

Manitoba Morning Free Press (Winnipeg,
Manitoba, Canada)
Monday, 18 May 1896

A LONG DEATH LIST

HORRORS OF THE TERRIBLE CYCLONE IN TEXAS.

On[e] Hundred and Twenty Persons Lose their Lives—Nearly as Many More Injured—Houses and Trees Razed to the Earth and Cattle Killed in the Path of the Storm

Sherman, Tex., May 17.—The terrible results of the cyclone which swept Gray's Hill and Fairview additions to Sherman at 4:30 Friday afternoon are not complete. The list of dead numbers seventy-eight. At least a dozen more are expected to die. It is estimated that twenty or thirty bodies are yet uncovered, but several hundred men are searching the fields, digging up the debris and dragging the creeks. Six more bodies, four dead, two alive, were received yesterday morning. The missing child of **Lake Montgomery** was found yesterday morning fifty yards north of Washington bridge, 200 yards from its home. The little one's skull was crushed in and the brains are gone, as it scooped out. This completes the destruction of **Mr. Montgomery's** family, his dead wife and two babies being found Friday night. A negro child, unidentified, was picked up in the city cemetery. Two bodies were found in a creek dead. It is reported that twelve bodies of dead whites are being brought from the north of Sherman. Searching parties are still in quest of bodies. The streets are filled with grief stricken people. Hundreds of farmers are in town, and it seems as if half the population of Denison are here. The details of the storm grow more horrible. Bodies have been decapitated, limbs torn off, eyes gouged out and lying on cheeks, fingers and toes cut off clean as with a knife, hair pulled out, great slivers of wood sticking through limbs, noses flattened in, skulls crushed, and brains scooped out. Some of the victims are lying in the morgue with necks broken, others are mutilated horribly. Some are not broken or bruised at all, but apparently died

peacefully and serene in death. Many private homes are used as hospitals. The ladies of the city are doing all in their power to save and succor the wounded, caring for and dressing the dead. Undertakers' establishments are overrun with work. The people are greatly excited and view the dark skies and threatening clouds with evident apprehension. The work of caring for the wounded still continues. Many bodies are brought in hourly. The total of dead will reach 120, but the wounded will aggregate 100. The people of the city are responding generously to call for help from the destitute and homeless people. Over \$6,000 has been raised so far. A relief committee was appointed at a mass meeting of the citizens last night and will take charge of the funds raised for the unfortunates. St. Louis, MO, May 16—A special dispatch from Denison, Texas, to the Post-Dispatch, says: At the same hour of the tornado at Sherman yesterday evening, a tornado swept over the north eastern portion of Grayson county, ten miles from Denison, and great damage was done. The best information obtainable is to the effect that there were three streams, all traveling in the general direction and all of terrific fury. Several miles east of Denison, the **Turley** home was wrecked and the Turley family all hurt. Further north the farm house of **Louis Duval** was in its path, and every member of the family was injured, some of them dangerously. From there the tornado crossed Red river and moved in a northerly direction towards the Chickasaw female academy. Across the river the country is thickly populated and apprehensions are felt for the safety of the people. Further east in Grayson county, another storm swept down Choctaw Bayou and desolated the country. It moved in a northwesterly direction across the river and left a path of destruction. Everything is gone and searching parties are looking for the dead and wounded. A number of persons are missing. Within twenty minutes after the Sherman catastrophe four special trains from this city with all the city physicians and all assistance procurable were en route. Then came a call for surgical assistance from the neighborhood east of Denison and five or six surgeons left for that

district, leaving Denison with only one physician. Reports from isolated Indian territory points in the track of the storm are beginning to arrive. On Reynolds prairie, 12 miles east of Denison, a dozen houses were wrecked and many people injured. Reports from Joel, I.T. are that much property was destroyed. The storehouse and home of **Joe Kemp** are in ruins and several of the family hurt.

The waters in the creeks and brooks have subsided and thousands of spectators have traversed the path of the tornado. Every business house in the city, except the drug stores and eating houses, suspended business at an early hour yesterday morning at the request of the president of the city council and the attention of everybody has been turned to caring for the wounded and dead, the number of which is hourly increasing from deaths in the hospitals, and bodies found in the wreckage. The street grading force, supplemented by a large number of men have been transferred to the cemeteries and have been busily engaged in preparing graves for the victims of the storm.

A word picture cannot approximately portray the terrible aspect of the pathway torn through the city. Great oak trees and stately elms of a quarter of a century growth were torn up by the roots or were twisted off like reeds. The remnants of beautiful homes are scattered in all directions. Everywhere the commons are covered with debris. Hundreds of domestic animals are lying dead, and innumerable fowls are scattered about, in many cases picked up perfectly clean. The wildest point in the pathway of the tornado in the city is just south of where [it] crosses Lamar street, and here it was perhaps 200 yards wide. At other points it rarely or ever exceeded 150 yards and often narrowed to not over 100 yards.

The Times Democrat (Lima, Ohio)
20 July 1896

Caught Up in a Whirlwind

If the prophets of old who tell of being caught up in a whirlwind had anything like the experience of **Dr. Michael** of Texas under similar circumstances, then nobody need envy a prophet his job.

Dr. Michael of Sherman, Tex., was out making professional calls when the tornado approached. It was not, however, funnel shaped. It looked to him like a monstrous rolling ball, and wherever a house was in the track of the rolling ball that house was lifted whole about 35 feet above ground; then it exploded and went to pieces like a Fourth of July firecracker.

By and by the ball caught **Dr. Michael** himself. This is what happened, according to his story in *The Globe-Democrat*:

When the ball reached me, I had got to the east fence of the cemetery and had thrown myself down beside it. All at once the bright daylight disappeared and I was in total darkness. The picket fence, posts and all was lifted up and came down flat upon me. Then two trees fell on the fence. In a few seconds the trees went up in the air; the fence followed. I felt myself drawn up off the ground by some invisible force. I didn't lose consciousness. It was so dark I couldn't tell how high I went, but I was high enough to escape the monuments of the cemetery, and also the treetops, perhaps 40 feet from the ground. As I went along in the air I tried to keep an upright position, but couldn't. Something kept turning me over and over in one somersault after another. I passed almost over the cemetery before I struck the ground. I came down easily at an incline, just as if being lowered in the tail of the storm. But I was still moving along, and when I hit the ground, I went over and over for at least 30 feet. The lessening force would raise me a little and then let me back, until at last I dropped into a hole just inside the north fence of the cemetery. I was conscious all of the time until I stopped rolling and settled into that hole. After that I knew nothing more until people from town were about me. It must have been ten minutes at least that I lay in the hole until discovered. My best friends didn't recognize me. From head to foot I was covered with mud. My hair was plastered down with it. "Don't you know me?" I asked of men whom I had met daily for years. They could identify me only by my voice.

