LISTOWEL BANNER, THURSDAY MAY 24TH. 1917.

STORM DATE. SAT. MAY 19TH. 1917.

SATURDAY'S STORM WAS A ROUGH ONE..DID CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE ALONG THE 3RD. OF WALLACE AND VICINITY OF BRITTON.

Though fortunately no casualties occurred locally, the terrific storm which swept this section Saturday, did considerable damage.

There was a heavy downpour of rain, accompanied by a hail and wind of great velocity.

So wild was the storm that several silos were blown down, roofs of barns taken off, fences blown down and windmills twisted up. Darkness prevailed and the thunder and lightning was severe.

The storm came from the west and though fierce in LISTOWEL, was apparently worse on either side, the greatest destruction occurring along the 3RD. LINE WALLACE and vicinity of BRITTON.

Telegraph poles were broken, others leaned badly and the telephone service was greatly disabled, some of the rural lines still being out of order.

Included in the damage done, THE BANNER has been told of the following:

J. W. JOHNSTON, BRITTON, barn blown down.

WILLIAM STRIKER, WALLACE ROAD, HERB. PURCELL, TOWN LINE WEST, Hwy 86

ISAAC MATTHEWS, 3RD. LINE WALLACE, frame silos blown down.

WILFRED CUMBERLAND, 3RD. LINE WALLACE, windmill ~~and~~ twisted and house slightly damaged.

JOHN CUMBERLAND, 3RD. LINE WALLACE, tile yard shed blown down, and barn doors forced in.

JOHN KENNEDY, 3RD. LINE WALLACE, part of roof of barn blown off.

EDWARD WEBBER, 3RD. LINE WALLACE, part of corrugated iron roof blown from barn. Quite a few miles west of Highway 23.

EMERSON PORTEOUS, 3RD. LINE WALLACE, barn unroofed.

RICHARD PRIDE, 6TH. LINE ELMA, driving shed destroyed.

JOHN VINES, 6TH. LINE ELMA, driving shed destroyed. Wallace

The chimney was blown off the 3RD. LINE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, the flg pole of the SCHOOL broken, numerous rail fences laid flat, and no doubt considerable other damage done.

CATHAGE. (Carthage)

The storm which passed over Saturday evening did'nt do much harm in this section but west of here, reports say, several barns were destroyed.

TRALEE

Much damage was done last Saturday afternoon when several buildings were blown down by the severe wind. The roof was taken off a number of barns and much machinery was broken but fortunately none was hurt.

STRATFORD DAILY HERALD, WEDNESDAY MAY 23RD. 1917.

STORM DATE. SAT. MAY 19TH. ?1917.

SMALL CYCLONE.

R. W. BURGESS, OF GLENGOWAN, SUFFERS DOUBLE LOSS.

GLENGOWAN, MAY 23. MR. R. W. BURGESS seems to be having a streak of bad luck this spring. Several days ago a small whirlwind of cyclonic proportions struck his barn and henhouse. A portion of the barn roof was torn away, while the remainder was shifted out of place. The henhouse, which was only recently built, was picked clear of its foundation and hurled against a tree a few rods away.

On Friday morning, during the electrical storm which passed over here, one of his horses was killed in the stable when the barn was struck by lightning. Very little damage was done to the barn.

STRATFORD DAILY HERALD, ONT. MONDAY MAY 21ST. 1917.

STORM DATE. ABOUT 5P.M., SAT. MAY 19TH. 1917.

CYCLONE CUT PATH ACROSS ELLICE TOWNSHIP.

SATURDAY'S STORM WROUGHT GREAT DAMAGE IN ROSTOCK AND BRUNNER VICINITY.

BIG STEEL BARN LEVELLED TO GROUND.

Rain, hail, lightning and wind ran riot in Saturday afternoon's storm and destruction was in its wake. City and countryside felt the effects of the most severe storm of the spring. The rain itself was rather welcome, however, and did much good. Generally speaking the city came off better than the neighboring district. ELLICE TOWNSHIP and the countryside further north felt the effects most severely, a wind storm of cyclone intensity levelling all inits path.

