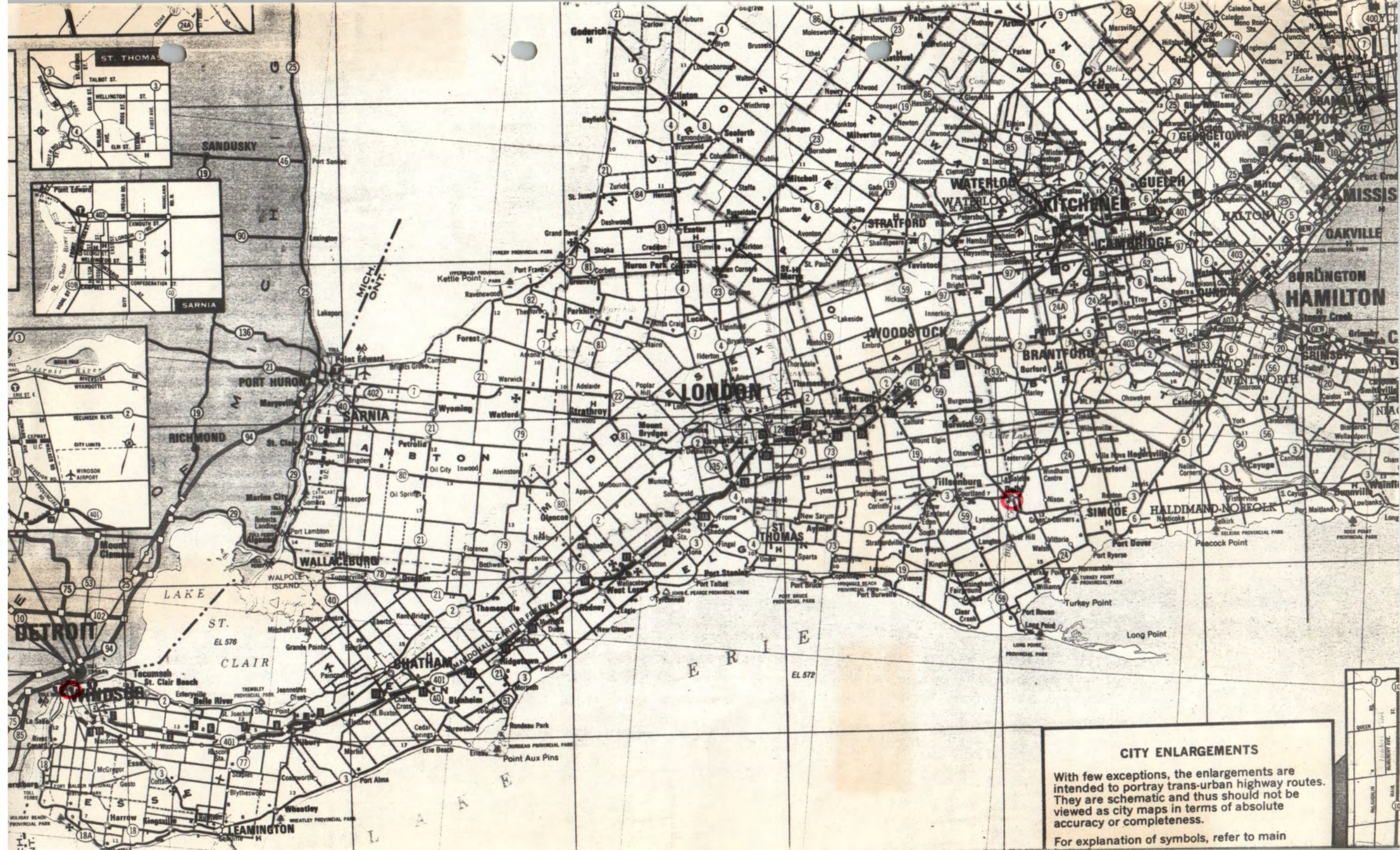


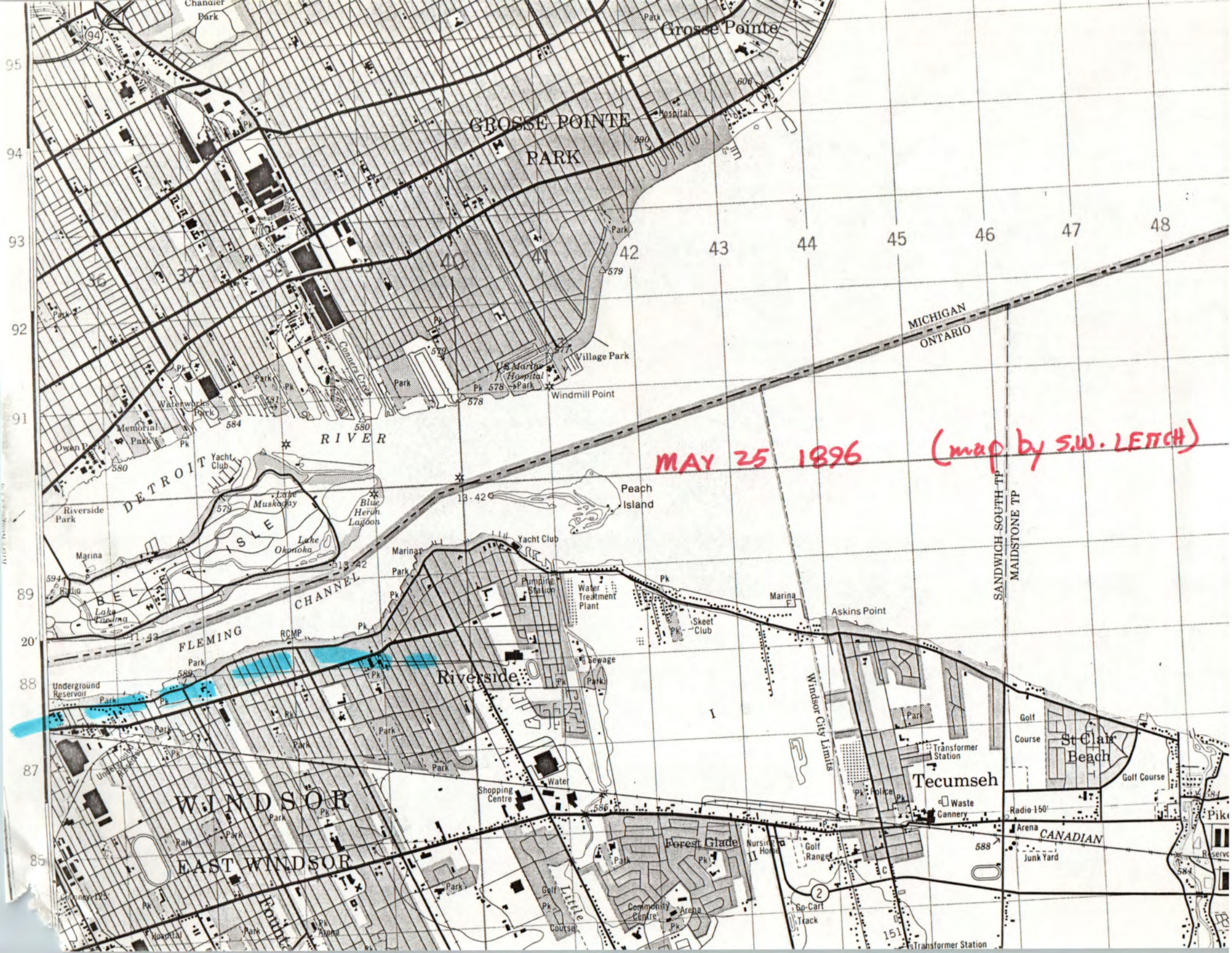
1. DATE AND TIME 25. 5. 1896 approximately 2000 or 2100 LOCAL
2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map)
 ① WALKERVILLE
 ② touchdown at Delhi
3. PATH LENGTH NOT KNOWN <1 mi; 1-4 mi; 5-10 mi; 11-50 mi; LENGTH IF > 50 mi
4. PATH WIDTH 1/4 mi 5. TORNADO PART OF SMALL LINE? YES; NO; UNKNOWN:
6. ANY UNUSUAL COLORATION? YES; NO; UNKNOWN
7. ANY UNUSUAL SOUND? YES; NO; UNKNOWN
8. IF ANSWER TO 6 OR 7 YES, ELABORATE;
9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.)
10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE \$ 100,000 11. TOTAL DEATHS NONE (A NUMBER OF COWS AND 4 HORSES)
12. TOTAL INJURED A FEW 13. TOTAL HOMELESS UNKNOWN
14. LIST ALL REFERENCES
 The Globe, Toronto, May 27 1896.
 WSFO Detroit records.
15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.
- (a) Tornado in nearby Michigan, a 160 yr old peach tree twisted off close to the ground and a house containing a family and 22 guests celebrating Queen Victoria's birthday was twisted off its foundation.
- (b) ① - A wagon torn to pieces, its box carried 300 ft away and front and hind wheels blown 100 ft apart.
 - A timber a foot square and several feet long torn from a dock and carried horizontally 700 ft occasionally glancing off the ground
 - iron fence torn and twisted into curious shapes
 - a horse rolled and pushed 1/8 mile through an orchard, through 2 fences and over a large ditch. It was covered with mud but uninjured.
 - Mr W.H. Bullen and family in their front room when the upper storey disappeared and they were left sitting in the open air. They discovered a bedstead in a tree several hundred feet away.
- ② at Delhi fences and trees blown down in some places whole orchards uprooted. Barn unroofed.