Evening Bulletin (Decatur, Illinois)
19 May 1896

REPORTS OF TEXAS CYCLONE

Number of Slain Is Two Hundred and Fifty --Property Loss, \$1,000,000.

Denison, Tex., May 19.—The number of dead in Sherman is 100 and the number of wounded 150. The loss of property is placed at \$175,000. Number of dead in this and adjoining counties is 250. The entire loss of property estimated in Texas and Indian territory, \$1,000,000. It is now agreed that there were three well developed tornadoes, entirely distinct in operation. It was a nest of tornadoes. The tornado that devastated Grayson county and Sherman commenced in Denton county. Dead bodies are still being found in out of the way places. The dead body of an infant was found in the top of a hickory tree impaled on a limb that had passed entirely through the body. The relief fund for Sherman has already reached \$25,000. The dead were being buried Monday as well as Sunday. Visitors are pouring into Sherman from all sections of the state.

THE DEADLY CYCLONE

Terrible Destruction of Life and Property

SCORES KILLED AND WOUNDED

The boiling, Seething Mass of Funnel Shaped Clouds Visits Sherman and Other Towns in Texas.

Dallas, Texas, May 19—A special to the *News* from Sherman, Texas, says Just a few minutes before 5 o'clock this afternoon a cyclone not exceeding two blocks in width, but carrying widespread destruction and death in its wake swept through the western half of the city, traveling almost directly north. The approach of the terrific whirlwind was announced by a deep rumbling noise not unlike reverberating thunder. A fierce driving rain accompanied it. Late tonight it is reported that forty people have been killed south of town in addition to the city's death list. Wagons are unloading the dead and injured every moment. The *News* reporter standing on the north side of the court plaza had his attention called to the peculiar appearance of the clouds. There were parted at the lower side, converting them into a perfect funnel shape, while a boiling, seething mass of vaporous clouds were rapidly revolving in the rift. The air was suddenly filled with trees and twigs and the downpour of rain brought with it a deluge of mud. Then the truth dawned on all that a cyclone was prevailing.

From the point where it seems to have first descended to where it suddenly arose from the ground, just north of the city, it left terrible marks of its passage, not a house in its path escaping, not a tree or shrub left standing or not twisted and torn out of shape. Fences are gone. The iron bridge on Houston street is completely wrecked and blown away, notwithstanding its hundreds of thousands of pounds of steel and material. The number of persons wounded will reach not less than 100, and it will be several days before the exact number of fatalities can be given, as many persons and especially children are missing, and many of the injured are in such critical shape that a score may die before morning.

Very few of the persons in the demolished houses are able to tell just how the storm burst upon them, and only in one or two instances were parties able to get out of its deadly path.

The most graphic description given by any of the injured was that of **W.S. R[B]ostwick**, who said: "I was at **John Irvine's** house when I heard the noise of the approaching storm. Just as I looked out I saw **Captain Berges'** house blown into the air and then **Mr. Shearer's** house. The air was filled with great trees and timbers and every conceivable kind of articles. It was a black, serpentine cloud, twisting, writhing in the centre, but at the bottom it seemed to be moving steadily. Then came the awful crash, a sense of suffocation and when it was over the house was gone and myself and family were scattered about the yard and under the debris."

In just a few minutes the police officers were appealed to for shelter for the dead and wounded and ambulances and all kinds of conveyances were pressed into service. A vacant store room on the north side of court plaza and another on the south side and the courtroom were transformed into impromptu morgues and hospitals for the wounded down town, while every residence left standing on the Fairview is filled with wounded.

The physicians and druggists responded promptly to the call for succor and drugs and everything needed came spontaneously. Hundreds of ladies responded to the call of humanity, and with a score of physicians were soon at work. Color and caste disappeared in the supreme moment of woe and desolation.

On West Houston street several are dead. A man named **Bill Hamilton** is fearfully injured. **Mr. Cephus** and child, colored, are reported dead. Several negroes have been picked out of the creek dead. A young white woman, unidentified, was found dead 300 yards south of ??? a residence.

Every moment brings new victims. It is likely that as many as fifty people are dead. The victims are horribly mangled. **John Ames** and wife and two children are dead and a 5 year old boy fatally injured.

A public meeting raised \$3000 for the immediate relief of the sufferers and the permanent relief committee will receive donations. It is distinctly understood that donations from

points outside Grayson county will not be received. Denison has responded, and nurses and physicians from that city are here.

All railroads running into the city placed special trains at the disposal of the local authorities and brought help from all neighboring cities.

Reports are that the storm killed many person in the country west of Howe.

A large number of police and searching parties are looking for missing people.

Three additional deaths have been reported up to 1am.

Charles Wardel of Fairview is dead with a piece of timber driven through his body.

The family of **John Hamilton** have been discovered, all badly injured. One of the **Hamilton** boys, aged 20 years, will die. Two girls, one aged 15 and one 9, were fatally injured and another girl, aged 11 injured internally. It is impossible to get a correct list of all the missing. Nearly every family in the district has some member that they cannot account for and it is believed most of the missing are dead.

A water spout accompanied the cyclone and the creeks are all out of their banks. Several objects, thought to be human bodies, were seen in the water, but could not be reached. The officers are making every effort to dredge all the creeks in the vicinity tomorrow.

A great many of the wounded are in private houses, scattered all over the city. It is safe to assume that at least one quarter of the number injured will die in the next twenty-four hours. Another storm of a similar nature passed about six miles west of the city at about the same hour. Several houses were blown down and many persons injured. Their names cannot be obtained.

At Carpenter's Bluff it is reported six people were hurt, five seriously.

Buildings and other structures in the way were demolished. A daughter of **Tom Jenkins** was found lying in a pool of water. She was evidently drowned, for no marks or bruises could be found on her body.

Fort Wayne News (Fort Wayne, Indiana) **Tuesday Evening, 19 May 1896**

Denison, Tex., May 19—A courier, who has just arrived from Joel, Chickasaw nation, reports of the death of **Mr. and Mrs. Raymond**, who were injured in the cyclone. The infant son of **Mr. and Mrs. Baxter** is also dead.

Thirty others are also seriously injured, and more deaths will occur. The United States government surveying party have placed their tents at the disposal of the injured. **Mr. Dean**, who arrived here last night reports four additional deaths in Blue settlement in Jackson, Choctaw nation. The house occupied by a family named **Mosher** were instantly killed and their little girls, **Nora and Ada**, so seriously injured they died the day following. The tornado certainly passed over the eastern portion of the Choctaw nation, but there being no railways or telegraph communication the news is slowly coming in.

THE DAILY HERALD (Delphos, Ohio) **Monday Evening, May 18 1896**

TWO HUNDRED DEAD

Harrowing Details of the Terrific Texas Cyclone

HAVOC WROUGHT BY WINDS

____ Are Injured, Some of Whom Will Die--Hundreds of Eager Friends and Relatives Seeking Their Loved Ones in ____ Destroyer's Path—Cyclone in Kansas and Another in Kentucky.

