

A

F=3

Plotter
ONT-NY

1. DATE AND TIME 26.9.1898 1530 LST

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) PORT DALHOUSIE ONT TO DARREN N.Y
MERRITTON
(RISING AND DIPPING ALONG A COIKESCREW TRACK.

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

4. PATH WIDTH 300 YDS 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; 7. "IT CAME WITH A ROAR THAT THREW ANYTHING OF THE KIND HE HAD EVER HEARD INTO THE SHADE"

9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.) HAIL AS BIG AS PLUMS AT TOTTENHAM, "THE CYCLONE WAS CAUSED BY THE MEETING OF TWO GREAT STORMS, WHICH SEEMED TO FORCE THE CLOUDS DOWN AND FORMED THEM INTO THE SHAPE OF A HUGE FUNNEL."

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE \$300,000 11. TOTAL DEATHS 5 (HUNDREDS OF CHICKENS, TURKEYS, DUCKS ALSO CATTLE)

12. TOTAL INJURED AT LEAST 18 SERIOUSLY, OTHERS LESS SERIOUSLY. 13. TOTAL HOMELESS SCORES

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES
THE GLOBE, TORONTO SEPT 27, 28, 29 AND OCT 1, 8, 1898
MERRITTON CENTENNIAL 1874-1974, PRINTED BY ST CATHERINES STANDARD 1974,
TOWN OF MERRITTON, 75th ANNIVERSARY SEPT 25th 1949, EDITED BY SENTINEL SERVICES, LITHO BY OTACO PRESS, ORILLIA 1949.
CENTENNIAL PROJECT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TROTLOD, PUBLISHED BY ARMATH ASSOCIATES LTD, TORONTO 1967.
MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, SEPT 1898. USWB, MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, SEPT 1898 CANADA, PP 13-14.

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

(a) SEE DRAWING BY MR FARLOW CUMBERLAND AS SEEN FROM THE "CORONA".

"THE TORNADO WHICH WAS FUNNEL-SHAPE, APPROACHED THE CITY (ST CATHERINES) FROM THE NORTHWEST. . . . IT SWEEP A SPACE SEVERAL BLOCKS WIDE. . . . AS IT PASSED OVER THE CITY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WATCHED ITS COURSE TOWARDS THE PROSPEROUS VILLAGE OF MERRITTON. IT SCOPED UP WATER IN THE CANAL AND COULD BE EASILY SEEN FROM ST PAUL STREET THAT IT WAS LEAVING DISASTER IN ITS TRAIL. NEARLY EVERY BUILDING IN ITS PATH WAS SWEEP AWAY.

THE PRESENCE OF MIND OF MISS IDA SMITH, TEACHER AT LOWER END SCHOOL WAS ALL THAT SAVED HER SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM DEATH. SHE SAW THE TORNADO APPROACHING AND LED THE CHILDREN TO A SAFE CORNER, EXCEPT FOR A FEW WHO WERE TRAPPED IN THE DEBRIS AS THE SCHOOL WAS STRUCK, ONE OF WHOM DIED. AT THE LINCOLN PAPER MILL THE ROOF FELL IN ON A HUNDRED OR MORE EMPLOYEES, ~~ONE~~ ^{TWO} WERE KILLED AND A NUMBER INJURED. BOARDS DRIVEN TWO FEET INTO THE GROUND, COWS + PEOPLE CARRIED THROUGH THE AIR, AND PIERCED INTO WALLS OF OTHER HOUSES. CLOTHES TORN OFF THEIR BACK.

WORKSHEET

... I.D.F.O ...

① ORIGIN x 17639000
 y 4783300

⑤ Standard Error S_x 500 C.

② ~~LIFT-OFF~~ ~~BORDER~~ x_1 17661800
 y_1 4765600

⑥ Standard Error S_y 1000 C.

③ $(x_1 - x) = 22800$

④ $(y - y_1) = 17700$

⑦ DAMAGE LENGTH

$L = [(x_1 - x)^2 + (y - y_1)^2]^{1/2}$ ⑧ $\alpha = \tan^{-1} \frac{|y - y_1|}{|x - x_1|}$

③ + ④ $\rightarrow r, \theta = 28864$

$x \leftrightarrow y = 38^\circ$

⑨ Standard Error $S_L = (S_x^2 + S_y^2)^{1/2}$

⑤ + ⑥ $\rightarrow r, \theta = 11.18 \text{ m C}$

⑩ $\beta = \frac{\tan^{-1} S_L}{L}$

⑦ + ⑨ $\rightarrow r, \theta$
 $x \leftrightarrow y = 2^\circ$

NE quad $\phi = 90 - \alpha$

SE quad $\phi = 90 + \alpha$

NW quad $\phi = 270 + \alpha$

SW quad $\phi = 270 - \alpha$

⑪ $\phi = 308^\circ$

see over.

Approximate damage area 5.8 km²

average width, approx. damage width, 200 m.

average speed of travel. 72 km/h

Between 3 and 4pm. on the afternoon of the 26th. of September a tornado swept over a portion of the NIAGARA PENINSULA. Eye-witnesses state that two clouds of great width, one from the North-westward of a very dark appearance and the other from the South westward of a much brighter or vapoury hue travelled towards one another and as they united the funnel shaped cloud was at once formed and a cracking at a great altitude apparently as of fireworks took place together with a swirling motion.

The first apparent signs of the destruction wrought by the tornado were to be found in the extreme North-western end of Mr. BARNE'S VINEYARD on the North-western corner of the TOWNSHIP of ~~GRAN~~ GRANTHAM and the North-eastern corner of the TOWNSHIP of LOUTH about half a mile south of LAKE ONTARIO. A row of trees runs along the side of the vineyard at this point and to the northward there is a field, which at the north-west end narrows up to about 40 yards and to the northward of this field again there is an extensive piece of wooded land. In this wooded land no evidence of the tornado were to be found, but on the vineyard side of the field a small maple tree was levelled to the ground lying towards the south-eastward and branches of a large pine tree were torn off and carried a hundred yards and more into the vineyard. The first width of the whirl was only 40 feet. No destruction was caused in the vineyard until a point about 750 feet in a south-easterly direction was reached when 120 feet of vines were levelled ~~to~~ the ground; to the eastward of this seven rows of vines covering a distance of 87 feet are intact and the eighth row is levelled for 185 feet and the ninth for 60 feet which would look as if there were two distinct whirls at least at this point if not afterwards, the width of the first being very small and of the second about 24 feet. There is no appearance of any vast force having been brought to bear on the vineyard, for the vines are only levelled not torn up from the roots and the supporting posts, which have evidently been in long service have been no doubt been pulled up or broken off by the weight of the vines. Neither is there much demonstration of force, where the storm track crosses the road for a row of small maples in its path are left intact, also the two road fences as well as an apple orchard on the opposite ~~or~~ left side of the road. The track across the road is 360 feet wide. The tornado then swept thirteen mile creek (the

old canal), midway between locks 1 and 2. This sheet of water is about a quarter of a mile across and it is here that the tornado gained much greater energy, for striking on the opposite shore, the thickly wooded bluff at the back of Mr. ROBERTSON'S house and orchard it snapped off and uprooted in all directions the large pines and other trees, which covered this bluff, but pursuing its course through the orchard, the number of trees destroyed, was surprisingly small, its energy being seemingly lessened again until the old ST. CATHERINES RACE COURSE was reached where very large trees were here and there torn up by the roots, some of these lay towards the east and others towards the west; a board fence in this locality also lay in strips east and west the posts being drawn right out of the ground, the general lie of by far the greater number of objects was however towards the south-east. From the race course the track was over ST. CATHERINES, great damage being done to some buildings and others almost alongside escaping unscarred. A fact worthy of notice was the number of houses that had the chimneys cut off level with the roof on their south and east sides whereas those on the other sides of the buildings were as a rule untouched. At a point on CHURCH STREET, three churches and the high school stand side by side and these happened to be in the storm's track; here again there are evidences of more than one whirl as the damage was done simultaneously east and west of the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, whilst the latter escaped without a scratch. Much damage was apparent on ACADEMY STREET; two of the tornado's eccentricities here were it tore up a large maple tree by the roots and left a frail fence standing 5 feet away and it razed a carriage shed to the ground and left a carriage standing there unmoved, whilst 6 feet further on a series of vine trellises were wholly unharmed. The width of the storm through ST. CATHERINES was in all 1,300 feet. The spout was seemingly shattered after leaving ST. CATHERINES, but it reformed with greatly increased energy in the valley of the old canal where it was seen to suck up the water as it progressed. It re-commenced its work of destruction on the outskirts of MERRITTON with far greater fury than in ST. CATHERINES, the LOWER LINCOLN PAPER MILL being much damaged and 600 feet further on it wiped the second POWER HOUSE of the ACETYLENE GAS COMPANY out of existence and hurled its timber and shingles far and wide. On both sides of the THOROLD ROAD the destruction was considerable for a width of about 1,350 feet, but the path of greatest destruction was confined to 600 feet, the damage on either side being the uprooting of occasional trees, etc., or the demolishing here and there of house chimneys; to the west of the path of greatest destruction this

state of affairs extended about 300 feet, and to the east side 450 feet. In the path of greatest destruction sad havoc was wrought, the climax if one may so speak being reached on SMYTH STREET a short thoroughfare connecting the THOROLD ROAD with HAIGHT STREET. Here stood the schoolhouse, the ORANGE HALL and the houses of Mr. J.E. BRADLEY and Mr. R. THOMPSON. This short street was completely wiped out of existence, and the lower half of the schoolhouse only left standing. It was here that the first deaths occurred and here a barn was thrown northwards and an adjoining barn hurled southwards. Several hundred yards further on from this point three freight cars, one loaded with pulp and another with spokes were hurled into the millrace along side which they were standing; a man, a waggon and a team of horses in the immediate vicinity were also blown into the millrace. The next obstruction encountered was the stone buildings of the LINCOLN PAPER MILLS, where the explosive force of the air inside of a large building in such a storm was very clearly demonstrated for the roof was sucked almost bodily off the building, the massive stone walls remaining. Still pursuing the south-easterly course; of the two houses on the east side of the HARTSEL ROAD the frame house was demolished and thrown against its neighbour a brick structure, the upper storey of the latter being carried away and the walls badly cracked, the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, a frame building in the same line was completely destroyed together with all its contents except the stone foundation but the ANGLICAN CHURCH which stands close by was injured only in its steeple. After effecting this devastation over an area which from northwest to southeast barely stretched a quarter of a mile and in which circumscribed area several unfortunate people met their death, the spout must have again become shattered for the ST. DAVID'S ROAD is reached before the tornado's destructive character is again apparent, here a house was partially destroyed, and a little girl in her mothers arms was hit by flying debris and killed.

The next apparent destruction was at CRAWFORD'S FARM, about two miles further south-east, and at this latter point the damage was very great, the apple orchard was practically wiped out of existence, 85 trees lying on the ground all towards the south-eastward and huge elm trees were also uprooted and lay towards the south-east, the CRAWFORD HOMESTEAD was badly wrecked, the lids and doors of the kitchen stove were flung into a field, a little girl was picked up carried 300 yards and set down none the worse of her remarkable ride; a goose was blown through a window and a light waggon was landed in a tree whilst the ground to the south-eastward

was badly cut up by flying splinters. The width of the storm path over this section was 450 feet. After crossing the stone road on the eastern side of the CRAWFORD FARM the spout again seemingly dispersed and little or no damage was done until LUNDY'S LANE was reached, about three miles further on in a south-easterly direction where a cottage was partially unroofed. The tornado must have crossed the NIAGARA RIVER just above the FALLS, when the funnel apparently again formed to the earth's surface, as great destruction is reported to have occurred on GRAND ISLAND and also in TONAWANDA, NEW YORK, and the width of the greatest destruction is reported to have been about 600 feet, which coincides with its width through Canadian territory.