CITY ENLARGEMENTS

With few exceptions, the enlargements are intended to portray trans-urban highway routes. They are schematic and thus should not be viewed as city maps in terms of absolute accuracy or completeness.

For explanation of symbols, refer to main



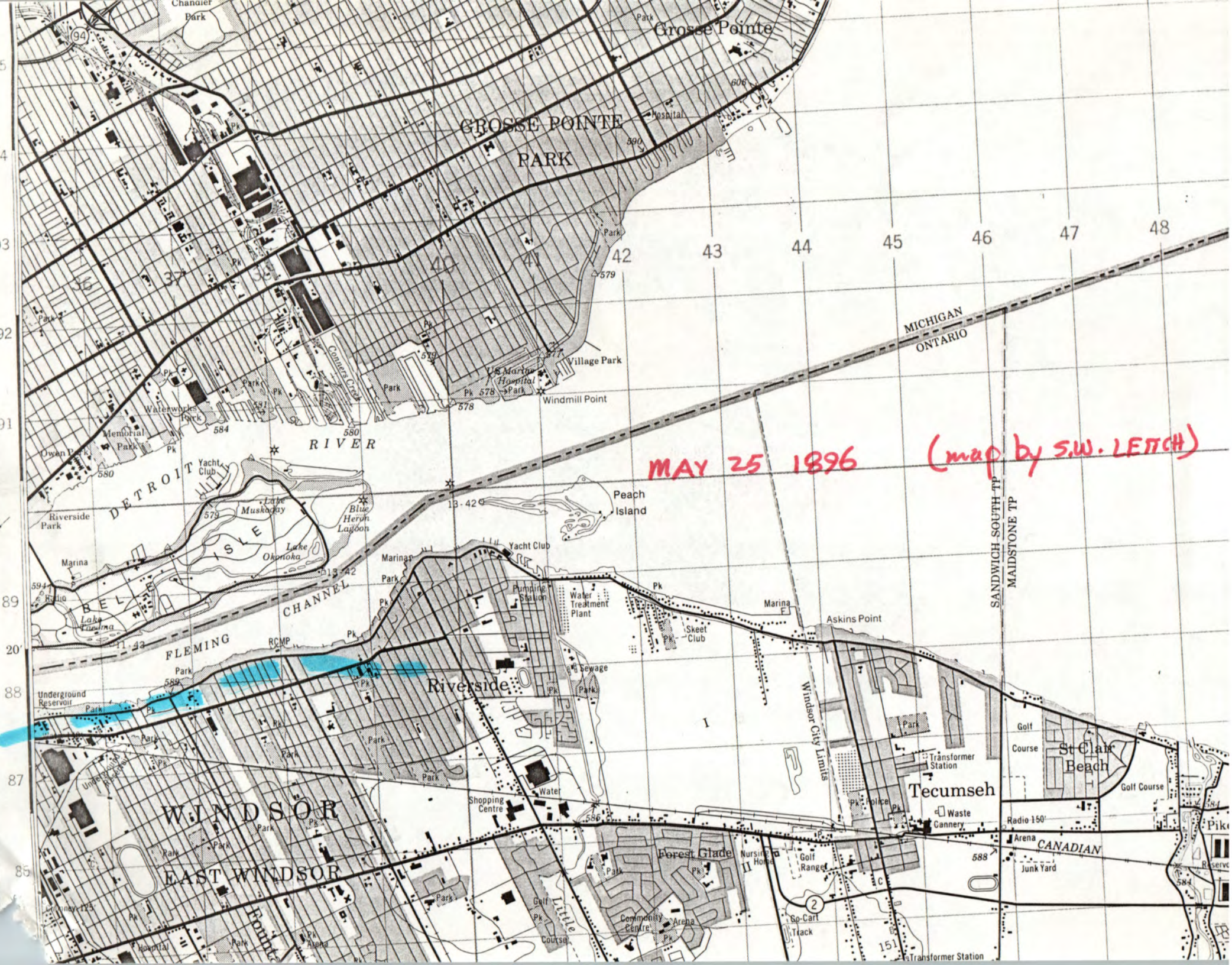
MAY 25 1896 (map by S.W. LETCH)

SANDWICH SOUTH TP
MAIDSTONE TP

MICHIGAN
ONTARIO

95
94
93
92
91
89
88
87
85

42 43 44 45 46 47 48



PATH OF THE STORM.

A Strip of Country Completely Wrecked.

WIND SWEEPED EVERYTHING.

A Desolate Tract Near Walkerville.
OCCURRED ville.
MON MAY 25 1896

Houses and Barns Blown Hundreds of Feet—Damage in Other Parts of Ontario.

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Mr. A. Langlois' place was attacked next. The house was twisted, the roof partly stripped, and the outbuildings destroyed. Hurley's ice houses on the other side of the road were torn to pieces and the ice was scattered. Messrs. Robert and T. Reaum's farm houses were twisted and the outbuildings torn down. Part of the roof of Mr. Gilbert Janisse's frame house was cut off as if by a giant knife, and his outbuildings were wrecked. Mr. Fred. Mailloux's house was utterly demolished. Mr. Hippolite Mailloux's brick house escaped injury, but his other buildings were carried away. Mr. Alex. St. Louis' \$3,000 frame house was wrecked, his new barn was blown out of sight, and three of his horses and two of his cows were killed. With heavy buildings being blown about like toys, and the air filled with tremendous missiles, apparently the only bodily harm was done to Mr. St. Louis. One of his fingers was broken. The tin roof of Mr. C. B. Gravier's house was peeled off neatly. Pieces of gas pipe from a point several hundred feet down the river were carried through the air and landed in the yard. A timber a foot square and several feet long was torn from the dock 700 feet away, and had seemingly glanced along the ground, striking every rod or two, but it stopped in Mr. Gravier's yard. The iron fence in front of his premises was torn and twisted into curious shapes. The house was placed several inches out of line. Messrs. Albert and Lawrence Parent's house was struck by a large piece of timber, which took a clean slice from the front of the upper storey. Part of the roof was torn away, and the house was badly twisted. The barn

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The barn of Moses Burns, on the 7th concession of Puslinch, lot 18, near Aberfoyle, was totally destroyed. It contained about two tons of hay, 150 bushels of oats and some stock. Some fat cattle and horses were rescued through great danger. The other contents were destroyed. They are fully covered with insurance in the Puslinch Mutual.

