
Electronic Journal of
SEVERE STORMS METEOROLOGY

The 1925 Tri-State Tornado Damage Path and Associated Storm System

Supplemental Material

APPENDIX C

For each county of the Tri-State tornado damage path, all of our findings related to the nature of the storm and its tornadoes are shown. Also shown are a few findings suggesting that the storm produced another tornado in Pike County, IN. The sources were found from an interview (IV), a local newspaper (NP), a local text story (TS), a local book story (B), a magazine (M), photographs (P), and other (O).

TYPES OF FINDINGS:

- Location of hail, rain, and wind associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine
- Location of moderate debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance (north-northwest) from the damage path in this county
- Location where a piece of light debris was found a long way from a known place within the tornado path in this county
- Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado
- Viewing the storm and the tornado relative to each other
- Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path
- Information that suggests either a multivortex form of the Tri-State tornado or a satellite tornado associated with the same storm
- Information that suggests a tornado occurred on the same day, but with another storm

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In the Missouri counties, Don Burgess and Chuck Doswell gathered all the information and interviewed many local people.

SHANNON COUNTY, MO

Location of hail, rain, and wind associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

The *Eminence Current Wave* (26 March 1925 edition) reported wind damage across Shannon County, beginning near the Texas County line. (NP)

Mrs. Helen Ferguson Thompson, who was 8 y old in 1925, reported watching the tornado with her father R. E. Ferguson from the porch of their house on Blair Creek. This was south of the historic town of Stroup Spring (a.k.a. Holmes Hollow) in the early days, and Gang later in time. No rain or hail was seen near the tornado. No wind was observed at the house during the tornado. Before the tornado, it felt like an average early spring day. No rain fell at the Thompson home at any time during the storm. The sun came out after the storm passed [Burgess and Doswell (BD) interview]. (IV)

Location where a piece of light debris was found a long way from a known place within the tornado path in this county

According to Mrs. Thompson, minnows from Blair Creek were blown onto Gieger Ridge and found the next day. The exact location along the ridge is unknown, but the straight-line extrapolated distance along the path would have been 5.6 km (3.5 mi) (BD IV). (IV)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

Mrs. Thompson saw the tornado come down the ridge to the west of the house and go into the

valley, It passed from northwest to northeast of the home, as close as a block away, and could be seen downing timber “like a lawnmower laying down grass.” She heard the tornado’s roar and described it as funnel-shaped, coming to a point at the bottom, which was the top of the debris cloud. This implies that the tornado was not very wide (BD IV). (IV)

Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path

Mrs. Thompson’s interview comments suggested that the damage path she saw in Shannon County, at least as far northeast as the Poplar School destruction, was not particularly wide (BD IV). (IV)

REYNOLDS COUNTY, MO

Location of hail, rain, and wind associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

Hailstones the size of small potatoes occurred near the site of Sam Flowers’ death north of Ellington (Matt Chaney notes). (B)

Alpha McNail of Vinson Branch (west of Redford) said there was minor wind damage at her family farm. She witnessed dark clouds to the south, but could not confirm as a tornado (*Ellington Courier* interview in 50th anniversary issue, 18 March 1975). (NP)

Ellington Courier (26 March 1925) reported that there was nontornadic wind damage in Redford. (NP)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

In Dry Valley, 4 mi north of Ellington, the tornado was seen by a rural mail carrier (Reeder, 1925). (O)

1.5 mi south of Redford the tornado was seen by Mr. Obia Neel, Redford Postmaster (Reeder 1925). (O)

Clara Brown’s husband-to-be saw the tornado near the Black River, north of current County Road K in far eastern Reynolds County [Chaney interview notes (Brown)]. (IV)

Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path

Reports of extensive damage to timber, orchards, and barns on the Scott Farm (along Logan Creek in far western Reynolds County) implied a fairly wide path. [Helen Thompson (see Shannon County) and *Ellington Courier* (26 March 1925)]. (BD IV & NP)

Ellington Courier (26 March 1925) and other sources reported a wide swath of timber damage in Dry Valley, north of Ellington, and Spring Valley, northeast of Ellington. (NP)

Clara Brown described extensive timber damage near a relative’s home in Upper Low Hollow east of Redford. She also discussed her husband-to-be witnessing the tornado and very extensive timber damage, with difficulty climbing through the wide damage path, near the Black River (north of current County Road K) in far eastern Reynolds County [Chaney interview notes (Brown)]. (IV)

IRON COUNTY, MO

Location of hail, rain, and wind associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

Hail the size of “good-sized potatoes” fell at the train station in the center of Annapolis before the tornado [from the *St. Louis Star* (March 19, 1925), quoting R. Robbs, engineer on the Missouri Pacific Railroad]. According to Robbs, the train left the station just after the hail fall, moving south, just before the tornado struck the town. As the train was progressing southbound, telegraph poles along the track were downed by strong nontornadic winds, south of the tornado track, across a distance of several miles. (NP)

Hail of unknown size fell in several places in and around Annapolis before the tornado. The rain was before the tornado [Chaney interview notes (Cook, Brown and Hackworth)]. (IV)

The sun came out a little while after the storm passed [Peachy Jones interview (BD IV) and Chaney interview notes (Cook and Brown)]. (IV)

Large hail (no size given) broke windows on the north side of the Nell Kelly home in the Leadanna mining community just east of Annapolis [Chaney interview notes (Kelly)]. (IV)

Location where a piece of light debris was found a long way from a known place within the tornado path in this county

Nell Kelly said her marriage license to Osro Kelly was found in Murphysboro, IL after the tornado. The torn license was repaired by a citizen, who found it and gave it to the Murphysboro Postmaster, who in turn mailed it back to Annapolis. The license was originally in the destroyed Kelly home. The distance between the Leadanna mining community and Murphysboro is 124 km (77 mi) [Chaney interview notes (Kelly)]. (IV)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

Alice “Peachy” Jones was on the 2nd floor of the two-story Annapolis school, in the northwest portion of town and toward the left edge of tornado track. She and other students were led to first-floor shelter by teachers who saw the tornado approaching. Classmates of Peachy also saw the tornado, but she did not. She and others did hear the train-like roar of the tornado. Damage to the school was not extensive, but glass was broken and debris entered second floor classrooms. The first floor’s outside doors were blocked briefly by debris. The sun began to shine not long after the tornado passed [BD IV, and Chaney interview notes (Jones)]. (IV)

Chaney (1997) describes both 1) those in Annapolis who saw the tornado approach and were able to take shelter (pp. 18–19) and 2) those caught unaware who did not recognize the cloud as a tornado, calling it “a column of black coal smoke” (p. 3). Chaney quotes from an interview with Cecil Hackworth, then a 16-year old who was caught outside by the tornado because he couldn’t recognize its “black fog” form. He also quotes from an interview with Luellen Cook, who remembered her mother telling her that the approaching tornado looked like “dark smoke rising”. Apparently, some were confused because the condensation cloud was wide and did not have a funnel shape. (B & IV)

Nell Kelly was at her home in the Leadanna mining community, just east of Annapolis with her husband Osro and two small daughters Lucille and Wilma. Osro saw the dark clouds approaching and feared a tornado. The family gathered in a central dining room. Just after hail broke windows, the wind started doing damage. The next thing they knew, they were blown some distance east of the house into a small creek.

Osro was killed. Nell suffered severe injuries and was expected not expected to recover, spending 6 months in a St. Louis hospital and suffering with lingering effects of the injuries for the rest of her life. Miraculously, the two girls survived with minor injuries, but the older one was forced to lift her younger sister’s head above the water level to keep her from drowning until help could arrive. [Chaney interview notes (Kelly)]. (IV)

Viewing the storm and the tornado relative to each other

A storm with heavy rain and hail occurred at Annapolis just after 1 pm. At the southwest edge of the storm, a funnel cloud was seen over the hills southwest of Annapolis, rapidly approaching the town (*Iron County Eagle*, 26 March 1925). (NP)

Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path

Clara Brown was at her father’s farm (Joseph Brown) 3 mi west-southwest of Annapolis and just east of the Reynolds County line. She and her father heard the tornado roar to the south of the farmhouse, but did not see the tornado. The house was not damaged, but to its south, barns and extensive timber were destroyed. She remembered seeing large stands of trees flattened, and walking what she called “a wide path of downed trees.” [Chaney interview notes (Brown)]. (IV)

Although most national newspaper reports indicated most of Annapolis was “virtually destroyed”, pictures in the Centennial Issue of the *Annapolis Eagle* (29 May 1971) showed both destroyed buildings in downtown Annapolis and others that were only partially damaged. Also pictured was a damaged home in the east-central portion of Annapolis. The tornado may have been as much as 1.2 km (0.75 mi) wide in Annapolis, but the regions of intense damage did not appear to be wide. Pictures of the Leadanna Mine, 1 mi east of town, indicated more significant and widespread damage to better-built structures. Adjacent to the mine, 21 houses were completely demolished (*Iron County Eagle*, 26 March 1925). (NP)

Peachy Jones walked home from the school after the tornado. She said she passed from lesser damage near the school to major damage in their neighborhood on the east side of town

(Spring Street), implying a wide path. Her family home was destroyed; her mother, older brother, and younger brother were blown from the home and seriously injured. Her father was underground at the Leadanna mine at the time of the tornado and uninjured. He and other miners had to climb 140 m (460 ft) to the surface on ladders because the tornado had destroyed the above-ground portion of the tippie tower, hoist, and all other machinery (BD IV). (IV)

Opal Kelly (sister-in-law of Osro Kelly) remembered Osro's funeral procession that went several miles from the Leadanna Mine eastward to the Minimum Cemetery along County Road C. Timber had to be cleared from that road by county road crews before the procession could occur. Along the way, Opal saw a long and wide path of extensive timber damage and several damaged or destroyed houses and barns (Burgess interviews with Lester Ruble, grandson of Opal Kelly and Bud Jackson, long-time resident of the area). (IV)

Students who in 1925 attended the Collins School, 3.2 km (2 mi) west of Minimum, remembered an extensive path of timber damage and some farm damage north of the school, but no damage to the school (Burgess interviews with Lester Ruble and Judy Hinkle, whose grandparents attended Collins School). (IV)

MADISON COUNTY, MO

Location of hail, rain, and wind associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

A downpour of rain and considerable hail (no size estimate) occurred to the north of the tornado, but south of Fredericktown (*Fredericktown Democrat News*, 19 and 26 March 1925). (NP)

In the Miller's Chapel community, there was considerable non-tornadic wind damage to fences, with loose animals over a several square-mile area (*Fredericktown Democrat News*, 2 April 1925). (NP)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

Train passengers on the Missouri Pacific Railroad passing Cornwall (eastern Madison County) saw the tornado from the train. The tracks were blocked by downed trees, and the

train was delayed (*Farmington News*, 26 March 1925) (NP)

Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path

Most information about damage in eastern Madison County came from the *Fredericktown Democrat News* (26 March 1925). It contained a detailed listing of farms struck by the tornado in Central, St Michael, and Caster Townships. Unfortunately, no detailed accounts of damage have been found and no survivor interviews have occurred. The *Farmington News* does give details of damage along the railroad near Cornwall, where a rock-crushing plant and other businesses were destroyed (3 injuries), along with several houses. The worst damage appeared to be at the south edge of town and just south of town. The only mention of damage width in either paper was a nonspecific wide path. (NP)

BOLLINGER COUNTY, MO

Location of hail, rain, and wind associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

On and near the McCormack farm (far northwestern Bollinger County), Clint McCormack remembered seeing non-tornadic wind damage that occurred to timber and fences to the south of the tornado path for a couple of miles; all damage was from southerly winds, apparently inflow winds. He also remembered seeing non-tornadic wind damage to barns, sheds and outbuildings in the Union Light community to the east of the family farm, 3.2–4.8 km (2–3 mi) south of the tornado path (BD IV). (IV)

Bill Smith remembered hail (no size estimate) and heavy rain falling at the family farm in northwestern Bollinger County just before he saw the tornado coming (BD IV). (IV)

Lulu Fulton Snyder, 12 y old at the time, remembered hail (no size estimate) falling at the family farm in north-central Bollinger County just before the tornado. The hail was substantial because she remembers it scared her mother (BD IV). (IV)

Elliot Murray was at his family farm 1.6 km (1 mi) north of the tornado path, in northeast Bollinger County, northwest of the Conrad School. As a 9-year old boy, he remembered it

thundering, getting dark, and hail falling (no size estimate), but not much rain. The family gathered on their porch and watched the tornado pass to their south. Afterward, skies cleared, but was quite windy all afternoon (BD IV). (IV)

Hazel Statler Probst was in the Conrad School of northeastern Bollinger County, and told family members of large hail (no exact size estimate) falling before the tornado [BD interview with Mae Clements Probst (sister-in-law to Hazel Probst)]. (IV)

Watching with her family at their farm in northeastern Bollinger County, Daisy Shrum remembered hen-egg size hail falling and breaking windows before they watched the tornado move from southwest to southeast of their home (*The Storm of 1925* by Daisy Shrum; informal manuscript). (TS)

