***Date* :** Friday, July 11, 1879

***Time* :** 11:30AM

***Location* :** Sarnia, Lambton County

***F-Rating* :** F1 ‘B’

***Track Length* :** At least 1km according to map

***Max Width* :** N/A

***Direction* :** ° ~WSW-ENE

***Shape* :** Described like a debris-filled, rain-wrapped tornado.

***Injuries* :** Unknown

***Deaths* :** 0

***Damage Cost* :** “3 storey brick stores and warehouses unroofed and partially damaged. A frame house badly wrecked. GTR freight shed unroofed and cars blown off the track.”

***Notes* :** Probable tornado referred to as a “hurricane” in newspaper. Debris was seen flying through the air and during “the din” of the tornado as it passed over witnesses could hear the destruction taking place from their shelters. Originally very strong tornado which developed near Thornville, Lapeer County, MI. It eventually crossed into Canada near Port Huron, but not before killing 2, injuring many and destroying buildings stateside.

Weather Log: “10:00AM Heavy thunder shower 11:30 @ 12:30 PM – Tornado at Sarnia doing great damage.”

Storm system may have produced other tornado(es) in Petrolia ($10K damage) and Strathroy (1 death).

http://www.sarniahistoricalsociety.com/story/the-1879-tornado/

***Photos/Videos* :**