

A

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

F=2

ONT

1. DATE AND TIME WED APRIL 29, 1868 1730 LOCAL

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map)
3 mi SOUTH OF BAYFIELD (SW-NW at about) 10 to 12 mph

3. PATH LENGTH NOT KNOWN <1 mi; 1-4 mi; 5-10 mi; 11-50 mi; LENGTH IF > 50 mi
at least

4. PATH WIDTH U

5. TORNADO PART OF SQUALL LINE? YES; NO; UNKNOWN:

6. ANY UNUSUAL COLORATION? YES; NO; UNKNOWN

7. ANY UNUSUAL SOUND? YES; NO; UNKNOWN

8. IF ANSWER TO 6 OR 7 YES, ELABORATE; 7 Could be heard at a distance of 8 or 10 miles away roaring like a chimney on fire, but so much louder.

9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.)
Large hail 1 1/2" in diameter and 2 or 3" long preceded the funnel.

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE \$ n

11. TOTAL DEATHS none

12. TOTAL INJURED 1

13. TOTAL HOMELESS U

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES
The Daily Globe, Toronto. Thursday May 7, 1868.

15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.

(a) a dense black spiral column of smoke, balloon shaped, being larger at the top than at the bottom.

(b) Demolished barns, uprooted or charred trees, levelled fences. When it crossed the Bayfield River, water was drawn high into the air. Large timbers and whole trees were whirling and flying through the air as well as ploughs and farming implements.

THE DAILY GLOBE, TORONTO. THURSDAY MAY 7TH. 1868.

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GLOBE.)

STORM DATE. ABOUT 5 30P.M., WED. APRIL 29TH. 1868.

TERRIBLE TORNADO.

FEARFUL DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY IN THE TOWNSHIPS OF STANLEY AND GODERICH.

GODERICH, MAY 5TH. On Wednesday last, about half-past five o'clock p.m., the TOWNSHIPS of STANLEY and GODERICH were visited by a most terrific tornado, damaging and destroying an immense amount of property. It had been raining considerably during the day, and about five o'clock a violent hail storm commenced, which continued for some time, during which hailstones, or rather icicles fell, measuring one and a half inches in diameter, and two and three inches long, and tapering to a point like an icicle. It was during this hail storm that a mighty rushing sound was heard, in a southwest direction across the lake, and turning the eyes in this direction, a spectacle awfully grand sublime presented itself. Around what looked like a dense, black, spiral column of smoke, balloon shaped, being larger at the top than at the bottom, the clouds were whirling and clashing with a fury and violence utterly indescribable, the tail of which would ever and anon lash and writhe, like a monstrous serpent, its forces being irresistable. Accompanying this, but a considerable distance above it, was a large dense black cloud, but which did not appear to be in such violent commotion, although it too would frequently part asunder, and then immediately clash together again in awful grandeur.

Its first approach to land was about three miles below BAYFIELD, sweeping and carrying everything before it. Although a great amount of damage was done by the devastation of woods and fences, the buildings on the SABLE or LAKE SHORE ROAD, fortunately escaped uninjured. It swept its road through the woods, between the SABLE and BROWNSON LINES. The first buildings that opposed its fury were MR. DANIEL GORMAN'S, BROWNSONS LINE; these it utterly demolished, carrying huge fragments of them (timbers, roof, etc.), with it, like thistle down. Passing through the corner of MR. BROWN'S woods, it ruthlessly and unceremoniously trespassed upon the estate of DAVID HOOD RITCHIE, ESQ., where, after passing through that gentlemen's splendid orchard, uprooting and breaking every tree in its course, it encountered his barn and sheds; the barn it completely razed, the roof of the sheds was taken off, and also a part of the verandah of the house. In crossing the BAYFIELD GRAVEL ROAD, it took the roof off the TOLL HOUSE, occupied by MR. CAMPBELL. MRS. CAMPBELL, in her anxiety to save her children, was seriously and dangerously hurt by the falling of the chimney. It struck and carried

GODERICH TORNADO, CONT.

completely away a cow-shed of MR. CAMPBELL'S. The roof of MR. ERRATT'S barn and stable was next carried away, and it then passed over the farm of MR. CALLAWAY, levelling fences and carrying ^{the} rails completely away, across the BAYFIELD RIVER, and into the TOWNSHIP of GODERICH, where I hear it did a great amount of damage, but cannot give particulars. I have been at great pains to get a description of it from all whom I have seen who witnessed it, and also to ascertain their impressions and feelings at the time. All agree in describing it as I have done, but their impressions concerning it varied, some thinking it was the Judgement Day at hand, some that it was a volcanic eruption, and others, who had more presence of mind and coolness, and had no doubt heard and read of tornadoes and water-spouts in tropical climates, rightly conjectured what it was, and wisely tried to avoid it. It could be heard at a distance of eight or ten miles distinctly, roaring like a chimney on fire, but so much louder. Its power seems to have been greatest, vertically, statements about which appear incredible. I will relate a few, and for the veracity of which I will vouch. After it had struck MR. RITCHIE'S buildings, the long vertical column seemed to be a wild vortex of debris, whirling and flying in the wildest confusion and with inconceivable velocity, hundreds of feet in the air; large timbers and whole trees were whirling and flying in the air; board fences, by the rod, were torn up and carried away like chaff, the posts being drawn up like hand stakes. When it crossed the BAYFIELD RIVER the water was sucked out of the bed of the river in torrents, and carried off. Large rails as thick as a man's thigh, were carried high in the air, and twisted into two pieces as you would twist a hay rope in two. Ploughs and farming implements were carried high into the air, and came to the earth again dashed in pieces. Part of MR. RITCHIE'S shed roof was found in the GODERICH TOWNSHIP, some two and one half miles distant; a cushion of a buggy which was at MR. RITCHIE'S, was carried to the river, a distance of a mile and a half. But the most singular circumstance connected with it that has yet been known to me is that of MR. CAMPBELL'S clock, which was carried out of the house and deposited in MR. BATES'S field, and when found the clock was going all right, although I think it must have experienced pretty hard wind. A strong sulphurous smell was perceived at the time it was passing, and for some time after. Its velocity in a horizontal direction was not very great — not more, I should think, than 10 or 12 miles an hour. All who saw it concur in saying it was an awfully grand and sublime spectacle beyond description, and although quite satisfied at having once seen it, never wish to see a return of such an impressive and awe-inspiring visitor.