Ruby Bangert Stearns was at the Garner School in far northeastern Bollinger County. Baseball-sized hail broke windows on the north side of the school just before the tornado destroyed the school and blew students into a field. Ruby remembers hail falling and stinging her as she lay in the field after the tornado. [Although it also could have been debris falling, Ruby remembers it as hail.] It also rained some after the tornado. (BD IV). (IV)

Location of moderately heavy debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance from the damage path in this county

Daisy Shrum and others remembered a book belonging to Bertha Murray, wife of Jess Murray, being blown away when the family home in northeastern Bollinger County was destroyed. The book was returned by someone who found it southeast of Longtown in Perry County, a distance of 27 km (17 mi) [BD interview with family members at the Happy Old People's Meeting, and *The Storm of 1925*; informal manuscript by Daisy Shrum]. (IV & TS)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

Reva Henson saw the tornado approaching her farm in far northwestern Bollinger County, and hid under a tin culvert along Missouri Highway 72 as the tornado destroyed the house and blew debris for some distance. She described the tornado as a big black cloud

[Burgess interview with David McCutchen, Reva's grandson]. (IV)

Bill Smith saw the tornado approaching his father Newton Smith's farm in northwestern Bollinger County. Bill remembered seeing it destroy a barn and down trees from southwest to east of the house; the house sustained only a little damage. The tornado was described as big and black, probably wedge-shaped (BD IV). (IV)

Lulu Fulton Snyder, at the family (J. R. Fulton) farm, saw the tornado approach from the southwest and damage the Fadler farm to her southwest. She described the tornado as dark against a light background. She and her family huddled underneath furniture, sustaining only minor injuries as the house was damaged. She also saw cows thrown large distances and chickens with feathers removed (BD IV). (IV)

Elliot Murray was at his family farm 1.6 km (1 mi) north of the tornado path, in northeastern Bollinger County. The family gathered on their porch and watched the tornado ("a big black cloud rolling along the ground") pass to their south (BD IV). (IV)

Hazel Shrum was sitting by the window in the Conrad School and saw the tornado approaching, described as "black and blue cloud that came to the ground". The school was destroyed and the teacher and students were injured, some severely (*The Storm of 1925* by Daisy Shrum; informal manuscript). (TS)

The Ralph Shrum family saw the tornado approach Lixville in northeast Bollinger County, and alerted residents in stores and in the Catholic Church to seek shelter (*The Storm of 1925* by Daisy Shrum, informal manuscript). (TS)

At the family farm 1.6 km (1 mi) southwest of the Garner School, Stella Bangert Uhlig remembered seeing the funnel cloud as dark and wide. She also remembered her father, Robert Bangert, running back toward the farm house from the field as the tornado passed to the north, and being knocked to the ground by strong winds. There was some wind damage to the farm. After the tornado, two other Bangert families lived with the Robert Bangert family while their homes were rebuilt. Stella remembered that she learned English as a result of the families coming together. Before that time she had only spoken German (*The Bangerts*,

History, Stories, and Pictures; informal manuscript compiled by Dorothy Bangert Phillips). (TS)

In the Garner School, Ruby Bangert Stearns did not see the tornado; school windows were on the north and the tornado approached from the southwest. She said her father, William Bangert, was at the family farm in the tornado path, 1.6 km (1 mi) southwest of the school. He saw the tornado as a black cloud. He and other family members rode out the tornado in their well-built two-story log home. The second story was destroyed, but the first floor survived, providing shelter for the family. William then ran to the school to see about the children and one of his other daughters, Sidonia Bangert Seabaugh, who was the teacher. He found all the injured children and teacher. One of the children died from her injuries a day later (BD IV). (IV)

Viewing the storm and the tornado relative to each other

Lulu Fulton Snyder remembered it raining and hailing with a dark cloud to the north, and also saw the tornado approach from the southwest, light against a dark background. After the tornado, there was no more rain (BD IV). (IV)

In the Garner School, Ruby Bangert Stearns saw dark clouds to the north, moving rapidly to the west (BD IV). (IV)

Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path

The *Banner Press* (26 March 1925) reported that the tornado path across Bollinger County was from 1.2–1.6 km (0.75–1 mi) wide. (NP)

Clint McCormack remembered working with his father and other men after the tornado to clear timber from along Missouri Hwy 72, in far northwestern Bollinger County. He estimated a 1.6-km (1-mi) wide area of timber laid flat (BD IV). (IV)

With information from the Clint McCormack interview and working with the help of Bob Fulton (local historian), BD estimated the path of the tornado on the Henry Loberg farm (far northwestern Bollinger County) as 1.2 km (0.75 mi) wide by using tree mounds and depressions (Fig. C1) and building damage (BD IV). (IV)

Bill Smith remembered seeing the damage path to the southwest, south, and southeast of his home, and estimated the path width as “most of a mile”. He also commented on scoured ground, with grass and some top soil removed—both near the destroyed Shrum home to his southwest and near his uncle Abner Smith’s farm to his southeast (BD IV). Pictures of the Shrum home obtained from Anna Mungle show complete destruction (Fig. C2). (IV & P)



Figure C1: One of the authors (Burgess) standing in a depression with a mound behind him. The mound was caused by the root ball of a large felled tree, and the depression was caused by the removal of the root ball. Mounds were sometimes detected by their covering of moss. Photo by Chuck Doswell.



Figure C2: The destroyed home of Emily Shrum. Note snapped tree trunk (foreground) and remains of heavy cook stove (at right); the stove was one of only a few heavy things that remained on the foundation. Photo courtesy of Anna (Shrum) Mungle.

Working with Bob Fulton and with information from Lulu Fulton Snyder, BD estimated the tornado width at 1.2 km (0.75 mi) along the section-line road in front of the Fulton farm. (IV)

From interviews with Kelly Clements, son of Louis Clements, and Lonnie Schott (both BD IV), and finding still remaining tree mounds and depressions, BD estimated the tornado path width along the border of far northeast Bollinger County and south-central Perry County at \approx 2 km (1.25 mi). (IV)

PERRY COUNTY, MO

Location of hail, rain, and wind associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

Lonnie Schott, who was in the St. Maurus Catholic School in Biehle (south-central Perry County), remembered that hail (no size estimate) fell at the school before the tornado hit. After the tornado, it cleared. As Lonnie walked to his home 2.4 km (1.5 mi) southeast of town, the sun was shining (BD IV). (IV)

Barney Winkler, in the Apple Creek Catholic School 8 km (5 mi) east of Biehle—same school as Rudy Buchheit below—remembered walking home after the tornado in clear skies, but wind so strong it was hard to walk [Chaney interview notes (Winkler)]. (IV)

Mary Jane Buchheit, daughter of Henry Buchheit of south-central Perry County, remembered that her father had two farms. The tornado severely damaged the first, which was the family home.. Nontornadic winds damaged the second, 3.2 km (2 mi) to the south (Burgess interview). (IV)

Bob Fielher is a son of Fielher family affected by the tornado, now with the Perry County Lutheran Historical Society. He remembered wind damage in Frohna, Altenburg, and Wittenburg, all 4.8–8.0 km (3–5 mi) south of the tornado path, and all in eastern Perry County. In all three towns, strong south winds of apparent inflow nature toppled chimneys, downed tree limbs and removed roof shingles (BD IV). (IV)

Arlene Petzoldt Koenig, daughter of Oscar Petzoldt of far eastern Perry County, remembered that goose-egg size hail fell at the family farm just before the tornado hit. The sun

came out not long after the tornado passed (BD IV). (IV)

Location of moderately heavy debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance from the damage path in this county

A piece of tin marked with farm location (Ben Buchheit farm) was found in Grand Tower, IL near Gorham, a distance of 24.1 km (15 mi) (*Perry County Sun*, 26 March 26 1925, and *Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian*, 27 March 1925). (NP)

Another piece of tin, marked like the one above, was found in Ava, IL, a distance of 35.4 km (22 mi) (*Perry County Record*, 26 March 1925, and *Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian*, 27 March 1925). (NP)

Location where a piece of light debris was found a long way from a known place within the tornado path in this county

The tornado destroyed the Stueve family home in southeastern Perry County and lofted a picture of Paul Stueve, son of John Stueve. The picture was found in Belle River, IL and returned, a distance of 109 km (68 mi) (*Perry County Sun*, 26 March 1925). (NP)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

According to an interview in the *Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian* (30 March 1925), A. H. Kirn of Biehle stood outside his general store and watched the storm approach, seeing dark clouds on the horizon. As they moved closer, he focused on one area he called a “lowered nimbus” and recognized it as a tornado. He alerted others, including children, to take shelter. As he took shelter, he heard the roar of the approaching tornado. (NP)

Lonnie Schott was in the Biehle Catholic School, which was damaged but not destroyed, toward the south edge of the path. He remembers that it got dark, and rain and hail fell before he heard the roar and damage occurred. Teachers took the students to an interior room, and Lonnie did not see the funnel. However, his father, who was working on the family farm southeast of town and on a rise of higher ground, described the funnel as a truncated cone, big and wide. He watched it from southwest of Biehle, through town, and for several miles farther

northeast. According to Lonnie, his father saw a single tornado that did not have multi-vortex structure. It did not rain at the Schott farm (BD IV). (IV)

Rudy Buchheit was in the Apple Creek Catholic School. He remembered that it rained just before the tornado. His school room had windows to the west and north. His teacher allowed the students to go to the window and watch the tornado. Rudy said he watched the big, wide, recognizable tornado for some time, seeing only one large consolidated funnel, not multiple vortex structures (BD IV). (IV)

Arlene Petzoldt Koenig was at her family farm, the Oscar Petzoldt farm in far eastern Perry County. The family saw the tornado coming and huddled under furniture in the center of the first floor of their 2-story house. The tornado destroyed the house, leaving only some furniture and the foundation and flooring. The family escaped with minor injuries. Arlene, 7 y old at the time, remembered rain and hail before the tornado, and a little rain afterward. After the house blew away, she remembered getting wet and cold. The rain after the tornado did not last long, and the sun soon came out. She remembered destruction of all the buildings on the farm, with many dead animals (BD IV). (IV)

Edmund Weber was in the Ridge Catholic School of far eastern Perry County when the tornado destroyed it, throwing the teacher and children into a field. There were injuries but no deaths at the school. Edmund remembers that it got dark and rained before the tornado approached. The wind blew objects against the side of the building and blew open the door before destroying the building. None of the people in the school saw the funnel approach (Chaney interview notes (Weber)). (IV)

Viewing the storm and the tornado relative to each other

Lonnie Schott said that his father saw the storm, in the form of dark clouds and rain to the north and the tornado to the west at the storm's back edge. This positioning was maintained for the period of time that the tornado moved from west to northeast of him (BD IV). (IV)

Rudy Buchheit said that the rain was northeast of the tornado, and that the tornado was at the back of the storm. That configuration was

maintained while the tornado moved from west to northeast of him (BD IV). (IV)

Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path

The *Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian* (30 March 1925) reported that the damage path was several hundred yards wide at Biehle. (NP)

During a driving survey with Lonnie Schott, both near and northeast of Biehle, BD estimated that the tornado path was 1.2–1.6 km (0.75–1 mi) wide. The *Perry County Sun* (26 March 1925) reported the tornado to be 0.25 mi wide at a point a few miles northeast of Biehle. BD think the interview width is more credible than the newspaper estimate (BD IV). (IV)

The *Perry County Record* (26 March 1925) reported that the damage path near Schalls, north of Uniontown and west of Brazeau, was 1.6 km (1 mi) wide. (NP)

Judge Claus Stueve's two-story home in far eastern Perry County was destroyed with 2 deaths and one serious injury (Fig. C3). From newspapers and other sources, the home was said to be "palatial" and "by far the best home in that part of the county". Pictures obtained from the Perry County Lutheran Historical Society show the destruction of the home. (P)



Figure C3: The destroyed home of Judge Claus Stueve. Photo courtesy of Carla Jordan, Lutheran Heritage Center & Museum of Altenburg, MO.

On a driving survey with Bob Fielher of the Perry County Lutheran Historical Society, BD estimated the damage path near the Stueve home to be 1.2 km (0.75 mi) wide (BD IV). (IV)

During a driving survey with Arlene Petzoldt Koenig near her family farm, in far eastern Perry County, BD estimated that damage path was 1.2 km (0.75 mi) wide (BD IV). (IV)

On a driving survey with Chaney, Edmund Weber estimated the damage path width near the Ridge community to be 1 mi [Chaney interview notes (Weber)]. (IV)

Information that suggests either a multivortex form of the Tri-State tornado or a satellite tornado associated with the same storm

Perry County Sun (26 March 1925) reported that “the clouds divided just southwest of Biehle and two cyclonic clouds formed.” It reported that there was land between cyclonic clouds that sustained no damage: an area immediately north of Biehle and another area 2.4 km (1.5 mi) northeast of Biehle.