A few facts in connection with the tornado are, that it formed in the south-east quadrant of the accompanying low pressure area, and travelled south-easterly, the same course which the main depression was pursuing. Its course was almost in a straight line. The greatest damage was done on its south and east sides. The spout apparently reformed on each occasion as it passed over bodies of water, or when the ascending currents of warm, moist air, would be likely to be most pronounced. The actual distance covered on Canadian soil was 13 miles, and the rate of progression of the tornado, was about 45mph., if it is allowed that the reports as to times are correct, namely that it started 3.30p.m. and reached TONAWANDA at 4p.m. The average rate of progression of tornadoes, as arrived at in the United States is 44.11mph.

In conclusion it may be stated that the cause of the tremendous power generated by the tornado forces has not as yet been satisfactorily explained. As clouds which form the tornado funnel rush together, their meeting is almost invariably attended by visible electrical disturbances of great energy, furthermore trees and branches of trees have been shredded by electrical action, and houses and barns destroyed by tornado funnels have been set on fire apparently by electricity, bolts of lightning have been observed passing from cloud to cloud, and also from earth to cloud; marked oscillations of the needle in the surveyor's transit instrument have been noticed several hours in advance of the appearance of tornadoes, and evidence seems very much to point to the fact that a tornado cloud is electrical and that a tornado is a compressed intensified thunderstorm.

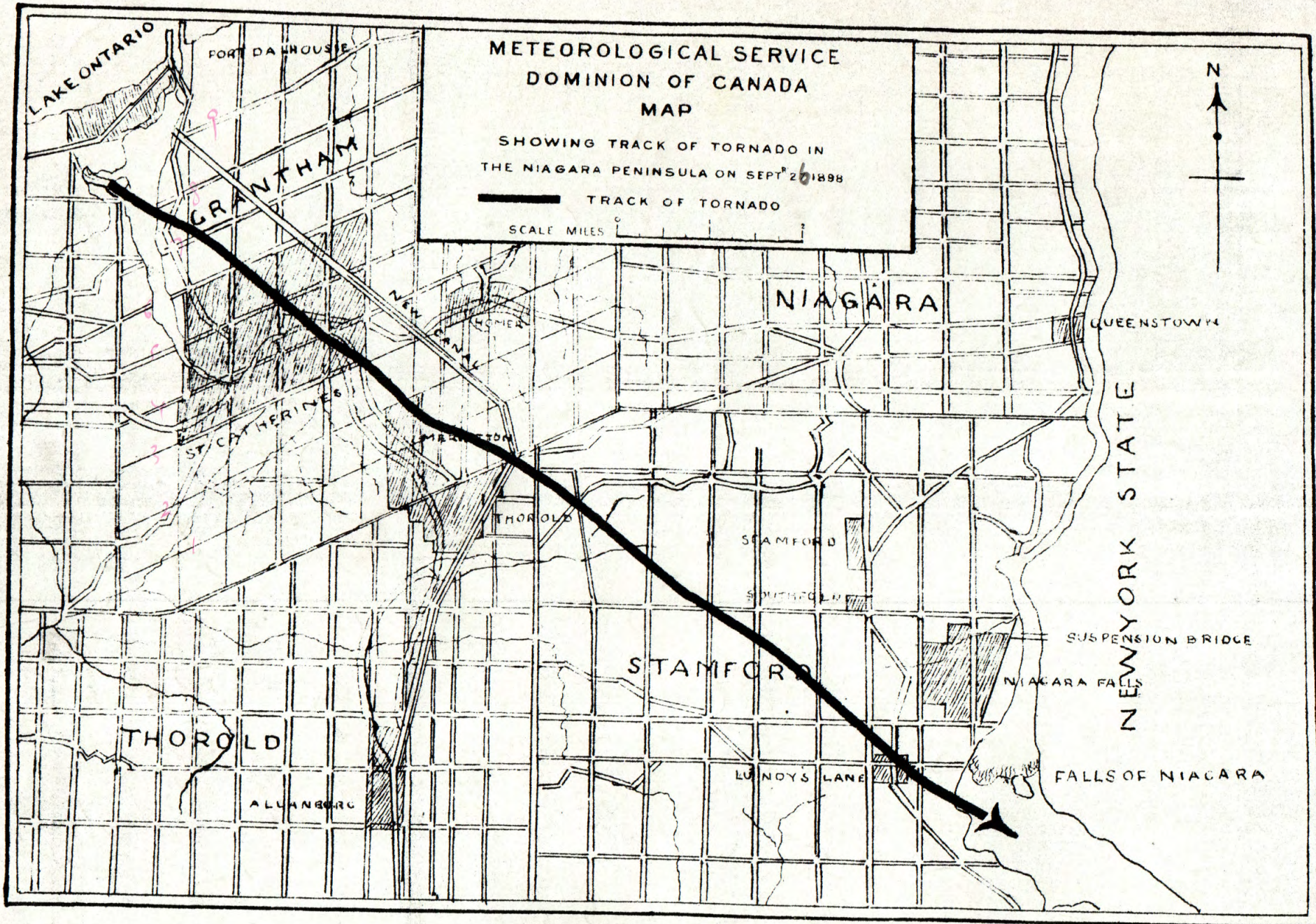
AMERICAN MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW. VOL.26, No.9, PAGE 402. SEPT. 1898.
STORM DATE, SEPT. 26TH. 1898.

A severe tornado, having its origin on LAKE ONTARIO, swept across the NIAGARA PENINSULA in a path about 300 feet wide, crossed the NIAGARA RIVER at TONAWANDA and disappeared only to reappear in a less destructive form in the southeastern part of ERIE COUNTY. It crossed into GENESEE COUNTY north of ALDEN and was last observed at DARIEN at a distance of 45 miles in an air line from the point of origin. The funnel cloud was first observed on LAKE ONTARIO. Accounts differ as to the time it passed ST. CATHERINES, ONT.; one account gives the time as 2.30p.m., another 3:25p.m., and a third as 3:45p.m. It crossed the NIAGARA RIVER at GRAND ISLAND and struck TONAWANDA between 4:30 and 5p.m.

At ALDEN in ERIE COUNTY as many as three funnel clouds were observed, none of which endured for any length of time. The observer at the last named place reports an exceedingly rapid rate of movement, probably 60 miles per hour. Five persons were killed at MERRITTON and vicinity, and probably 18 or 20 injured throughout the course of the storm. The property loss was large, estimated as \$100,000 at ST. CATHERINES, \$200,000 at MERRITTON, and \$70,000 at TONAWANDA, total \$370,000. The path of the tornado was exceedingly narrow, not over 300 feet. Large hail fell on the outer edges. The barograph at BUFFALO WEATHER BUREAU OFFICE, four miles distant from the funnel cloud, did not show any marked disturbance at the time of the passage of the tornado. The curve for the afternoon shows a very open V, the rise in pressure occurring at the time of passage of the tornado, The maximum velocity of the wind was 42 miles per hour from the west at 5:05p.m.

VOL. 26, NO.9, PAGE 400. U.S. M.W.R. SEPT 1898.

26TH. HEAVY HAIL fell over the NIAGARA PENINSULA in connection with a tornado that occurred in the afternoon. The hail fell principally outside of the tornado track.

