflict, many became indignant and declared that the officials were conducting a one-sided probe. It appears to some that every effort is being made to place the blame for the riot on the wealthy citizens of the Race, who have previously incurred the wrath of the whites by refusing to stand for discriminatory measures. Mr. Stradford is said to have been very stern in the demand for justice and fairness for his Race, and according to rumors “is a marked man.” He has had several [tiffs?] with city policemen, who by their brute force and ignorance attempted to stampede his hotel and injure its reputation by unnecessary and unauthorized raid[s?].

How the officials of Tulsa could have nerve enough to accuse Stradford of rioting is regarded as a puzzle. It is said that he was guarding his hotel when the district was burning and that a “delegation” of white citizens sent him word to go the Convention Hall for safety, assuring him that they would guard his property until the rioting was over. Reluctantly he left. Fifteen minutes

after his departure the “delegation” comprising about 150 men looted his hotel and applied the torch. Shortly before the looting airplanes hovered about it and shot two men, occupants of the hotel. Persons who saw the “delegation” said there were not of the hoodlum element but prominently known in business circles. It is thought they were sent by real estate interests to destroy the section by fire for the purpose of securing it later as a manufacturing center.

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