At the Hotop farm, 3.2 km (2 mi) northeast of Biehle, “the two clouds again formed into one and wrecked everything in its path.” This report was used in the *Missouri Climatological Data* (Reeder, 1925), and has been repeated in many places since. BD doubt the report. The newspaper article did not give a source. The other newspaper in the same town (*Perry County Record*) did not mention multiple funnels or any interior strip with no damage. Eyewitness information from two people who saw the tornado in the Biehle area—Lonnie Schott’s father and Rudy Buchheit—does not support multiple funnels. Also, both Schott and Buchheit saw the damage and reported that it was continuous (i.e., no undamaged strip). Finally, in questioning a number of people in and around Biehle—at the Catholic church, at stores in town, and farmers in the countryside—no one had heard of multiple funnels and/or a strip of undamaged land within the path, so the existence of multiple funnels is not retained within the collective memory of the community (BD IV). (IV and NP).

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In Jackson County, IL, Steve Piltz gathered all the information and interviewed many local people.

JACKSON COUNTY, IL

Location of hail and rain associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

A lot of information about the Tri-State tornado appeared in the *Murphysboro Daily Independent* newspaper of 18 March 1926.

“Very little hail fell in Murphysboro, but the storm from the northwest showered giant hailstones to the north and northwest of there. When the two storms met in Murphysboro, the tornado put the hailstorm out of business.” (NP)

A 1986 written account by Ralph Waldo Lloyd noted a sudden whistling and roaring sound of the wind, a darkening of the sky, and flying debris while visiting the Logan home at 18th and Walnut in Murphysboro. He describes “two or three or four minutes” of terrific wind, followed by rain. He did not note rain before the apparent arrival of the tornado. (TS—written account from Lloyd—pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Murphysboro in 1925)

At the City National Bank in downtown Murphysboro, “Debris breaking in the plate glass windows in the front of the bank was the first intimation those in the bank had that a severe storm was on.” This suggests that no rain or hail was noticed at the bank before damage started. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

At the W. G. Shaw drugstore in downtown Murphysboro, Mr. Shaw saw a “yellowish looking cloud swirling from the southwest...” No mention is made of precipitation preceding his sighting of cloud rotation, and his view apparently was not obstructed by significant precipitation. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

“Muddy rain fell in Murphysboro following the tornado...The winds of the great storm picked up dust and the rain in its immediate wake changed the dust to mud and covered humans and articles in ruined buildings with a coloring of mud.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 39)

A Vergennes, IL man found an acorn as large as a hen’s egg covered with an inch and half of ice. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 48)

Hail southwest of Murphysboro: S. B. McNeil and his son, John, were on the Sand Ridge road in their Hudson car when the storm came up. They appeared to be struck by the tornado as their car was blown into a field. The text of the article is partially illegible, but the headline reads: Hail Batters S. B. McNeil. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 48)

This account of the tornado does not indicate any substantial precipitation in southern Murphysboro as the tornado approached. A graphic eyewitness story of the destruction at Murphysboro, IL, and vicinity, was related to a *Post-Dispatch* report. “Michael Kiley of 1009 Gate avenue, East St. Louis, an engineer of the Mobile & Ohio passenger train which arrived in St. Louis at 8:45 o'clock last night after being blocked for nearly three hours by the wreckage of buildings blown upon the track. We were pulling into Murphysboro from the south at 2:35 p.m., when the tornado struck, engineer Kiley said. Our first information that something was wrong came when the wind began to whistle through the cab and the engine was pelted with flying boards. Then we saw the terrific funnel-shaped cloud approached from the west and saw houses rumbling before it. The air was full of wreckage.” (NP—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*: 19 March 1925)

Cynthia Elvina Ticer Taylor was 9 y old at the time of the storm and attended Pate Chapel School, several miles north of Murphysboro. She recalled baseball-size hail breaking the windows of the school and straw embedded in the hail. She also recalled that the sky looked like “rolling mud”. (IV—Interview on 27 July 2007)

Pauline Hogenmiller Maerker was in school at Gorham, IL at the time of the tornado. She related to her son Harold O. Maerker that a few hailstones of about quarter size hit the school window immediately before the tornado struck. She related no other accounts of precipitation prior to the tornado. (IV—Interview with Harold Maerker – 25 July 2007.)

Denver Brewer was 2 y old at the time of the tornado and he lived just northeast of Gorham. Mr. Brewer recalled quarter size hail, and his uncles run across a field to the home with metal pans/tubs over their heads. He also recalled that the winds shifted to the east as the tornado passed to his south. He assumed this based on the strain he noticed on the family storm-cellular door. (IV—Interview: 20 December 2007)

Floyd Stevenson was 12 y old at the time of the tornado and was attending Logan School in Murphysboro. He related that while at afternoon recess, minutes before the tornado, low clouds were traveling from east to west over the school. (IV—family story)

Location of moderately heavy debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance (north-northwest) from the damage path in this county

11.3 km (7 mi) near Elkhville, IL: F. Shupe found a pair of trousers on his farm. Papers in the pockets bore the name of Moschenrose of Gorham. The trousers had been blown 31 km (19 mi) northeast of Gorham. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 1)

92.2 km (57.3 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, IL, Wayne City, IL: The vest of J. H. Brandon, 2115 Pine Street, Murphysboro, was found in Wayne City, and contained papers bearing his name. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

21.4 km (13.3 mi) northeast of Gorham, IL, 8 km (5 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, IL: A white quilt decorated with Red Riding Hood blew away from the Arthur Hines home and was found 5 mi northeast of Murphysboro by Mrs. Fred Schultz. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

21.4 km (13.3 mi) north of De Soto, IL, Quoin, IL: Timbers (type and size unknown) from De Soto were hurled 10 mi away to Du Quoin. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: March 18, 1926)

39.3 km (24.4 mi) northeast of Gorham, IL, Du Quoin, IL: A sign from the O. E. Schimpf store was found in Du Quoin.

10.3 km (6.4 mi) north of De Soto, IL...Elkhville, IL: Boards and bits of clothing from De Soto fell for several minutes. (NP—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*: 19 March 1925, p. 7-3)

21.4 km (13.3 mi) north of De Soto, IL, Du Quoin, IL: Light articles fell from the sky. The actual origin is not given but the article concerned De Soto. (NP—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*: 19 March 1925, p. 7-3)

35.6 km (22.1 mi) north of De Soto, IL, Tamaroa, IL: Light articles fell from the sky. The actual origin is not given but the article concerned De Soto. (NP—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*: 19 March 1925, p. 7-3)

11.7 km (7.3 mi) off Murphysboro, IL, Oraville, IL: Long sheets of iron roofing rained

downed. The debris is said to be from Murphysboro, but no proof of its origin is given. (NP—*Carbondale Free Press*: 25 March 1925, p. 1)

6.0 km (3.7 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, IL: Steven Piltz recalled a town story that many hats and coats from town landed in the trees of a wooded area immediately north of Murphysboro near the Kimmel Road Bridge. It was referred to as the “hat and coat” woods after the storm. (IV—July 2007)

Location of very light debris blown a long way from a known place in the tornado path in this county

110 km (68 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, IL, near Fairfield, IL: G. H. Majors found a check on his farm from the City National Bank of Murphysboro, written by A. Bean and A. J. Kene. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 1)

166 km (103 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, IL, 12.9 km (8 mi) northeast of Olney, IL: Wm. Ohles found a check on his farm about a week after the tornado occurred. He mailed it back to W. E. Carpenter who had lived in a home on 2004 Herbert Street in Murphysboro. The home had been destroyed and the check had been blown away. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: March 18, 1926 p. 1)

211 km (131 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, 14.5 km (9 mi) northeast of Robinson, IL: Several days after the tornado, W. A. Stagner found a receipt on his farm belonging to L. D. Pigott in Murphysboro, then mailed it back to him. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 1)

272 km (127 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Palestine, IL: John A. Johnson found a life insurance policy for Stetson McKnight, 5 y old. Many other Murphysboro articles were found near Palestine. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 1)

111 km (68 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, near Fairfield, IL: An insurance policy belonging to Charles Kelly was found. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 1)

115 km (71 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Cisne, IL: A Mobile and Ohio train pass issued

to E. J. Jones was found. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 1)

196 km (122 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Robinson, IL: Collection envelope #42 from the Baptist church found near Robinson and returned to Rev. H. T. Abbott by Rev. W. B. Morris of Robinson. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 1)

204 km (127 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Palestine, IL: Rev. H. T. Abbott lost a lot of his calling cards when the tornado destroyed his parsonage in Murphysboro. A person who found his calling card in Palestine, IL called him to let him know that he had found it. (NP)

188 km (117 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Vincennes, IN: A check from the Gregory family home in Murphysboro was found near Vincennes, IN. (NP)

290 km (180 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Bloomington, IN: Insurance policies, newspapers, grocery bills, clothing, and other objects were found—some dated at Murphysboro, IL, and others from Princeton and Owensville, IN. (NP)

653 km (406 mi) east-northeast of Murphysboro, Newark, OH: John Cates found a certificate of ability from a Murphysboro, IL school hanging on a tree on the canal towpath near Newark, Ohio. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 1)

62 km (39 mi) north of De Soto, Mt. Vernon, IL: Charles Wells of De Soto got a letter stating that a Mt. Vernon, IL man found his life insurance papers and a \$50 Liberty bond. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926. p1)

224 km (139 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Sullivan, IN: John W. Hawkins found a certificate of perfect spelling issued to Klon Dale McCord by teacher Addie Bandy in 1923. Mr. Hawkins’ son found a sales ticket from a Murphysboro store. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p2)

216 km (134 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Graysville IN: Claude Phillips found a receipt from John Berger to B. F. Parker. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

224 km (139 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Sullivan, IN: A check to Ross Daily (1918) by the Gartside Coal Co. was found by Fred Alsop on the Sullivan Country Club golf course. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

224 km (139 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Sullivan, IN: A statement to the Gartside Coal Company was on a farm near Sullivan, IN. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

44 km (28 mi) north-northeast of Murphysboro, Sesser, IL: G. P. Harris found Neal Sullivan's insurance papers. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

167 km (104 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Sumner, IL: A picture and receipt from Murphysboro was found near Sumner. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: March 18, 1926 p. 2)

153 km (95 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Olney, IL: Ben Funkhouse found the marriage certificate of Isaac Lindsey of 1317 Illinois Ave, Murphysboro. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

204 km (127 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Palestine, IL: Miss Madeline Johnson's spelling certificate was found. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

92 km (57 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Wayne City, IL: A letter to Dr. H. R. Cummins was found in Wayne City. The letter was blown from the doctor's home. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

170 km (106 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Newton, IL: A receipt belonging to Maggie McCarter was found by Carner Carnet. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

201 km (125 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Lawrenceville, IL: Liberty Bonds and a deed belonging to Police Chief Joe Boston were found in Lawrenceville by R. W. Shaw. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

173 km (108 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Bridgeport, IL: Two pictures from Murphysboro

were found. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 13)

128 km (80 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Mt. Erie, IL: A photograph of the George W. Swaar Family (1914 Clarke St., Murphysboro) was found in Mt. Earl by I. W. Chapman. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

4 km (2.5 mi) south of Murphysboro: A piece of paper from the John Berra store at Nine and Illinois Avenue was found south of Murphysboro. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 34)

34 km (21 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Christopher, IL: A school certificate belonging to Miss Katherine Wanstreet was found by James McCelland of Nashville, IL, in Christopher. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 34)

110 km (68 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Fairfield, IL: Insurance policy of Charlie Kelley found, the beneficiary being Effie Kelley. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 27 March 1925)

205 km (128 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, 1.6 km (1 mi) north of Palestine, IL: Insurance policy on Stetson McKnight of Murphysboro (age 5) and a deed were found. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 27 March, 1925 p. 2)

198 km (123 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, 14.5 km (9 mi) northwest of Robinson, IL: The receipt of an insurance payment made to the Morales Insurance Agency by Mrs. L. D. Pigott. The receipt was found by W. A. Stagner, who reported that many papers from Murphysboro were found there. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 25 March, 1925, p. 2)

153 km (95 mi) northeast of Murphysboro, Olney, IL: A home owners insurance policy belonging to Ernest Wayman was found in Olney, IL by Henry Sleickenmeyer. Mr. Wayman's home was 3 mi southwest of Murphysboro, making the total flight distance of approximately 158 km (98 mi). (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: April 9, 1925 p. 1)

65 km (40 mi) northwest of Murphysboro, Marissa, IL: Shingles, leaves, papers, and small

sticks rained down out of a clear sky. The newspaper attributes the debris to Murphysboro, with no proof. (NP—*Carbondale Free Press*: 25 March 1925, p. 1)

32 km (21 mi) north-northeast of Murphysboro, Christopher, IL: Shingles, leaves, papers, and small sticks rained down out of a clear sky. The newspaper attributes the debris to Murphysboro, but offered no evidence. (NP—*Carbondale Free Press*: 25 March 1925, P. 1)