SHERMAN, Tex., May 18.—The horror-stricken people of Grayson and Denton counties are still engaged in the gruesome work of recovering and counting [the] dead victims of Friday's cyclone, ____ alleviating the sufferings of the injured. The story of the terrible disaster ____ life and property can not yet be fully ____d. Two hundred corpses, by a conservative estimate from all points, stricken

by the fury of elements, may ____er the fatalities.

Another hundred men, women and children have already been reported seriously injured, and two score of these sufferers are not expected to live. The wounded in the neighborhood of Sherman are scattered over the territory 10 miles [in] length, being cared for by friends and strangers, which renders the task of gathering names slow and difficult in the mist of the accompanying flood and ____bris. [debris?]

A million dollars will not cover the property loss. The storm of wind, rain, thunder and lightning began near Justin, in the southeast corner of Denton county, and passed easterly and north through Grayson county until the Red River on the Indian Territory border was reached, when it scattered and ceased its deadly work.

The town of Joel, Chickasaw nation, was the most northerly point stricken. The cyclone traveled 100 miles, but its width was confined to 150 yards.

The list of dead, as far as recovered and identified, is as follows:

At Sherman, between Post Oak creek and Graysville:

Mrs.L.H. Montgomery and two children; third one missing and undoubtedly dead

Otto Baldinger and two children

John Amos, wife and one child

Mrs. J.L. Burns and two children

Elder J.D. Shearer and wife

William Hamilton, farmer

Mary Bells Jenkins

Mrs. George Anderson and infant daughter

Mrs. Dave Herring and two children

D.T. Pierce and son **Thomas**

John Fields

T.H. Pierce and three children

E. Herring

Mrs. Elijah Seerns

Miss Herne

Clark, a horse trainer

Mrs. Chisholm

James Herron, leg broken, head wound

John Ames and two children

Anne and **Hariet Tucker**

May Patly

Jane English

Dodge? Patrick, wife and child

[Sam or Don?]**Oephalius**,wife and two children

Charles Puckett

Merdy Patrick

Vina Hogan Cox

Mattie Jefferson

Jane Mufin

Mrs. John Lake

Georgie Nickerson

Tom Jenkins, wife and two children

Henry Miller, wife and two children

Granville Jenkins, piece of wood pierced thigh

Ed Halsell, wife and son of **B.F. Woodward**, in cellar of **Halsell** residence and buried under debris

Harriet Lake, colored

Lettie and **James Burns**

Jessie Brown and wife

Ike Shearer, son of **Rev. Shearer** who was killed with his wife.

Mrs. J.B. King, two children

Philip Nichols

Mrs. John Irvine, four children and

W.S. Boutwick, who was in the Irvine residence

James Hester and **Nanny Nickelson** of the family which was partly killed

An infant, a man and two children recovered but not identified.

All the above are white.

The colored dead are:

Wesley Patricks, infant child

Mary Lake, three children

Eliza Cox, son **Charles**

James Walker

Lucy Ballinger, daughter **Sloan**

Mary, **John**, **Letitia** and **Fastus Lake**

James Walker

Nora Nickelson, two children

Kate King

Frank Andrews

Granddaughter of **Lucy Ballinger** and unidentified woman

In the community five miles from this city a man named **Taylor** was killed, his wife fatally injured. **Buck Altaup's** wife and two children badly hurt and **Mrs. Martin** also.

At Denton, five killed, 20 injured.

At Justin, three killed.

At Howe and its vicinity, 12 killed, including **Mrs. James Davis** and three little girls.

Near Van Halstyne, Grayson county, **Mrs. Johnson** killed.

Five miles southwest of Sherman, one killed, five injured, one fatally.

Gribble Springs, four killed, 35 injured.

At Mound Ridge, six injured, one fatally.

At Red river, **John Derant** and three members of his family fatally injured.

At Joel, Chickasaw nation, 12 injured, some fatally; 13 houses destroyed.

The village of Keller was destroyed and several injured.

Fort Wayne News, 18 May 1896

[Death List]

Mrs. Otto Baldinger and two children

Mrs. I.L. Burns and two children

John Ames, wife and two children

Rev. J.S. Shearer

Mrs. L. Montgomery and two children

William Hamilton

Mrs. George Anderson and infant

Mrs. Belle Jenkins

B.L. Pierce and son

Mrs. D. Herring and two children

Unknown woman and two children

James Walker

Mrs. N. Nicholson and two children

Lucy Ballinger and daughter

Charles Cox

Mary Lake and three children

James English

John Taylor

Katherine King

Stevens Point Daily Journal, 18 May 1896

Deaths Number 105.

Sherman, Tex., May 18—Sherman was visited Sunday by more than 20,000 persons, some coming through curiosity, others to help take care of the wounded and bury the dead. Thousands inspected the track of the storm. Physicians have now organized a regular corps of nurses and the wounded are receiving the best possible treatment. The death list now reaches 105. Contributions are coming in from all parts of the country. There are very much needed. All contributions should be sent to **O.H. Smith**, chairman of the relief committee. **L.H. Montgomery**, a furniture dealer, whose family consisting of his wife and three children, perished, is now confined in the jail a raving maniac. News had just been received in this city by **Drs. Hastings** and **Morrer**, of Howe, Tex., who went with the Carpenter's Bluffs searching and relief party, who state that at Carpenter's Bluffs, five are dead and eight more seriously injured.

Bangor Daily Whig and Courier (Bangor, Maine) **Monday, 18 May 1896**

THE TEXAS CYCLONE

Further Reports of the Terrible Destruction Wrought.

Additional Returns Only Add to the Horrors of the Catastrophe.

Austin, Tex., May 16—News from North Texas reports a terrific cyclone in that section yesterday afternoon. At the small town of Justin, twelve business houses were blown down and their contents scattered to the winds.

One man, named **W.J. Evans**, of Keller, Tex., was killed by a tree falling upon him and seventeen others were injured, some of whom are not expected to live. Cattle in the fields were blown hither and thither and many of them killed outright.

Keller, a small town to the north of Justin, was almost entirely wrecked by the cyclone and it is reported that only one house in the hamlet is now standing. All that section of the country immediately north of these two towns was left in ruins by the storm.

The cyclone struck the town of Hudson, leaving death and ruin in its wake. The path of the cyclone at this point was a quarter of a mile wide. Ten farm houses and as many barns were wrecked. Eight persons were killed outright and many injured. Much stock was killed.

Griddle Springs, a small village north of Denton, was also swept by the cyclone, four persons being killed, five dangerously hurt and thirty badly wounded.

The railroad track north of Justin is also reported to be torn up and twisted out of shape, showing the terrific velocity of the wind. Water was scooped out of creeks by the wind, and every section of the country lying in the path of the cyclone is laid waste. The path of the cyclone was possibly 10 miles wide by 12 long, judging from reports.