The storm broke over the city about five o'clock, with torrential rain that turned to driving hail. The downpour was sudden and very heavy. Nearly an inch and a fifth of rain (1.19 inches to be exact) fell, and in addition hail lay on the ground to a depth of two inches in places. Cellars were flooded, and roadways and railway sidings were inundated. Freshly made gardens suffered, the seeds being washed out in many cases. Flower beds were flattened, and the roar of the hailstones was deafening. Skylights, greenhouses and other exposed glass areas were damaged somewhat, but less than might have been expected, so heavy was the fall of ice. City water consumers had a reminder of the storm of Saturday, with picnic lemonade shade of the "aqua pura" which gushed forth from the taps, which the usually clear Avon was decidedly murky. A number of telephones were burned out, but the electrical storm did comparatively little damage, though the display was brilliant.

STORES DRENCHED.

Some of the local merchants suffered. The pipes carrying the water from the roof of the GORDON BLOCK became clogged, evidently by refuse carelessly thrown on top of the building and the result was that the big skylight was flooded, the water pouring down into the stores of the DUNCAN FERGUSON Co. and W.J. McCULLY. Prompt action minimized the damage in both cases; neverless the water soaked a good deal of first class stock. The deluge descended into the McCULLY STORE right at the office, soaking papers and books. A broom brigade hustled the water out the back door.

SWEPT IN FROM THE COUNTRY.

The storm swept in from the southwest. Around ST. PAULS the wind was very heavy and buildings suffered, as did also fences and anything of a loose nature. There was not so mush hail to the south of the city, and

farmers state that the crops were not far enough forward to be damage by what there was.The rain was needed.In the HARMONY section there was much rain,some hail and sharp lightning,the telephone system suffering.Eastward the storm seems to have been less severe.In fact the centre of the storm was west of STRATFORD,passing north and then doing very heavy damage.

CYCLONE IN ELLICE.

The climax was reached in ELLICE TOWNSHIP and on up through MORNINGTON.In the vicinity of ROSTOCK and BRUNNER the wind was of tornado velocity and cyclonic in form.About five o'clock the terrific wind whirled earthward near ROSTOCK and left destruction in its wake.The fine new steel barn of MR.ROBERT HANNA was levelled like a pack of cards.MR.HANNA was in a field 200 rods away,hurrying in for shelter from the sullen storm.No live stock was killed,but the barn collapsed completely.It was an exceptionally fine structure,put up only three years ago to replace one destroyed by fire.It was not insured,and MR.HANNA'S loss,the second in three years,is very heavy,and he will not only have the sympathy bot doubtless the active help of the community in his misfortune.

RIPPED ACROSS COUNTRY.

Just across the road,MR.COLIN KERR'S frame barn was caught in the swirl and twisted almost off the foundation,but did not collapse. Even silos were not able to withstand the terrific wind,two of these on the farm of MR.JACOB ALBRECHT,near BRUNNER,being destroyed.MR.ALBRECHT'S traction engine was wrecked at the same time.A chimney was blown off the residence of MR.ED.REHBERG,in fact nothing in the direct path of the cyclone escaped destruction or damage.Rail fences were scattered like nine pins.Branches were whipped from trees or the whole trees torn away from the earth.

SEVERE FURTHER NORTH.

Northward toward NEWTON and ATWOOD,the cyclone dipped again, with the same tale of wrecked buildings,fences and orchards.

Country people driving home from the city were caught on the road,and sought shelter at the closest farmhouses.One farmer on the NORTHERN ROAD had nine storm-bound parties at one time.Fortunately no loss of life is reported anywhere in the district.

Telephone Interview June 10, 1980

May 19, 1917. about 1700 EST.

- Mrs Porterfield remembers a cyclone "in a streak" through Brittain. 519-291-3658.

Farm of her father - James Johnson - ~~farm~~ barn blown down and windmill down. (northwest corner of Brittain) Stable in foundation O.K.

James Mayberry. - barn badly damaged

- A row of pine trees taken down

- Mrs Porterfield and her mother saw funnel approaching and went to basement. Her father and brother saw funnel approaching and ~~ran~~ ran out of the barn to the house and went into the basement. They heard a noise which sounded like a thrashing machine (when heard from the basement of barn with machine on the floor above)

- Heard a terrible noise.