The barn of Mr. Hugh McDiarmid, near Aberfoyle, which is owned by Mr. Joseph Smith, also suffered. No great damage was done.

Perhaps the most remarkable experience and escape from instant death was that of Mrs. Laycock, Puslinch, residing with her son, George Laycock. At the time the lightning struck the chimney of the house she was sitting on the lounge, some eight feet from the stove, rocking the cradle. Suddenly the lightning came down the chimney, through the stovepipes to the stove, blowing the doors open and throwing the stovepots off. Mrs. Laycock received a shock on both feet, and had her shoes and stockings torn off. She remained insensible for some time. She sustained no injuries beyond the shock and the fright. The lightning also put out the lamp, burned three holes in the floor and set fire to paper in the cellar, which was soon extinguished.

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TORONTO GLOBE
MAY 27 1896

lightning
strike

DETROIT W.S.Fo

5/25/1896. Touched down on Detroit River just off 15th Street, moved up the river 2 1/2 miles, onto the Canadian shore, and continued 1 1/2 miles further, demolishing everything in its path. \$75,000 damage, all in Canada.

Damage From Monday's Storm.

Windsor, May 27.—The loss by Monday night's cyclone is larger than at first estimated, and is now placed at from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The cyclone took in an area of twenty-five farms. Vineyards form the larger part of all of them. The peach and apple orchards were demolished, so that the means of livelihood have been taken from many people. To-day such of the houses as are considered at all safe to occupy are being re-roofed and patched up. Many of them have to be torn down. The finest house on the river front was that owned by Widow Millard of Detroit, who is now living in Buffalo. It is a large brick building. But the neighbors say it is now useless, that it is shaken and shattered from basement to garret.

MON MAY 25 'STORM'

TORONTO GLOBE MAY 27 1896

Only One Like It

Historian Recalls 1887 Tornado

Only once before in a span of 59 years has Essex County experienced a storm of proportions even approaching Monday's devastating tornado. George M. F. MacDonald, president of the Essex County Historical Society, said today.

MAY 25, 1887

He recalled a storm of cyclonic proportions on May 25, 1887, which struck Windsor about Palmetto road, followed down to Sandwich street and out to Lauson road, where it wheeled across the lake to spend its fury in Mt. Clemens, Mich.

No one was killed in that storm. Mr. MacDonald recalled, but several houses were demolished, trees were uprooted and barns were lifted off their foundations. The wind followed a narrow path, in some cases ripping the rear off a dwelling to leave the front intact.

In between the 1887 storm and last night's tornado, he recalled a high wind which struck Windsor about 1917 blowing down the smoke stack of the salt block at Crawford and Sandwich street, and ripping the spire off St. Alphonsus Church. No life was lost on that occasion, either, he recalled.

*unknown
Probably 1877.
or possibly 1896 →*

Twister Hit Border May 25, 1896

By H. L. MacPherson

Monday's tornado was not the first this district has experienced. Fifty years ago, almost to the month, a twister curled across from Detroit, left a path of ruin for three miles, along the eastern waterfront, then recrossed the river to continue its mischief on the Michigan side.

Although records of the time call it a cyclone, there is no doubt it was of the twister variety. It traveled in the same counter-clockwise movement, its snarling nozzle leaped capriciously here and there, and its greatest damage was caused in a strip from 200 to 300 feet wide.