A cyclone at Mound Ridge devastated a stretch of country about eight miles in length and 100 yards in width.

Samuel Bass, a farmer, was fatally injured and his house demolished. Five others, whose names are unknown, were more or less seriously injured.

A permanent relief committee has been organized at Sherman and will take donations for the relief of the sufferers from yesterday's storm. Denison has responded nobly and nurses and physicians from that city are there rendering great assistance. All railroads running into the city placed special trains at the disposal of local authorities and brought help from all neighboring cities. Reports say that the storm killed many person in the county west of Howe.

It is impossible to get a correct list of all the missing. Nearly every family in the district has some member that they cannot account for and it is believed that most of the missing are dead. A water spout accompanied the cyclone and the creeks are all out of the banks.

Several objects thought to be human bodies were seen in the water but could not be reached. The officers are making every preparation possible to dredge all the creeks in the vicinity at an early hour. Telegraph and telephone poles were torn up and driven into the ground. It is safe to assume that at least one fourth of the number of injured will die in the next 24 hours.

Another storm of a similar nature passed about six miles west of the city at about the same hour. Several houses were blown down and many persons injured.

At Carpenter's Bluff, on the Red River, it is reported that six persons were hurt, five seriously.

Buildings and other structures in the way were demolished. A daughter of **Thomas Jenkins** was found lying in a pool of water. She had evidently been drowned, for no marks or bruises could be found on her body.

In Sherman many elegant residences were demolished. The Houston street steel suspension bridge was torn to splinters and huge iron girders were twisted like straw. Houses, trees and human beings were blown thousands of feet. All of the buildings on Sixth street were swept away by the mighty whirlwind.

A dead child was found in the top of a tree. A farmer driving along in front of **Captain Ely's** house was killed instantly. The wagon wheels but no trace of the team. Bodies of children, beheaded and disemboweled, were seen in many places. Six unidentified white corpses are in **Undertaker Harrington's** rooms. A son of **J.H. Perren**, who lives five miles south of the town, was fatally injured. The boy was away from his home, at his uncle's, who was killed with his wife and baby. Ten bodies were brought in from the **Wakefield** farm, two miles west of the city.

A.F. Person, wife, granddaughter, married daughter and three other children who lived on the farm were all killed. It is thought that the country for 14 or 15 miles has been devastated and depopulated by the storm.

Not a tree or house was left standing in its course. Five hundred yards to the east the storm would have taken in the business portion

of the city. The cyclone was preceded by terrific claps of thunder, much lightning and a furious dash of rain. The people were terror stricken and many fell on their knees and prayed for deliverance.

Five minutes after the storm the sky was bright and clear but desolation, terror and uncontrollable grief reigned where ten minutes before were happy, united families and pleasant homes.

Many private houses have been turned into hospitals and physicians and surgeons of this and adjacent towns worked all night. The ladies of Sherman came to the rescue nobly and bear up bravely in the face of the most sickening sights.

Very few persons in the demolished houses are able to tell how the storm burst upon them and only in one or two instances were parties able to get out of its deadly path. **W.S. Bostwick** relates his experience as follows:

"I was at **John Irvine's** house when I heard the noise of the approaching storm. Just as I looked out I saw **Capt. Birge's** house blown into the air and then **Mr. Spearen's** house. The air was filled with trees and timbers and every conceivable kind of articles. I was terrified for I saw that the black cloud was coming directly upon us and that it could not be long in reaching us. I hurried home and called to the members of my family, who were in the house, and asked them not to run out. I reared that we would all be stuck by the flying timbers.

Then came an awful crash, a sense of suffocation, and when it was over the house was gone and myself and family were scattered about the yard and under the rubbish. It was over in a short time."

Later—The death list is growing rapidly and this morning over 75 bodies were found. Over 25 physicians from Sherman, Denison, Whitewright, Howe and Van Alstyne are attending the wounded and hundreds of women are helping. The colored people having recovered from their first fright, are working like Trojans. The excitement cannot be abated so long as reports continue to come in as they do.

It is reported that 12 dead bodies have been found in a pit north of town and there

have been no means of bringing them here. Many persons are missing and entire families cannot yet be found. It is believed many negroes will be found in Post Oak creek. Bodies are still being brought in and will be during the day. If all reports are to be credited, the number of dead must reach 150. The storm passed two miles from Denison, and is thought to have broken up beyond there.

Telephone and telegraph wires between here and Denison are all down and many other towns have no connection. It is feared that the restoration of telegraphic communication will bring information of the loss of life and property in surrounding towns, greater than already estimated.

North Adams Transcript
(North Adams, Massachusetts)
Saturday Afternoon, 16 May 1896

By Telegraph 3.00 O'Clock

A TEXAS TRAGEDY
Terrible Cyclone Swept Over Sherman City,
Killing Injuring and Destroying.

AN UNKNOWN NUMBER DEAD

WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNPREPARED
FOR THE DESTROYER WERE SWEEP
AWAY. TEMPORARY HOSPITALS FOR
INJURED.

(Special Dispatch to the Transcript)
Sherman, Tex., May 16—The city was visited by the worst cyclone in _____ of north Texas about 5 o'clock yesterday evening. The path of the destroyer was 150 yards wide. It struck the city at the west end of Post Oak creek and swept in a westerly direction for several blocks and then spread and spent its force.

At 2 o'clock this morning it was impossible to learn the extent of the damage and death. Three miles of electric light wire are torn down and the city was in total darkness. It is impossible to search the isolated sections in

consequence. Many inquiries are being made for lost persons. The police thus far report over 100 missing. Physicians from Van Allstyne, Kinney, and Dennison are busy working. The latest reports show **Mrs. J. Johnson** and child killed four miles west of Howe. **Mrs. Hendricks** living near them is fatally injured. A family by the name of **Connor** consisting of an old lady, son and daughter cannot live. Reports coming in constantly about persons found injured, fifteen or twenty were reported since 1 o'clock.

It is impossible to get the names of killed, missing and injured. In the hospital there are eight whom the doctors say will not live till the evening. Conservative estimates place the total number of killed in Grayson county between 120 and 150. Sixty were killed outright and about the same number is reported dead or missing. The number injured reaches 150.

When the first blast of the cyclone was felt at Justine, more than 100 miles west of here, the women and children were totally unprepared. Justine was the first to feel the blast and the work of destruction was quickly accomplished. From there the cyclone swept northeast through Gerald, Denton, Mingo and Gribble Springs to Mustang. It traveled 100 miles in one hour. The small settlements north of Denton all suffered. Elmview was lashed then Howe was devastated. The southeast end of this city received the full force of the storm and the worst ruin is found here.

