Springfield, Illinois, and the Race Riot of 1908

Early Twentieth Century Springfield


*Camp Lincoln*, compiled by Members of the Writers’ Project of the Works Project Administration in the State of Illinois. Springfield, Illinois: Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, [1941]. **F896 S76 C186w** (Pages 12-18 contain information on the experience of African-American members of the National Guard and on the use of Camp Lincoln as a refuge during the riot.)

Clark, William Lloyd. *Hell at Midnight in Springfield, or a Burning History of the Sin and Shame of the Capitol City of Springfield*. Milan, Illinois: Wm Lloyd Clark, 1910. **F896 S76 C59h** (The theme of this self-published polemic centers around the author’s anti-Catholic sentiment. He blames the ills of the “Levee District” in Springfield on the “Roman” influence and includes the race riot incidents in this on pages 61-73.)


Harrison, Shelby M., director. *The Springfield Survey: a Study of Social Conditions in an American City*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1918-20. **F896 S76 S769** (The information contained herein was collected and published twelve years after the riot, but the findings on the housing conditions of African-American citizens in volume 3, pages 21-24, 117-119, 252-253, and 266-269, is relevant.)


*Springfield City directory for the Year Commencing October 1, 1908*. Springfield, Illinois: R. L. Polk & Co., 1908. **Vault G896.2 S76 1980** (Directories for 1906 and 1908 are also useful.)


The Riot and Its Aftermath


Deneen, Charles S. *Governor’s Biennial Message to the Forty-Sixth General Assembly*. Springfield, Illinois: State of Illinois, January 18, 1909. F896.5 Go25m January 18, 1909 (Governor Deneen addresses the role of the National Guard in response to the race riot on pages 56-57.)

Gillis, Brian. *In 1908... Springfield, Illinois: Brian Gillis, c2008. Vault F8969N G481i 2008* (This book was published in an edition of four to serve as components of an art installation/sculptural archive entitled *In 1908...* This piece was built to mark the centennial of the 1908 Race Riot. *In 1908...* was exhibited at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum from August 16-October 31, 1008.)

“How the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Began,” a pamphlet. n.l.: Mary Dunlop Maclean Memorial Fund, 1914. “NAACP” Vertical File

*The Independent*, Volume LXV. New York: Harper’s, 1908. Relevant issues are:

“Race Riots in Illinois,” August 20, 1908, No. 3116, pp. 399-400.
“The Race War in the North,” by Wiliam English Walling, September 3, 1908, No. 3118, pp. 529-534. AP 138


“National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.” Vertical File, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Photographic Views of the Great Springfield Race War, August, 1908: Depicting Work of Mob’s Violence in the Venting of Their Wrath on the Blacks. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Register, [c1908]. F896 S76 P575


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Racial Violence in Early 20th Century Illinois

Cavalcade of the American Negro. Compiled by the Workers of the Writers’ Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Illinois. Chicago: Diamond Jubilee Exposition, 1940. (This contains a discussion of African-American experiences as defendants and of the practice of lynching.) F8399N W956c


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