B

# TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

F=?  ONT plotted

1. DATE AND TIME 1.7.1792

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) FONTHILL TO PORT ROBINSON

3. PATH LENGTH ☑ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1mi; ☐ 1-4mi; ☐ 5-10mi; ☐ 11-50mi; ☐ LENGTH IF>50mi

4. PATH WIDTH UNKNOWN 5. TORNADO PART OF SQUALL LINE? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☑ UNKNOWN:

6. ANY UNUSUAL COLORATION? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☑ UNKNOWN

7. ANY UNUSUAL SOUND? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☑ UNKNOWN

8. IF ANSWER TO 6 OR 7 YES, ELABORATE;

9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.)

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $ 11. TOTAL DEATHS

12. TOTAL INJURED UNKNOWN 13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

THE GLOBE, TORONTO. OCT 1 1898

JUBILEE HISTORY OF THOROLD TOWNSHIP AND TOWN FROM THE TIME OF THE RED MAN TO THE PRESENT, PUBLISHED BY JOHN H THOMPSON FOR THE THOROLD AND BEAVERDAMS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1897-8. p 29.

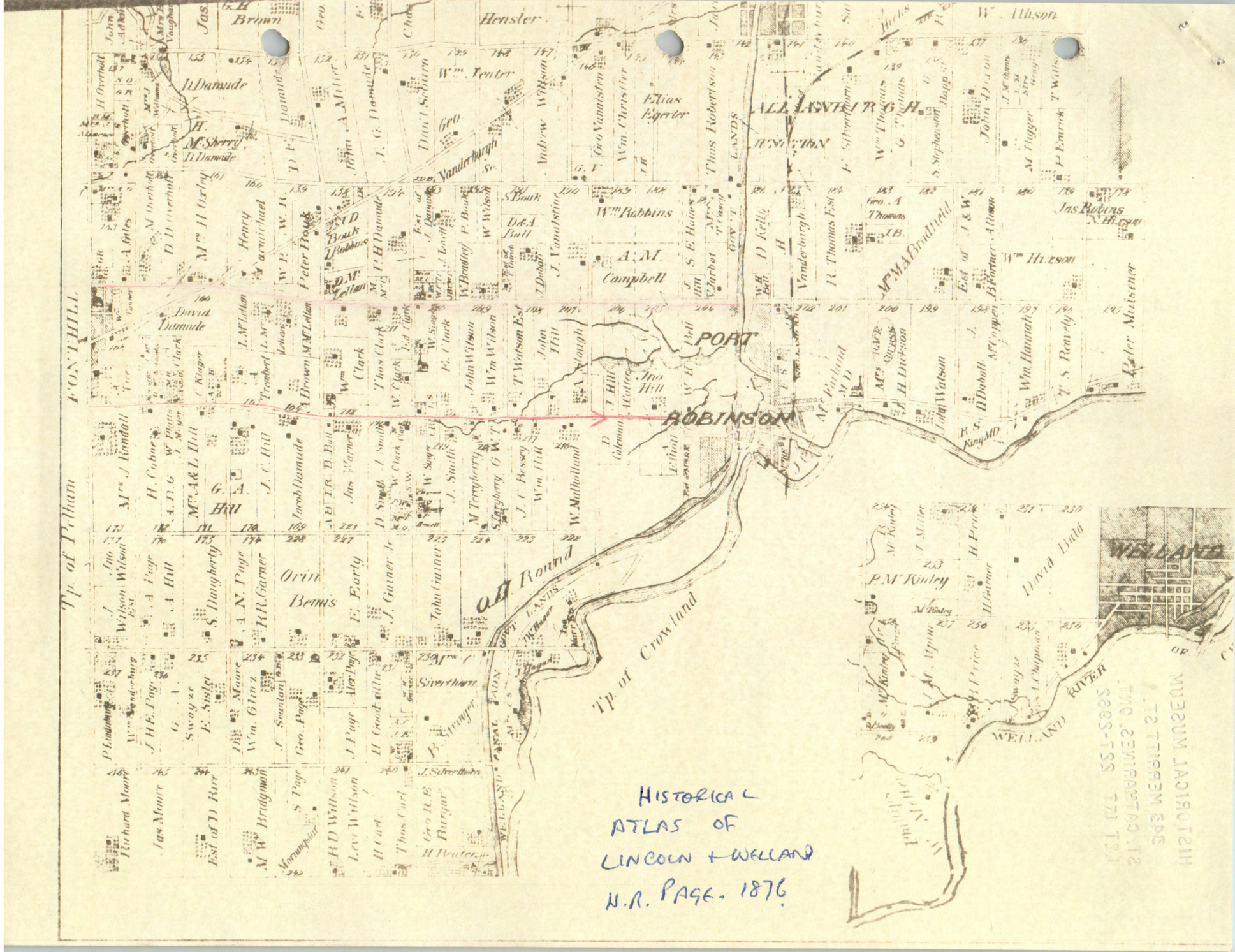
ST CATHERINES JOURNAL SAT JULY 23 1898, p1?
HISTORICAL ATLAS OF LINCOLN AND WELLAND COUNTIES, H.R. Page 1876