The track of the cyclone is a grewsome sight, the devastation being complete, houses, trees, fences, in fact everything in its pathway having been destroyed. The loss of life will reach alarming figures and many are bruised and wounded. The city hall and the storeroom formerly occupied by **S.G. Holmes** have been turned into temporary hospitals, and bruised, mangled and mutilated bodies are awaiting identification at these two places. Nearly every house in Fairview addition has been turned into a hospital.

Steven's Point Daily Journal
(Steven's Point, Wisconsin) **16 May 1896**
[Partial article, excluded text repeated in other articles]

SCORES PERISH

A Couple of Counties in Northern Texas Swept By a Cyclone.

Nearly One Hundred Persons Are Known to Have Lost Their Lives---Many Injured.

Partial List of the Victims—In Some Cases Entire Families Are Among the Killed.

Dead Bodies Found in Tree-Tops— Between Fifty and One Hundred Buildings Demolished.

Sherman, Tex., May 16—Bodies of dead children are hanging on the branches of the ash, oak and orange trees of Denton and Grayson counties to-day. A cyclone, the most terrible northeastern Texas has ever experienced, dashed out lives and wrecked homes in the village of Justin and the cities of Denton and Sherman Friday. Almost a hundred persons are dead. As many more are missing. To-day was to have been observed by the ex-confederates of Sherman as Decoration day, but instead of this 75 new graves will be prepared in the city cemetery for victims of a terrible and appalling calamity.

The Victims.

Following is a list of the known dead in this city: **R.L. Burns**, wife and two children; **Mrs. Otto Paulding** and two children; **James Nicholson**, wife and two children; **T.H. Montgomery**, wife and two children; **Rev. Mr. Shearer**; eight members of **Pearce** and **Richardson** families at **Wakefield** farm; child of **Mrs. Craighead**; **Mrs. Burns** and two children; **Mrs. James Davis**; **Mrs. John Fields**; **Lucinda Lake**, colored; **Charles Cox**, colored; **Sloan Ballinger**, colored; **Katie Ballinger**, colored; **William Neickerson's** four children, colored;

Wright Clark and three members of his family, colored;

Mrs. Athens; eighteen unidentified dead at the city hall; **Dr. Sadler**, who has not been seen since storm, believed to have been killed.

At Justin, **W.J. Evans** was killed. At Gribble Springs a list of 17 deaths is reported.

Many Buildings Demolished.

At least 50 houses are totally wrecked. Most of them are small cottages, except in Fairview and Washington avenues, where the handsome residences of **L.F. Ely, Capt. J.C. Stalter, Mrs. Pat Mattingly and James Falls** also succumbed. The loss will reach at least \$150,000 and but little, if any, of it was covered by cyclone insurance.

The devastation in spots where the cyclone was the worst is complete. Trees were stripped of their foliage in some places, while in others they were uprooted. Houses, once the pride of the city, are in some instances entirely gone, and in others, only a pile of rubbish marks the place where they stood.

Story of an Eye-Witness.

Mayor Tone, of Denison, who is here, gives the following account of the cyclone:

"I was on the courthouse square about five o'clock and heard a roaring wind coming from the south. The next think I knew the air was thick with mud and small specks resembling ashes. The cyclone did not strike the courthouse or jail, but followed up Post Oak creek. The roaring did not continue over two or three minutes. During all this time it rained hard. In about five minutes rumors began to spread that many lives had been lost, and the reports grew worse and worse as time passed. By nine o'clock 50 dead bodies had been brought into the public buildings and searching parties are out for more. Dead children have been found in trees, under leveled houses and in Post Oak creek. An iron bridge over Post Oak creek was twisted into scrap iron.".....

Friday night at the courthouse a public meeting raised about \$3,000 for the immediate relief of the sufferers, and the permanent relief committee consisting of **C.H. Smith, C.B. Randell, C.B. Dorchester and Col. George Murphy** will take donations.....

The New York Times
Published 18 May 1896

MORE DEATHS AT SHERMAN.

Six Persons Succumb to Injuries Received in Friday's Cyclone.

Sherman, Texas, May 17.—Six persons injured in Friday's cyclone died here to-day.

There names are:

JENKINS, _____, aged sixteen; every other member same family killed outright.

LYMAN, Mrs., and child.

SLOGAN, NELLIE, nine years old.

WEDDLE, CHARLES.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN.

It was learned this afternoon that the **Dooley** family, consisting of father, mother, and four children, living on Gray's Hill, were blown away in the storm, and as none of them has been heard from, it is believed that all are dead. The spot where their house stood was swept bare.

The death list now reaches 105. **L.H. Montgomery**, a furniture dealer, whose family, consisting of a wife and three children, perished, is now confined in jail, a raving maniac.

The people of Sherman have buried the dead, and are taking care of the wounded, but fully 700 persons in the city and county are left destitute.

News was received here to-night from **Dr. Hastings** and **Dr. Morrer** of Howe, Texas, who went with the Carpenter's Bluff searching and relied party. They send word that at Carpenter's Bluff five are dead and eight more or less seriously injured. The relief committee left Denison at 9 o'clock this morning and has been laboring among the dying all day. The loss is so much greater than was anticipated that floats have been pressed into service to supply the stricken districts with bandages, medicines, and food.

Two houses which were known to have been occupied were picked up and set on an island in Red River. The searchers discovered them about 4 o'clock this afternoon, and work of preparing rafts on which to reach them was

begun. Both houses are lying on their sides. It is supposed that the bodies of those who occupied them are within.

**The New York Times,
Published 17 May 1896**

200 DEAD IN TEXAS

**Still Searching for Victims
of Friday's Cyclone.**

PROPERTY LOSS A MILLION

**Scores of Sufferers May Not Survive
Their Injuries.**

THE SAVED SEEKING THE VICTIMS

**Death Wind Traveled over 100 Miles,
Killing and Maiming and Destroying
Crops and Houses.**

FLOODS AN AID TO WHIRLWIND

**Rain, Thunder, and Lightning Helped
In Destruction After the First Horrors
Of the Disaster Were Over.**

Sherman, Texas, May 16.—The horror-stricken people of Grayson and Denton Counties have been engaged for the last twenty-four hours in the gruesome work of recovering and counting the dead victims of yesterday's cyclone and alleviating the sufferings of the injured. The story of the terrible disaster to life and property cannot be fully told to-night.

Two hundred corpses, by a conservative estimate from all points stricken by the fury of the elements, may cover the fatalities. Another hundred men, women, and children have already been reported seriously injured, but two score of these sufferers are not expected to live. The wounded in the neighborhood of Sherman are scattered over territory ten miles in length, being cared for by friends and strangers, which renders the task of gathering names slow and difficult in the midst of the accompanying flood and debris.

The Dead.

