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Wilmington Insurrection: Race Riots

George Davis

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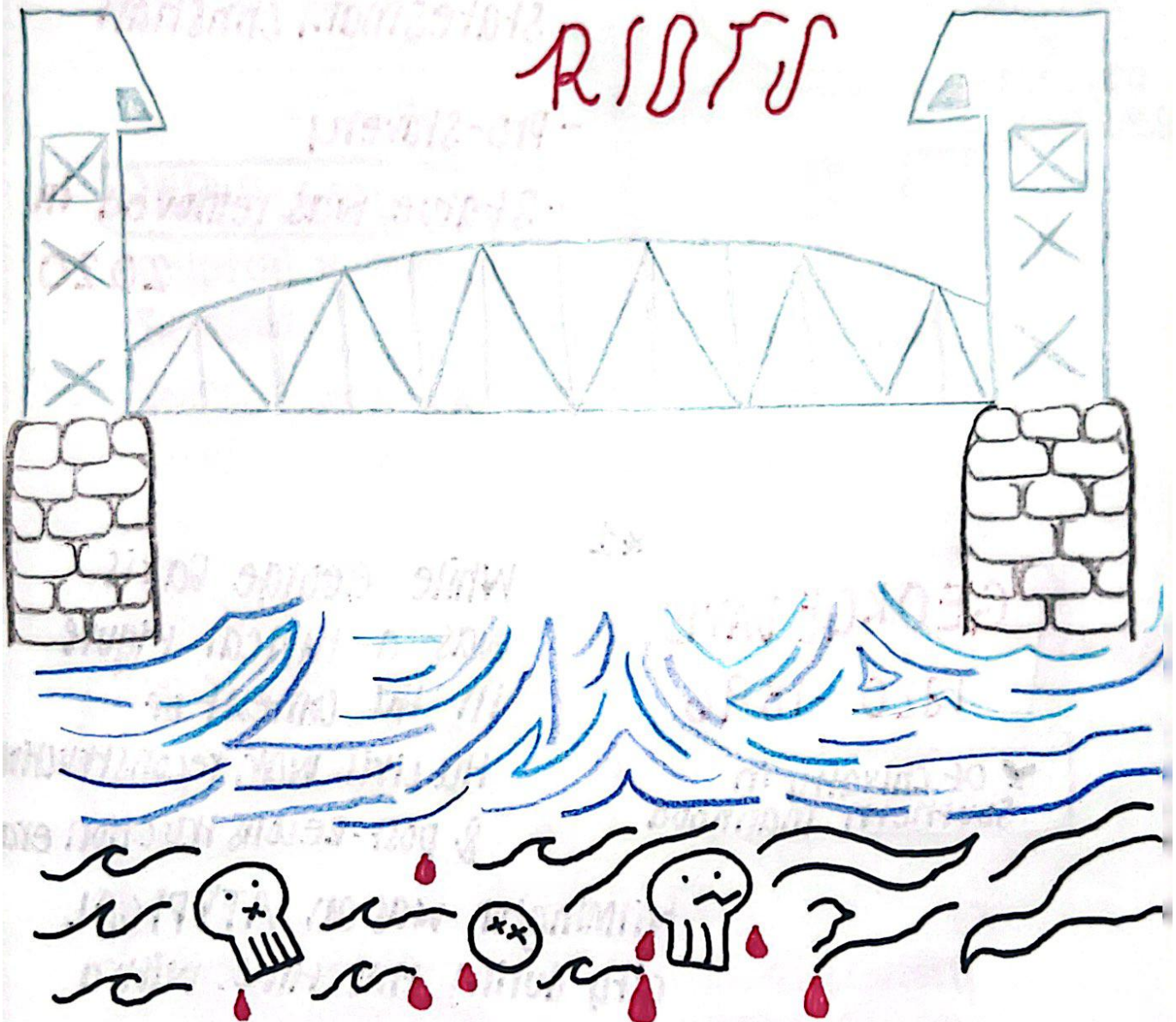


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WILMINGTON

INSURRECTION:

RACE
RIOTS



1898

"What the SOUTH COULD'VE been
after the civil war" - HISTORY

City: WILMINGTON

State: North Carolina

Population: 50% White, 50% Black

CONTEXTUAL

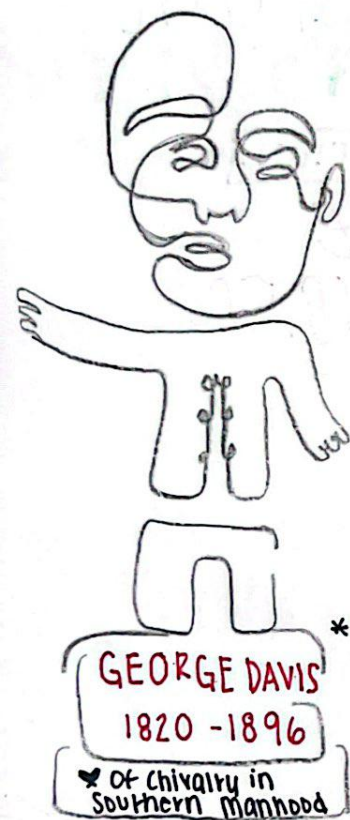
Figures
FIGURES

- Attorney General for the Confederate Army

- Scholar, Patriot, Statesman, Christian

- Pro-Slavery

- Statue was removed in 2020



*1

While George Davis was a typical figure in the context of the Civil War, Reconstruction & post-Reconstruction era.