15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.

(a) NO REMARKS

(b) AT THE END OF THE 18th CENTURY SCARCELY A ROAD WORTHY OF THE NAME EXISTED. THEN IN 1792 A VIOLENT HURRICANE PASSED OVER THE SOUTHWESTERN END OF THE TOWNSHIP OF THOROLD, LEVELLING ALL THE HOUSES IN ITS PATH, BUT AT THE SAME TIME UPROOTING THE TREES, THUS EFFECTUALLY CLEARING THE WOOD. A ROAD WAS AFTERWARDS BUILT THROUGH THIS STORM-SWEPT REGION FROM FONTHILL TO PORT ROBINSON AND WAS APPROPRIATELY NAMED THE "HURRICANE ROAD".
SCHOOL SECTION NUMBER 6, CALLED PLANK ROAD SCHOOL AND LATER KNOWN AS CLARK'S SCHOOL WHEN REBUILT INTO 2 ROOMS IN 1927, WAS ALSO CALLED "HURRICANE ROAD SCHOOL".

185 yrs late, HURRICANE ROAD STILL EXISTS (1977) ALTHOUGH MOVES HAVE BEEN MADE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE ITS NAME.


Tp. of Pelham
FONTHILL
PORT ROBINSON
Tp. of Crowland
WELLAND
WELLAND RIVER
Old Road
Henster
A. M. Campbell
Wm Robbins
Wm Watson
Orrin Bemis
Elias Egerter
Thos Robertson
Jas Robins
Peter Muisener
HISTORICAL ATLAS OF LINCOLN & WELLAND N.R. PAGE. 1876.

JUBILEE HISTORY OF THOROLD TOWNSHIP AND TOWN FROM THE TIME OF THE RED MAN TO THE PRESENT.



of the parishes, we must endeavor to multiply resources in their favor and to show more than ever sentiments of compassion for so many of the unfortunate." The Bishop also urged them to obtain grain for the spring sowing.*

One month later the Bishop wrote that the efforts at relief were insufficient, and that in spite of every measure "misery is felt more keenly than ever in a great number of parishes." He desired the priests to enquire as to the best methods of relieving the distress.†

With the help from the King's stores, the spring was tided over, and altogether only a very few lives were lost. The summers immediately following yielded splendid harvests, and there was great cause for the heartfelt rejoicing so generally shown. However, the "Hungry year" was not without its effect upon the founders of Upper Canada, for a people whose lot had included rude labor, warfare and famine were not the men to shrink from smaller dangers or to be daunted by any common reverses.

The year 1792 was marked by another calamity, which, however, proved to be a blessing in the end. A violent hurricane passed over the southwestern portion of the township, levelling all the houses in its path, but at the same time uprooting the trees, thus effectually clearing the woods. A road was afterwards built through this storm-swept region from Fonthill to Port Robinson, and was appropriately named the "Hurricane Road."

From this time until the outbreak of the war progress was continuous, the greatest activity being shown in the neighborhood of the Short Hills, or St. Johns. New and better houses were built as more of the Loyalists came over. About the close of the century some English Quakers, who had waited to test the new Government of the United States, settled near the Pelham side of the township. In 1791 the Constitutional Act had given the people greater security in the tenure of their land, and in 1792, when Newark (Niagara) was made the seat of Government for Upper Canada, the meeting of Parliament brought new interests into the lives of the Thorold settlers. All their trading was done at Newark, and all their first

* "Mandements des Evequs de Quebec." Vol. II, p. 360.

† Idem. p. 361.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN N THOMPSON FOR THE THOROLD AND BEAVERDAMS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1897-8.