The list of dead, as far as recovered and identified, is as follows:

At Sherman, between Post Oak Creek and Grays Hill:

ANDERSON, Mrs. GEORGE, and infant daughter

AMES, JOHN, wife and one child

BALDINGER, OTTO, and two children

BURNS, Mrs. J.E., and two children

FIELDS, JOHN

SHEARER, Elder J.D., and wife

HERNE, Miss

HERRING, E.

HERRING, Mrs. DAVE, and two children

HAMILTON, WILLIAM; farmer

JENKINS, MARY BELL

MONTGOMERY, Mrs. L.H., and two children, a third one missing, and undoubtedly dead

PIERCE, R.T., and son **THOMAS**

PIERCE, T.H., and three children

ZERHS, Mrs. ELIJAH

WHITE MAN AND TWO WHITE CHILDREN, not identified

The colored dead in and about Shuman are:

ANDREWS, FRANK

BALLINGER, LUCY, her daughter **Sloan**, and granddaughter

CEPHALIUS, EBEN, wife and two children

COX, NINA HOGAN

COX, ELIZA, and son **Charles**

ENGLISH, JOHN

JEFFERSON, MATTIE

KING, KATE

LAKE, MARY, and three children

LAKE, Mrs. JOHN

LAKE, JOHN, LETITA, and **FASTUS**

MUFIN, JANE

NICKERSON, GEORGIE

NICKELSON, NORA, and two children

PATRICKS, WESLEY, and infant child

PATTY, MAY

PATRICK, BUDGE, wife and child

PATRICK, MERDY

PUCKETT, CHARLES

TUCKER, JANE, and **HARRIET**

WALKER, JAMES

At Denton five were killed and twenty injured.

At Justin three were killed.

At Howe and in its vicinity twelve were killed, including **Mrs. James Davis** and three little girls.

Near Van Halstyne, Grayson County, **Mrs. Johnson** was killed.

Five miles southwest of Sherman one was killed and five were injured, one mortally.

At Gribble Springs, four were killed and thirty-five injured.

At Moundridge, six were injured, one fatally.

At Red River, **John Devaut** and three members of his family were injured fatally.

At Joel, Chickasaw Nation, twelve were injured, some fatally, and thirteen houses were destroyed.

The village of Kellar was destroyed and several person were injured.

The Injured.

The following are among the seriously injured at Shuman [Sherman]:

AMES, JOHN, and two children

ATKINS, Mrs.

BROWN, JESSE

BROWN, Mrs. JESSE

BURNS, JAMES

BURNS, LOTTIE

CLARK, WRIGHT

CLARK, Mrs. WRIGHT

CRAIGHEAD, Mrs.

CHRISHOLM, Mrs.

HALSELL, E., wife, and son, buried in cellar of Halsell residence under debris.

HENDRICKS, HARRIOT, colored, legs broken

HERRING, DAVID, probably fatally hurt

HERRON, JAMES, leg broken

HESTER, JAMES

IRVINE, MRS. JOHN, and four children

JENKINS, GRANVILLE, thigh pierced by piece of wood

KING, MRS. J.B., and two children

JENKINS, TOM, wife and five children

JOHNSON, Mattie, colored, fatally

KOHLER, PROF.

KOHLER, MRS.

LAKE, HARRIET, colored

MILLER, HENRY, wife, and two children

NEWHOUSE, JOHN, wife, and children

NICHOLS, PHILIP

NICHOLSON, NANCY

PATRICK, MARY, colored, and three children; all fatally hurt

PIERCE, Miss EVA, daughter of **T.H. Pierce**; leg and arm broken

PIERCE, Mrs. T.H.

SHEARER, IKE, son of the **Rev. Mr. Shearer**
WOODWARD, B.F.

A million dollars will not cover the property loss.

The storm of wind, rain, thunder, and lightning began near Justin, in the southeast corner of Denton County, and passed easterly and north through Grayson County, until the Red River, on the Indian Territory border, was reached, when it scattered and ceased its deadly work.

The town of Joel, Chickasaw Nation, was the most northerly point stricken. The cyclone traveled 100 miles, but its width was confined to 150 yards.

In the community five miles from this city a man named **Taylor** was killed, his wife fatally injured, "**Buck**" **Allsup's** wife and two children badly hurt, and **Mrs. Martin** also. Messrs. **Dennis, Gibbons, Riley, Brown, Howdy, Shell, "Bob" Martin, Corder, David Taylor, J.W. Fields, Despain**, and **James Davis** had their homes swept into the air and shattered to splinters in this settlement.

Many barns were also destroyed.

The special and regular trains which came into the gloom-enshrouded city today were filled with volunteer physicians and nurses, anxious relatives and friends of the dead and injured. Many parents of young ladies attending the local colleges arrived to see that no harm had befallen them.

Searching parties were sent out along the path of the grim reaper to gather the harvest of bodies from the flooded wreckage and relieve the sufferings of those injured who had not been found during the night. The women of Sherman were as brave as the men, and much heroic work was done for love of humanity. The common sorrow obliterated the line which divides the negro from the Southern white.

Followers of the Red Cross on the filed of carnage could not have done more than

white men and women did to-day and last night for the dying and suffering survivors of the black race, which comprised the majority of the victims.

The banks of Post Oak Creek, which the cyclone made a cemetery of, were lined all day with hundreds of anxious and curious visitors, watching the search for more bodies among the mud and water-soaked wreckage. Reports came in from points down creek that the loss of life outside the city limits had been worse than feared.

At the suspension bridge dead and injured lay in every direction, and the few houses that had escaped the wind scythe were crowded with living victims.

At the Houston Street bridge, corpses and injured people formed a heartrending spectacle. All available wagons were pressed into service of the volunteer brigade to remove the dead to the morgue and the living to temporary hospitals. Relatives and friends of those who had perished gave way to pitiful grief at the scene of recovery, and the hospitals added to the horror of the hour.

Seventy-one coffins had been sold at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and neighboring towns were called on to furnish more. It is known that the death list in the outlying part of this city will reach nearly 100.

Many persons are reported missing, which is regarded as equivalent to being numbered with the dead, in some cases whole families not being heard from. It is believed that many bodies of negroes will yet be taken from Post Oak Creek.

THE DAILY INTEROCEAN, (Chicago, IL)
18 May 1896

NO MORE BODIES FOUND IN TEXAS.
Search Along the Track of the Tornado -
Victims Interred.

Sherman, Texas, May 17. - No more bodies have been found in the track of the tornado today, although many thousands have followed it from one end to the other. There have been but two deaths at the hospitals in

the last twenty-four hours, **Miss Sophia Pierce** and **Mattie Lake**, colored. Interment of the storm victims was made today at the following cemeteries respectively: **Miss Pierce** and **Mattie Lake**, at West Hill; **Mrs. M. Tyman**, at St. Mary's; **Rev. J. D. Shearer and wife**, at Mount Ararat. Sympathetic visitors to the cemeteries have fairly covered the graves of the victims [sic] with flowers today.

