100 Years: Remembering the Tulsa Race Massacre


The Tulsa Massacre of 1921 was one of the worst instances of mass racial violence in American history. The violence centered on Tulsa’s Greenwood District (also known as “Black Wall Street”), a commercial area with many successful Black-owned businesses. In 24 hours, hundreds were killed, thousands displaced, and 35 city blocks were burned to ruins. The attack on Black Wall Street included the first aerial bombing of a U.S. city.
The American National Red Cross provided relief to many victims of this massacre. The Tulsa Chapter compiled reports and a photo album relating to their management of the disaster relief effort. The Red Cross photo album, available in the National Archives Catalog, shows riot scenes, devastated areas, National Guard troops, destroyed homes, dead victims, and massacre survivors in temporary housing.

Please note that some images in the Red Cross album are graphic and viewers might find them disturbing for racial violence.
In remembrance of the 100th Anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre, Netisha Currie, an archives specialist at the National Archives, curated the current Featured Document Display. The online exhibit will be up until June 17.

Oklahoma, Tulsa Co. Riot Reports and Statistics. This file unit contains reports, statistical reports, and a photographic album relating to the Red Cross’ management of the disaster relief effort after the Tulsa massacre, or race riot, of May 31-June 1, 1921. National Archives Identifier 157670060

Learn more in Rediscovering Black History blog posts:

- “Portal Spotlight: Civil Unrest and the Red Summer” by Bob Nowatzki, Archives Technician, National Archives at College Park, MD.
- “When the Government Can’t Help” by Netisha Currie, Archives Specialist, National Archives at College Park, MD.

Additional online resources:

- National Archives Catalog records on Civil Unrest and the Red Summer
- National Archives News special topics page: African-American History
Genealogy Series 2021

The National Archives is pleased to offer a new Genealogy Series! Join us online in May and June 2021 as our expert staff lead six sessions that will help you in your family history research. You are invited to watch and participate in real time with the presenters and family historians from around the world on YouTube.

Sessions will offer family history research tools on federal records for all skill levels. All are welcome! Session descriptions, videos, handouts, and participation instructions can be found on our website.

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COVID-19 Update

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.