

Tornadoes at Pacolet Mills in New Holland

On June 1, 1903 a disastrous tornado struck Pacolet Mills No.4 in New Holland, Georgia, a suburb of Gainesville. The violent storm killed over 100 people and did massive physical damage. The *Los Angeles Herald* newspaper of June 2, 1903 carried two newspaper articles about this tragedy. These articles are on the following pages.

As strange as it may seem, another severe tornado struck the New Holland Pacolet Mills No. 6 on April 6, 1936. Although not as catastrophic as the 1903 storm, the 1936 storm still caused considerable damage. Several men from Pacolet Mills in South Carolina traveled to new Holland to photograph the storm damage. Their photographs are also shown on the following pages.

DEATH IN TORNADO'S PATH

Gainesville, Ga., Struck by Terrific Whirlwind, and Large Section of Town Is in Ruins, With Fully One Hundred Killed

GAINESVILLE, Ga., June 1.—Within the space of two minutes today a tornado dealt death and destruction to the city of Gainesville and environs, killing at least one hundred people, wounding 150 more, leveling 100 cottages to the ground and tearing two stories off the factory of the Gainesville cotton mill. Of the killed, probably two-thirds were women and children, who were operatives in the cotton mills. The death list includes only about six negroes.

The storm came from the south out of almost a clear sky, swooping down on the Gainesville cotton mills near the Southern railroad station at 12:45 o'clock. With a terrific crash the three upper stories of the building were swept away, leaving thirty-two operatives dead.

The tornado then swept around the outskirts of the city to the suburbs of New Holland, two miles away, where are located the Pacolet cotton mills, one of the largest cotton plants in the state. The plant was not seriously damaged, but probably one hundred cottages standing near by, occupied by operatives who were employed in the mills, were demolished, killing thirty-three people. These were mostly women and children, as the heads of the families were nearly all in the factory at work.

The store of Joseph Logan, near the Gainesville cotton mills, was crushed to ruins by the wind, and eight men who had taken refuge in it were instantly killed. The Jones general store met a similar fate and in the ruins two persons, one man and one woman, were crushed to death.

Reports from White Sulphur Springs, seven miles from Gainesville, are to the effect that the storm struck there with terrific force, killing a dozen people. This, however, is not confirmed. The property loss at the Pacolet mills, occasioned by the destruction of the cottages and outbuildings, is estimated at \$75,000. The Gainesville cotton mills are damaged to the extent of \$40,000.

The list of dead, as far as obtainable, at the Gainesville mills and in and around the vicinity of the Southern depot, follows:

HOMER ASH.
GORDON ASH.
MAUD GORDON.
MARY DUNCAN.
MISS WOODS.
—— KNOWLES.
MISS LEGGINS.
E. D. HABERS.
MRS. J. M. CAMP and baby,
—— WADDELL.
ETHEL LYLE.
LULU JACKSON.
MISS CLACK.
CLAUD SHEDD.
ANNIE GARRETT.
JACK MURPHY.

JACK G. LEE.
DOROTHY SLOAN.
ED NAGLES.
MRS. NATHAN JONES.
The fatally injured are:
Nathan Jones.
F. T. Henderson.
Maude Gordon.
Claude Gordon.
Bessie Kinney.
Joe Schubert.
Daisy Bryson.
Perry Connor, colored.
Willie Boone.
Doc Stovall.
Alonzo Ford.
J. E. Somerville.
Ola Miller.
Mrs. Doc Clark.
Mrs. James Simpson.
John Simpson.

Miss Noel.
Miss Leggins.
Alice Subbers.
Will Addison.
Carlisle Addison.
Bill Blackshear.
Ada Skinner.
—— Thompson.
W. O. Miller.
Mrs. Talley.
Bessie Talley.
Buela Edmundson.

