

The Galveston County Daily News

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Night of Terror Leaves Thousands Dead or Stranded



Last week's hurricane struck with enormous force. Winds far stronger than the Weather Service had predicted swept bathers from the beach out to sea. Volunteers, working under the direction of the Red Cross, are trying to help families identify the wounded and the dead. Numbers are still coming in, but it is estimated that as many as 10,000 people may have died. Among these are all the girls from the orphanage. It is believed that thousands have been stranded since their homes collapsed. Government and business buildings across the island lie in ruin. Work teams have begun to clear away the rubble, as the city remains in shock.

On September 8, 1900, a hurricane hit Galveston, Texas that changed the city and its residents forever. At the turn of the century, Galveston was one of the wealthiest cities in the United States. By the end of the horrific storm, it was almost unrecognizable with overwhelming damage and destruction throughout.

On the morning of September 8, winds began to pick up with great intensity and massive ocean waves crashed on the beaches.

By the end of the day, it is estimated that winds reached close to 130 miles per hour, the majority of the city was destroyed, and one-sixth of the population of Galveston was killed. One of the saddest stories from the storm occurred at St. Mary's orphanage. All but three of the children living there were killed, along with the nuns who were their caretakers.


Galveston prides itself on rebuilding rather quickly. They built a sea wall, but remained vulnerable to future storms. Their economy never completely recovered, and Galveston became a quieter beach town.




"I'm glad I'se living," is a statement many expressed, including this boy, in the aftermath of the Galveston hurricane in 1900.

The storm does not subside. The Sanders family crowds into a bed in the maid's quarters. They listen to the wind howling and the waves crashing on the shore.

I can't sleep.
I'm so scared! Are
we really safe
here?



The wind isn't going down. It sounds like it's getting worse! I wonder if our home has been completely destroyed. What should we do?



Let's go downstairs to the basement. I fixed the ceiling and cemented the walls yesterday. We should be safe down there.