Rev. B. F. Wilson, chairman of the relief committee, was this afternoon informed by Sister Superior of St. Joseph's Convent that she had instructions from Bishop Dunne of the Diocese of Dallas to turn the convent into a hospital, and do all she could to alleviate the suffering of the wounded. Chairman **Wilson** wired his grateful acknowledgements of the great kindness of the Bishop, stating, however, that adequate hospital room was already provided.

Religious services were generally abandoned today, the clergy and their respective congregations being busily engaged in the hospitals.

LEADVILLE DAILY AND EVENING CHRONICLE 16 May 1896

DEATH RODE THE GALE

Several Texas Towns Visited by a Fearful Cyclone Yesterday.

SHERMAN SUFFERS WORST

Sixty People Dead or Fatally Hurt and 150 Injured at Sherman Alone.

DEATH AND RUIN ELSEWHERE

Eighteen Persons Killed or Fatally Injured at Howe, Gribble Springs and Justin – Immense Damage Done.

Sherman, May 15. -- Just a few minutes before 5 o'clock this afternoon, a cyclone not exceeding two blocks in width, but carrying widespread destruction and death in its wake, swept through the western half of the city, traveling almost directly north.

The approach of the terrific whirlwind was announced by a deep rumbling noise, not unlike reverberating thunder. A fierce and driving rain accompanied it.

Late to-night it is supposed that 10 people have been killed south of town, in addition to the city's death list. Wagons are unloading the dead and injured every moment.

A reporter standing on the north side of the Court plaza had his attention called to the peculiar appearance of the clouds. They were parted at the lower side, converging into a perfect funnel-shaped point, while a

BOILING SEETHING MASS

of vaporous clouds were rapidly revolving in the rift. The air was suddenly filled with trees and twigs and the downpour of rain brought with it a deluge of mud. Then the truth dawned on all that a cyclone was prevailing.

From the point at which it seems to have first descended, to where it suddenly arose from the ground, just north of the city, it left terrific marks of its passing, not a house in its path escaping; not a tree or shrub left standing, or not twisted and torn out of shape. Fences are gone.

The iron bridge on Houston street is completely wrecked and blown away notwithstanding its hundreds of thousands of pounds of steel and material. The number of persons wounded will reach not less than 100 and it will be several days before the exact number of fatalities can be given as many persons and especially children are missing and many of the injured are in such critical shape that a score may die before morning.

THE LIST OF KILLED.

As far as reported by the authorities tonight is as follows:

MRS. OTTO BALLINGER and two children.

MRS. I. L. BURNS and two children,

JOSEPHINE, aged 3, and

GROVER, aged 10.

JOHN AMES and wife and two children.

REV. J. S. SHEARER.

MRS. LUKE MONTGOMERY and two children. Another child is also missing.

WILLIAM HAMILTON, farmer.

MRS. GEORGE ANDERSON and an infant daughter.

MRS. BELLE JENKINS.

D. L. PIERCE.

TOM PIERCE, his son, aged 14.

MRS. DAVE HERRING and two children.

AN UNKNOWN WOMAN and two white children, about 4 and 6 years of age, have not been identified and are being held in the morgue for identification.

The list of colored people killed, so far as learned up to 10 p. m., is as follows:

JAMES WALKER.

MRS. NORA NICHOLSON and two children.

LUCY BALLINGER and daughter.

CHARLEY COX, son of **ELIZA COX.**

MARY LAKE, and three children.

LEITTIS, JOHN and **FATUS.**

LIST OF WOUNDED.

TOM JENKINS, his wife and five children.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY MILLER, and two children.

A heavy sliver of wood was driven through the thigh of **GRANVILLE JENKINS.**

MR. AND MRS. ED. HALSELL and little son, with **B. F. WOODARD**, were in the cellar at the former's residence and were covered with debris. **MR. AND MRS. HALSELL** were both painfully bruised about the thighs and are supposed to have been blown through a window.

ELIZA COX, colored, hurt in the breast.

HARRIET LAKE, colored, cut and bruised.

DON CEPHUS, colored, his wife and son, **CLARENCE**, all have limbs broken and are in a precarious condition.

LETTIE and **LUMMIE BURNS** are badly.

MR. AND MRS. JESSE BROWN, badly bruised. **MRS. BROWN'S** arm is broken.

LUKE SHEARER, son of **REV. SHEARER**, who was killed, is badly bruised.

This list is necessarily incomplete. The greatest **NUMBER OF FATALITIES**

are reported from the colored settlement along Post Oak and Lincoln streets, between Curry and Lost streets where several people were killed outright.

Very few of the persons in the demolished houses are able to tell just how the storm burst upon them and only in one or two instances were parties able to get out of its deadly path.

MRS. J. P. KING and two children are seriously injured.

PHILIP NICHOLS received painful hurts about

the head.

MRS. JOHN IRVINE and four children were all more or less injured.

W. S. BEUTWICK, who was in the same residence, is cut very seriously.

OTTO BALLINGER, whose family were all killed, is badly hurt about the head.

HESTER and **NANNIE NICHOLSON**, colored, of the family of which six were killed, are seriously hurt.

DAVE HERRING and **MRS. D. L. PIERCE**, who alone escaped death at their home, are perhaps fatally hurt.

MARY PATRICK, colored, and three children are all badly hurt.

MATTIE JOHNSON, colored, head hurt and injured internally; will die.

JOHN AND ALICE NEWHOUSE, colored, and four children, badly hurt.

HARRIET HENDRICKS, colored, both legs broken.

MISS EVA PIERCE, daughter of D. L. PIERCE, left leg and right arm broken.

MR. AND MRS. WRIGHT CLARK, painfully hurt.

THE NUMBER OF MISSING

is large and includes a great many children and it is quite probable that the most of them are dead.

It is very conservative to estimate that the list of fatalities will reach 50, while the injured will reach 150.

At least 50 houses are wrecked. Most of them are small cottages, except in Fairview and Washington avenues where the handsome residences of **L. F. ELY**, **Captain J. G. SALLER**, **MRS. PAT MATTINGLY** and **JAMES FALLS** also succumbed. The loss will reach at least \$150,000 and but little if any of it was covered by cyclone insurance.

About the most graphic description given by any of the injured was that of **W. S. BEUTWICK**, who said: WHAT HE SAW.

"I was at **MR. JOHN IRVINE'S** house when I heard the noise of the approaching storm. Just as I looked out I saw **Captain BERGE'S** house blown into the air and then **MR. SHEARER'S** house. The air was filled with great trees and timbers and every conceivable kind of article. I was fascinated, petrified, for I saw it was

coming directly upon us and that it could not be long in reaching us. It was a black, serpentine cloud, twisting, writhing in the center, but at the bottom it seemed to be moving steadily. I woke from my stupor and called out to the family, who were in the house, and asked them not to run out. I feared that we would all be struck by flying timbers. Then came
AN AWFUL CRASH.