Viewing the primary tornado

Clyde Wisely, 86 y old in April, 1977, recalled the following for the *nonSequitur* in its April 1977 edition: “There was a high-pitched sound—more like a siren or something—and it was perfectly dark outside.” He remembered seeing a “big black cloud”, which he believed was the tornado itself. (M—*nonSequitur*, April 1977)

“F. M. Hewitt, former Illinois state senator, observed the storm in De Soto. He described the sky above the tornado as a boiling mass of clouds constantly changing color. The roar seemed to come from the upper portion. Below the seething, baggy mass was a tapering dark cloud reaching to the earth. Hewitt and two companions took refuge in a house, which was then destroyed except for one partition. Hewitt was blown into the street. He managed to cling to a post until the storm passed. He reported great difficulty breathing for about 25 seconds.” (M—*Weatherwise*: April 1986)

The *Murphysboro Daily Independent* summarized the accounts of people who saw the storm and/or tornado approach: “A number of citizens say the clouds were rolling over and over on the ground as it approached from the southwest. Many didn’t see a funnel shaped cloud, others did. Gray streaks shot through the darker cloud on the ground, slanting or scooping down to earth in a gradual incline, and these streaks many described as steam, while others thought at first they were thin sheets of rain.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 26)

“Men at the plant of the Murphysboro Paving Brick Co., less than a mile [1.6 km] north of the city, said they saw one large house and two smaller ones rise high into the air and disappear. Two of the men at the brick plant, Fred S. Short and John Drueke, had a good look at the storm as

it laid Murphysboro low. They saw the rain and hail storm swoop down from the northwest and neared and began to roll southward. Mr. Short said later: ‘It was a facsimile of the picture the Independent printed of the tornado that hit Florida the other day, only a hundred times larger. I saw it sweep across Murphysboro. The great tail swipe and it brushed through the city in less than a moment’s time, the heavy, dun colored tendril whipping sickeningly as it moved northeastward.’ Mr. Short declared that the storm cloud from the north was literally sucked in by the mighty whirlwind, and disappeared. Mr. Drueke had the same view and saw a large house and a smaller one or two lifted high in the air. He said the cloud from the southwest was of funnel shape. When the two storms collided the funnel shape was no longer discernible, according to other eyewitnesses on the side lines.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

“Perhaps F. S. Short, traffic routing agent for the Murphysboro paving brick plant, has furnished the most plausible explanation of all this. Mr. Short and John Drueke, pit foreman at the plant, were watching the black rain cloud in the north as the twister approached from out of the southwest, and not yet visible. Finally the cloud in the north began to roll and move southward. Mr. Short called Drueke’s attention to this and made for the plant to escape what he felt sure would be a heavy rain, at least. Arrived there he looked out of a south window of the office and saw the tornado approaching from the southwest. ‘Ever see a cyclone, Crossman?’ Short inquired of C. D. Crossman, bookkeeper. ‘No,’ Crossman replied, and laughed. Short invited him to the window and showed C. D. one of the things. Messrs. Short and Crossman then decided the vault would be a safe place to be while the cyclone was hanging around and made for it. They remained there for a brief interval and came out again. Mr. Short went to the window again and saw what he described as: ‘The facsimile of the picture of the tornado in Florida as published in *The Independent*. Only it was a hundred times what the Miami twister was pictured to be. I saw it sweep across Murphysboro. The great tail of it twitched to and fro. One great swipe and it brushed through the city in less than a moment’s time, the heavy, dun-colored tendril whipping sickeningly as it moved northeastward.’ So it was this snake-like tendril that reached out at times from the main center of the storm and sucked or knocked down

homes and business buildings and uprooted trees and made kites out of house roofs. Had Mr. Short had a camera, the picture of America's greatest cyclo-tornado could have been made – a thing for millions to marvel at. Mr. Short declared that the cloud in the north was literally sucked in by the mighty whirlwind in its rampage, and disappeared. Drueke, out in the regions of the plant, told vividly of seeing houses whirling up high in the air. Farmers viewing the storm from a distance told of a two-story white house high over Murphysboro like a box-kite.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 16 April 1925, p. 1)

Mrs. F. S. Clyburn of 533 North Sixteenth Street: “Then I saw it in the backyard of the third lot from here. It was black as night and was rolling and twisting over the ground coming toward me.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 37)

A 2nd F. M. Hewitt account from De Soto: “We went outside and there were big boiling clouds with a funnel-shaped black center. I said that I believed it was a tornado and we went to the home of a woman across the street who came out carrying a baby to watch the phenomenon. We could see that it was nearer, and on the horizon during intermittent flashes of lightning could see timbers and other debris which seemed to be floating on the air on the crest of the wind. I advised against going inside but finally we all went into the home of the neighbor woman. The wind increased to the roar of a tremendous draft, then it sounded like a lumbering wagon down the street.” (NP—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*: 22 March 1925—by an unidentified AP reporter and recounted in *See Illinois—The People and Places* magazine: March/April 1976)

“Possibly one of the most interesting experiences was that of Fred Weaver, an Illinois Central Railroad conductor: ‘I was driving my automobile near the Illinois Central tracks about one-half mile north of De Soto when the tornado came, he said. I saw a freight train coming and then I noticed it was getting dark and saw the tornado coming. When I saw trees and other objects start flying. I saw the De Soto station lifted up into the air and carried across the street and smashed into pieces on the other side.’” (NP—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*: 20 March 1925)

“Many persons downtown were watching an evil looking black-green cloud in the north, and

some looked to the southwest from whence cyclones come. There they saw stratas of air currents, spreading in different directions, then milling, and those who had seen one knew a cyclone was right onto Murphysboro, two minutes later the twisting demon, driving white clouds down to the earth, was sweeping across Walnut street in the business district. As the writer turned the First National Bank corner he saw it driving across Walnut far out toward Twenty-second.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Republican Era*: 21 March 1925—Transcribed by Mary Riseling, Murphysboro native.)

Viewing the storm and the tornado relative to each other

Murphysboro Daily Independent (March 18, 1926): “All day the skies had been overcast. Showers of rain had fallen. The air was close and oppressive. Shortly after 2 o'clock an ugly cloud, greenish black, appeared across the northwest. As it came down toward Murphysboro many citizens sensing a rain, hail, and wind storm, watched it, and downtown the starting of automobiles drowned the sullen roar which some in the residence sections heard to the southwest. A number of citizens saw both storm clouds approaching, but the one from the northwest looked the more dangerous. Then they met over Murphysboro. There was a terrific crash like thunder, a double clap, and the screeching whistling siren-like death song of the tornado was heard above the roaring and crash of building being demolished. At a given point the destructive fury of the elements last a second or two. Then for two or three minutes the fierce afterswirl of the winds swept loose timbers and moved material loosened by the main fury of the winds. Some rain fell, then the sun came out, and five minutes later there was more rain.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 1)

Forbes Alexander describes the accounts of a neighbor lady who lived on west Walnut Street in Murphysboro. He recalled her stating that as a thunderstorm approached from the north, a huge tornado converged from the southwest. “She said it appeared when the two storms met directly above the town that the thunderstorm was completely engulfed by the twister.” Mr. Alexander was a senior at Murphysboro High School at the time of the tornado. He recalled that the windows of the high school blew in, followed by a roaring noise similar to a freight

train that “gained in volume until those subjected to it were deafened for a short period of time.” (M—See *Illinois—The People and Places* magazine: March/April 1976)

“Mr. Short declared that the storm cloud from the north was literally sucked in by the mighty whirlwind, and disappeared. Mr. Druke had the same view and saw a large house and a smaller one or two lifted high in the air. He said the cloud from the southwest was of funnel shape. When the two storms collided the funnel shape was no longer discernible, according to other eyewitnesses on the side lines.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 2)

Viewing the primary tornado damage path

“A graver note was found late yesterday when pioneer relief workers forging through the district northeast of Murphysboro found a trail of distress gripping many homes in the path of the cyclone. Steps were taken for intensive work in the area. Nursing and sheltering and feeding took on a new momentum farther in the countryside today. Explorers not only found homes down and dead and injured, but came upon part of an Iron Mountain train swept off the track to the north and east.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 22 March 1925)

“Wonder has often been heard expressed since the storm how the tornado which ripped through west and north Murphysboro should have reached out eastward and ‘sideswiped’ down-town Murphysboro. ‘Sideswiped’ is the term often heard used. Others say the storm ‘did not get down low enough’ to get the east side. (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 16 April 1925, p. 1)

“Between Gorham and Murphysboro eighteen miles to the east, the countryside presents a scene of utter devastation. Visible from the road was the wreckage of more than a score of farm houses, barns, and other buildings, and more than 50 farm homes and their complements seriously damaged. The tornado as it twisted its angry way through the rural section cut a swath from 200 yards to one-half mile wide in which no tree remained erect, and in which farm animals were strewn about.” (NP—Associated Press story in the *Carbondale Free Press*: 21 March 21 1925, p. 1).

Interview of Benjamin Dunn (born 1915—10 y old during tornado), 26 July 2007—Mr. Dunn remembered the mangled woods called Cyclone Woods where kids liked to play after the storm. (IV)

Driving tour (20 December 2007) with Denver Brewer (age 2 at time of tornado), who traveled Town Creek Rd between Sandridge and Murphysboro many times as a child after the storm. Right after the storm and for 10 or 15 y later he frequently drove through the tree damage between Murphysboro and Gorham. He said that for the most part no tree trunk was left taller than a man’s knee, and at times the path was a mile wide. By the mid 1940s the area was being cleared. Especially right after World War II, much of the damage path had been cleared for farming. Between that and new tree growth, the path faded away. (IV)

Interview with Wilbur Jaquot (13 December 2008): the tornado crossed diagonally across the Jaquot farm. The home was significantly damaged and a large barn was destroyed. Mr. Jaquot was a small boy at the time. (IV)

Information that suggests that the primary tornado may have been in the form of a multiple vortex tornado or there may have been a satellite tornado associated with the same storm

This account could be interpreted as supporting the existence of multiple vortices, but the description is not clear. The *Murphysboro Daily Independent* summarized the accounts of people who saw the storm and/or tornado approach: “A number of citizens say the clouds were rolling over and over on the ground as it approached from the southwest. Many didn’t see a funnel shaped cloud, others did. Gray streaks shot through the darker cloud on the ground, slanting or scooping down to earth in a gradual incline, and these streaks many described as steam, while others thought at first they were thin sheets of rain.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 26)

The Isco-Bautz Silica Mill, just east of the Big Muddy River on the east side of Murphysboro, was said to be damaged by the tornado. Its location is south of what appears to be the primary tornado path. If it was damaged by a tornado, it would have been a satellite tornado. Yet no other evidence of a satellite tornado exists. The following is a description of

the damage: “One sweep of the curling, rolling storm smashed the brick walls and the roof of the building housing the engines and boilers, and it knocked down the five smokestacks. The mammoth frame building housing the mill proper was less severely dealt with by the mighty wind.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 40)

Significant, but less intense damage occurred in Murphysboro, south of the tornado’s damage track. The damage seemed consistent with inflow, a rear-flank downdraft (RFD), gustnadoes associated with the RFD, or satellite tornadoes (Fig. C4). The following account describes those damaging winds: “In Murphysboro many eddies or swirls of the storm cut through the central and east sides, like scores of narrow tornadoes from fifteen to fifty yards wide, furious twisters, some of which demolished practically new cottages at Sixth and DeWitt, wrecking the Christian church, Cross garage, power house and other buildings.” (NP—*Murphysboro Daily Independent*: 18 March 1926, p. 21 and p. 26)

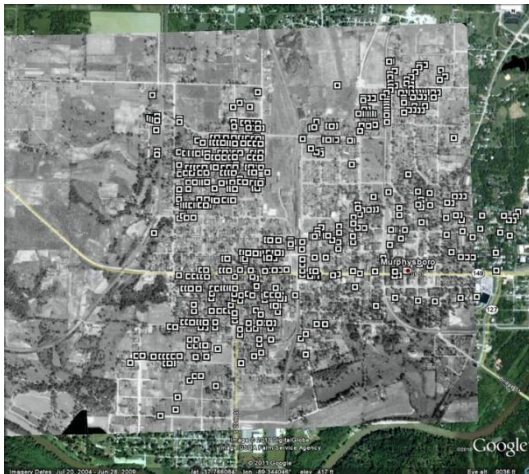


Figure C4: Part of a 1938 aerial survey image (gray) overlaid on a Google Earth image of modern-day Murphysboro, IL. Analysis by one of the authors (SFP) shows damaged, but not destroyed, structures (white squares, edged in black and with black centers). The southwest–northeast area across the center of the image without squares, shows the region of destroyed structures. The lack of large trees in the destruction area in 1938 supports the analysis of structure damage, some of which was performed using images like the one in Fig. C5. The large area of partially damaged structures south of the severe damage area suggests a broad region of

strong winds on the right flank of the primary tornado. 1938 U.S. Department of Agriculture aerial survey image courtesy of the Illinois State Geological Society.