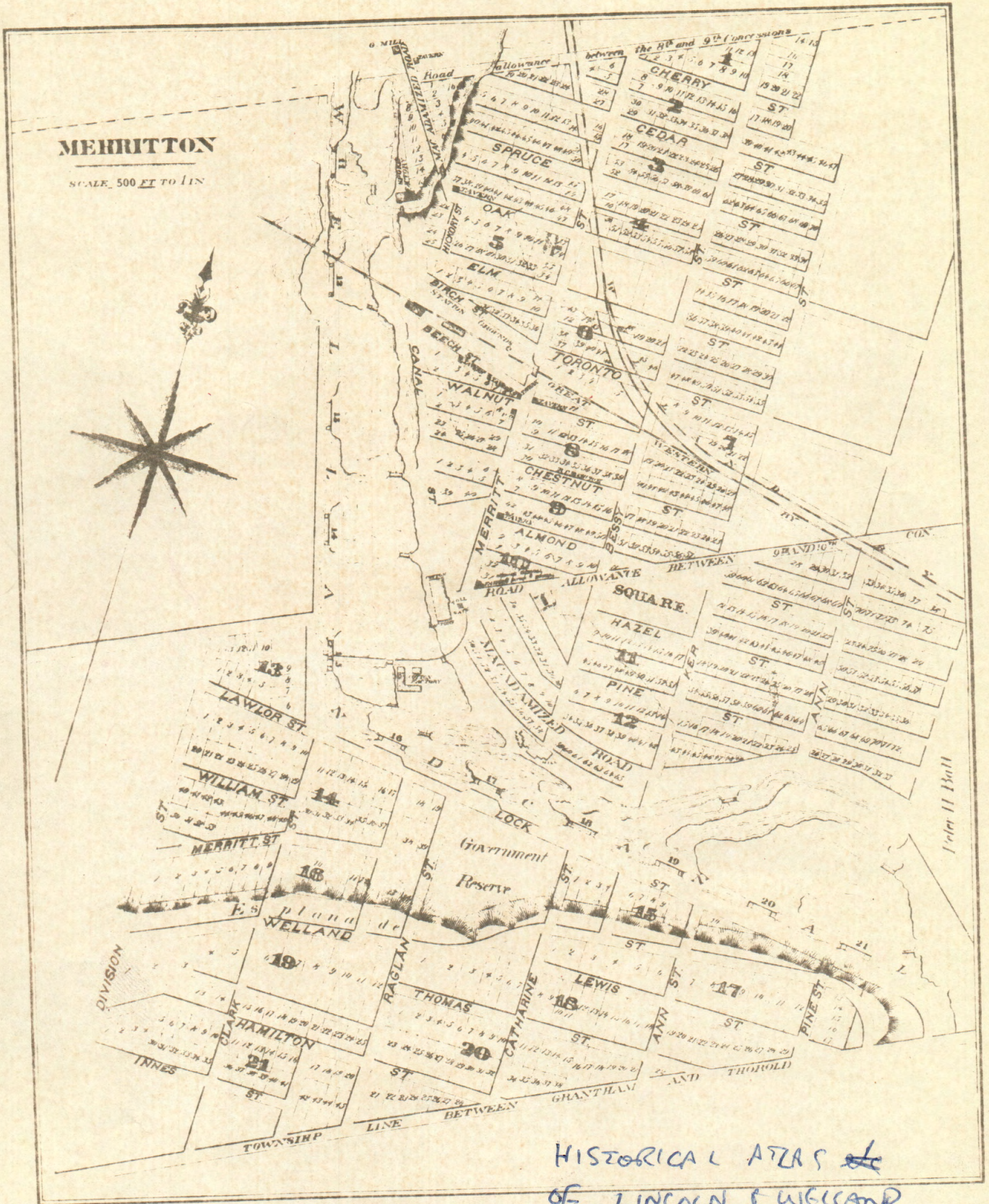


MAP OF MERRITTON - 1874

HISTORICAL MUSEUM
303 MERRITT ST.
ST. CATHARINES, ONT.
LST 1KT 251-2565

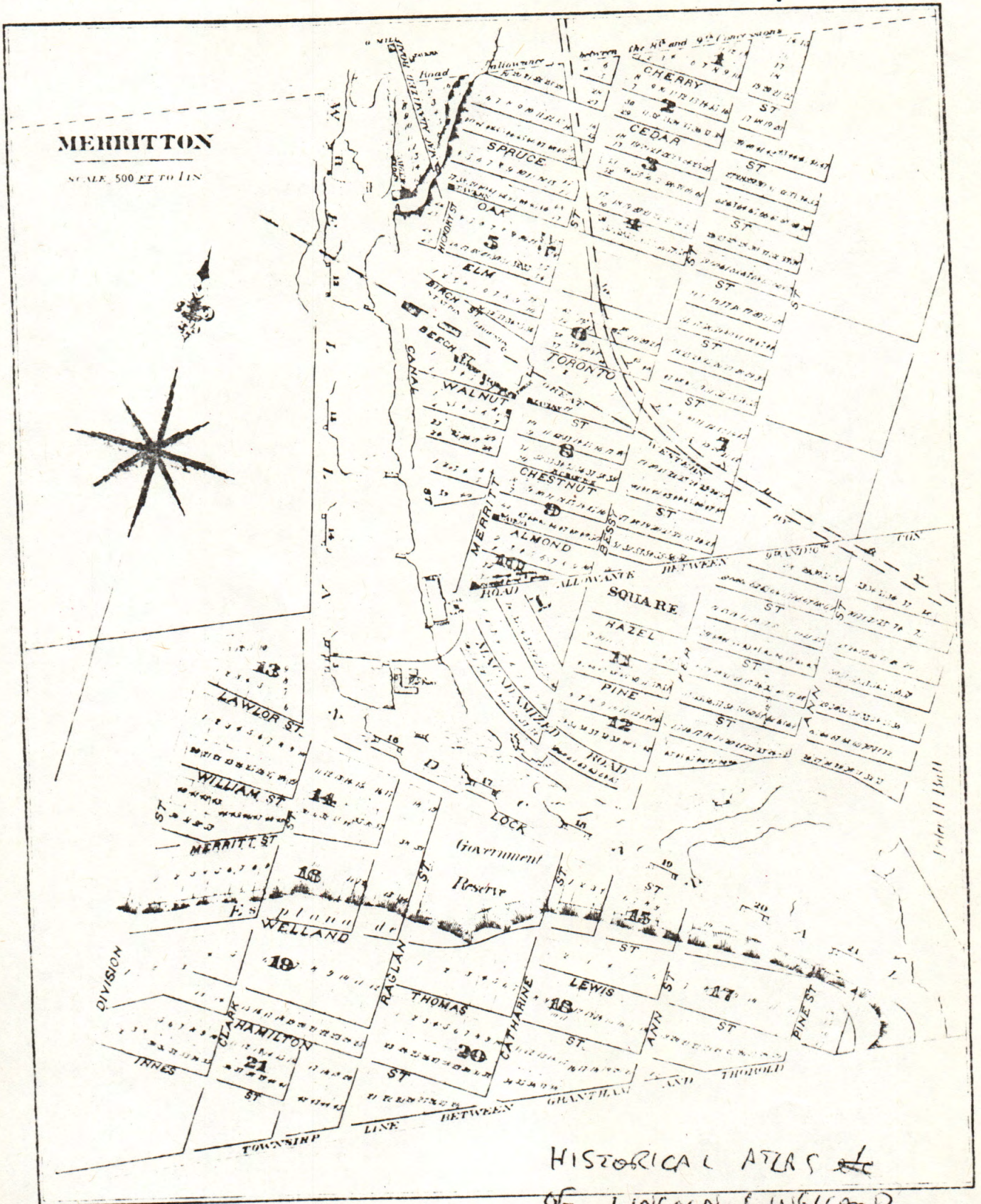
MERRITTON

SCALE 500 FT TO 1 IN



HISTORICAL AREAS
OF LINCOLN & WELLAND
H.R. PAGE - 1876

MAP OF MERRITTON - 1874



HISTORICAL ATLAS of
OF LINCOLN & WELLAND
H.R. PAGE - 1876

THE ST. CATHERINES CENTENNIAL BOOK. (PELMS. LIBRARY.)
SEPT. 26 1898

A TORNADO DISASTER

That day, in 1898, started as any other September morning in the village of Merritton. People rose early to begin their chores under a bright and crystal autumn sky.

In mid-afternoon, an ominous change occurred. The sky became choked with heavy, coal black clouds that began massing in the west.

Suddenly, without warning, a dreaded tornado sliced into the very heart of Merritton. As suddenly as it appeared, it vanished, but in that endless terrible instant, it had taken with it four lives, left twenty people painfully injured and obliterated homes and factories.

The numb shock passed and the people of Merritton rebuilt their lives with the help of a relief fund from St. Catharines.



THE ST. CATHERINES CENTENNIAL BOOK.
SEPT. 26. 1898. (P. E. M. S. LIBRARY)

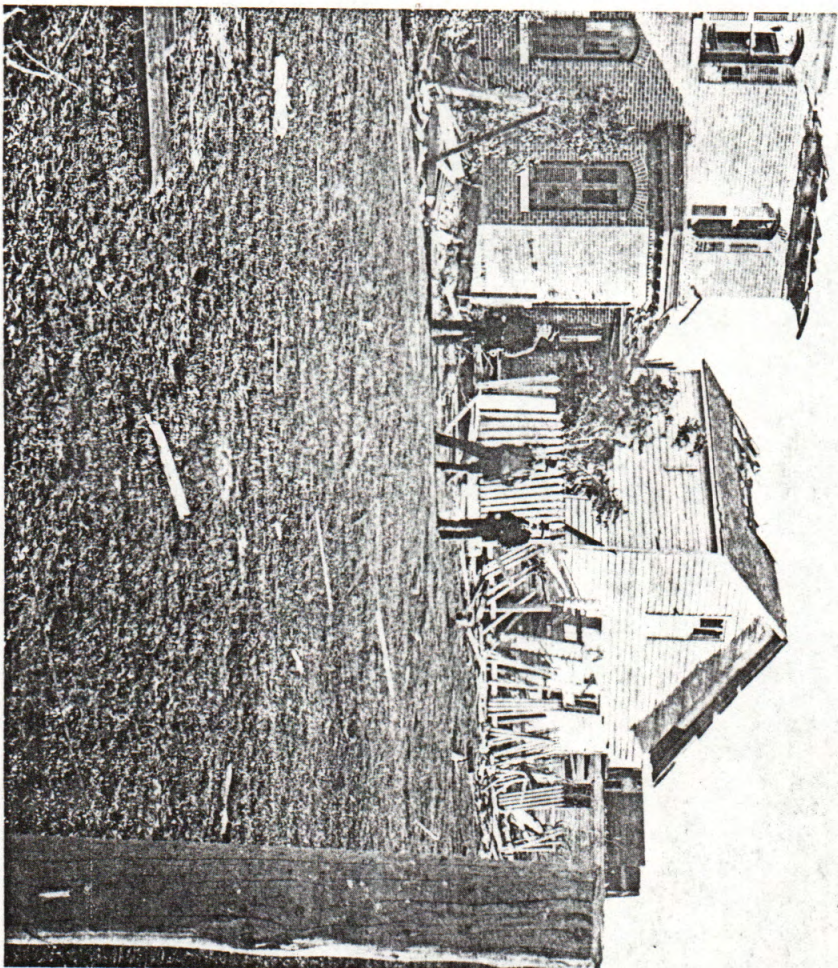
A TORNADO DISASTER

That day, in 1898, started as any other September morning in the village of Merriton. People rose early to begin their chores under a bright and crystal autumn sky.

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The numb shock passed and the people of Merriton rebuilt their lives with the help of a relief fund from St. Catharines.



THE DEAD.

MISS CLARA O'NEILL, Lincoln Paper mill, Merritton.

JAMES MCCARTHY, Lincoln Paper mill, Merritton.

Francis MOFFATT, ^{7 yrs old} Lower End School, Merritton.

Mrs John Bickley, Visiting the James E Bradley house, and
was killed in the collapse, Merritton.

Gladys EKINS, daughter of Walter Ekins, near Thorold.

The little girl was struck and killed by debris
while being carried to the cellar.

area.

$$17 \text{ km} \times .135 \text{ km} = 2.3$$

$$6 \text{ km} \times .39 = 2.3$$

$$3.5 \text{ km} \times .25 = .9$$

$$3 \text{ km} \times .1 = .3$$

$$29.5 \text{ km} \quad \quad \quad 5.8 \text{ km}^2$$



JIM CLARK

Memories of Slab Town

My earliest recollection of my birth place, Slab Town, dates back to the year 1868 when as a lad I attended a little red brick schoolhouse located on the lot east of our present Public School. At recess time we kids would sit and watch the farmers washing their sheep in a creek that flowed through the present D. E. Leo property. Water was scarce in these days. Cisterns and pumps supplied our domestic needs.

In 1887 through the combined efforts of the late John McLean and John Conlin our present water system was installed. The following year the first Volunteer Fire Department was formed with twenty men of which only two are living, namely John McLean and Jim Clark. This company was famous throughout Ontario for its champion Drill Corp and Hose and Hook and Ladder Teams.

The much talked about cyclone wreaked havoc in Merritton in 1898. It was a tornado that swept through part of the town, levelling mills, churches and factories in its path. It recalls a funny story of a resident called Joe the Indian, seeing a pair of trousers floating in mid-air and thinking it was John Regan, called to him to grab the first tree he passed.

In the year 1903 the Grand Trunk Railway decided to raise the present C.N.R. bridge three feet, contrary to the wishes of Reeve Bill Wilson and his council and as a result the Fire Department was deputized as special constables to stop the work. Two lines of hose were laid and water played on the engine crew and workmen. A merry battle took place as the workmen retaliated with axes, crow bars and shovels. After two hours' seige we were

called off on legal advice from our lawyer and the bridge was duly raised the three feet.

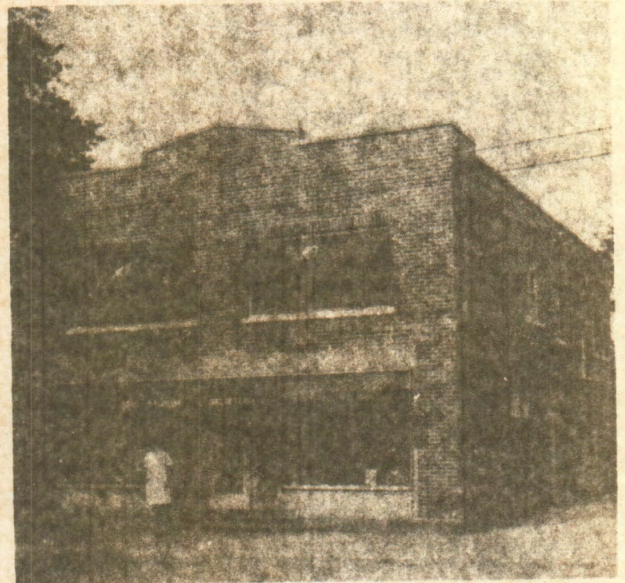
Owing to the cheap water power available along the Old Welland Canal, industries flourished in olden times. At Lock 7, the old Lincoln Paper Mill; Lock 8, the Phelps Saw Mill; Lock 9, Disher Woollen Mills; Lock 10, a brewery, flour and biscuit mill, oil refinery, hammer mill and wheel works; Lock 14, Lybster Cotton Mill; Lock 15, Waite and Dolan Cotton Mill; Lock 16, Riordan Pulp and Paper Mill and at Lock 17, John McLean Saw Mill.

The first electric railway appeared in Merritton about seventy years ago and was supposed to be the first in the British Empire. It replaced the horse drawn cars owned by Bishop Fuller and Company. These cars made a trip each hour and the owners had a stable of ninety horses. Horses were changed each trip. The fare was five cents a trip. At this time the Riordan Paper Mills installed the first electric lights in town. Previous to this time a profitable business was peddling coal oil from door to door for use in lamps.

Hotels were numerous and business was good from sailors and scowmen passing through the Old Welland Canal. Fights were common but major crime unknown. One police constable easily enforced the law along with many other duties. Good whiskey sold for forty cents a quart and beer cost twenty-five cents for a twelve quart pail.

Old timers notice many changes in Merritton since these early days.

Signed: JIM CLARK.



Congratulations

To the Good Folk of
M - E - R - R - I - T - T - O - N

PAUL BRODEUR

240 MERRITT ST.

MERRITTON

TOWN OF MERRITTON, 75th ANNIVERSARY
EDITED BY SENTINEL SERVICES SEPT 2, 1949
LITHO BY OTACO PRESS, ORILLIA, 1949

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LST 1ST 521-5885

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St. Catharines

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MERRITTON CENTENNIAL 1874-1974
PRINTED BY ST CATHARINES STANDARD 1974

MUSEUM LACIN...
ST. MERRITT ST.
40...
1967

TITLE OF PUBLICATION

TOWNSHIP OF THOROLD — 1793 - 1967 •

141

Robert Coulter, the leader, William Elliot, William Roberts, Thomas Sowersby, John Dorrington, John Saunders and Jacob Garner. The teacher was George Morgan of St. Catharines. The band was led by Mr. Coulter for nine years.