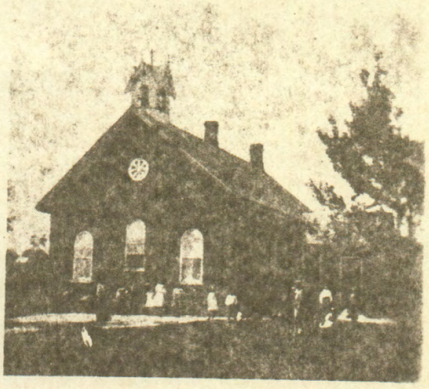
343 Merritt,

"The Hurricane road, from Port Robinson to Fonthill, so named from a hurricane that years ago swept that section and uprooted trees in its progress."
St Catherines Journal, Saturday July 23, 1898., p 17.

School section number 6 (near the Hurricane Road)
Jubilee History, Called Plank Rd school
and later called Clark's school when
rebuilt in 1927. (Supplement to the Jubilee
History. 1932.)



Beaverdams—No. 2



Fonthill Union—No. 3



Plank Road—No. 6



DeCew Falls Union—No. 6



Bouck—No. 7

SCHOOLS

JUBILEE HISTORY

HISTORICAL ATLAS of LINCOLN and WELLAND COUNTIES.

BY H.R.PAGE,1876.REPRINT 1971.ROSS CUMMING,EDITOR,PORT ELGIN,ONT.

STORM DATE.JULY 1ST.1792.

A tornado passed over this section of country(PELHAM TOWNSHIP) on July 1st.1792 which felled to the ground nearly every tree that stood in its course.

MAURICE E. COMFORT
R.R. 2
THORNDALE, ONTARIO
N0M 2P0

Dear Mr. Newark. 86-04-06

Early Tornados in the Niagara Peninsula.

Many thanks for your kind letter of March 20 with a copy of your article on Tornadoes in Ontario before 1900. This must have been a fascinating study on your part.

Now it would appear more work could be done on the 1792 & 1796 Tornadoes of the Niagara Peninsula. There is evidence of a Tornado in Goerchbrough or Clinton ~~prior to~~ some time prior to 28th June 1794, see RG1 L3 Vol 448 petition # 51/19 by Peter Zimmerman & others. "That your petitioners --- have pitched upon a Tract of land --- between the Twenty mile Creek and the place called the Harricans --- immediately bounded in front by the Northernmost Concession line of the survey of Mr Peters Grant ---- and running thence North and bounded to the west by the lands of James Connolly ---?" The survey Mr Grant in 1792 went as far north as the N. boundary of Conc IV Goerchbrough Twp. The lands granted to the group were adjacent in Goerchbrough VI & Clinton IX just east of present St-Anns. This petition is dated 28 June 1794 so the 'hurricain' could well have occurred a year or 2 earlier.
also Surveyor Bredell in the winter of 1795 refers to problems with the effects of the Hurricane in

Concession VII of Caistor - Could no doubt have occurred some few years earlier, I presume, but I have never read these notes myself, although available on film at U.W.O. in London here. The fact that the only source given for the 1796 date is the Heritage Atlas of Lincoln & Welland Co. brings to mind the fact that the source is well known as a source of good early history, but also for the fact that such recorded come from local tradition without documentary verification. Many statements are just not true, such as dates for arrival of certain early settlers and it could well be that the 1796 date for the Hurricane is in error. Certainly primary sources above prove there was such a "Hurricane" earlier than 1796 & I suspect it was one and the same with the "July 1 1792" one reported in Thorold. Of course that is not to say there was none in 1796 - there are petitions later than 1796 referring to hurricane damage, but I am not aware of one that dates the event. At least one complained that the teachers left very meagre [perhaps due to rat & beetles over a period of years?]. It would be a long job to search petitions throughout the area and surveyors notes in detail, but

it would be more or less interesting. However I am not sure whether, if ever I will get the time & energy to do the job.

I would appreciate your comments on what interest there might be in such a project and whether it is likely anyone else would attempt it.

Any guidance you can give would be greatly appreciated.

yours very truly

P.S. Don McIntyre was a classmate of mine at U of T, 1938. I occasionally meet Jay Campbell here in London area.

P.P.S. Just noted an earlier memo that Seymour Howell in her field notes of July 1794 re the line between Grenville, Dorchester & Clinton mentions where he encountered the Hurricane. I did not record the particulars, only the item & page no.