Figure C5: Panorama made from multiple images from a 1925 aerial-survey movie of tornado damage, shot from a biplane. The location is 16th and Logan streets, Murphysboro IL, looking southeast. Damaged building in the center of the figure is the First Baptist Church. Destroyed and partially damaged buildings and severely damaged trees are also seen in figure. The center of the severe damage area is directly beneath the plane. Portions of the movie were used in the evaluation of Murphysboro structure damage and the construction of Fig. C4. Imagery courtesy of the Jackson County, IL, Historical Society.

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In Williamson County and Franklin County, IL, Bob Johns gathered almost all of the information and interviewed many local people. John Hart and Matthew Gilmore gathered some of the information on the east edge of Franklin County.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, IL

Location of hail and rain associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine.

Near the south edge of the damage path in central Blairsville Township and the southeast side of Bush: “At the Bush School, the cyclone cloud darkened the horizon. Before the school was out, hailstones the size of hen eggs were falling and it was raining heavily. This was before the tornado passed near the north edge of the school.” (NP)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

About 1.6 km (1 mi) north of the damage path and about 4.0 km (2.5 mi) north-northeast of Bush: On the southwest edge of Royalton, which

is in the southwest edge of Franklin County, James Fiss and his sister Venita were students in the school. Through the south windows they saw the tornado moving through Williamson County. They mentioned that it had gotten very dark outside and tornado looked like a “big black mass”. (IV)

FRANKLIN COUNTY, IL

Location of hail and rain associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

10.4 km (6.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path at Christopher: The town suffered a severe hail, rain, and electrical storm (the primary tornadic storm). (NP)

8.9 km (5.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path at Benton: The town suffered a severe hail, rain, and electrical storm (the primary tornadic storm). Its first knowledge of the plight of its neighbor city (West Frankfort) to the south was when a person came up and mentioned they needed help because of the tornado damage. (NP)

Just south of the damage path on Main Street about 10 blocks west of downtown West Frankfort: Zella Spani was in the frame school building next to Edward School. Zella remembers that it was sunny near noon and during the first part of the afternoon. However, it got cloudy by 1400 CT, followed by very strong south winds and hail. Zella was near the south windows. Her teacher took her and others over to the other side of the room since the hail was hitting the windows loudly. Soon, strong winds and hail started breaking out the windows. Between 1600–1630 CT, after the storm and when Zella was walking home, it became sunny. (The hail likely occurred with southerly RFD winds that probably started when the tornado was north of the school, and hail continued for a short period after the tornado.) (IV)

Near the south edge of the damage path in downtown West Frankfort: Hail considerably damaged store buildings, smashing window glass not already blown out. It is unclear whether this hail occurred before or after the tornado. (NP)

On the damage path in the Caldwell community and 3.0 km (1.9 mi) north-northeast of downtown West Frankfort: Genevieve DePriest was in her home on the west edge of the

Caldwell community. She said, “I wasn’t concerned until the strong wind began driving hailstones against a large glass window on the west side of the house. I remember thinking that I would gather some of the hailstones when it stopped hailing and make a freezer of ice cream. But the house started moving and I grabbed the two children. The three of us huddled in a corner of the room. The wind blew the house off of its pillared foundation, and it lodged against some trees that grew on the east side of the house. The floors were buckled, twisted, and wrapped. Furniture was turned over and in disarray.” (B)

On the damage path and 5.2 km (3.25 mi) northeast of downtown West Frankfort: Mary (Crawford) Cockrum said that after her family’s two-story home was destroyed, she woke up lying on its floor. Her young brother, her mother, Edith, and her uncle, Frank, also had also been blown down on the floor. Mary noticed it was raining. She and her brother were picked up by Edith and Frank, who carried them fast towards the barn since it was raining hard. The barn was damaged, with a part leaning. They all got under that part of the barn so they could be out of the rain. (IV)

On the damage path about 1.6 km (1 mi) west southwest of Parrish and 9.7 km (6 mi) northeast of West Frankfort: Eula (Kerley) Spain had just gotten home from school when the tornado destroyed her family’s home, blowing her mother out of the house. Her mother was on the ground just to the south with a head injury caused by egg-size hail that fell after the tornado. Eula remembered that after the storm, the sun came out and it was very beautiful and bright. (IV)

On the damage path in the southwest edge of Parrish and 11 km (6.8 mi) northeast of West Frankfort: Gustavia (Launius) Heiple’s older sister, Alta, and Alta’s 1-y-old baby were in their family’s home when it was destroyed, and Alta lost consciousness when they were blown away. They landed on the ground and she was still holding her son. When Alta woke up, she noticed it was hailing; fortunately a rug had landed on top of her and her son. She kept that rug on top of them until the hail ended. (IV)

Just a few yards south of the damage path in the southeast edge of Parrish and about 11.3 km (7 mi) northeast of West Frankfort: Lovill (Woodrum) Carlile was 11 y old and was in the

one-room Parrish School when the tornado destroyed most of Parrish. As the tornado approached, the teacher took the students to the corner of school, away from the windows. Lovill was holding her younger brother. She remembers heavy rain and hail after the wind weakened. (IV)

On the north edge of the damage path, 6.2 km (3.8 mi) north of Thompsonville and 16.5 km (10.25 mi) northeast of West Frankfort: At the Willow Branch School, student Dempsey Summers remembers that as the tornado was going by, the wind beat on the school house and he thought it was going to blow away. After the tornado moved away, the sky cleared. (IV)

On the damage path in southeast Eastern Twp about 8 km (5 mi) north-northeast of Thompsonville: The Knob Prairie (Buckoo) school house was destroyed. After the wind (tornado) had passed, all save the two who were unconscious ran to the outhouse as their only shelter from the rain and hail. (NP)

Location of moderately heavy debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance (north-northwest) from the damage path in this county

10.4 km (6.5 mi) off damage path at Christopher: After the storm, pieces of furniture fell in various parts of Christopher. (NP)

10.4 km (6.5 mi) off damage path at Buckner: A large quantity of debris from DeSoto or possibly Murphysboro fell in Buckner. (NP)

14.5 km (9 mi) off damage path at Vallner: A large quantity of debris from DeSoto or possibly Murphysboro fell in Vallner. (NP)

Location of very light debris blown a long way from a known place in the tornado path in this county

400 km (250 mi) northeast of the Arly Murphy home, on the west side of West Frankfort: His daughter, Madge (Murphy) Presley, mentions that after the Arly Murphy home was destroyed, someone found his check in Muncie, IN and sent it back. (IV)

Somewhere in Indiana from the Halcie and Minnie Sanders home, about 4.4 km (2.75 mi) west of downtown West Frankfort: Their son, Robert Sanders, mentions that a sheet of

stationery from their destroyed home was found somewhere in Indiana and sent to them. (IV)

Somewhere in Indiana from the Walter and Edith Crawford home, about 5.2 km (3.25 mi) northeast of downtown West Frankfort: Their daughter, Mary (Crawford) Cockrum, mentions that a letter from their destroyed home was found somewhere in Indiana and was sent back. (IV)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

On the damage path and about 4.4 km (2.75 mi) west of downtown West Frankfort: Robert Sanders said that when the tornado was coming, his mother was looking out of a window to the southwest. To her, it did not look like a funnel, but instead, fog rolling on the ground. (IV)

Slightly <1.6 km (1 mi) south-southeast of the damage path, and in West Frankfort just east of downtown: Lois Short mentions that her mother Dorothy Sunley, who was 14 y old in 1925, had gotten home with her mother just before the tornado crossed northwestern West Frankfort. Since the weather looked like it was getting bad, Dorothy and her mother went to the back porch to watch the approaching storm. Clouds all around them were moving rapidly towards the northwest. To the northwest, near the northwestern part of town (Fig. C6), the clouds looked like big boiling masses of cotton balls. Then they saw a funnel cloud and debris moving by. (IV)



WEST FRANKFORT, IL. MARCH 20, 1925

Figure C6: Near-complete destruction in the northwestern portion of West Frankfort, IL. The photo was taken from the upper portion of a heavily damaged mining structure, looking southwest. This and other photos looking south and southeast document a wide area of severe damage in northwest West Frankfort. Photo courtesy of Frankfort Area Genealogical Society.

Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path

About 0.8 km (0.5 mi) south-southeast of the damage path, and on North Road in southwest edge of West Frankfort: Pete Golio mentioned that even though the tornado passed well north of where he and his family lived, a part of the roof on the home next to them was blown northward across the railroad and dropped a couple of hundred feet from its house. (The damaging southerly winds likely were associated with inflow winds.) (IV)

Just south of the damage path on Main Street about 10 blocks west of downtown West Frankfort: Zella Spani was in the frame school building next to Edward School. The strong south winds tore the porch off of the west side of the frame school. The windows and porch were all that was damaged. The strong south winds that caused the damage likely were associated with inflow. (IV)

About 700 m (2300 ft) south-southeast of the damage path in central West Frankfort, and about 5 blocks north of Main Street: Stanley Diadus remembers that as the tornado passed north of his family's home, strong winds blew out their kitchen window. Windows blown out of many homes south of the damage path in West Frankfort likely were caused by the inflow. (IV)

Information that suggests that the primary tornado may have been in the form of a multi-vortex tornado or there may have been a satellite tornado associated with the same storm.

On and near the north edge of the damage path, about 7.2 km (4.25 mi) west of downtown West Frankfort: Maxine (Johnson) Uhls lived in Plumfield, and her 10 year old sister, Eva Johnson, was in Plumfield School when the tornado occurred. Maxine learned from her sister and other people in the school that the tornado had done damage. After that, one of the students shouted that it was coming back. The observation was that when the tornado made a circle and came back again, the school was destroyed. No others have confirmed this observation.(IV)

On the south edge of the damage path, about 1.6 km (1 mi) south-southwest of the Plumfield School, and about 8.0 km (5 mi) south-southwest of downtown West Frankfort: Reba (Sanders)

Bennett was at home with her mother, Clara. Some of Reba's siblings were home with the flu. Reba said, "When the storm was coming, Mother (who was outside) called us to come out on the front porch. (The front porch was on the east side of the house). This was a good thing to do since the back part of our house got torn off. While we were on the front porch, mother said 'Look there...look there!' A cow from the Appleton farm had been blown away by the storm and as we looked from our porch (looking east) we saw it land in the field. Then, the wind picked it up again and it was blown over our house and landed in our barn yard (west of the house)." (IV)

About 2.4 km (1.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path, 4.8 km (3 mi) west-northwest of Parrish, and 8.9 km (5.5 mi) northeast of downtown West Frankfort: Easter (Summers) Harden had left School 10, just west of Logan, and was walking south towards her family's home near the Benton -Frankfort Township line. She observed the tornado to her south as very black and funnel shaped. She also noticed that there was a "tail" behind it. (IV)

On the damage path in Parrish about 11.3 km (7 mi) northeast of West Frankfort: Lovill (Woodrum) Carlile, who was 11 y old, remembered that her family's home and their neighbor's home just southwest of them were damaged. A picture of her home taken after the tornado shows that it had considerable damage, but was still standing with its roof intact. Also, a small outbuilding just northeast of their house was damaged only slightly. That photographer, Mr. Michaels, took a photo of the destroyed train depot in the middle of town showing that several homes and buildings about 152 m (500 ft) southeast of the train depot were not destroyed, two appearing only slightly damaged. All of these less-damaged buildings are along a narrow and short west-southwest to east-northeast path across town. North and south of this path were larger bands across the town where all buildings were destroyed and many people were killed. This information suggests that the tornado may have been multivortex as it crossed Parrish. (IV and P and driving survey)

About 0.8 km (0.5 mi) south-southeast of the damage path and about 12.6 km (7.8 mi) east northeast of West Frankfort: The destroyed Eubank home was 1.6 km (1 mi) east-southeast of the undamaged Parrish School, and was just

south of the primary damage path. Damage appeared closer to the Eubank home northeast of there, suggesting a possible satellite tornado that started away from the damage path and moved into it. (IV and driving survey)

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In Hamilton County, IL, John Hart, Matthew Gilmore, and Bob Johns gathered all of the information and interviewed many local people.