POLITICALLY IMPORTANT

Port Robinson was the headquarters of the Liberal-Conservative Association for Welland County and in those days the nomination for the Conservative candidate was held here.

Politics were responsible for the publishing of a short-lived newspaper in Port Robinson, in 1852. It was called the Welland Herald and was printed in the interests of Duncan McFarland, the Reform candidate for that year. It was issued for only three months, since it was no longer needed after the election.

The office for collecting canal tolls closed at Port Robinson in 1895. In 1897 the customs office moved from the village to Welland.

By 1897 the village business places had dwindled to a grist mill, two blacksmith shops, and three general stores. In Canada's Centennial year, the village has a large steel fabrication plant, a brick plant, two grocery stores, a butcher shop and two service stations.

One summer day in 1898 Rose Haines, now Mrs. Cecil MacIntosh, saw a hail storm in Port Robinson which blew a man and his team of horses — which he was driving along the tow path pulling a scow in the canal near the old bridge — from the west bank of the canal to the east bank. The scow sank and the horses, entangled in their harness, drowned.

The storm blew 27 panes of glass out of the William Haines home, causing the family to fear the building might topple into the canal. The house was later moved to a new location and is now the Wilson Jalbert home.

In the past, the history of Port Robinson followed the growth of the Welland Canal, and this has not changed today. Local residents stop to talk of the "seaway" and the changes in the village as the canal route changes.

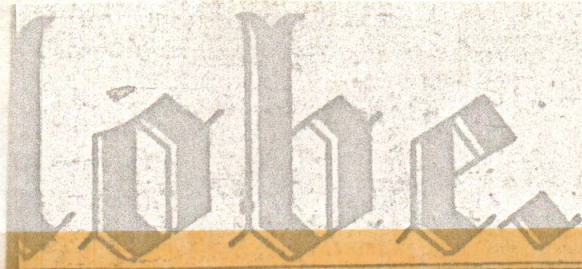
One street is gone, taking with it the historic United Church and several homes. As well, the route of the Chippawa Creek may be changed, along with the routes of several local roads.

Almost overnight bright orange pegs pop up in the fields already owned by the Seaway Authority, and it is a favorite sport to speculate on what they might mean.

CENTENNIAL PROJECT
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
THOROLD

PUBLISHED BY
ALMATH ASSOCIATES LTD
TORONTO 1967

1 of 2



R 27, 1898. TUES SEPT 27 1898

TORNADO'S DEATH-DEALING FORCE.

Merritton and St. Catharines Devastated by a Gyrating, Funnel-shaped Monster.

THREE LIVES LOST AND MANY INJURED

~~Roof of Lincoln Paper Mill No. 2 Falls in on 100 Employees—Presence of Mind of a School Teacher Saves the Lives of Many Children—Chimney of the St. Catharines Collegiate Falls Into the Gymnasium Where Students Are at Drill—It Will Take Years For the Two Towns to Recover From the Effect of the Storm.~~

The very heavy storm which struck Toronto about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon was apparently but the well-nigh harmless accompaniment of a tornado and cloudburst which devastated Merritton and St. Catharines and passed over in the direction of Niagara Falls. The path of the storm is marked by a trail of destruction extending through St. Catharines and Merritton and the country beyond. Merritton appeared to receive the brunt of the storm, as it was there that lives were lost and the most serious material damage done. The presence of mind of the teacher in the Lower End School was all that saved probably a score or more children from death. Three persons were killed outright, including one school child, and a dozen or more are injured, one, it is feared, fatally.

The downpour of rain in Toronto was accompanied by hailstones, but no damage was done, the wind being gusty and of little force. The only persons to suffer were those unfortunate enough to be caught in the open street cars. The gusts of rain found their way through the flimsy canvas protections so easily that many passengers sheltered themselves with umbrellas while the storm was at its height.

The wires are down at Merritton, and the despatches relating to the storm there are necessarily from St. Catharines.

THE KILLED.

- Clara O'Neill, an employee of the Lincoln Paper Mills.
- Mrs. John Bickley, killed on the sidewalk while running for shelter.
- Frankie Moffatt, a child, killed in the wreck of the Lower End School-house.

INJURED.

- James McCarthy, mill hand, probably fatally injured.
- Maude O'Neill, an employee of the Lincoln Mills.
- Jennie Nestor, another mill hand, badly hurt.
- Rox Bradley, employed at the mill, painfully injured.
- A son of Samuel Smith, hand broken.
- Arthur Bradley, hurt in A. R. Thompson's store.
- C. Murray and Ed. Doyle, injured at the M.C.B. tracks at the Lincoln Mills.
- Bessie Kerr, pupil of the Lower School, legs broken.
- Willie H. Wilson, another pupil, badly hurt.

died a few days later (see mention continued 1874-1974)

they were shrubs. The sight on many of the principal residence streets was truly magnificent. The roadways were rendered practically impassable, and it is a great wonder that the city escaped without loss of life. As the cloud passed over the city it swept a space several blocks wide, felling everything that was not securely fastened and taking off many roofs. The drill shed was practically demolished, the roof and a portion of the sides being gone.

Narrow Escape of Students.

From here it passed to Church street, taking off a portion of the roof of the First Presbyterian Church and crashing through a portion of the roof of the Collegiate Institute. A chimney on the latter building fell through the roof into one of the rooms where scholars were at drill, but fortunately no one was hurt. On King street several barns were unroofed. C. K. Moore's barn and house were damaged, as also were St. George's rectory and other residences. The tin roof on D. L. Cruickshank's barn was carried into a yard 100 yards away. On St. Paul street desolation was left in the path of the tornado. Part of McHugh's cigar factory was carried away, the front of Dittrick's coal office was blown out and a brick block in front of the St. Paul Street Methodist Church was badly wrecked, the roof being lifted clear across the street into the churchyard. The church building was damaged considerably and neighboring buildings went down before the awful force of the gale. Hynes' livery stable suffered the loss of a part of its roof and a storehouse of the Packard Works was levelled to the ground. An ice house at Lock 4 was likewise blown down. One end of the St. Catharines House tumbled down and a building in rear of Flynn Bros. was reduced to kindling wood. The havoc along the line of the storm was complete, and it will take St. Catharines some time to recover from the effects of the storm.

Watching the Course of Destruction.

As the tornado passed over the city hundreds of people watched its course towards the prosperous village of Merritton. It scooped up water in the canal and it could be easily seen from St. Paul street that it was leaving disaster in its trail. Nearly every building in its path was swept away or partially dismantled, and as a result three persons were killed outright and a

score more or less seriously injured.

The killed are:—Clara O'Neill, an employee of the printing shop of the Lincoln Paper Mill; Mrs. John Bickley, killed on the sidewalk in front of Mr. James E. Bradley's house; Frankie Moffatt, killed in the Lower End School.

The injured as far as could be learned to-night are:—Maud O'Neill, Lincoln Mill; Jennie Nestor, Lincoln Mill; Rox Bradley, Lincoln Mill; James McCarthy, Lincoln Mill (McCarthy, it is thought, will die); son of Adam Smith, hand broken; all the others members of the family more or less injured; Arthur Bradley, hurt in A. R. Thompson's store; C. Murray and Ed. Doyle, injured at the N.C.Y. car tracks at the Lincoln Mill; Bessie Kerr, Lower School, leg broken; Willie H. Wilson, badly hurt.

IN ST CATHARINES

Death-dealing Tornado.

St. Catharines, Sept. 26.—(Special.)—This city and the adjoining municipality of Merritton were visited about 1 o'clock this afternoon by a terrific death-dealing tornado, which spread desolation and destruction in its path and laid the principal part of Merritton low. At the hour named the tornado, which was funnel-shaped, approached the city from the northwest, and, as it passed over, trees were uprooted and tossed everywhere as if

Many Mill Hands Escape.

Several employees of the Lincoln Mills, in addition to the above named, were hurt, and as the roof fell in on a hundred or more employees the escape of so many is miraculous. When Miss Ida Smith, teacher in the Lower End School, saw the tornado coming, she got the scholars to make good their escape. All fled to places of safety except Frankie Moffatt, Bessie Kerr and a few others. They were pinned beneath the debris and were extricated with difficulty. The Moffatt girl was killed outright. The damage wrought in this particular locality was beyond description. The first building struck was the Lincoln Paper Mill No. 2, and a portion of the roof was torn off. Thence travelling to the Acetylene power house at Lock 8 the tornado demolished or badly damaged the following buildings:— Disper's store, barn and house wrecked, not a stick of the barn standing. The store was twisted out of shape and will have to be pulled down. Acetylene power house No. 1, roof and one side off.

Many Residences Damaged.

Joseph Hara's new residence, considerably damaged; houses of A. H. Bradley, Wm. McCumber, A. Lawton, Mrs. Grant, John Livingston, Mrs. S. G. Phelps, all more or less demolished; A. R. Thompson's store, part of it levelled; houses of Thomas Hastings and Charles Richardson badly damaged; R. Thompson's house, levelled to the ground; James E. Bradley's house, levelled; Orange Hall, levelled; school house, roof off; Acetylene Gas Works, end blown in; St. James' Church, tower damaged and roof shattered; Presbyterian Church, levelled to the ground and a mass of kindling wood; Lincoln Paper Mill, roof off and outbuildings demolished, an awful wreck; Sam Smith's house, top off; John Hogan's house, not a stick of timber standing; John Bradley's house, levelled to the ground. In addition, sidewalks were carried into neighboring yards, trees were uprooted, electric wires were torn down and scattered on the streets, and hardly a chimney was left standing.

Caring for the Injured.

As soon as the storm had passed over wrecking parties were organized and a search instituted for those who were beneath the ruins. The injured were placed in conveyances and taken to the St. Catharines Hospital, where every physician in the city was summoned. They were carefully attend-

ed to, and it is not expected that more than one will die. The Niagara Central Hotel is empty. These empty rooms being on the ground at the Lincoln Paper Mills, saved from the track of the tornado. Several houses were buried a hundred feet, and in one particular case there is not a stick of timber left to tell where a house stood. It will take Merrittton years to fully recover from the awful devastation. After passing over Merrittton the tornado was seen moving along the brow of the mountain in the direction of Niagara Falls.

Out of a Clear Sky.

St. Catharines, Sept. 25.—(G.N.W. press despatch.)—At 2.55 this afternoon a black cloud approached the city from the northwest. It was heralded by a sharp peal of thunder out of a clear blue sky, and in a very short time a terrific tornado began its deadly work. The waterspout was seen below Welland avenue, between Lake and George streets. It travelled in a direct line from this point to the southern limit of the city, passing out at or near the Packard Electric Works. All along the course the destruction is visible. The drill shed is practically demolished, the western arch being blown in on the sun shade, breaking them in, and the roof of the hall is completely gone. From here it passed along up to Church street, where it unroofed Crookshanks' large barn, and carried the roof onto the Nelson boarding house, over one hundred yards away. Slight damage was done at the First Presbyterian Church, the scuttles being carried away. C. E. Moore's barn was unroofed, and all the chimneys blown from his house.

Chimney Falls Into a Classroom.

At the Collegiate Institute a large chimney was blown down, falling through the roof into a classroom where some of the students were at drill. Luckily all escaped. St. George's rectory roof was badly smashed, the chimney falling through the roof. McHugh's cigar factory had part of the roof carried away and chimneys blown down, and Dittrick's office also suffered. Graham's restaurant roof was blown off and part of it carried across the street, landing in St. Paul Street Church yard. The St. Paul Street Church had glass blown out in front and sides. Packard's Electric Works lost the cornice of the main building. Several windows were blown out, and a wooden warehouse, known as the old barrel house, was razed to the ground and blown down the hill.

Gyrating, Funnel-shaped Monster.

