

THE SWEET STORY

AND OTHER EVENTS IN HISTORY DURING HIS TIME

OCTOBER 30
1895
Ossian Sweet is born in rural Florida

MAY 29
1901
5-year old Ossian Sweet witnesses the lynching and burning of a local Black teenager, Fred Rochelle, by a mob of 100 or more white men

OCTOBER 27
1901
Gladys Atkinson is born in Pittsburgh. Her mother remarries soon after and their last name changes to Mitchell

1909-1917
Ossian Sweet attends Wilberforce Academy in southern Ohio

1917
Ossian Sweet begins graduate studies at Howard University Medical School

1918
Many of Detroit's white hospitals deny healthcare to Black Detroiters. Black doctors found Dunbar Hospital, the first Black non-profit hospital in Detroit

1919
Ossian Sweet witnesses racial violence in Washington D.C.

1921
Ossian Sweet graduates from Howard University Medical School

1923
The Sweets depart for Europe. Ossian continues his medical studies in Vienna and Paris

SUMMER
1924
The Sweets return to Detroit after an extended stay in Europe

MAY 29
1924
Marguerite (Iva) Sweet, the only child of Ossian and Gladys Sweet, is born

MAY
1925
The Sweets purchase the house on Garland and Charlevoix in what was then a mostly white neighborhood



Photo: Chicago Defender

SUMMER
1925
Multiple incidents of racial mob violence against Black homeowners take place throughout Detroit

SEPTEMBER 8
1925
The Sweets move into the house on Garland — a mob gathers but the night passes without direct conflict

SEPTEMBER 10
1925
Police announce that all 11 people who defended the Sweet House will be charged with first degree murder

OCTOBER 2
1925
Gladys Sweet is released on bail

OCTOBER 30
1925
The trial, *People of Michigan vs. Ossian Sweet et al.*, begins

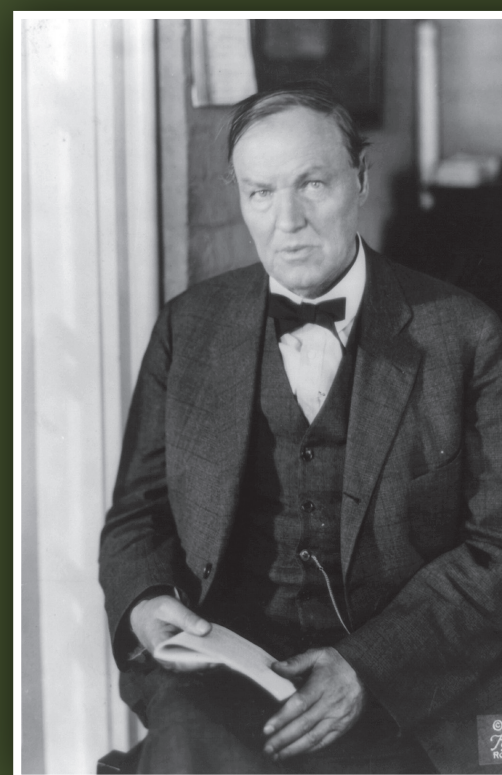


Photo: Library of Congress

WINTER
1925
The Sweet house is set on fire but it is put out before any major damage

NOVEMBER 27
1925
After 46 hours of deliberation, the jury is unable to reach a verdict. Judge Frank Murphy declares a mistrial and releases all defendants on bail

APRIL 19
1926
The People of Michigan vs. Henry Sweet begins. Ossian's brother Henry was the only occupant of the house to admit having fired a gun

MAY 11
1926
Attorney Darrow delivers a seven-hour closing argument for the defense

JULY 21
1927
Prosecutor Robert Toms finally dismisses all charges against the remaining ten defendants

1926
Sick with tuberculosis, Gladys and Iva go to Arizona, hoping the climate will help them recover

AUGUST 12
1926
Iva Sweet dies of tuberculosis at the age of two

OCTOBER 10
1928
Gladys Sweet dies of tuberculosis

JANUARY 19
1940
Henry Sweet dies of tuberculosis

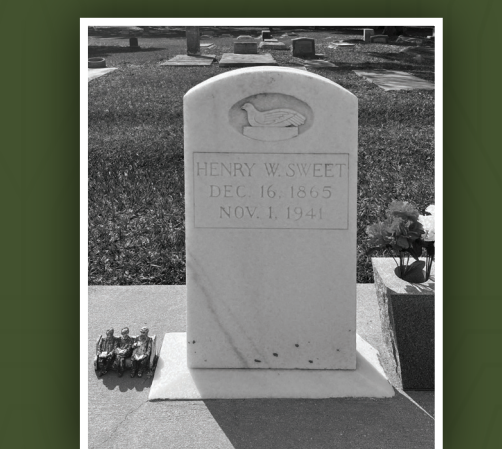
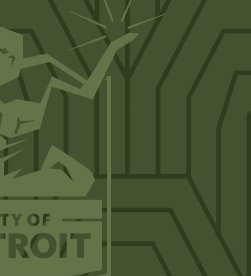


Photo: Sweet Family

1944
Dr. Ossian Sweet sells the house on Garland & Charlevoix to the Baxter family

MARCH 19
1960
Dr. Ossian Sweet, age 64, dies by suicide



1909
The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded to advance justice for African Americans

1910-1940
The Great Migration sees 1.6 million Black people move to northern industrial cities like Detroit

1917
The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Buchanan v. Warley*, unanimously decides that residential racial zoning laws are in violation of the 14th Amendment

1919
The Red Summer: white supremacist violence break out in cities across the U.S.

1920-1933
Prohibition: the sale, production, transportation, import, and export of alcohol banned

1921
The Detroit Association of Colored Women's Clubs is organized to foster educational, philanthropic and social programs

1929-1939
The Great Depression

1937
Forty-eight members of the Black Legion, an offshoot of the KKK, are convicted of numerous murders in Detroit

1940
NAACP Legal Defense Fund founded

1942
A mob of over a thousand white people riots when Black families begin moving into Detroit's new Sojourner Truth Projects — housing for workers and veterans

1943
Nearly 100,000 Black and White youths engage in racially-motivated fighting on Belle Isle. Rumors lead to rioting around Detroit. Nine whites and 25 Blacks die in the violence. 3,500 troops enter the city to quell the violence

1948
The Supreme Court hears *Shelley v. Kraemer* and rules that racially restrictive housing covenants cannot be legally enforced

1964
Civil Rights Act is signed into law

1967
43 people die during the Detroit Rebellion. Dr. Otis Sweet's dental office is among the properties damaged

1968
Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, the Fair Housing Act, passes, prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of housing, based on race, religion, or national origin

Photo: Detroit Public Library