HAMILTON COUNTY, IL

Location of hail and rain associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

Near the north edge of the damage path, in southwest Flannigan Twp, about 18.5 km (11.5 mi) southwest of McLeansboro: Ed Braden and his friend, Johnny Lampley, were riding home on horses. They dismounted when the tornado approached, lay down, and hung onto some trees. They were lifted up by the tornado, but were able to continue hanging onto the trees, and were not blown away. After the tornado passed, Ed and Johnny got up and started toward their homes. Johnny's nearby home was destroyed. It had begun to rain, and it was still raining and windy when Ed got home. He decided he should go across a field and check on his neighbors, the Reeds. However, just after he got out of his house, it started hailing (golfball size). He went back into his house. (IV)

On the north edge of the damage path in eastern Flannigan Twp, about 13.7 km (8.5 mi) south-southwest of McLeansboro: "After the tornado had damaged the area and moved away) Grandpa got me (Geneva Nipper) and Dwight and by that time it was raining, hailing (size of goose eggs) and put a raincoat over our heads and took off for a little house between the (Rogers) store and the (Braden) school." (TS)

On the damage path in western Twigg Twp, about 12.1 km (7.5 mi) south of McLeansboro: The tornado destroyed Jake Mezo's home and blew away his son, J. D. Jake found J. D. on the road, his face and body beaten badly by the huge hailstones. (NP)

1.6 km (1 mi) north-northwest of the damage path in northwestern Twigg Twp, about 8.9 km (5.5 mi) south-southwest of McLeansboro: Mark White was in the Pyrtle School. It was very

windy as the tornado went by, followed by hail and heavy rain. The rain did not last >30 min, but it was so heavy it filled the ditches. He and his sister started home after a while. The wind was still strong after the event and was strong out of the west all night. (IV)

On the south edge of the damage path in southeast Crook Twp about 12.1 km (7.5 mi) south-southeast of McLeansboro: As the tornado came by, a great crashing of glass told them that the porch was gone. The mother was very afraid, and held her girls close while she prayed for their safety and for the two little boys who did not make it home. Great torrents of water then obliterated all wind noise, accompanied by thunder and lightning. Mrs. Webb was looking out the window as a flash of lightning lit up the yard, and cried out in disbelief. Water covered the yard, and there was no fence post, tree or building in sight. "Everything is gone," she screamed, "it's a tornado and a flood; my boys, oh where are my boys?" (TS).

7.2 km (4.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path at McLeansboro: At 1500 CT, lightning and hailstones as large as goose eggs were observed. Actual hail measurements were up to 8.9 cm (3.5 in) in diameter, weighing from 149 g (5.25 oz) to >227 g (8 oz). Hail broke about 24 panes of glass at L. S. Dawson's greenhouse. (NP)

7.2 km (4.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path at McLeansboro: Wayne Pemberton was in high school as the tornado was going south of the city. It was very dark in town, and he could hear hailstones about 7.6 cm (3 in) falling around the school. There was so much hail that the ground looked white. After the hail quit, there was heavy rain for quite a while. (IV)

Location of moderately heavy debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance (north-northwest) from the damage path in this county

23.3 km (14.5 mi) off the damage path near Dahlgren: Timbers, corrugated roofing, and shingles covered a farm. (NP)

24.9 km (15.5 mi) off the damage path at Dahlgren: A Bible, intact and containing the names of a Murphysboro family, was found in the yard of a resident at Dahlgren. (NP)

21.7 km (13.5 mi) off the damage path at a farm 9 mi north of McLeansboro: A pocketbook containing \$900 and an identification card bearing the name of a West Frankfort man was picked up by a farmer immediately after the storm. (NP)

Location of very light debris blown a long way from a known place in the tornado path in this county

80 km (50 mi) northeast of the home of Ollie Flannigan in southwestern Flannigan Twp, and 19.3 km (12 mi) southwest of McLeansboro: An Ollie Flannigan photograph was found near Bone Gap, IL. (NP)

61 km (38 mi) northeast of the destroyed home of Nellie Endicott in central Twigg Twp, and 8.9 km (5.5 mi) south of McLeansboro: Her little powder box lid was found on a farm near Browns, IL. (NP)

66 km (41 mi) northeast of the home of Charles Allardin in central Twigg Twp, and about 8.9 km (5.5 mi) south of McLeansboro: The notebook belonging to little Miss Allardin was found near Bone Gap, IL. (NP)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

On the north edge of the damage path in eastern Flannigan Twp, about 13.7 km (8.5 mi) south-southwest of McLeansboro: “My mother (Geneva Nipper’s mother) was looking out the store’s west or southwest window and she screamed, ‘My Lord, it’s a tornado!’ I had no idea what a tornado was except what I saw. It looked like a big black and green smoke, rolling on the ground as far as I could see in the valley, rolling trees and everything in its path.” (TS)

On the damage path in western Twigg Twp about 12.1 km (7.5 mi) south of McLeansboro: Jake Meso and neighbors Carl and Tom Hunt were doing repair work at Jake’s home when the tornado struck around 1500 CT. They watched the storm approach, and stood on the south porch of the house trying to decide what it was and what to do. They later said the storm looked like a huge red ball of fire rotating around on the ground. They ran for cover in the house, which was destroyed. Carl was blown away and killed. (NP and IV)

1.6 km (1 mi) north-northwest of the damage path in northwestern Twigg Township about 8.9

km (5.5 mi) south-southwest of McLeansboro: Mark White was in the Pyrtle School, which had no electricity in 1925. They had trouble reading in the afternoon since it had gotten so dark outside. Mark noticed that the wind came up before the tornado, which looked like a huge top turning on the ground. (IV)

Information that suggests either a multivortex form of the Tri-State tornado or a satellite tornado associated with the same storm

0.8 km (0.5 mi) south-southeast of the damage path in central Flannigan Twp, and about 17.7 km (11 mi) south-southwest of McLeansboro: Alfred Braden heard strong winds and decided that he and his family needed to get out of the house. His wife said it was the loudest roar she had ever heard, but because there were a lot of trees near their home, she could not see the source. They left to go northward to their neighbors, but were almost too late; along the way, they saw their home blown away and realized that it was destroyed. Since this destruction was so strong and not very close to the primary damage path, it may have been a satellite tornado. (IV)

Information that suggests a tornado occurred on the same day, but with another supercell

About 7.2 km (4.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path and at 310 East St. Charles Ave. in McLeansboro: Bob Smith was 5 y old in 1925 and lived on East St. Charles. Ave in McLeansboro. When the tornado came through on 18 March, his parents’ home was twisted around on its foundation and they could not get the doors to close after that. (IV)

About 7.2 km (4.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path, on Douglas Street in eastern McLeansboro: A picture in a local newspaper shows J. G. Hunt and his wife looking at their destroyed home, said to have been destroyed by a tornado on 18 March 1925. (NP)

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In White County, IL and all of the counties in Indiana, Bob Johns gathered all of the information and interviewed many local people.

WHITE COUNTY, IL

Location of hail and rain associated with the primary tornado storm and/or time of sunshine.

About 8.9 km (5.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path, and about 4.8 km (3 mi) east of Springerton in Mill Shoals Twp: Barrett Young was in the one room school and it was getting very dark outside. The teacher was worried about the weather and moved the students to where they would be safer. Hail as big as a fist [about 7.6 cm (3 in) wide] lasted 10 or 15 min. Afterward, chunks of ice on the ground were in all kinds of shapes. (IV)

About 10.4 km (6.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path, and about 10 mi northwest of Carmi: Larry Gwaltney remembers that his farther, J. T. Gwaltney left Salem School to go home. When J. T. had made it about 0.4 km (0.25 mi) away he saw a black cloud approaching from the southwest. As it got closer, he could hear what sounded like a train. Rain began and the wind increased. He ran over to a nearby barn. After he got there, the blackness turned to a greenish-orange color and pieces of ice (hail) started falling out of the clouds. The hail was more round than flat, but with a rough surface. (IV)

About 6.4 km (4 mi) south-southeast of the damage path at Brownsville which is about 9.7 km (6 mi) southwest of Carmi: Violet Veatch was at her family's home in Brownsville when the tornado went by to the north. She remembers that it got very dark with large hail. After the hail stopped, her father went outside and had to use a scoop shovel to clean up the hail. (IV)

On the damage path and 7.3 km (4.6 mi) west northwest of Carmi: As the tornado was about to hit the Chris and Pearl Nibling house, the front door blew open. Chris could not close the door, and had his wife and two little girls help. As they did so, the tornado blew the house away. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Chris told his daughter Alma and her cousin Anna to hold hands and to run as hard as they could up to the house of Alma's grandmother, about 0.25 mi away. the girls ran up the road through rain and sleet [hail], crying as they went, but made it safely. (NP)

On the damage path and 6.9 km (4.3 mi) west northwest of Carmi: Lorene (Myers) Fields was a student in Newman School (Fig. C7). Her teacher was worried about the bad storm coming;

he moved the students and held the door shut. The classroom began to sustain damage, and that was the last thing Lorene noticed as the tornado started destroying the school. She woke up to hail hitting her, and noticed that it was "long-shaped" rather than round. The hail had bruised her back, legs, and fingers. She and many other students were lying on the field south of where the school had been. (IV)



Figure C7: The Newman School, White County, IL—one of the 48 schools destroyed by the tornado along the path in all three states. This and many of the others were rural one-room schools whose students came from nearby farms. Photo courtesy of Barry Cleveland, White County, IL.

On the damage path and 6.9 km (4.3 mi) west northwest of Carmi: Charles Myers (Lorene's brother) was also a student in Newman School when the tornado occurred (Fig. C7). He said, "As the tornado hit, my last memory was seeing the plaster falling from the ceiling at the south end of the building. A very short time later, I felt the rain and hail as I lay, along with others, in the field south of the school yard." (NP)

On the damage path and 5.1 km (3.2 mi) north of Carmi: After the tornado had destroyed Ed Winter's barn, he and his son Carl started back to their house. Between the barn and the house, Carl saw lightning strike and kill a hog. They found their house blown from its foundation and the roof off. Carl's mother and three little kids were in the house, but fortunately, uninjured. Carl and his father tended to their injured mules. When Carl's father looked across their field, he saw that his parents' home had been destroyed. He and Carl walked across the field to check on them. Carl never had seen it rain and hail so hard. The ditches were flooded. (NP)

About 2.4 km (1.5 mi) south-southeast of the damage path in Carmi: Roy Kisner, who lived

in Carmi, says that as the tornado moved by, Carmi had nothing more than a spring thunderstorm with a little hail. (NP)

On the damage path and about 4.0 km (2.5 mi) southwest of Crossville: The William Copelin home was destroyed and their baby was blown across the road about 100 yd to the northeast of where the house had been. After she landed, she was hit and injured by hail. (IV with R. W. Armstrong, who was a neighbor)

On the damage path and about 2.8 km (1.75 mi) south-southwest of Crossville: R. W. Armstrong was a student at Graves School. When the school was destroyed, he was blown over on the east side of the road. He recalls rain and hail as the tornado moved away. After the rain and hail quit, the wind picked up out of the west and it started to get cold. (IV)

About 0.4 km (0.25 mi) north of the damage path in Crossville: As the tornado was going south of her home, Edna Rawlinson noticed that the trees in front of the house were bending until they seemed to touch the street with their tops. Although it appeared black as ink, something that looked like a mess of feathers seemed to be flying in the air to the south. The clock struck four, and she thought, “My children will be coming from school in this.” She hurried over to her back screen door and got there in time to let her son, George, come in. He had barely gotten safely inside the door when hailstones nearly as large as a teacup began falling. Her other children Howard and Elinor were both at high school, and the superintendent there kept them all until the tornado passed. As soon as the hail stopped falling, the sun came out so bright that it seemed like magic. (NP)

On the south edge of the damage path, and about 3.6 km (2.25 mi) east southeast of Crossville: Hal Davenport said there was no rain or hail at George Davenport’s place while he was there. (IV)

About 0.8 km (0.25 mi) south of the damage path, and about 9.3 km (5.75 mi) east of Crossville: Ella Mae (Walker) Brown’s father got her and her brother from Poplar Ridge School and took them home 0.8 km (0.5 mi) east of the school. Just after they got home and the tornado was passing north of them, it started raining. The wind was so strong that the rain sounded very loud as it was hitting the house

windows. After the tornado was gone and the rain quit, it became sunny. (IV)

About 0.4 km (0.25 mi) south-southeast of the damage path, about 4.8 km (3 mi) southwest of Griffin, and on the Illinois side of the Wabash River: In his home, Cyril Barton’s father heard strong winds as the tornado was going just north of him. He saw a hay frame that had been across the road blow over into his front yard. Shortly after that occurred, someone knocked on his door. A pouring deluge of rain was occurring when he opened the door to a badly injured neighbor, whom he let in. (IV)

Location of moderately heavy debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance (north-northwest) from the damage path in this county

About 8.9 km (5.5 mi) off the damage path, and about 4.8 km (3 mi) east of Springerton: Barrett Young was in school near his family’s farm. Barrett’s father found a writing book on his farm that had been blown there by the tornado. (IV)

About 19.3 km (12 mi) off the damage path, and about 2.8 km (1.75 mi) northwest of Burnt Prairie just inside Wayne County: At Mary (Carter) Stokes parents’ farm, clothes, pieces of kitchen stoves, pieces of beds, and other things fell in their fields. (IV)

About 18.5 km (11.5 mi) off the damage path, and about 22.5 km (14 mi) north of Carmi in southeastern Wayne County: Charles Bill Williams was outside with his parents on their farm when they noticed clouds coming from the southwest. Later the clouds got darker and larger and were rolling, followed by noise that sounded like a distant freight train. Scared by the storm, they ran into the house and it started to rain. Charles said, “I was looking out the north window. And the rain was not clouding that window, so I could see that the sky was full of everything imaginable. It was like a thick soup of all kinds of debris: papers, clothing, pieces of metal, pieces of wood, straw, everything. I don’t know how long this went on, it seemed like forever.” Afterward, Charles and his parents found debris all over the countryside. Charles remembers that his father went out into his large farm area for many days with his team of horses and wagon and picked up all sorts of debris—in particular, sheets of corrugated tin from the roofs of farm buildings miles away. (IV)