Ratcliffe's large ice house at Lock 4 was completely demolished. The King street end of the St. Catharines House tumbled over and part of Hodgins Bros' cornice came down. Flynn Bros' shed was reduced to kindling wood. All along the path of the storm extending from James street east to Queenston street the havoc was complete. Giant trees were uprooted and tossed everywhere as if they were shrubs. The sight along King and Academy streets was a magnificent one. The roadways were practically impassable, and the wonder is that St. Catharines has no death list to report. Hundreds of people watched the funnel-shaped monster travelling over the canal and over Merrittton, where its funnel end could be seen licking up force and scattering destruction broadcast. It scooped up water out of the canal as it passed over, and its gyrations made it appear as a thing of life. It could be seen sending down its slender tentacles, which carried its awful work to the movable things on the ground beneath it.

Merrittton shows the terrible ordeal it has passed through in a most awful manner. Kindling wood is scattered over and beyond the path of the cloud for many hundreds of yards, and demolished houses, torn roofs and upturned sidewalks testify to the terrible force of the storm.

Teacher Saves Many Lives.

The teacher of the school, Miss Ida Smith, saved the lives of many of the children by getting them out in safety before the worst of the storm reached there. The children were told to fly for their lives and most of them got out in time. The scene of desolation at this point was indescribable. Children lay under piles of debris and many of them were badly hurt, but as they ran home as quickly as possible their names could not be learned. One of the little ones lay with her leg broken beside the body of Frankie Moffatt, the only child killed outright. There were soon many people by, aiding in the rescuing of the injured. Conveyances were procured and many injured ones were taken to the hospital. There were forty children in the school at the time, and it is miraculous that the casualties were not greater. Mrs. Blekley was running to her home from the storm and had just got inside the door when she dropped, struck dead. Plank sidewalks are up on end everywhere. Trolley lines and fixtures are twisted out of all shape, and even wire fences were levelled. Not a chimney is left standing on Ollie Phelps' or Noah Phelps' residences, and the staunch pulp mill in the valley there is unroofed. When last seen the funnel was passing over Niagara Falls, and there may be serious reports of damage wrought in that direction.

Rink Damaged at Guelph.

Guelph, Sept. 26.—(Special.)—About a quarter to 4 o'clock this afternoon a

TUES SEPT 27 1898
G. L. ORR

heavy gust of wind, which appeared to come from all parts of the compass, struck the new skating rink being built by Mr. A. B. Petrie. A stretch of brick work 80 feet long and 20 feet high was swept to the ground. The bricks were not much damaged. Fortunately it was that no one was working on the wall at the time. A team conveying material had a narrow escape. The work of rebuilding will commence at once. A company from Hamilton expected to be able to commence placing the iron roof on the building on Wednesday.

Broken Glass Here.

Tottenham, Sept. 25.—(G.N.W. Press Despatch.)—A terrific storm of wind and rain, accompanied by hailstones, passed over this section this afternoon, doing a great deal of damage. It travelled in a southeasterly direction, taking in the villages of Athlone, Keenansville, Colgan and Tottenham. There was a heavy shower of hailstones as large as good-sized plums, lasting for some ten minutes, and as there was a heavy wind at the time much damage followed. Nearly all the northern windows in Messrs. Kidds' store, Athlone, were demolished. The woken factory and dwelling house of W. & C. Brown, Keenansville, were nearly bereft of glass on the north sides, as also were several private residences. Several windows were smashed in the Methodist Church in the vicinity. The next village, Colgan, seemed to come in for special destruction. Five large stained glass windows in St. James' Catholic Church were completely riddled, as were the northern windows in nearly every house in the village. The wrath of the storm king seemed to have been considerably assuaged ere it reached this village, and not a great deal of damage was done here. It is said the total loss in all will foot up to several hundred dollars.

RAVAGES OF THE GREAT STORM.

Merritton and St. Catharines Suffered Severely From Monday's Cyclone.

A Church Blown Forty Feet From Its Foundation and Completely Demolished.

Four Persons Killed—One Dying and a Score Seriously Injured—A Child Killed in Its Mother's Arms—A Broad Pathway of Destruction—The Course of the Cyclone—Feculiar Freaks of the Wind—A Team and Driver Blown Into the River—Many Buildings Wrecked—Horror of Miss Ida Smith, the School Teacher—The Schoolhouse Wrecked and One Child Killed—Another Crushed Under the Falling Timber—Many Marvellous Escapes.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

THE DEAD.

MRS. JOHN BICKLEY,
MISS CLARA O'NEIL,
FRANCES MOFFATT,
GLADYS EKINS.

THE INJURED.

JAMES McCARTHY (will die),
R. H. BRADLEY,
MISS JENNIE NESTOR,
MISS MAUD O'NEIL,
MRS. RICHARD THOMPSON,
MRS. McCAUSLAND,
MRS. JOHN HOGAN,
INFANT CHILD OF JOHN BICKLEY,
BESSIE KERR,
FANNIE WILSON,
LOTTIE O'NEIL,
MARY WILLIAMS,
CHARLES MURRAY,
MR. McCAUSLAND,
EDWARD DOYLE,
WILLIE WILSON,
MRS. JAMES E. BRADLEY,
JENNIE BRADLEY.

St. Catharines, Sept. 27.—With the feeling of affright and astonishment from which the people of this community are just now suffering, in consequence of the disastrous storm which visited them yesterday, leaving in its wake demolition and death, is mingled a devout thankfulness that it was not worse. It may be stated without any exaggeration that it was by the barest

talities did not run into the hundreds instead of being confined to four, or at most five, individuals, and that the property which was destroyed did not involve the suffering and ruin of numberless families. Of course when a great calamity has providentially been averted it is idle to speculate on what might have occurred had things been otherwise, but an observer who traces the track of the tornado which has given Merritton so much reason to mourn will see that had its progress been slightly altered it would have struck at the point of its fullest violence a much more thickly-settled portion of the village, and undoubtedly would have occasioned a proportionately larger amount of havoc.

Strength and Fury of the Storm.

The strength and fury of the storm are evidenced in the utter destruction of everything along the line of its course after it reached the outskirts of Merritton, and in the distance to which it carried large timbers and other heavy articles which it made the objects of its sport. That it should therefore have avoided the main portion of the town leaves much room for congratulation. The form which the storm took has already been described in The Globe, and that it possessed every characteristic of a western cyclone all who have had any experience of these ominous whirlwinds will at once understand. It seems to have gathered close to Port Dalhousie at about 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon, and from there it pursued a southeasterly course to Merritton, where it expended its greatest force, and then died gradually away between that place and Niagara Falls. The greatest width it attained was at St. Catharines, where it took in a swath of about 300 yards. As it neared Merritton it contracted, and so gathered strength, coming down on everything in its way with a violence which nothing could resist.

A Pathway of Destruction.

In its progress it uprooted large trees, snapped telegraph poles as if

they had been willow wands, lifted sidewalks and threw them aside as so much paper, crushed dwellings as if a mighty trip-hammer had fallen on them, and carried large objects a distance that seemed almost incredible. All lighter material which came in its way was sucked into the vortex and dropped in what seemed like derision miles from where it was picked up. The whole period which the storm covered from the time the citizens of St. Catharines had warning of its coming by the portentous pealing of thunder and the threatening appearance of the sky until it expended its fury at Merritton was not more than 25 minutes. In that period twelve families were rendered homeless, four lives were sacrificed to its caprice, and between \$60,000 and \$75,000 worth of property was destroyed. The citizens of St. Catharines and Merritton have as yet hardly recovered from the shock sufficiently to realize what they have suffered or from what they escaped. There is nothing scarcely spoken of on the streets or in the houses of either place but the wreck which was left in the wake of the whirlwind, and the evidences of

its fury are yet lying all about to assure them that it was not a horrible hallucination. Four lifeless bodies and five mangled sufferers in the hospital, one of whom cannot recover, are yet more emphatic testimonies to the fury of the destroyer. There are few persons to be met with in Merritton who do not relate hair-raising tales of the escape either of themselves or others, and the actual cases of narrow calls from death are numerous and decidedly interesting.

Scenes at St. Catharines.

From every point of view St. Catharines was more fortunate. Several of its streets were rendered impassable with broken telegraph poles and uprooted trees, but with the exception of a roof blown off here and there and a few frame buildings demolished no actual damage was done. The telegraph and telephone services were for a while interrupted and the whole population was badly frightened, but all evidences so far as the city itself is concerned will be cleared away in a day or two. Parents' fears were aroused in a lively manner for the safety of their children at school, but while this was aroused they were enabled to take a horror-struck interest in the progress of the storm towards the devoted village of Merritton. In the city Lake and George streets seem to have been the first sufferers from its force. It then appears to have pursued a direct line from there to St. Paul and Church streets, passing the Packard Electric Works. The damage as far as can be ascertained in the city started at the drill shed, where the end was blown in, making the building practically a total wreck. The gun shed is broken in and the roof is gone. Church street was rendered utterly impassable. In addition to the fallen trees and poles a large barn was

bereft of its roof, which was carried a considerable distance. The First Presbyterian Church was slightly damaged, the roof of St. George's rectory rent, and the chimney of the Collegiate Institute blown down. On King street a number of buildings suffered. The St.

Catharines House, is wrecked, a whole corner is torn away from a grocery store, and several chimneys are conspicuous by their absence. On St. Paul street are several evidences of the presence of the gale. Here and there is found a roofless or chimneyless house, and perhaps a small building that has the appearance of being out of plumb.

Roof Blown Across the Street.

The worst piece of destruction here seems to be Graham's restaurant, which was just undergoing a restoration. The roof was completely taken off and carried across the street into the St. Paul Street Methodist Churchyard. The front of this building was being painted, and the contractor was at work only one minute before the storm struck it. He had fortunately come down or he would have been carried with the roof to the other side of the street and might now be among the dead or wounded. Along these streets are some singular objects as the result of the storm. Here and there are to be seen a telegraph pole broken in the middle and the upper part upheld by the wires. Fantastic shapes taken by broken and twisted trees and branches give a singular impression of the manner in which the storm acted. With it all no life was lost or the slightest injury done to any human being in St. Catharines. When the storm left the city its course was watched by hundreds of citizens, who had not yet realized what they had escaped. The immense gyrating, funnel-shaped wind monster took a clear, well-defined line in a southeasterly direction, rising now, and now swooping down to the earth, which it cleared of everything visible when it struck.

Terrible Effects at Merritton.

Your correspondent paid a visit to Merritton to-day and went over the route of its destructive march. The

Lincoln Pulp Mill was the first building caught by it, and the end of it was damaged. To show the well-defined line of demarcation which was pursued by the storm, a scow in the canal just at hand was not even touched. The Carbide Company's lower power house was the next object in its way, and it was lifted bodily and displaced from its foundation, but not materially injured. The upper power house was not so fortunate. It was flattened as if an immense weight had fallen on it, and while the machinery was not injured, the beams of the building were scattered like chaff. The neighboring buildings were the grocery store of R. Thompson, and further on the Orange Hall, the Lower Public School, and a house belonging to Mr. James E. Bradley. Thompson's store was shattered, and Arthur Bradley, who was employed in it and was standing in front of it, was struck in the stomach with a piece of timber and badly injured internally.

Death of Mrs. Bickley.

The house of Mr. James E. Bradley was swept from its foundation and utterly demolished. Mrs. Bradley was sitting in the parlor with Mrs. John Bickley at the time, and both women were struck by falling timbers. Mrs. Bickley was killed almost instantly, and Mrs. Bradley knocked senseless. When taken from the ruins it was found that she had a number of serious wounds on the head and body.

Scene in the Schoolhouse.

