

PEOPLE OF GREENWOOD



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*Red Cross Director, Community Leader*  
(1876 - 1953)

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Maurice Willows was the man in charge of the American Red Cross of the Tulsa Relief Effort after the May 31 and June 1 Tulsa Race Riot of 1921: "That the Red Cross has wrought so nobly in our behalf, is due largely to the spirit of the man in charge, Mr. Maurice Willows" (Hower, Bob, *1921 Race Riot: Angels of Mercy*, 97). The community received Willows as an "apostle of the square deal for everyman" because he worked tirelessly to deny attempts to label the two-day plot to take over the land as a "Negro Uprising" but instead labeled it "the Tulsa Disaster" (97).

Born April 16, 1876, in Clinton (Ontario), Canada, Maurice Willows spent his professional life in public service. When the American Red Cross in St. Louis - based on a request made by the Washington headquarters - asked him to help the under-equipped Red Cross chapter in Tulsa, Willows facilitated the first-ever Red Cross assistance following a "man-made" disaster.

Mr. Willows brought his family to Tulsa, where his daughter (Maurine) married Forrest Hower, and their life together resulted in the eventual birth of one of their children (of three) who later became the prominent and trusted news anchor for ABC's KTUL Channel 8 News Broadcast, Bob Hower.



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