Those who were killed at the Pacolet mills at New Holland, and whose bodies have been recovered, are:

MRS. H. H. NELSON.
WILLIAM TATUM.
MYRTLE WESTMORELAND.
MAGGIE WESTMORELAND.
MRS. H. L. NIX.
MRS. NEELEY.
MRS. JANICE BEDFORD.
MRS. J. WHITE AND TWO CHILDREN.
BABY OF MRS. MAGEE.
MRS. W. B. WOBEL.
MRS. BRYAN AND LITTLE SON.
BENNIE HENDRICKS.
MRS. T. F. COAKER.
MRS. MARION MAWILL.

JOHN T. MAYNE.
TWO CHILDREN OF H. L. PHILLIPS.
MRS. TRUELOVE.
MRS. WESTMORELAND.
WILL BANKS. +
ALBERT LLOYD.
MRS. KELLY.
MRS. O. W. BASS and little son.
MRS. AGLE.

A negro woman, name unknown, and one other.

A white man, name unknown.

Those fatally injured at New Holland number about 10, including Mrs. Hendricks and two girls, Bryer and Anderson. Mrs. K. Ivys and Mrs. Bass. Besides these, eight men, six white and two colored, were killed in the demolition of Joseph Logan's store near the Southern depot, and one man and one woman met death in the store of George Jones, the woman being the wife of the proprietor.

WORK OF THE DEAD

Death Came to Many Without an Instant's Warning

GAINESVILLE, Ga., June 1.—Just after the noon hour, today, the city was struck by a terrific cyclone, killing probably 100 persons, unroofing the City hotel, other large buildings and destroying the Gainesville cotton mills. The greatest loss of life is reported in the district of the cotton mills, where about eighty people are reported killed and scores injured.

Eighteen persons were killed in the city between the center of the town and railroad station, where four large stores were blown down. The storm had driven away many persons at work in the cotton mills when the cyclone struck. The mill was a three-story building. The first story was left standing, but badly wrecked. The second and third floors were completely demolished and the employes were caught under the wreckage and mangled. It is estimated that there are at least seventy-five bodies under the wreckage of the third floor, and it is not known how many persons on the second floor of the building were killed. The roof of the electric car barn was lifted and the building badly damaged. The railroad depot suffered also.

Nearly every employe in the Gainesville cotton mill was killed, including a large number of children.

The Southern railroad depot was blown to pieces.

The Gainesville iron works was de-

molished and several people perished in the wreck.

The Gainesville cotton oil mills were blown down.

The old Piedmont hotel, now used as a school and apartment house, was razed and half a dozen or more persons were killed in it. The Richmond hotel was wrecked and several perished in it. One hundred and twenty-five cottages, a school house and a church were blown away in the negro section of the city. Five brick stores on the main street of Gainesville were swept away. In all two hundred buildings are demolished here.

The tornado went from Gainesville to New Holland, and it is believed that many people are killed there.

The tornado struck Gainesville in the southern portion. It came with a frightful roar and the day was turned into night. As people fled from the storm they were caught in the wind and bodily blown in all directions. Some houses were torn into fragments and others were carried intact for quite a distance. Roofs sailed like leaves in the air and several persons were carried over three blocks in a house by the wind.

The telephone company lost all its wires, but finally got a wire to working, and shortly afterward the Western Union put a wire into service. Both these wires were turned over to the city to be used in calling for physicians. Every town that can be reached has been urged to rush surgeons to Gainesville.

A fire started in the wreckage and the department was unable to get to it because of the obstructions in the street. All the stores in the business section that were not hit closed their doors, and every male citizen who could lend a hand promptly joined in the work of rescue. This work is now going on and the piles of dead in the path of the storm are being identified and given to relatives as rapidly as possible.

On April 6, 1936, a deadly tornado hit the textile town of New Holland, Georgia. The town was the home of Pacolet Mills No. 6. Though not shown in these pictures, Amos Glass, Victor Brown, John R. Paige, Fred Glass and maybe others, traveled from Pacolet to make these photographs.

Damage at New Holland



Houses destroyed in New Holland.



Damage at a distance of about 4 miles from New Holland.





Contemporary 1936 Newspaper Photo of Damage to Pacolet Mills No. 6

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