Not more than a few yards from this house is the school, in which were some 35 young children, under the care of Miss Ida Smith. It was after the recess, at which the very youngest of the children are sent home, and so her little flock had fortunately been relieved of its most defenceless members. Those who remained, however, averaged about ten years in age, and were practically unable to look after themselves. She had seen the storm approach, had seen the buildings going down before it, and had quickly realized the danger to which she and her pupils were exposed. She hastily gathered them together in the corner farthest from the attack of the storm, and, standing in front of them, tried to quiet their fears. In the midst of her words of encouragement the roof cracked like a nutshell, casting boards, bricks and plaster down on the heads of the defenceless and terror-stricken little group, covering and more or less injuring them. Two little ones were the chief sufferers. Little Frances Moffatt, about seven years old, was buried beneath a heap of the ruins and

smothered, and Bessie Kerr, some two years older, fell beside her, with a heavy beam over her body. The whole terrible blow occupied about a minute, and the plucky teacher immediately set to work to release the sufferers and get her charges to a place of safety. Frances Moffatt was beyond hope, and Bessie Kerr's leg was found to be broken. They were taken to an adjoining house and the remaining sufferer sent to the hospital, after her injuries had been attended to.

Lincoln Paper Mills.

The cyclone then traversed a patch of vacant land and came down with redoubled fury on the Lincoln Paper Mills. In this building about 75 persons are employed, and the girls seem to have suffered most. Three sisters who work in the press department were all injured. They are daughters of Patrick O'Neil, who until recently was employed in the cotton mill. The eldest, Clara, was killed outright. Maud, the second, was badly injured about the head and body, and Lottie, the youngest, was also cut about the head. A number of others were more or less seriously injured. Jennie Nestor was at first supposed to be fatally hurt, and was carried unconscious from the building. The most serious case, however, was James McCarthy, who was struck in the head by a falling beam and will probably die. His skull was fractured, and he has not yet regained consciousness. One young girl, Miss Nesbitt, dropped from a window fifteen feet to the ground and escaped uninjured. Quite a number who did not appear to have sustained any injury for some time after the storm have since succumbed to hurts which were not felt during the excitement, and are now in bed. The roof of the mill had been shattered in several places, but the masonry remained intact, and little if any damage was done to the plant. A quantity of stock, however, suffered. In front of the mill were cars standing to be loaded. Four of these were blown into the millrace and are practically in ruins. A team loaded with about two tons of pulp was also carried over some space of ground and deposited in the water. The driver, Charles Murray, was also thrown into the water and hurt, and would have been drowned had it not been for the assistance of Edward Dovie, who was also injured, but came to the relief of his friend.

The Presbyterian Church next received attention from the cyclone. From the appearance of the church as it

now lies it would appear as if the edifice was first lifted up bodily, carried some 40 feet, and then dashed to earth again and left a heap of ruins. It now lies simply a heap of smashed timber. It is doubtful if it will be rebuilt, as the congregation is not a large one. The people hope to see it reconstructed if possible. Only recently it had been entirely rebuilt, new and modern pews put in and made one of the finest little churches in the district.

Mrs. Hogan's Experience.

Close by the church was the house of John Hogan, who has for a number of years been striving to get his little property cleared of encumbrances, and just succeeded some two weeks ago. He and his thrifty wife were congratulating themselves that they were now in somewhat independent circumstances, with their property and what little stock they had accumulated. Today they have nothing but the clothes on their back. Mrs. Hogan was sitting in the front room with her little child when the storm struck the house and smashed it to kindling wood. She was borne with part of the debris about ten yards to the adjoining house of Mr. W. S. Smith, and liberated by him from her perilous position. She had been badly cut over the head and her child had also been struck by a timber and rendered unconscious, but both are out of danger. The entire roof was taken off Mr. Smith's house and the furniture wrecked. As an instance of the peculiar pranks of the wind, a quantity of bric-a-brac and photographs were sucked in from the parlor table and carried two miles away. Several of them were picked up to-day at Thorold. The wife and two children of Mr. Smith escaped by taking refuge underneath the stairway, where they were secure from the falling timbers and bricks. The residence of Samuel Smyth was also dismantled, and the spire of the English church damaged.

Gladys Ekins Killed in Mother's Arms.

After leaving Merritton the storm struck Walter Ekins' house near Thorold. Mrs. Ekins was hurrying down cellar with her two children, when little Gladys was struck and killed in her arms. Several persons who were caught in the way of the storm were more or less injured, but no fatalities are reported after the death of Mrs. Ekins' child. The statement in a Toronto paper this morning that five people were killed was an error, as two of those mentioned are alive yet. The

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RAVAGES OF THE GREAT STORM.

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scene in the track of the tornado is one of utter ruin and desolation. About 200 yards to the east of its course at Merrittton lies the most populous portion of the village, which happily escaped its fury. A number of industries employing a large number of hands are contained here, and had they come in the track of the gale there is no telling what the result might have been in loss of life.

Condition of the Injured.

To-night a visit was paid to the hospital by your correspondent, and it was learned that the five patients there are doing as well as could be expected. For James McCarthy there is little if any hope of recovery, but Jennie Nestor, Rox Bradley, Bessie Kerr and Charles Murray are practically out of danger.

Rev. Mr. Skeer's Description.

Rev. Lawrence Skeer, rector of the Anglican Church at Merrittton, was in the city yesterday and in speaking with a Globe reporter gave a graphic account of the storm and the wreck caused by it, concluding with a strong appeal on behalf of the working men who were made homeless. Mr. Skeer said:—
"The cyclone was caused by the meeting of two great storms, which seemed to force the clouds down and formed them into the shape of a huge funnel, which passed over the village yesterday and left one of the most awful wrecks that a village is capable of sustaining. Over two dozen houses were more or less ruined. Roofs were wrenched off and torn into matchwood, fences were flattened and chimneys hurled into the fields and streets in all directions. One house was taken up with a mother and her two children in it, carried through the air across the road and dashed to pieces, so that not one piece of timber was left standing. Though terribly bruised and cut, yet none of the three were killed. Cows were lifted up into the air and flung down in other fields. Boys were seen crouching in ditches, and men lying flat on the ground or clinging to roots of trees and bushes. Great trees were wrenched up by the roots as though they had been weeds, and sent crashing into the side of some poor laborer's home. The Presbyterian church was destroyed, and the Church of England had its tower all twisted and cracked so that it will have to be rebuilt. The roof of one of the schools was taken off and the walls partly blown in. After hearing the teacher call for help, who, with great presence of mind, saved a number of lives by calling the children into the most sheltered corner, it took the men nearly half an hour to disinter them. One little girl, fearing they would not find her, had held up her hand, and in that position they found her all cut and bruised by the bricks. Another was carried out with her legs all twisted and broken, and another blackened and dead. Up to the present five fatalities have occurred, while several other victims are in a very critical state. There are over three dozen wounded more or less."

Workingmen's Sad Plight.

"The damage is estimated at one hundred thousand dollars, which includes mills and all. What I am chiefly concerned over is the damage to the workingmen's houses. Over two dozen of these are completely or partially wrecked. They were houses put up by the savings of these poor men for years back. They are all men who are simply dependent upon their daily wages. They cannot of themselves replace the houses in which they are now sleeping on, and something must be done for them immediately. There is not a house to be made in the whole village. If all the workingmen around would give a day's wage the money would soon be raised. It only takes about \$600 to build one of the houses. The village is essentially a mill town, which was, in fact, its former name, and nine out of every ten of the men in it work in the mills in one capacity or another. They have no capital with which to replace their houses. The mills will be rebuilt at once, but the men will be out of work for a while. The men are nearly all married and have families depending upon them. At present they are quartered in the different houses about town which escaped the storm. In many cases the members of families are separated, the father and mother being in one house and the children in other and different homes. We who escaped are anxious to do what we can to help rebuild the workingmen's cottages. Subscriptions may be sent to Rev. Theodore Parr of the Methodist Church, Rev. F. W. Robertson of the Presbyterian Church, to the Reeve, Mr. Stephen Bradley, or to myself, and all will be acknowledged at once. We hope to appoint a Treasurer of the relief fund within a few hours."

Notes.

The tornado through the Niagara Peninsula Monday played havoc with the telegraph wires, which were snapped and broken in all directions. The Great Northwestern Telegraph Company sent a gang of twenty linemen out, and the damage is being repaired as rapidly as possible. A couple of the principal wires, such as the wire over which the Associated Press report was received, were repaired early. All the brokers in Toronto having special wires were without their use to-day, and the market quotations came round by way of Albany and Montreal.

The steamer Chloora was out in the lake about eight miles outside of the Island when the hail storm struck her Monday afternoon. The hail stones were very large. While there was a strong wind blowing, the sea did not get up much, so that the steamer met with no difficulty in getting across.

GLOBE WED SEPT 28 1898
Tornado Could Not Stop Them.

The Lincoln Paper Mills of Merriton, Ont., which suffered severely by damage to their mills and property in the tornado which raged over St. Catharines and district on Monday afternoon last, are exerting every effort to repair the damage as quickly as possible. One mill is already in operation and the management states that in a week or ten days things will be back in their regular running order. In the meantime business is being attended to as usual and nearly all orders are being filled without delay. On another page of this issue will be found the firm's advertisement.

GLOBE WED SEPT 28 1898

THE
Lincoln Paper Mills Co.
(LIMITED)

We were in the track of the tornado and are badly crippled, and not the least of our regret is the death of one, and severe injuries to others, of our employees. We are thankful that it is no worse, and what men and money can do to repair the damage we are doing. Already we have one mill running, and expect to have the other in operation in about ten days.

In most lines we are filling orders as formerly; in some cases we shall have to ask the kind forbearance of our customers for a few days.

Our Travellers will visit you as usual, and we are still doing business at the old stand. Thanking all our customers for past favors, and soliciting a continuance of the same,

We remain, yours truly,

THE LINCOLN PAPER MILLS CO., Limited
MERRITTON, ONT.

Toronto Office and Warehouse, 59 Bay Street.

THE GLOBE. THURS SEPT 29
SEPT 29 1898

How Monday's Phenomenon Look- ed at a Distance.

Description and Sketch by Mr. Barlow
Cumberland as seen from the Deck
of the Corona.

Mr. Barlow Cumberland writes The
Globe:—I was crossing the lake from
Toronto to Niagara on the Corona on
the afternoon of Monday, September 26.
It was a fine, sunny day, with a brisk
breeze from the southwest. About 2.45
p.m. I noticed very heavy black clouds
looming up over the head of the lake in
the direction of Grimsby. These separ-
ated, one wing passing to the north side
of the lake in dense, low-lying sheets of



rain, accompanied by vivid darts of
fork lightning. The other wing, not so
dense in color and with more swirling
clouds, swept along the high lands on
the south side of the lake. Between
these two branches of the storm-clouds
the sky was perfectly clear.

At 3.23 p.m., about eight to ten miles
out from Niagara, we passed the
Chicora going north. The appearance
of the sky to the south was
then as shown in the sketch, and we
remarked on the peculiar appearance of
the "Y" shaped cloud. A sharp shower
of rain came down in heavy, separated
drops, throwing up splashes as they
struck the water and making the sur-
face look whitened, but there was no
hail. The Chicora disappeared into the
rain area to the north. With us the
shower lasted only about fif-
teen minutes, during which the
wind shifted around the compass
from southwest to north north-
west, but not blowing with any vio-
lence. The sun came out, and the
clouds to the south quickly disappear-

ed, but when going into the river the
dark clouds were still showing along
the north shore.

When going up the Niagara gorge in
the neighborhood of the Whirlpool lit-
tle piles of hail were still lying like
small snow skirts in the hollows along
the railway track, the rest having been
melted by the sun, which was then
shining out strong.

That evening we heard of the damage
done by the cyclone, which explained
the "Y" shaped cloud that had occa-
sioned our remarks.



The Cyclone Funnel, as seen from the "Corona," 3.26 p.m., September 26th.
Drawn by Mr. Barlow Cumberland.

away. **GLOBE WED SEPT 28**
EDITORIAL PAGE 1898
THE MERRITTON DISASTER.

It is difficult to conceive of the con-
sternation and terror that must have
been inspired by the disaster that has
just fallen on Merriton. When we
read of houses bodily lifted from their
sites, along with their amazed occu-
pants, it is only possible to guess at
the degree of alarm which must have
filled those who were witnesses or vic-
tims of the paralyzing phenomenon.
The earthquake or the tidal wave are
the only other occurrences of angry
Nature that can compare with the tor-
nado in its suddenness and awful res-
istlessness. Canada, fortunately, knows
little of any of them. The tornado
area on this continent is marked with
some degree of geographical precision,
and one of the things for which we
have to be thankful is that eastern
Canada, at least, is not included in it.
It is evident, however, that at times
they wander outside their normal
spheres to take eccentric journeys in
places where they are altogether un-
looked for.