Location where a piece of very light debris was found a long way from a known place within the tornado path in this county

122 km (76 mi) northeast of the Joe Dunn home which is 3.4 km (2.25 mi) south-southwest of Enfield: After the tornado destroyed the Joe Dunn home, his check landed in Washington, IN. (NP)

117 km (73 mi) northeast of the town of Enfield: A cancelled check from an Enfield bank was found in Bicknell, IN, likely from some destroyed place within a few miles of Enfield. Also in Bicknell, IN, some people found a flour sack from Carmi and a tax receipt from McLeansboro. (NP)

86 km (53 mi) northeast of the Frieberger School which is 4.0 km (2.5 mi) northwest of Carmi: Miss Violetta Williams, a teacher at Frieberger School, had her passbook in her desk at the school building when the tornado struck. Her book was found 11.3 km (7 mi) southeast of Vincennes, IN, undamaged in its original rubber. The First National Bank in Carmi had issued the passbook, and it was sent back to them by the American National Bank at Vincennes. Then it was sent back to Miss Williams. (NP)

147 km (92 mi) northeast of the Henry Goetz home which is 4.0 km (2.5 mi) northwest of Carmi: Henry Goetz, whose home was destroyed by the tornado, mentioned that D. A. Bymm found his postal card about 1 mi southwest of Bloomfield, IN the day after, and returned it to the Henry Goetz family. The card was written legibly in pencil. (NP)

92 km (57 mi) northeast of the part of the damage path northwest of Carmi: A cancelled check for William Reinwald of Carmi, signed by Herman Goetz, who was in the tornado path northwest of Carmi, was found on the Joe Belcher farm about 0.8 km (0.5 mi) from Monroe City, IN, which is about 19.3 km (12 mi) southeast of Vincennes. (NP)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

About 1.6 km (1 mi) south of the damage path, and about 8.9 km (5.5 mi) east-southeast of Enfield: Ed Gouty was on a hill just south of Hwy 14 when he saw the tornado appear as a big black swirling mass rather than funnel-shaped. (Ed had told this to someone that Johns interviewed.) (IV)

On the damage path and 5.1 km (3.2 mi) north of Carmi: As Carl Winter and his dad Ed Winter were arriving at their farm, they noticed that there was a terrible black cloud coming from the west. They decided to hurry on home. When they arrived, Carl was in the house looking out the west window. He had never seen such a terrible black cloud, which appeared to be rolling on the ground. (NP)

On the damage path and about 4.0 km (2.5 mi) southwest of Crossville: Mary (Cartor) Stoke said that her relative, W. W. Stokes, saw the big cloud coming over from the west. To him it looked like a big black smoke, right on the ground. He decided that they should go down in a cellar since it was likely a tornado. (IV)

Viewing the storm and the tornado relative to each other

On the south edge of the damage path, and about 3.6 km (2.25 mi) east southeast of Crossville: Hal Davenport was in Bell School that afternoon when his grandfather, George Davenport, knocked on the door. George told the teachers that it looked like there was going to be wind coming up: “There is a cloud back there in the southwest and one in the northwest and they appear to be going together. If they get together, I think there will be a storm.” Because of that, he told the teachers that he wanted to take his grandsons, Hal and John, to his home about 0.8 km (½ mi) to the east. Once they arrived, he checked his cellar in case they needed to go down there. In 15 or 20 min, while outside, Hal could see the clouds coming together rapidly to his west. Hal said, “When they came together, a funnel was formed and it looked like it was 2 feet wide down at the bottom, but of course it was probably a half-mile wide.” George took them all down to the cellar, and after they were there for several minutes, the wind started getting strong outside. Then for a few minutes the cellar was moving up and down with tornado damage occurring outside. (IV)

POSEY COUNTY, IN

Location of hail and rain associated with the primary tornado storm and/or time of sunshine.

On the damage path in western Bethel Twp and about 2.8 km (1.75 mi) southwest of Griffin: Ellen (Vanway) Nottingham had left a school bus and was in her home when it was destroyed.

Her father, Kell, was outside when the tornado struck but was not injured badly. He went to where his home had been and found Ellen and her two sisters in the debris. He took them out, had them sit on a tree that had been blown down on the adjacent gravel road, and put a piece of a wet quilt over them. He told them to wait there while he went for help. As they were sitting on the tree, Ellen noticed a lot of thunder and lightning and it was hailing. Fortunately, the hail was not large enough to hurt the sisters. (IV)

On the damage path in Griffin: The tornado came from the southwest and struck Griffin before the unfortunate victims realized their danger. A deluge of rain followed the wind. (NP)

On the damage path in Griffin: Harold Stinson and his mother and sister were outside, and he noticed that the clouds looked strange. They all went back inside their home. Just as they got into the living room, the tornado hit. The front door blew onto all of them, probably saving them from flying objects. Afterwards, Mr. Stinson remembers the rain and hail that drenched the town and its survivors. (NP)

On the damage path in Griffin: Martha Vanway was in Griffin. When she saw the tornado, she ran into the Fisher's store for refuge. The store was destroyed and she was injured. She went outside and found that her car was demolished. Frantic, she started to run to her home through the hail, wind and rain that followed the tornado. (NP)

On the north side of the damage path at the Griffin School, on the northwest side of town: Mildred (Sanders) Hancock was injured on the stairway between the first and second floor when the tornado damaged her school. Afterward while she remained in the stairway, rain and hail started. The rain and hail continued when she started walking northward to her home. (IV)

On the damage path and 1.6 km (1 mi) east northeast of Griffin: Mr. and Mrs. House were in their newly built home when the storm demolished it like so much kindling wood. After digging their way out, the young husband assisted his wife to walk about 1 mi, when her strength failed, and he had to leave her to search for help. She lay more than an hour in the rain while he attempted to find a conveyance. (NP)

At Mt. Vernon, which is in southern Posey County and about 32 km (20 mi) south of the damage path in Griffin: "Atmospheric conditions took a decided change in Mt. Vernon at 4:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon or just after the tornado had spent its force at Griffin. Hail fell for a few seconds, some of the pellets being as large as marbles." (NP)

Location of moderately heavy debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance (north-northwest) from the damage path in this county

20.1 km (12.5 mi) off the damage path near Browns, IL: Wind-dropped debris was found scattered all through the area, including clothes, dishes, rugs, tin roofing, boards, and cushions. One cushion was from Carbondale. (NP)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

On the damage path in western Bethel Twp and about 2.8 km (1.75 mi) southwest of Griffin: After Ellen (Vanway) Nottingham got into her home, she looked out the back kitchen window towards the Wabash River and saw an unusual cloud, like black smoke rolling on the ground. Shortly afterward, her home was destroyed. (IV)

On the south edge of the damage path just south of Griffin: Fred H. Lichenberger was driving up to Griffin from New Harmony. As he approached Griffin, he saw the funnel cloud and jumped out of his car into a ditch. He saw a wagon blown over him into a field and, when he climbed out of the ditch, he saw that his automobile was completely demolished. (NP)

On the damage path in Griffin: Harold Stinson said, "We were outside watching the back clouds and we knew there was going to be a bad storm. We went in the house when we saw what looked like a big dust cloud about a quarter-mile (0.4 km) wide coming at the town". (NP)

Viewing the storm and the tornado relative to each other

On the damage path in western Bethel Twp, and about 2.8 km (1.75 mi) southwest of Griffin: Ellen (Vanway) Nottingham, who was 11 y old, had gotten out of school in Griffin during the afternoon. She boarded a school bus headed towards her farm southwest of Griffin. She noticed a very dark, wide cloud to the northwest

of the bus. When she arrived at her home, both she and the bus driver noticed a tornado approaching from the southwest. It quickly arrived and destroyed the girl's home and the school bus. (In a part of her interview she said, "On the way home in the bus, you could see this black cloud in the northwest. I mean this was the blackest cloud you ever saw, but that wasn't where the tornado came from. It came from the southwest.".) (IV)

Information that suggests that the primary tornado may have been in the form of a multi-vortex tornado or there may have been a satellite tornado associated with the same storm.

On the damage path in western Bethel Twp, and about 2.8 km (1.75 mi) southwest of Griffin: Ellen (Vanway) Nottingham's father, Kell, told her that when he was outside he saw several whirlwinds. (It is not known if those were associated with the tornadic storm.) (IV)

Along the damage path from the Wabash River to Griffin: "The clouds crossed the Wabash River between the Waller and Griswold homes, leaving a broken and a jagged row of trees three-quarters of a mile wide along the sky line. After it did a lot of damage between the river and the bayou, it swept across the level fields crushing Griffin as though it were an egg-shell. Observers say there were two or three clouds and that they all met over Griffin, striking the lower end first. In any event, the part of the cloud that hit the northern section of the town had an 'air pocket' that lessened the force of the blow". (NP)

Along the damage path in Griffin: "J. W. Fisher, of Griffin, probably owes his life to a freak of the storm. With the first blast of the wind, he was caught beneath a heavy timber and pinned against a stove. A few seconds later, another blast shifted the timber which enabled Mr. Fisher to extricate himself." (NP)

On the Fifer Hill, 0.7 km (0.4 mi) northwest of the Griffin School, on the north edge of the damage path in Griffin: Fannie Fifer was in her home on Fifer Hill northwest of Griffin. Given her location high on a hill, she was able to see details as the tornado went through Griffin. She described the tornado as like an "S". From other interviews, that meant that there were parts of it that some called "tails", moving around the tornado. Fannie had also told them that she

noticed one part of the tornado came back through town. (IV of people who knew her)

On the damage path in Griffin: From a driving survey with Beverly Stone and from several pictures of the damage in Griffin that were taken after the tornado occurred in 1925 (Fig. C8): in an area just north of the center of town, a band of houses were not destroyed, despite complete destruction to its north and south. (IV and P)

Just north of the damage path, and about 3.2 km (2 mi) north-northeast of Griffin: Bob Simpson was just northeast of the Mumford Hills and described the tornado: "I just got out of school (in the northern part of the county) and was going home to my Grandma's house when it came over the hills. Before it got to the hills, it just looked like a black storm, but as soon as it got over them I could see the tails of the tornado dip down into the valley. It looked just like the clouds were coming down out of the hills to lie on the ground." (NP)



Figure C8: Photo from central Griffin, looking north. In the foreground are destroyed homes, with only partially or slightly damaged homes farther north. Not seen in the photo is another area, even farther north, with destroyed homes. This and other photos, and other evidence mentioned in this section, support the concept of a multi-vortex tornado passing through Griffin and producing significant damage gradients. Photo courtesy of the New Harmony Library, Posey County, IL.

Viewing the storm in Posey County and the southwest edge of Gibson County from a point about 6.8 km (4.25 mi) northwest of Griffin, and about 1.6 km (1 mi) north of the damage path: Alfred Owen and Charles Montgomery had a good view of the tornado from Foots Pont. Peculiar and ominous forming clouds attracted their attention. Two tornadoes appeared to meet

and form one great giant that rushed away like the thunder of a mighty train magnified a hundred fold. (NP)

GIBSON COUNTY, IN

Location of hail and rain associated with the storm and primary tornado and time of sunshine

On the damage path <0.8 km (a half-mi) west of downtown Owensville: Arthur Keneipp noticed that after the tornado passed his farm and the wind died down, the rain came. (TS)

On the south edge of the damage path in northeast Owensville: Wayne Couch was in a school bus and it was blown off of the town street by the tornado. Hen egg-size hail fell after the tornado. However, sunshine appeared about 10 minutes or less after the tornado. (IV)

On the south edge of the damage path in northeast Owensville: Alice (Bush) Strickland was in a school bus that the tornado blew off of the town street. She remembers that after the tornado, it started raining and there was hail. Precipitation didn't last long. (IV)

On the south edge of the damage path in northeast Owensville: James Armstrong was in the same school bus. He remembers that it was hailing after he got out of the bus and walked across the street. (IV)

On the damage path about 1.6 km (1 mi) north-northeast of Owensville: Erastus Field's daughter Alice was at home and noticed that as it grew darker, large drops of rain began to fall, soon changing to hail and rain. Sometime later, the tornado badly damaged their home (NP)

On the damage path about 6.4 km (4 mi) southwest of Princeton: Mrs. Arch McClurkin's daughter, Ada, remembers that after their home was destroyed it was raining and hailing, and sometime later, it got cold. (IV)

On the north edge of the damage path about 5.6 km (3.5 mi) southwest of Princeton: After Mary (Kendle) Kerby had gotten home from school in Princeton, the tornado only slightly damaged her family's home. She noticed that some hail occurred afterward. (IV)

On the damage path in southern Princeton: Corean (Amy) Hightower was near her family's

damaged home. After the tornado moved away, the sun shone briefly before rain and hail set in. Later it got cold. (NP)