This week's tornado, in the words of one witness, made a noise like 1,000 planes. There was no such yardstick 50 years ago, but the disaster was translated into equally appropriate terms. One man said it made an "awful clatter," which he compared to "the rattle of several batteries of artillery."

COURSE OF TWISTER

Others who knew compared it to the familiar "cyclones of Texas." It was a twister, all right, and it struck on the night of May 25, 1896. The course it traced began at the easterly limits of Walkerville, and ended near today's St. Rose boulevard.

Now part of Windsor and Riverside, the damaged area was then in the Township of Sandwich East, and almost wholly rural.

May 25, 1896, was a Monday, and a holiday for obvious reasons. Holidays, of course, have less meaning in the country than in the cities, but as far as conditions permitted the border area was in a festive mood that day and night. A group of Sunday School children sailed to Oak Grove on the City of Toledo to spend the day. There were parties in some riverfront homes that night.

REMOVED ROOF OF RECTORY

An old-timer of the district recalls that as the tornado was getting under way it stripped part of the roof from Our Lady of the Lake Church rectory, tore shingles from the Charles Pratt house beyond the present Ford power plant, whisked the roof from the Alexander Askin barn near the foot of Strabane avenue, scrambled LeBoeuf's dock nearby, and thundered along.

"It would appear," says The Windsor Record's report of the storm, "that the cyclone was partial in its pranks and left some places comparatively unharmed, but this is explained by the fact that through the slight winding of the riverbank some of the houses were just on the edge of the disturbance, and while shaken up were not wrecked."

CRUSHED BRICK HOUSE

It struck Climaque Janisse's sturdy brick house in full force, carried off the roof, and reduced the rest of the structure to rubble.

"Mr. Janisse," The Record reported, "said the sensation was as if a giant force was lifting the house upward. It is not yet known where the roof is; anyway, it is nowhere in sight."

The twister swept along. William St. Louis' house was unroofed, his barns flattened; Edward Chamberlain's potash factory was mashed into a "total wreck," and a vacant house opposite it simply vanished; No. 2 schoolhouse was a "complete ruin;" Gilbert Parent lost buildings and implements; two houses owned by Detroiters, J. H. Gravier and a Mrs. Millard, were flattened.

DAMAGE TO COTTAGE

Mrs. A. Meloche had just moved into a frame cottage west of Mrs. Millard's, and was left roofless. When visited after the tornado had passed she was found disconsolately picking up the rubble of her chimney and throwing it out the door.

At Alex McNeill's, where a party was in progress, the storm met its first human defiance. As it bounced the house on its foundations, Mrs. McNeill went into action. As The Record has it, she thought she prevented greater damage "by putting her shoulder to the stair door and holding it while the cyclone passed."

Perhaps through luck, perhaps because of Mrs. McNeill, the house was moved a mere six inches. But at the rear of the house was a "lean-to," whose specific purpose is left wholly to the imagination. The "lean-to" took off and soared—and in it was the hired man. Traced to his landing, and sloshed with water to facilitate identification, he was found to be unharmed.

HIRED MAN'S STORY

At least, that's what the paper said next day. A day later, however, the hired man offered a correction. He wasn't in the little building at all, he said. He was returning from the barn and, curiously, he and the "lean-to" were picked up together and taken for a ride.

Alex St. Louis' place, on what's now Riverside Bay, was one of the last hit. His house was twisted out of shape, and all his barns destroyed.

"The circular action of the awful storm," related The Record, "was shown here by the fact that a heavy boat was lifted out of the river far below, carried over the dwelling house, and deposited in a tree, while a heavy wagon box moved in the opposite direction, being moved several hundred feet."

HOUSE TURNED AROUND

Another of the twister's pranks was played farther west, where Leo Grondin's house was picked up and turned front to back, without a shingle being ruffled.

Strangely enough, all this violence and destruction caused no deaths. It was a different story in Michigan, however, where the storm hit hardest in Oakland and Lapeer counties, and took almost 50 lives.