Considering the irresistible force of
the storm and the havoc it created in
buildings thick with humanity, it must
be regarded as providential that so
few lives were demanded by the mon-
ster. Outside the loss of life the chief
hardship inflicted was the destruction
of property, a great deal of which must
fall on those who could ill-afford such
losses. The case of the workmen
whose little homes have been swept
from their foundations or riven into
splinters can scarcely fail to awaken
a sympathy that ought to find practical
financial expression. Where life has
been lost little can be done, but the
material damage done by this unlook-
ed-for visitation may to a great extent
be made good by those who are always
ready to spare a mite for those who
suffer from misfortune.

9 LOB6

THURS SEPT 29 1898

Destruction Which Was Left in its Wake.

LIST OF WRECKED BUILDINGS

Narrow Escape of a To- ronto Traveller.

RELIQ HUNTERS ARRIVE.

The Loss Distributed Among Poor People.

A Public Meeting Called at Merrittion to Take Steps to Lead Aid—Franks of the Storm.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Merrittion, Sept. 28.—This quiet little village, so unaccustomed to receiving calls from the outside world, has suddenly become a centre of attention and attraction, and from all points of the compass the curious are rushing to gaze at the ruin wrought by Monday's cyclone. To-day scores poured over on bicycles and in carriages from Niagara and neighboring points, and the railway trains and electric cars carried hundreds from the St. Catharines direction. The photographic fiend and the relic hunter were on hand in great strength, and it looked as if the ruins might be carried away in small pieces and so the trouble of burning or otherwise disposing of it saved. The village presented to-day an appearance of even greater desolation than at any time since the storm. The people, however, have been aroused from their dazed and hopeless condition, and are busy at work clearing the ground and preparing it for new buildings. All that was left from the wreck in the nature of furniture and household effects have been rescued from the ruins and stored away. The factory buildings which were injured and dismantled are also being rapidly repaired, and before long there will be little signs of the visit of the devastating tornado. As yet no further deaths have occurred, but the lives of three of the injured are still hanging in the balance. Hope can hardly be entertained for James McCarthy. Miss Jennie Nestor's case is extremely critical, and Miss Anna O'Neil is not yet out of danger. The other sufferers will recover unless something serious and unexpected should intervene.

A Close Call.

A narrow escape from serious injury, if not death, was that of Mr. F. J. McCutcheon, a traveller for McColl Bros. & Co. of Toronto. Mr. McCutcheon was driving from Merrittion towards St. Catharines when the cyclone began its rapid progress across the meadows dividing the two communities. Mr. McCutcheon saw it approaching, but hardly realized what it was. It came with a roar that threw anything of the kind he had ever heard into the shade. He was in doubt as to whether he should take shelter or attempt to pass the point where it would cross the roadway before it should reach there. This seemed his safest plan, and he gave reins to his frightened horse. The monstrous gyrating thing sank and rose as if being operated by an intelligent mind, and wherever it struck it left utter ruin behind. It dipped once into the canal, and rising threw an immense quantity of water in all directions. Mr. McCutcheon was caught by the edge of it on the bridge close to the lower Lincoln mill and his buggy thrown against the railway and upset. The horse held its feet and righted the rig and Mr. McCutcheon clung to the reins and the seat of the buggy. He had been hurt, but was too excited to think of it at the time and it was some hours before he

became fully conscious. As the cyclone rushed towards him the light was darkened and he did not realize what he had escaped till it had passed. He then looked back and saw part of the roof of the paper mill gone. Following with his eye the receding storm he saw it dip down on a house, and when it rose the house had disappeared. He then understood that his call had been a close one. He was sufficiently recovered to be at business to-day and paid a visit to the scene of his dangerous encounter with the storm.

Buildings Damaged.

It is likely that the full extent of the damage to the houses and buildings will not be known for some time, as not a few buildings which were badly shaken do not yet show signs of the wrecking they received. This will come later, however.

To-day your correspondent again went over the ground and obtained a full list, or as nearly full as possible, of the buildings which were injured. The list is as follows:—

- Lower Lincoln Mill, roof injured.
- Oliver Phelps' house, shaken and chimneys gone.
- George Wilson's house, twisted and chimneys gone.
- R. E. Boyle's house, badly shattered.
- Carbide power house, battered to the ground.
- A. Disher's grocery store, damaged.
- Mr. Hara's house, slightly injured.
- Mrs. Joseph Brown's shed down and chimneys gone.
- A. Bradley's house gone and furniture destroyed.
- W. McCoomber's house and furniture gone.
- A. Lochlan's house, chimneys gone and shed destroyed.
- Mrs. Grant's house, badly shattered.
- Mrs. Williams' house, slightly damaged.
- James Jamieson's house, slightly injured and barn destroyed.
- W. Teesdale's house and barn, both badly damaged.
- J. B. Smith's house, badly wrecked.
- Main works Carbide Co., sheeting torn off roof and back wall damaged.
- J. Hara's house, slightly damaged.
- Mrs. S. T. Phelps' house, badly wrecked and barn and shed carried away.
- John Livingstone's house, slightly damaged and his barn gone.
- Arthur Bradley's house, slightly damaged and chimneys gone.
- A. R. Thompson's butcher shop gone and his house shifted about four feet and the plaster knocked off, also barn carried away and wrecked.
- Richard Thompson's house, barn and furniture broken into kindling wood.
- S. B. Bradley's house and furniture smashed to fragments.
- The Orange Hall, utterly demolished.
- Lower Public School house, shattered, but wall standing, though shaky.
- Two houses belonging to a Mr. Tracey of Thorold shattered.
- Lincoln paper mill (main), badly damaged, roof off storehouse and part of walls gone; roof of the engine room and printing room; roof off machine room.
- John Hogan's house, utterly gone, except stone foundation.
- House of W. Thompson, rented by W. S. Smith, badly shattered, roof off and brick walls shaky.
- John Bradley's house, gone.
- Presbyterian Church, pounded into kindling wood.
- English Church tower damaged and chimney gone.
- Mr. Kerr's house shattered.
- The chimneys have been removed from the houses of Mrs. Alex. Nesbitt, J. Riley and R. ...

CONT'D
NEXT PAGE

Some Features.

One peculiar freak which the storm seemed delighted to play was to drive boards and posts into the earth and cut great trenches with pieces of timber. Several of these boards were found to have been driven over two feet into the hard ground. The village is almost fenceless to-day. There is certainly not a fence intact within the vicinity of the route of the storm. Hundreds of fowl were carried away and killed. Not a few were found lying beside fences against which they had been literally flattened like pancakes. Several cows were injured, though but one so severely as to necessitate its death. Mr. A. Bradley, who was in the field gathering mushrooms when the storm passed, was lifted and carried several feet, and only saved himself by clinging in desperation to some roots of trees. The blow which killed Gladys Ekins while her mother was carrying her also broke Mrs. Ekins' arm.

One of the chief objects of the curiosity of the visitors to-day was the school house where Miss Ida Smith played the heroine. Miss Smith, whose mother lives in Toronto, is now in that city. It is understood that she is suffering from nervous shock.

The loss in property is not very great in the aggregate, but it is largely distributed among poor people who cannot afford it, and many of whom have lost everything they possessed in the world. Contributions for their relief are beginning to come in, though slowly. The day after the storm the Licensed Victuallers' Association of St. Catharines met and made a grant of \$100 in cash. A public meeting has been called by Reeve Bradley in the Town Hall to-night to take steps to raise a fund, and aid is expected from this source.

The flags in Merriton have been flying at half-mast to-day.

SAT OCT 1ST 1898

In the Track of the Storm.

No such storm as that which on Monday struck the Niagara peninsula is recorded in any known history of that locality. A terrible storm of wind is said to have swept down a belt of great forest trees in the year 1792. So clean and straight was the havoc, that when the fallen trees were cleared away the line was used by the settlers as a road and named by them Hurricane road. I believe there is a school house now in the locality known as Hurricane road school house.

Being on our wheels near Stamford yesterday (Wednesday) and hearing from the people about of the terrible havoc made by the storm at Crawford's Farm on the Thorold road, we turned our silent steeds that way. The road is a stone one, fairly good for horse wheel traffic, but comparatively rough for bicycles. Fortunately, however, for the safe-keeping of our hair-pins there is a narrow path on the grassy side of the road. This we travelled on for about four miles, without seeing any indication of the storm. A few hundred yards further on a tiny laddie by the wayside, in reply to my question of "How much further it was to Crawford's?" said, in capital letters, "Oh! Mr. Crawford! His house is most blown away. Some of it's there, but some of it all blowed down and trees and—" "It's the next house," called out an older boy from further down the road.

A moment later, huge splinters of wood, fence rails, telegraph poles and wire, strewn on road and fields to our left, then wrecked wires and flattened fences to both right and left told us we were in the track of the storm. Down the slight hill and up a rise on the other side to the gateway leading to what had been a few days ago the prettiest farm on the Thorold road, brought us to the scene of the disaster. An enormous group of what had been tall elm trees barred the road to the house, the upturned roots so completely excavated from the soil as to make a hole nearly four feet deep, and the roots, having the appearance of being cut out clean, rising upwards of fourteen feet above it. Trunks of other trees lay in overlapping piles close by, and as we rounded them to the left long lines of poles, fruit trees blown into a sort of barricade, one over the other, their branches interlaced and locked together, as if twisted by some gigantic hand. This barricade lay much as the sheaths of hay or corn lie as they fall from a mowing machine, only infinitely higher. Behind and a little to the right beyond the fallen elm trees is the roofless, shattered and wrecked frame house. The back portion, which was the kitchen and dining room of the house, is completely swept away, the outer or north wall of it lying flat on the ground a few yards off, but the other three sides and roof are broken into such fragments and driven so far away as to be unrecognizable. The front portion has the walls still standing, pierced in many places by sharp sticks, fragments of trees and split clapboards from other buildings, windows broken, verandah or stoop completely gone, shivered into kindling wood, or lying in lengths with the long nails still upright and unbent, showing the power of the wrench which had separated them from the roof. On the east side a long piece of board projects from the wall. This had been driven through a space from the other side of the house.

A hundred feet to the north a roofless driving shed told its own story. The large farm stables and granary, being just beyond the track of the storm, are standing safe.