On the damage path on southern Gibson Street in Princeton: Evelyn (Russ) Cotterill was home from school when the tornado occurred. Her family's home was damaged, but not destroyed like others nearby. She noticed that after the tornado, it hailed and was very windy. The hailstones were big on the ground. When she and her mother went outside later, it had gotten cold and she had to put her coat on. (IV)

On the damage path on southern Seminary Street in Princeton: Evelyn (Myers) Miley was in her family's home that the tornado damaged, but did not destroy. Hail fell briefly afterward. When the hailstorm was over, she and others went outside and it was very windy. As her aunt and uncle walked up the street towards them to check on her family, the sun was coming out. Her aunt was almost doubled over since the wind was so strong. (IV)

On the damage path on southern Gibson Street in Princeton: Ellen (Amy) Dawson was in her family's home when the tornado destroyed it, but she and some family members were not hurt due to sheltering under the kitchen table. Afterward, she remembers that it rained, got cold, and stayed cold all night. (IV)

At about 1.6 km (1 mi) south of the damage path. and about 4.8 km (3 mi) east of Princeton: Bette (Woodburn) Mason was riding home from Princeton with her father in a "kid wagon". Close to their home on Top Hat Road, they saw debris flying in the air. They did not know what a tornado was, so they just thought it was a really bad storm. Before they got home, it started raining and hailing hard, and the horses had trouble seeing how to go down the road because of the heavy rain. (IV)

On the damage path about 4.8 km (3 mi) east northeast of downtown Princeton: Edward Moore was in a school bus that was blown off of the road. After the tornado, he noticed that for a few minutes there was pigeon egg-size hail falling. As he later walked east towards home, the ground looked white from the hail. (IV)

Location of moderately heavy debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance (north-northwest) from the damage path in this county

29.0 km (18 mi) off the damage path at Vincennes: Shingle particles, weather boarding, and other building material fell from the clouds, as well as a lot of very weak debris. The first indication Vincennes people had of the storm was at about 1620 CDT when the sky suddenly became overcast with thunder rumbling to the south. Oak leaves, straws, corn husks, and other objects soon fell for about 30 min. A glance upward revealed that hundreds of feet in the air, debris of various kinds was being carried along by the wind. As for heavier debris, an almost entire shingle fell in front of the fire department headquarters in south Fourth Street, while at Sixth and Church streets, a large strip of weather boarding whirled down from a great height. Streets, yards, and housetops throughout the entire city bore leaves, straws, corn husks, and litter which fell from the clouds. Only a moderate surface wind blew during the period, but overhead was evidence of high wind and “conflicting” air currents. (NP)

70 km (43 mi) north of where the John Hollis car was destroyed, near the Wilkinson store in southern Princeton: John Hollis’s automobile license plate was found 1.6 km (1 mi) south of Carlisle, IN. (NP)

Location where a piece of very light debris was found a long way from a known place within the tornado path in this county

209 km (130 mi) northeast of the Will Jones home, which is about 4.8 km (3 mi) west southwest of Owensville: A letter, written to Will Jones by his wife in 1898, was picked up in a field by a farmer living near Needham, IN. The letter was in good condition even though Will Jones’ home was destroyed. The farmer returned the letter to Will. (NP)

141 km (88 mi) northeast of Owensville, and 127 km (79 mi) northeast of Princeton: In Bloomington, IN, insurance policies, newspapers, grocery bills, clothing, and other objects were found. Some were dated at Murphysboro, IL, and others from Princeton, IN and Owensville, IN. (NP)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

In the middle of the damage path, and 7.6 km (4.75 mi) west-southwest of Owensville: Bill Johnson mentioned that his mother married Brady Johnson after Brady’s wife, Clora, had been killed by the tornado. Bill learned the

following from Brady. As the tornado was approaching, Brady, Clora, and their son, Walter, got down under their supper table. The walls on all sides of the supper room were taken off. After this occurred, Clora got up too soon. Bill said this was because of the eye of the tornado. Damage resumed; Clora was blown out onto the road, landed on her head and died. Brady and Walter had stayed under the supper table, so they were not blown away. (IV)

On the damage path and <0.8 km (0.5 mi) west of downtown Owensville: Arthur Keneipp had a clear view of the sky and saw the tornado coming. To him, it looked like a very black vicious cloud and sounded like an approaching train. (TS)

About 0.4 km (0.25 mi) south-southeast of the damage path in southwestern Owensville: Wayne Couch was in the Owensville High School. From second-floor southwest windows he saw a black cloud coming from Griffin. He later realized it was a tornado. (IV)

About 0.4 km (0.25 mi) south-southeast of the damage path in southwestern Owensville: James Robert Moore was in the Owensville High School. He said it looked as dark as night where the storm was coming from, and later realized it was a tornado. (IV)

On the damage path on southern Gibson Street in Princeton: Joy (Miller) Woods was in her family’s home. She saw a very black storm coming, but she did not realize that it was a tornado. Her dad also observed it as a bad black storm and was worried that it would be dangerous, but did not know it was a tornado. (IV)

On the damage path, southwest edge of Princeton: Gilbert Hiley was delivering newspapers there. He said, “I was half-way round my route when it began to get dark. I looked up at the sky. Far off, I saw an inky funnel-shaped cloud whirling down toward me.” Gilbert went into the house of Mrs. John Wiggs. Then, he said, “Looking out through brown haze, we saw the thing rolling across the country towards us, picking up barns, uprooting trees, demolishing houses. Then the window panes started blowing out of her house and we ran to the basement.” (NP)

About 1.2 km (0.75 mi) north of the damage path in northern Princeton: Roger Skelton, who

was 15 y old, was at home near the corner of Spruce and Prince Streets when the tornado came by. He could not see the tornado, but the sky got dark, and he could hear what sounded like a railroad engine pulling a heavy load. (IV)

On the damage path about 4.8 km (3 mi) east northeast of downtown Princeton: Edward Moore was in his school bus when it was blown off of the road. To him the tornado looked wider aloft than on the ground. (This suggests it looked like a funnel cloud.) (IV)

As the tornado struck Princeton, the cloud looked very dark and almost black. Those who saw it from far to the east said the cloud was funnel-shaped. However, those closer to the tornado path could not tell it was funnel-shaped. (NP)

Viewing the storm and the tornado relative to each other

About 0.4 km (0.25 mi) south-southeast of the damage path and in southwestern Owensville: Wayne Couch, in Owensville High School, viewed the tornado quite a distance southwest of him. He heard occasional thunder, but he did not see any lightning. (This suggests the storm was closer to Owensville than the tornado at this time.) (IV)

Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path

Along the damage path from Princeton to Oatsville: Mail carrier E. E. Williams described the damage path as about 1.6 km (1 mi) wide at the east edge of Princeton (Fig. C9), narrowing to about 0.8 km (0.5 mi) wide across the road that goes north of Francisco; and it expended its fury at Oatsville. (NP)

Information that suggests either a multivortex form of the Tri-State tornado or a satellite tornado associated with the same storm

From downtown to eastern Princeton, on the north side of the primary damage path: As the primary tornado was going through the town, a separate path of considerable minor damage occurred along Broadway Street and parts of State Street, from just east of downtown Main Street to near the east side of town. Broadway Christian Church, along Broadway one block east of Main, lost a large part of its roof and received other damage. Also along this area, the

metal roof was blown off of the T. B. Nash drug store building, with some flues knocked over nearby. Within the four blocks between the church and main damage path, there was no reported damage. However, at the east edge of town, the two paths merged (NP).



Figure C9: 2005 photo showing trees near the south edge of the tornado damage path east of Princeton, IN, along St. Hwy. 64. Local residents said that the trees (small in 1925) were heavily bent to the north, but not broken off, by the tornado. The trees retained their tilt to the north as they grew much taller, helping to define the south edge of the damage path. Photo by Bob Johns.

In the Princeton area along and near the damage path: From the 23 March 1925 *Princeton Clarion News*: “There was actually one great storm howling over-head from which smaller ‘twisters’ descended from time to time. The ‘individual tornadoes’ were terrific in force but did not run many miles. It is believed that there were six or seven of these smaller twisters at work in the Princeton area.” (NP)

On the damage path at a farm just east of the edge of Princeton: “The farm of Fred Gray, adjoining Princeton, was the first to feel the wrath of the tornado after it left the city. It was near the Gray home, at the farmhouse of Thomas G. Nash that a horrible freak of nature, the meeting of two tornado funnels, was witnessed by Dr. Davidson, a Princeton veterinarian. ‘Smoke rose from the two clouds and was black, horrid, ugly smoke,’ said Davidson. ‘I was terrified. The Nash home seemed to break in

pieces like an egg shell. It was the most awful sight I ever saw.” (NP)

PIKE COUNTY, IN (where a new primary tornado likely was associated with the same storm east of Gap 32)

Location of hail and rain associated with the storm and primary tornado, and/or time of sunshine

At 5.6 km (3.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path in northern Washington Twp: People working at a farm just north of Petersburg gathered hailstones as large as hen eggs. A long sliver of hail, 17.8 cm (7 in) long and 1.3 cm (0.5 in) thick, was broken to reveal an embedded iron weed. (NP)

At 4.8 km (3 mi) north-northwest of the damage path in Petersburg: The hail fell in such quantities that the ground was white, but only a few large hailstones fell. Hundreds of hailstones were larger than partridge eggs. (NP)

At 4.8 km (3 mi) north-northwest of where the damage path would have been in Alford: Hail damaged roofs and broke many window lights. (NP)

At 1.6 km (1 mi) north-northwest of the damage path, about 2.4 km (1.5 mi) south of Petersburg: On the Hoggett and other farms extending about 3.2 km (2 mi) to Alford, hail broke window panes in houses. (NP)

Location of moderately heavy debris blown from some part of the tornado path, and its perpendicular distance (north-northwest) from the damage path in this county

Next to Scotland at 32 km (20 mi) off where the damage path would extrapolate into southern Martin County: The following type of debris was found in a field: a white table cloth, part of a Bible, a steel collar pad, some shingles, numerous pieces of wall and building paper, and school literature. (NP)

11 km (7 mi) off the damage path in Knox County: At Pond Creek, about 6.4 km (4 mi) north of Petersburg, a dishpan and a man’s vest were found with a Princeton trade mark. (NP)

Bicknell: 31 km (19 mi) off the where the damage path would extrapolate to northeastern Pike County: A man standing on a station

platform in Bicknell saw a heavy object fall nearby. He found that it was a large sign bearing the name of a Princeton firm. The sign arrived <30 min after the tornado struck Princeton. The heavy sign had been blown 47 km (29 mi) north-northeast of Princeton. (NP)

Location of very light debris blown a long way from a known place in the tornado path in this county

Near Washington in Daviess County: Several farmers found newspapers from Illinois that were blown there. (NP)

Viewing or experiencing the primary tornado

About 3.5 mi north of the damage path in Petersburg: Citizens of Petersburg saw the tornado as funnel-shaped. (NP)

About 5 or 6 km (3 or 4 mi) southeast of the damage path, and about 10.5 km (6.5 mi) south-southeast of Petersburg: Walter Eversoll saw a new tornado developing that looked like an arm coming down to the ground. That appearance continued as it moved to his northwest and north. (IV)

Near the damage path, and about 6.4 km (4 mi) south-southwest of Petersburg: Imel Willis’ parents, who lived in Willisville, saw the tornado coming towards them, and it was very dark and looked funnel shaped. (IV)

Viewing and information about the primary tornado damage path

Near the north edge of the damage path, about 5.6 km (3.5 mi) south-southwest of Petersburg: Delmas Wyatt was in his family’s home on the north side of Willisville when the tornado occurred. He noticed that the damage path was only a few hundred yards wide. (IV)

Near the end of the damage path about 3 mi south-southeast of Petersburg: The storm was very narrow as it passed the state highway south-southeast of Petersburg, causing damage. (NP)

Information that suggests that the primary tornado may have been in the form of a multi-vortex tornado or there may have been a satellite tornado associated with the same storm

Near the damage path, and about 6.4 km (4 mi) south-southwest of Petersburg: Imel Willis mentioned that his parents, who lived in Willisville, noticed that the tornado “split”, part of it moving off to the north and it tearing up his grandma’s orchard. The part that went south of them tore up Uncle Roy’s garage and carried it away. (IV)

Information that suggests a tornado occurred on the same day, but with another storm.

About 8 to 9.7 km (5 to 6 mi) north-northwest of the primary damage path, from south of the White River west of Petersburg to along the White River north of Petersburg: “Another part of the storm went north of Petersburg. This storm section moved along the White River area and was between here and Washington, IN. In the White River bottoms west of Petersburg, a number of barns and houses were unroofed.” (NP)

At 8.9 km (5.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path about 6.4 km (4 mi) west of Petersburg: At Samuel E. Dillin’s farm, his home was damaged and the roof was blown off of the barn. (NP)

Between 5.5–9 km (3.5–5.5 mi) north-northwest of the damage path and west of Petersburg: In Madison Township., one barn was blown down with several horses killed. (NP)