A sense of suffocation, and when it was over the house was gone and myself and family were scattered about the yard and under the debris. It was over in such a short time that I can not give you an idea of how long it was." In just a few minutes the police officers were appealed to for shelter for the dead and wounded and ambulances and all kinds of conveyances were pressed into service. A vacant store room on the north side of Court Plaza and another on the south side, and the court room were transformed into impromptu morgues and hospitals for the wounded down town, while every residence left standing on Fairview is
FILLED WITH WOUNDED.

The physicians and druggists responded promptly to the call for succor and drugs and everything needed came spontaneously. Hundreds of ladies responded to the call of humanity and with a score of physicians, were soon at work. Color and caste disappeared, in the supreme moment of woe and desolation. Thanks to the excellent police service, the crowds were restrained everywhere about the improvised hospitals and citizens and physicians found their labor more effective on account of non-interference. The cries of the injured were supplemented by the agonized shrieks of those who, passing
FROM CORPSE TO CORPSE

at last found some loved one, perhaps a husband or a wife or son or daughter.
MR. MONTGOMERY'S wife and two or three children are dead. The children are terribly mangled.

One of them, about five years old, had the top of her head knocked off. Another child was found dead 500 yards from the house. On West Houston street several are dead. A man named **BILL HAMILTON** is fatally

injured.

MR. CEPHUS, and child, colored are reported dead.

Several negroes have been picked out of the creek dead.

A young white woman, unidentified, was found dead, three hundred yards south of ELY'S residence.

Every moment brings new victims. It is likely as many as 50 people are dead. The victims are **HORRIBLY MANGLED**.

JOHN AMES and wife and two children are dead and a five year old boy fatally injured.

T. W. JENKINS, daughter and wife are dead.

The most miraculous escape so far as learned by the reporter was the case of the family of **Captain ELY**. The residence, quite a roomy, brick structure, was razed to the ground, and but for the presence of some heavy timbers standing upright in the debris, which sheltered them from the avalanche of brick and stone, they would have all perished, but as it was only one member, a little girl, was bruised.

A public meeting raised \$3,000 for the immediate relief of the sufferers and the **PERMANENT RELIEF COMMITTEE**, consisting of **C. H. SMITH**, **C. B. RANDELL**, **C. H. DORCHESTER** and **COLONEL GEORGE M. MURPHY**, will take donations.

It is distinctly stated that donations from points outside of Grayson county will not be received. Denison has responded nobly and nurses and physicians from that city are here rendering great assistance. All railroads running into the city placed special trains at the disposal of the local authorities and brought help from all neighboring cities.

Reports are that the storm killed many persons in the country west of Howe.

A large number of police and searching parties are looking for missing persons.

ADDITIONAL DEATHS.

The following are additional deaths reported up to 1 a. m.;

JIM ENGLISH, colored.

JOHN TAYLOR, white.

KATE KING, colored.

The unknown woman at the morgue has been identified as **MRS. I. L. BURIES**.

Another infant of the **BALLINGER** family has been found dead.

CHARLES WEDDLE, of Fairview, is dead, with a piece of timber driven through his body.

The family of **JOHN HAMILTON** has been discovered, all badly injured.

One of the **HAMILTON** boys, aged 20 years, will die. Two girls, one aged 15 and one 9, were fatally injured, and another girl, aged 11, was injured internally.

It is impossible to get a correct list of all the missing. Nearly every family in the district has some member that they can not account for and it is believed that most of **THE MISSING ARE DEAD**.

A water spout accompanied the cyclone and the creeks are all out of their banks. Several objects thought to be human bodies were seen in the water, but could not be reached. The officers are making every effort to dredge all creeks in the vicinity to-morrow. It is a remarkable incident that in every case where there were deaths the bodies from the houses destroyed were found from 100 to 150 yards away, in a direction opposite to that in which the storm was moving. The storm was moving northward and in every instance the bodies were found to the southward. Telegraph poles were torn up and driven into the ground. A great many of the wounded are in private houses scattered all over the city. It is safe to assume that at least one quarter of the number **INJURED WILL DIE**

in the next twenty-four hours. Another storm of a similar nature passed about six miles west of the city at about the same hour. Several houses were blown down and many persons injured. Their names can not be obtained.

At Carpenter's bluff it is reported six persons were hurt, five seriously.

Buildings and other structures in the way were demolished.

A daughter of **TOM JENKINS** was found lying in a pool of water. She was evidently drowned, for no marks or bruises could be found on her body.

The police department is employing every means in its power to help the sufferers and all have been given comfortable quarters **AT CARPENTER BLUFF**.

After passing over Sherman the cyclone went southeast.

At Carpenter Bluff, seven miles east at Denison, the dwelling of **JOHN DEVANT** was blown down and four persons, **DEVANT** and wife, and **DEVANT'S** hired man, named **ARMOUR**, and a little child, received injuries from which they will die.

THE EARLY ACCOUNT.

Sherman, May 15. -- A most disastrous cyclone struck Sherman at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon, wiping out the western end of the town entirely.

The loss of life is appalling. The dead are estimated at between 30 and 40. This is a very conservative estimate. Many more are fatally or seriously injured.

At 6 o'clock, the evening twelve bodies are lying in the court house and as many more are scattered about across the desolated west end of the city. No accurate estimate can be made yet of the loss of life and property. The work of rescue and search for the missing goes on.

The business part of the town is deserted and the greatest excitement reigns. The Western Union office is overflowed with anxious ones sending messages and inquiring the fate of other towns. Every available wagon, buggy and horse is in use by searchers and workers on

THE FIELD OF DEATH.

As time passes reports of greater loss of life and property are arriving. Many stories of miraculous escapes are told.

The Sherman court house is insufficient to hold the dead and wounded. The vacant Moore building, on the south square, was utilized at 6 o'clock, fifteen colored people, dead or dying, being placed there.

Express drays, baggage wagons and all kinds of vehicles continue to come in with dead bodies. Around the Moore building the highest excitement prevails and the greatest difficulty is experienced in getting the names of the victims and accurate reports.

The storm struck Sherman without warning, on the southwest corner of the city, and cleared a path 100 yards wide along the west end of the town. Houses, trees, fences and everything went before

THE TERRIBLE FORCE

of the cyclone. The negro part of the town suffered the most severely.

There are probably, 30 negroes killed. Ten bodies have been picked up in Post Oak creek. The flood of rain which attended the storm was severe. The town is a mass of mud and floating debris. There is much difficulty in finding the dead and injured.

Captain J. E. ELY'S house was demolished and his wife and two children had miraculous escapes.

Captain B. BERGE'S residence was also leveled to the ground, but fortunately the family was away from home.

FRANK RYAN, manager of the Sherman baseball team, had his house blown off its foundation and completely turned around. His wife and two children escaped serious injury.