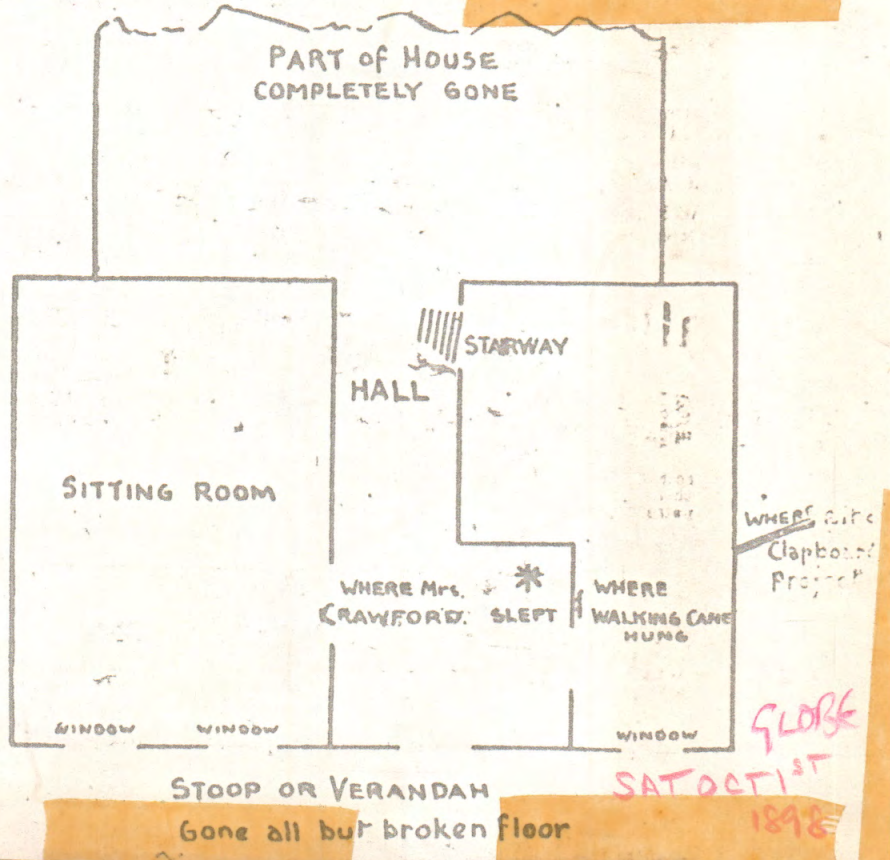
A pale, sad-eyed woman met us as we approached the house at the back, over the debris of kitchen utensils, glass and splintered wood, and bade us enter. In answer to our inquiries we gleaned the following story. I will endeavor to tell it as nearly in her own words as possible:

"Yes, I seen the storm coming when I was in the kitchen finishing the baking. I put the little child into the dining room and came out here to shut the sitting room windows and the front door. I just got them shut when I heard a crash. I don't know if I was thrown down or how, but I was on my knees in that corner when I heard the child cry and see it flying over my head. I grabbed it and held it in my arms. The clothes were torn off its back, ripped right up so its little back was naked. Something struck me; I think it was the leaf of the dining room table, but I hardly know. It was all over by the time you could clap your hands twice. I seemed to see nothing in the corner; the roar was awful, but I didn't hear the great elms fall, or nothing. I hardly knew anything till they took me and the child out."

The corner where the woman knelt was in the angle formed by the closed-in stairway and the door of the front room on the east side of the house. The accompanying plan will indicate the position.

Among the objects strewn over the ground were the mangled remains of turkeys, their bodies torn literally to pieces, entrails and feathers a horrible mass. Before the storm a fine flock of young turkeys and 40 ducks were on the green and in the stream; two only of the latter remain.

The blighted appearance of the vines laid low and the scorched leaves of the trees would also indicate heat in the wind. I could add many other details, but it would, I fear, make this account too long for inser in n. A lad of eighteen was taken off his feet and carried to the track of the Mich'gan Central, nearly a mile distant. A girl was carried some yards and thrown into a hedge, followed by a part of the roof of the driving-shed, which fortunately, though it lay near, did not fall upon her. The fall, however, bruised her sufficiently to lead to the belief that her hip was broken.



and being snapped off short by contact with the door-jamb swung back to its place. I have the stick in my possession and will be happy to show it to anyone interested. Everything that could pass through the window sashes was blown out, the whole back part of the house, as I have said before, being demolished and the contents carried away to varying distances, according to the weight. A sewing machine, a new one, was found in the gully a hundred feet away, twisted out of shape, and the works of a watch without its case, in a field a long way off; bits of the chain have been picked up since in various parts of the vineyard and neighboring fields. A new block-tin wash pan, which had been made to order, because, to quote its owner's words, "The ones you buy ready-made don't last any time," was torn into ribbons and flung high into a neighboring tree. The wagon standing by the driving shed had been blown into the branches of the great elms. It could not have reached the position in which it is, stuck fast, embedded in the branches, without it had been carried over the end of the house and dropped. Half the trunk of the tree below where the wagon lies is splintered into match-wood. The white clothes which were drying by the fire in the kitchen now decorate the top-most branches of tall elms growing close by the track of the wind to one's rights, no bigger than pocket handkerchiefs.

Another curious feature of the storm was the peculiar corkscrew track it appears to have followed. A rivulet winds below the house at the foot of a gradual grassy slope; the opposite bank a high bluff. On the edge of this two fine elm trees grow. The one in a direct line from the house was struck, and it fell against the high bank, its upturned roots blocking the stream below. The other, about 50 feet higher up stream along the same bank, was apparently struck by the turn of the cyclone and thrown down at right angles from the other.

I have, however, told enough to picture to some extent the ravages of the storm in one part of its track. "It wasn't a clean sweep of wind," said the farmer, a hard-working, stalwart-looking man. "I was up at the north end of the place cutting corn when I heard the roar, and saw it come down like a funnel and strike the place. I don't know how I got down to the house after I saw the trees go, and the things scattering. I remember nothing about that. I only remember climbing over the things to get at my wife, but one of the neighbors was first, and was carrying her out at the front. We can work, and it wouldn't be so bad if we could go on with the work. There is seven cows milking, and we had to give all the milk to the pigs this morning for want of something to put it in. I had a fine lot of sheep, too. Most of them got to the stables and were saved, but I just found one dead against the fence. The farm is a rented one, and the hoarded dollars ("stowed away in a pasteboard box, cause my wife thought they were safer so, in case tramps came about"), cannot be found. The box was swirled away with the other contents of the room. Numbers of people have visited the scene; many carried away snap-shot pictures of the wreck. The sufferers are of the respectable farmer-class, who have always worked hard and been independent, the class that will suffer slow starvation rather than ask alms or help. Knowing their need, I would ask that while subscriptions are being raised to rebuild churches and factories in the district which suffered more extensively from the storm, a thought be given to the few isolated cases like this farmer on the Thorold road, whose home has been made desolate and his work stopped by having been unfortunate enough to live "in the track of the storm."

Mary Agnes Fitzgibbon.

THE GLOBE SAT OCT 8TH 1898.

MERRITTON, ST CATHERINES TORNADO OF MON SEPT 26TH 1898



MERRITTON TORNADO.—THE LINCOLN PAPER MILLS, SHOWING THE WRECK OF THE ROOFS OF THE VARIOUS BUILDINGS AND THE WALLS OF THE STOREHOUSE. IT WAS HERE THAT MISS CLARA O NEAL WAS KILLED AND MANY OTHERS INJURED.

MERRITTON. The Lincoln Paper Mills, showing the wreck of the roofs of the various buildings and the walls of the storehouse. It was here that Miss Clara O Neal was killed and many others injured.



THE MERRITTON TORNADO.—THE POWER HOUSE OF THE CARBIDE COMPANY WHICH WAS UTTERLY WRECKED.

MERRITTON. The power house of the Carbide Company which was utterly wrecked.

STORM DATE . SEPT 26 1898

THE GLOBE SAT OCT 8TH 1898. THE MERRITTON TORNADO

In today's issue of THE GLOBE are given several cuts of the scenes in the wake of the cyclone storm which occurred last week at ST CATHERINES and MERRITTON. The cuts, which are excellent photographs taken by Mr. B Poole of ST CATHERINES, show scenes at MERRITTON where the actual damage was done. A very fair idea of the force and fury of the storm can be gained by the condition of the buildings shown here. The Lincoln Paper Mill which is an extremely solid structure indicates in an especial manner the violence of the tornado. Of course it would be impossible to give a thoroughly and satisfactory idea from a few cuts of the ravages of the whirlwind, the reader will be able, however, to supplement those given here with his imagination or by visiting the scene in person.



THE MERRITTON TORNADO. SCENE AT THE LOWER PUBLIC SCHOOL, WHERE LITTLE FRANCIS MOFFATT WAS KILLED. THE WALLS OF THE SCHOOL ARE STANDING. THE DEBRIS IS ALSO SHOWN OF THE ORANGE HALL, AND OF J. E. BRADLEY'S HOUSE, IN WHICH MRS. BICKLEY WAS KILLED. BOTH THESE BUILDINGS ARE COMPLETELY LEVELLED.

Scene at the Lower Public School where little Francis Moffatt was killed. The walls of the school are standing. The debris is also shown of the Orange Hall, and of J. E. Bradley's house, in which Mrs. Bickley was killed. Both these buildings are completely levelled.

THE GLOBE SAT OCT 8TH 1898

MERRITTON, ST CATHERINES TORNADO OF SEPT 26TH 1898



MERRITTON TORNADO. WRECK OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WHICH WAS LIFTED 40 FEET FROM ITS FOUNDATION AND BATTERED TO PIECES.

MERRITTON. Wreck of the Presbyterian church which was lifted 40 feet from its foundation and battered to pieces.



THE MERRITTON TORNADO. MR. W. P. SMITH'S HOUSE, THE ROOF OF WHICH WAS CARRIED OFF. LEANING AGAINST ONE SIDE IS A PORTION OF THE HOGAN HOMESTEAD WHICH WAS CARRIED FROM ITS FOUNDATION AND THROWN AS INDICATED.

MERRITTON. Mr. W P Smiths house, the roof of which was carried off
Leaning against one side is the portion of the Hogan homestead which
was carried from its foundation and thrown as indicated.

Merritton Centennial 1874-1974

The Merritton Cyclone.

Six years afterwards, there occurred the famous Merritton Cyclone of 1898. It was a freakish but destructive phenomenon, which caused the loss of 3 lives & serious injuries to many others, as well as extensive property damage. Vivid newspaper accounts trace its path up the canal. It struck first at the Lower —

Lincoln mill at St. Catharines and partially unroofed the building, carrying the debris thousands of yards away. Fortunately the building had been reconstructed of stone after the fire and probably this prevented more than minor cuts and bruises being inflicted on the young women employed there.

When the cyclone reached the Upper Lincoln mill, it "vented its full fury" on it. The account notes that "The upper section of the mill, comprising the printing room, bag room and store house was completely unroofed and great stones from the walls were hurled down with awful force. It is impossible to adequately describe the scene of wreckage at the mill. The mixture of machinery, paper, presses, and fallen beams and stones is simply indescribable."

One young woman employee of the mill was killed and a young man sustained injuries which caused his death a few days later. Many other employees were injured less severely and many anecdotes are related of the behaviour of the cyclone. One corner of the building was apparently sliced off as neatly as if done by a tremendous carving knife. The reconstruction of wrecked portions of the mill with brick is readily apparent.

The cyclone of that year demolished the frame church of St Andrews & the present building was constructed; in 1955 etc

The famous cyclone mentioned above wreaked havoc in ~~Merritton~~ Merritton & caused considerable damage to St Andrews & St James Churches, the Lincoln Paper mill, Smythe Street school and numerous other buildings

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A.M.S. MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW 1898. SEPTEMBER.

SEPTEMBER 26TH. A severe tornado, having its origin on LAKE ONTARIO, swept across the NIAGARA PENINSULA in a path about 300 feet wide, crossed the NIAGARA RIVER at TONAWANDA N.Y. and disappeared only to reappear in a less destructive form in the southeastern part of ERIE COUNTY. It crossed into GENESEE COUNTY north of ALDEN and was last observed at DARIEN at a distance of 45 miles in an air line from the point of origin. The funnel cloud was first observed on LAKE ONTARIO. Accounts differ as to the time it passed ST. CATHERINES, ONT.; one account gives the time as 2 30PM, another 3 25PM, and a third as 3 45PM. It crossed the NIAGARA RIVER at GRAND ISLAND and struck TONAWANDA between 4 30 and 5PM.

AT ALDEN in ERIE COUNTY as many as three funnel clouds were observed, none of which endured for any length of time. The observer at the last named place reports an exceedingly rapid rate of movement, probably 60mph. Five persons were killed at MERRITTON and vicinity, and probably 18 or 20 injured throughout the course of the storm. The property loss was large, estimated as a \$100,600 at ST. CATHERINES, \$200,000 at MERRITTON, and \$70,000 at TONAWANDA, total \$370,600. The path of the tornado was exceedingly narrow, not over 300 feet. Large hail fell on the outer edges. The barograph at the BUFFALO WEATHER BUREAU OFFICE, four miles distant from the funnelcloud, did not show any marked disturbance at the time of the passage of the tornado. The curve for the afternoon forms a very open V, the rise in pressure occurring at the time of the passage of the tornado. The maximum velocity of the wind was 42 mph from the West at 5 05 pm.