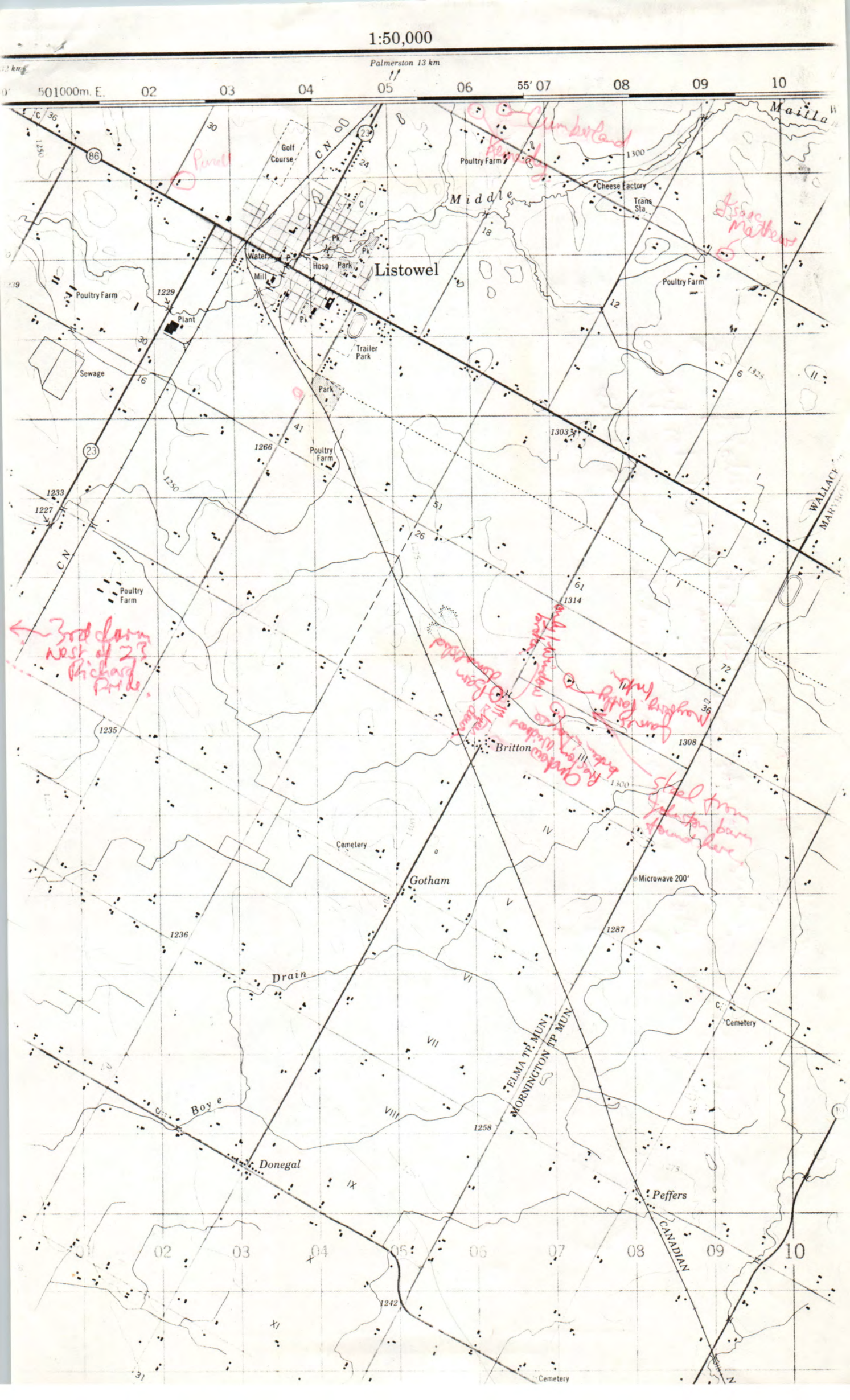
- Mrs Porterfield may have pictures of the damage. Born in 1909.

Remembers her Mother looking out west window and ~~saw~~ seeing boiling cloud and funnel. It seemed to lower as it approached their farm. Debris found about 1/2 mile away. ~~To~~ Window blew in, ~~and~~ took the ~~lamp~~ glass off an oil lamp but left the lamp. Hundreds of sightseers came in buggies the next day to see the damage. Neighbours lent a hand and new barn raised on June 25.

2 pictures east side of Johnston Barn.

- uprooted tree (with people) was in Johnston Bush.

Wide divide between barn + house, fell westwards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Cumberland
Kennedy
Isaac Mathews
Pirrell
3rd farm west of 23 Richard Pride.
Steel from Johnston barn found here.