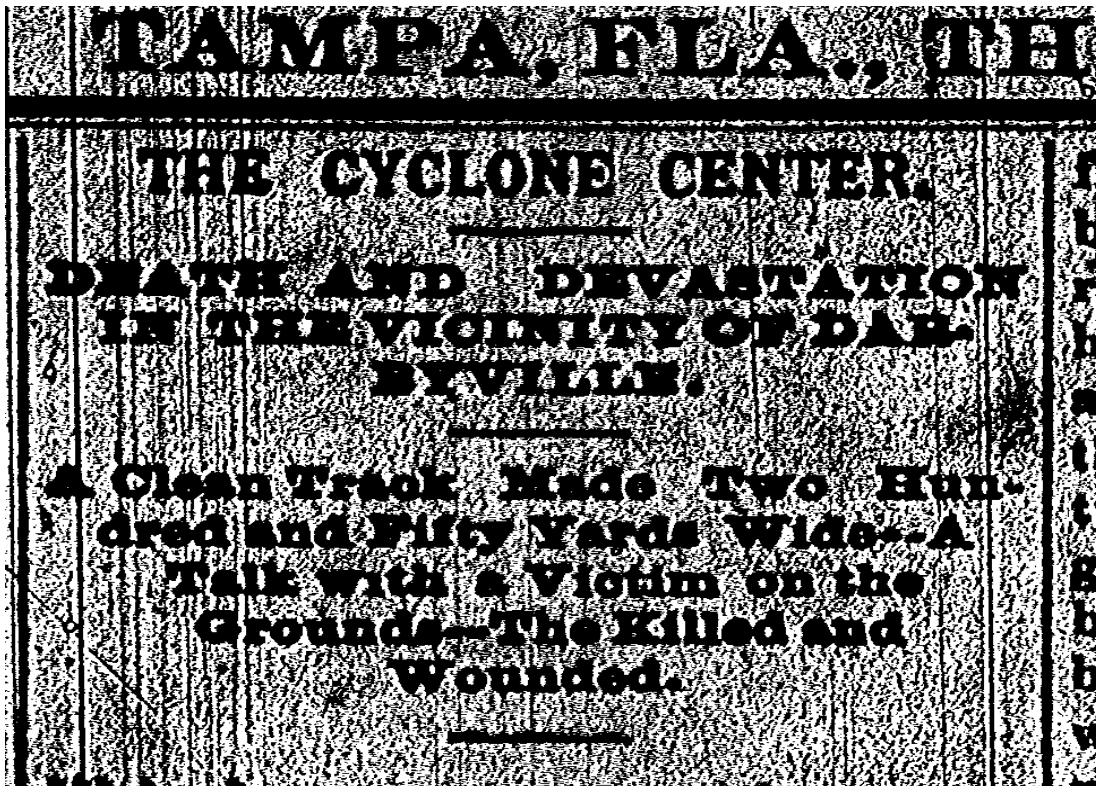




Thunderstorms Roll In From The West in 1882

Fact Sheet

- Date: September 10, 1882
- Time: 900-1050 pm
- Estimated Tornado Intensity: F2
- Estimated Maximum Wind: 113-157 mph
- Tornado Width (Yards): 250
- Path Length (Miles): Unknown
- Deaths: 6
- Injuries: 13
- Damage Amount: Unknown
- Number of Homes Damages: Unknown
- Counties: Baker and Gadsden



Newspaper clipping

Sunland Tribune

Summary of event:

On September 10, 1882 North Florida experienced damages from tornadoes spawned from a thunderstorm complex that rolled in from the West. The storm system developed over



water and moved north in the Gulf of Mexico. The storm system came on land in Texas and turned sharply towards the East. It gradually made itself across several states before entering Florida's panhandle. **The barometer continued to fall until 10 o'clock, when it went up perhaps 3.100 of an inch. "This rise was, however, temporary, for upon examination at 11 o'clock it was discovered that it had gone down during the hour (from 10 to 11 o'clock) 1-10 of an inch, which was by far the greatest fall ever recorded in this city in that length of time. (Sunland Tribune, September 21st, front page).**

Detailed experience:

An amazing story from Mr. Wolfe telling his details and story of how the tornado destroyed his house. **Mr. J. L. Wolfe, the section master, who, with his family, was in the section house when it was demolished at Maryville. Mr. Wolfe was badly bruised, especially about the hips, knees, and feet. When asked to give an account of the storm, he replied:**

"Well, I will tell you all I know. We had all gone to bed and shortly after 10 o'clock I got up for the purpose of filling holes in one of the windows - for one or two glasses were out - and the rain was blowing in upon the children. About the time I got the holes stopped up I heard a terrible noise. It sounded like eight to ten heavy trains running abreast at full speed. I told my wife to get up and dressed, for a storm was coming, as I knew there were no trains due to any single train could make so much noise. She sprang out of bed and out on her wrapper; then woke up my cousin, N. T. Bryant, who was sleeping in the next room with my oldest son, who is eight years of age, and told them to hurry up and get ready to leave the house.

I intended to take them into the ditch that runs along the track between thirty-five and fifty feet from the front of the house. I thought by lying down in the ditch the storm would pass over us. I then went to the room where my four other children were sleeping, and found my wife sitting on the side of the bed with two of the younger children in her arms. I got partly on the bed for the purpose of, and in fact had taken up the other two - you see the four children were very small, being from ten months to six years of age. As soon as I picked them up I turned around on the side of the bed and was just about to get up to take them out when the glass began to fly out of the sash, several pieces striking and cutting my hands badly, and the lights were blown out which prevented us from running out of the house at that time, and I believe now if we had run out we would all have been killed. I felt the house quiver a little, the bed seemed to rise up off the floor and then it went down again, then I felt the house move. I don't remember anything else until I struck the ground.

I held on to the children. My wife also fell right down by me with the other children. We were taken thirty or forty feet and fell within three feet of the track. I don't know how



we got out of the house, whether through the windows or the doors, or whether the top was blown away and the floor turned over and spilled us off. My cousin and oldest son fell on top of a board about half way from where we were to where the house stood before the storm, and we found a little girl who was living in the house standing near one of the front doors. We were all partly covered up with boards, scantling and broken furniture, and it is a wonder to me how we got out alive.

The storm looks perfectly red, and illuminated everything for some distance around. I think when it first struck us the heavy wind lasted about two minutes. After that passed over it was perfectly calm for a minute or two, then the rain poured right down upon us in torrents for a little while, then it was almost perfectly calm again for a short time, when another heavy blow, with rain, came on again and lasted all night. A strange thing about it is, from all appearances the front part of the house was carried right straight across the track towards the north, while the two back rooms – shed rooms that had been added since the house was built - were pulled off and carried a little ways probably twenty feet, back towards the south and then went off towards the east, a little west north; passing around the spot where the west end of the house originally stood.” (Sunland Tribune, September 21st, front page).

“Did you have any stock?”
“Yes. I had seven hogs, and all but two were killed. They were laying under the gang-house, and three of them were blown about twenty feet to the southeast. One had a piece of plank about five feet long driven through it from the front up toward the backbone. The plank was left in the animal and pulled out by some men yesterday morning. Another was ripped open, and I don't know what killed the others. I have not been able to find the other two.”

News clipping
Sunland Tribune