Wilmington was an ATYPICAL city during this time. With a booming port & rail industry Wilmington was a thriving city for Black individuals. 30 short years after the emancipation proclamation went into effect.

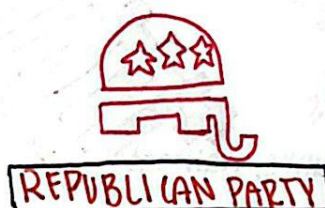
FUSION

made Wilmington a good town to be black in.

PARTY

BLACK

BANKERS
DOCTORS
&
ELECTED
OFFICIALS



REPUBLICAN PARTY

- atypical to today's standards

- many Black individuals from Wilmington

- 126,000 registered Black male voters - HISTORY

*2

POPULIST PARTY

- farmers, working middle class facing economic hardship

extremely progressive for post-Reconstruction Era.

WANTED

- Financial Equality
- Equitable systems
- voting rights for Black people

DAILY RECORD
Alexander Manly
→ Black owner & editor of one of the nation's 1st Black-run publications.

DEMOCRATIC ULTRA NATIONALIST party



- white supremacists
- interested in Banks, Railroads and affluent constituents more than common people
- wrote Declaration of White Independence through a meeting for only white individuals the day after the NC Election of 1898
- Hugh Macrae, Alfred Waddell were main contributors.

Wilmington Messenger

Individuals are jeopardizing

SAFETY

- WANTED:**
- Strip Black mens rights
 - Give employment to whites
 - Regain OLD SOUTH control via racist & supremacist ideas, leaders, & actions



ELECTION DAY

VOTE

* but only white people please

WILMINGTON REFUGEES

- much of Fusion party & Black votes flee out of fear of Democratic Party
- Alexander Manly flees for his life

- NOVEMBER 8th, 1898
- 4 out of 10 Black Alderman on City Council, holding official positions thanks to Fusion party
 - Democratic party is fed up with rhetoric around Black individuals having power
 - rhetoric around Black men raping white women runs wild.
 - Alexander Manly publishes column addressing issue: white women WANT to sleep with Black men willingly
 - Democratic party holds polls hostage and kills any Black individual that comes to vote

Behavior is typical of supremacy in the south. poll taxes, literacy tests, voter discrimination is commonly referred to in a series of acts called:

JIM CROW LAWS

any black person who tried to vote was killed. Between 20 ↔ 300 people.



6

DRAFT DICTATOR RACE RIOTS NATURAL RIVALRY

Democratic (supremacist) coup d'etat
[coup d'etat: sudden, violent, & unlawful seizure of power]

*6

"Black power should be brought to an end, even if we have to choke the Cape Fear with car luses!" - ALFRED WADDELL
Mayor of Wilmington

OUTCOME

- black alderman voted out
- some positions weren't up for reelection leaving 2 black people in power

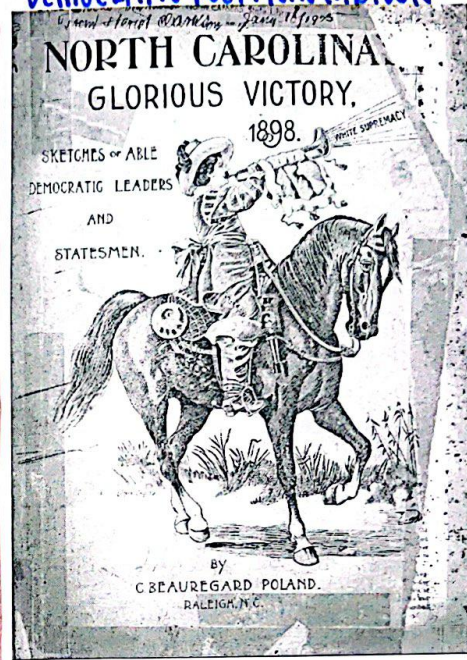
→ Democrats launch 2000 person paramilitary to burn the Wilmington Daily Record down.

→ any news company owned by a black individual was atypical of the South

→ ALFRED WADDELL was made mayor & all black representation in NC's Government was eliminated.

→ 92 years before another Black person would hold a seat in the House of Representatives

*4 <https://tinyurl.com/5dmxauws>
DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL CARTOON



This Democratic Party booklet trumpeted the white supremacy campaign and highlighted its leaders. COURTESY N.C. OFFICE OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY



"Light is a

TERRIBLE

thing for

PAPER artifacts."

-JAN DAVIDSON *7
local historian WECTV

OUTCOME "VICTORY"

- lost opportunity to be a leader for the region in terms of equality & mobility for Black people
- Burning of Wilmington Daily Record
- removal of Black officials from local & state office

SUPREMACY
4 90+ years

HUGH MACRAE PARK

→ Hugh Macrae was a driving force in writing the DECLARATION OF WHITE INDEPENDENCE

→ park recently renamed for more equitable future for all

→ allegedly didn't want to return to old South

→ founded own investment bank
Real-Estate company, truck farming enterprise & Electric power company

*5
*3

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5. New Hanover County Communications & Outreach: Renames Hugh Macrae park to Longleaf park

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