In their own way, the Windsorites of 1896 turned out next evening to see the wreckage, for The Record of May 27 reported: "Last night the riverfront from Windsor to the scene of the terrific cyclone was one continuous line of rigs and wheelmen."

PATH OF THE STORM.

GLOBE. MAY
A Strip of Country Completely
Wrecked.

WIND SWEEPED EVERYTHING.

A Desolate Tract Near Walkerville.

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The barn of Messrs. West & Sons, on the roof of No. 21, B. Thayer's house, was poked a hole. Pieces of wood fell from a point a hundred feet down the river were carried through the air and landed in the yard. A timber a foot square and several feet long was torn from the dock 70 feet away, and had seemingly glanced along the ground, striking every rod or two, but it stopped in Mr. Giviers' yard. The last piece in front of his premises was torn and twisted into curious shapes. The house was placed several inches out of plumb. Messrs. Albert and Lawrence Percott's house was struck by a large piece of timber, which took a clean slice from the front of the upper story. Part of the roof was torn away, and the house was badly twisted. The barn was cut in two, and one part cannot be found. Louis Grondine, his wife and their five children were preparing to retire when they felt the house moving. They said their prayers until the storm passed, and then, going out of doors, they found that the house had been carried more than twelve feet from its foundation, and that it was practically a wreck. Opposite Mr. Edward Chamberlain's potato factory was his paint shop, but there is not even a vestige of the foundation now. A small school house near this point became but a semblance of a building, the roof and one end having been carried away. Mr. Paul Ledue's house near by was not badly damaged, but his boathouse and docks are now but a dream. Mr. Alphonse Meloche and family were sitting in their dining room when the roof went up and the ceiling came down. Nobody was injured. The \$10,000 brick residence of Mrs. Millard of Detroit was made a total wreck and her brick stable and large barn demolished.

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U.S.A. IN MICHIGAN.

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U.S. DEPT. AGRICULTURE WX BUREAU.
REPORT 1895-1896.

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE WEATHER BUREAU. 1895-1896
1896

