

THE TULSA RACE WAR AND ITS LEGACY

RIOT

AND

REMEMBRANCE



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Riot and Remembrance

*The Tulsa Race War
and Its Legacy*

James S. Hirsch



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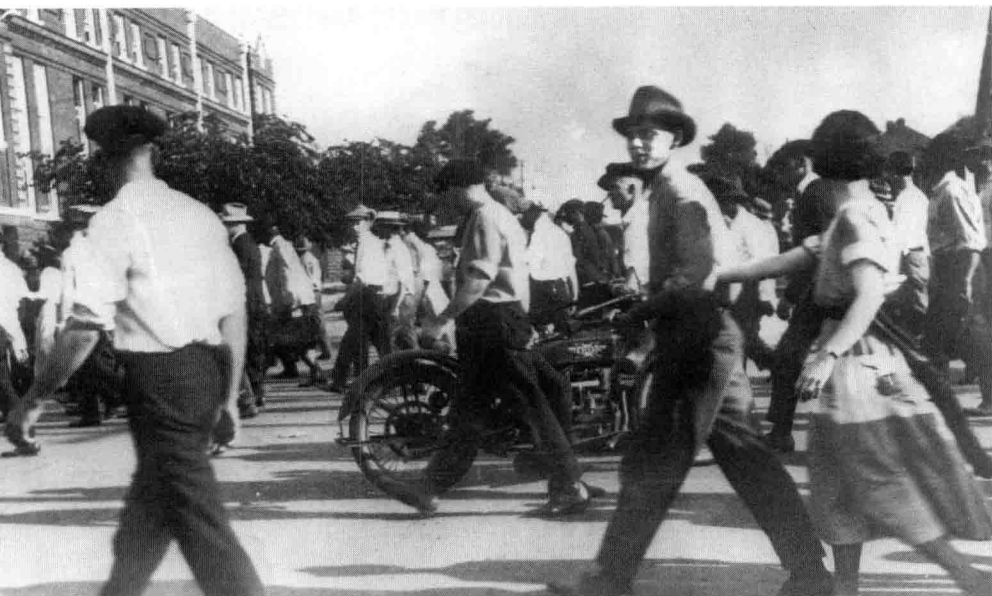
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To Gloria and Ed Hirsch,
who put their children first

Riot and Remembrance

Riot and Remembrance



The *Tribune* article steered white Tulsans ("the picture show crowd," according to one observer) to the courthouse in anticipation of a lynching.

Courtesy of the Greenwood Cultural Center

Mount Zion Baptist Church symbolized black affluence, but the rioters believed it was used to store ammunition. *Courtesy of the University of Tulsa*





The National Guard used a machine gun on a tripod to topple Mount Zion.
Courtesy of the University of Tulsa



Black victims typically did not receive immediate assistance. *Courtesy of the University of Tulsa*



Many black victims were carted through town on flatbed trucks.

Courtesy of the Tulsa Historical Society

The rioters destroyed 1,256 houses across 36 square blocks.

Courtesy of the University of Tulsa





Tulsa's officials reneged on promises to help rebuild Greenwood.
Courtesy of the Tulsa Historical Society



In 1996 the Black Wall Street Memorial was unveiled at the Greenwood Cultural Center, but the “eternal light” had a short lifespan. *Courtesy of the Greenwood Cultural Center*

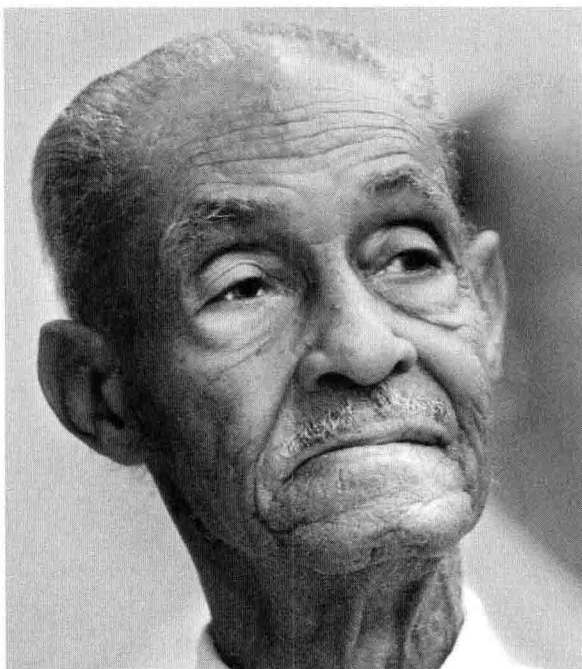
Cornelius Toole, a great-grandson of J. B. Stradford’s, was determined to exonerate his patriarch. *Courtesy of the Tulsa World*



The riot prevented Venice Sims from attending her first prom, but she got a second chance 80 years later. *Courtesy of the Tulsa World*



George Monroe's personable style—and his story of a white rioter's stepping on his hand—made him a beloved survivor. *Courtesy of the Tulsa World*

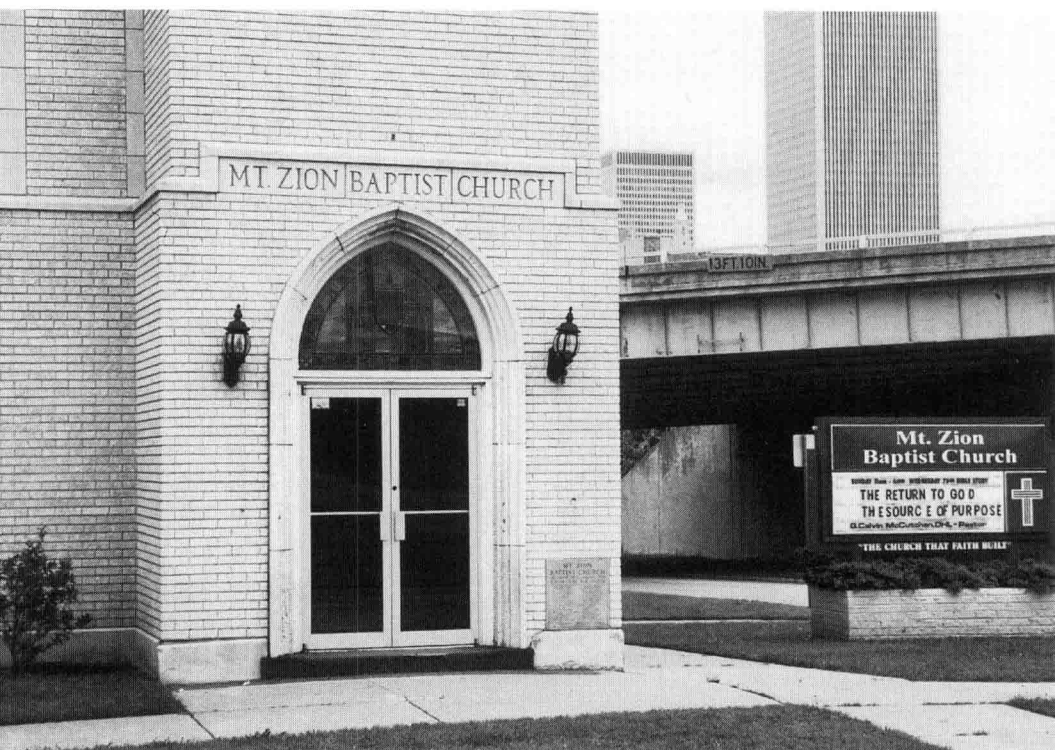




Currie Ballard showed an enlarged postcard of a black being lynched to explain the racial hatred that contributed to the riot. *Courtesy of the Tulsa World*

One state legislator, Don Ross, needed all of his oratorical skills to build support for a riot and reconciliation bill. *Courtesy of the Tulsa World*

The neighborhood that once surrounded Mount Zion Baptist Church has been replaced by an expressway. *James S. Hirsch*

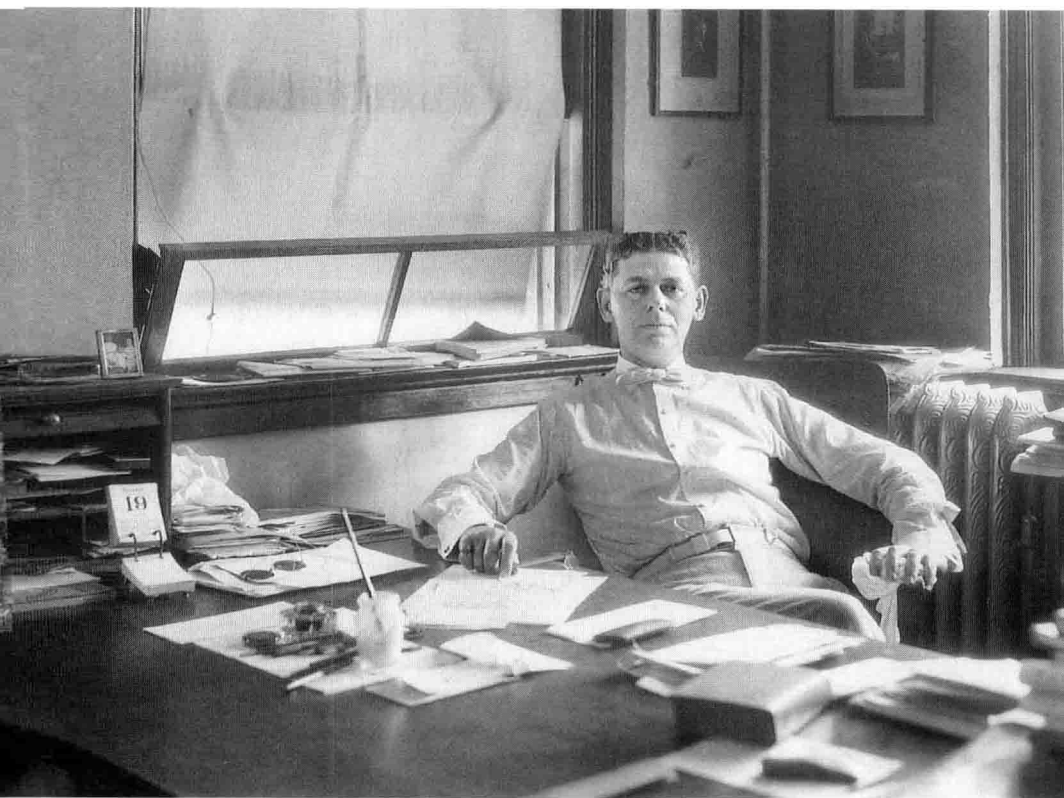




J. B. Stradford, the wealthiest man in Greenwood in 1921, was wrongly accused of starting the riot.

Richard Lloyd Jones's newspaper, the *Tribune*, printed the incendiary article that triggered the courthouse confrontation, and after the riot Jones wrote racist editorials.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin





On the morning of the riot, smoke quickly engulfed Greenwood.
Courtesy of the University of Tulsa



After the riot, blacks were marched to detention centers like prisoners.
Courtesy of the Tulsa Historical Society