- No. 11a.—4 a. m. (Central time); Mound Ridge, McPherson County, Kans. One killed; 1 injured; property loss about \$1,000; width 300 feet; length 8 miles; moved southeast.
- No. 12, May 17.—12.45 a. m. (Central time); Graves and Marshall counties, Ky. (towns of Symsonia and Elva). Five killed; loss about \$5,000; width from 100 to 300 feet; length at Elva, 12 miles; moved northeast.
- No. 12a.—4.30 p. m. to 8.30 p. m. (Central time); northeastern Kansas and southeastern Nebraska, through the counties of Washington, Marshall, Nemaha, Brown, Kans., and Pawnee and Richardson, Nebr., near or through the towns of Barnes, Irving, Frankfort, Baileyville, Seneca, Oneida, Sabetha, and Reserve, Kans., and Pawnee City and Falls City, Nebr. Twenty-five killed; 73 injured; loss \$300,000; width varied from 450 feet to 1½ miles; length in an air line about 90 miles; moved southeast, and then northeast.
- No. 13, May 19.—4 p. m. (Central time); Rook Post-Office, Cowley County, Kans. No casualties; loss \$3,000; width from 300 feet to one-half mile; length 2 miles; moved northeast by east.
- No. 14, May 20.—4.30 p. m. (Central time); South Hill, Mecklenburg County, Va. No casualties; loss \$2,000; width 50 feet; length not given; moved north.
- May 20.—Tornado clouds were observed in three different sections of Kansas, viz:
- No. 15.—8 p. m. (Central time); Emporia (3 miles south of), Lyons County. Two injured; loss about \$500; width 20 feet; length not known; moved northeast.
- No. 15a.—Between 4 and 5 p. m. (Central time); Topeka (15 miles north of). One injured; loss \$2,500; width 100 feet; length about 6 miles; moved northeast.
- No. 15b.—11 a. m. (Central time); Arkansas City (7 miles south of). No casualties; loss about \$200; width varied from 20 to several hundred feet; length about 5 miles; moved northeast.
- No. 16, May 25.—Polk and Jasper counties, Iowa (through or near the towns of): 9.30 p. m. (Central time), Polk City; 10 p. m. (Central time), Ankeny; 10.30 p. m. (Central time), Bondurant; between 10.30 and 11 p. m. (Central time), Santiago; 10.40 p. m. (Central time), Valeria. Nineteen killed; loss \$75,000; width from 495 feet to one-half mile; length 40 miles; moved southeast to Bondurant, and then northeast.
- No. 16a.—1 a. m. (Central time); the storm was general throughout northern Illinois, but assumed the character of a tornado in the counties of Ogle, Leo, Winnebago, Boone, and Cook only. Eight killed; others injured; loss of property \$95,000; path variable in length and width; moved east.
- 1896 No. 16b.—Between 6 and 7 p. m. (Central time); Oakland, Lapeer, and Macomb counties, eastern Michigan (towns of Groveland, Ortonville, Thomas, Oakwood, Mount Clemens, and other small towns). Forty-seven killed; over 100 injured; property loss \$400,000; width of path about one-half mile; length 15 miles; moved east. One of the most destructive tornadoes that ever visited Michigan.
- No. 16c.—5.30 p. m. (Central time); Bangor (3 miles northwest of), Walworth County, S. Dak. No casualties; property loss \$1,000; width of path 1,320 feet; length 5 or 6 miles; moved east.
- No. 17, May 27.—The tornadoes at St. Louis and other points in Missouri and Illinois are described in the Monthly Weather Review for March, 1896 (issued in July, 1896). The area covered by tornadic action is inclosed between the two heavy lines. Three hundred and six killed; property loss \$12,904,900; dimensions of path varied; general course of storm, south of east.
- No. 18, May 28.—1.30 p. m. (Eastern time); Columbia, Pa. One killed; 20 injured; property loss about \$6,000; path 150 feet wide; length unknown; moved east.
- No. 18a.—3.35 p. m. (Eastern time); Montgomery and Bucks counties, Pa. (towns of Ambler, Jarrettstown, and Hatboro). Four killed; 6 injured; property loss about \$100,000; path 300 feet to half mile wide; length about 15 miles; moved east-northeast.
- No. 19, June 6.—5 p. m. (Central time); Beadle County, S. Dak. (towns of Cavour and Virgil). One injured; property loss \$1,500; width of path varied from 33 feet to 500 feet; length not given; moved northeast.
- No. 19a.—5.40 p. m. (Central time); Wentworth, Lake County, S. Dak. No casualties; width of path 330 feet; length not given; moved northeast.
- No. 19b.—6.30 p. m. (Central time); Flandreau, Moody County, S. Dak. No casualties; loss of property \$3,000; width of path three-fourths of a mile; length not given; moved northeast.
- No. 20, June 8.—A minor tornado was observed in Winnebago County, Wis., near Oshkosh. It destroyed a barn in its path and disappeared over Lake Winnebago.
- No. 21, June 9.—11 a. m. (Central time); Wyeth City (near Guntersville), Marshall County, Ala. Five injured; loss of property \$5,000; width of path 200 yards; length 2 miles; moved east.
- No. 22, June 21.—4.30 p. m. (Eastern time); Nutley, Essex County, N. J. No casualties; property loss small; width of path from one-half to three-fourths of a mile; length not given; moved east.
- No. 23, June 24.—6.30 p. m. (Central time); Clayton, Polk County, Wis. Two injured; loss of property, 6 houses destroyed and a few barns wrecked; width of path not given; length 5 miles; moved northeast.
- No. 24, June 27.—2.30 p. m. (Central time); West Louisville, Daviess County, Ky. One killed and 1 injured; loss of