

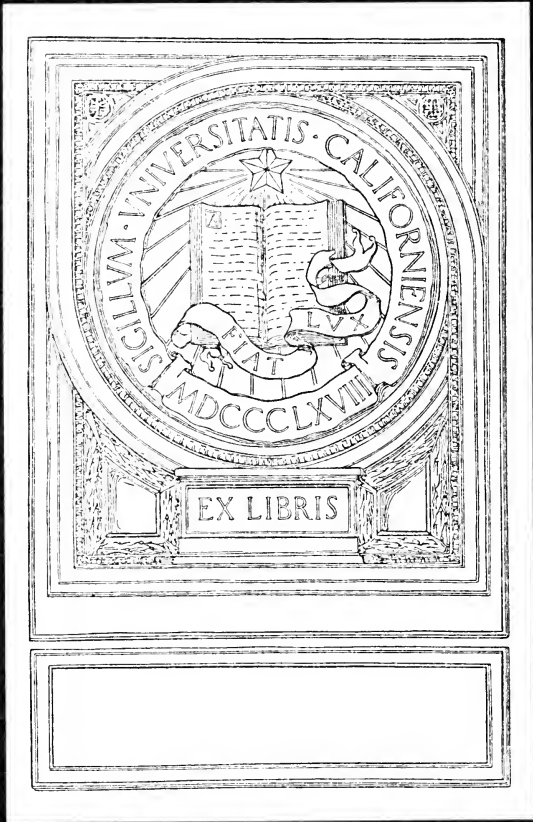
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A Pictorial History
of the
Great Dayton Flood



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MARCH 25, 26, 27, 1913



A Pictorial History

of the

Great Dayton Flood

:: :: :: March 25, 26, 27, 1913 :: :: ::

Prepared by
Nellis R. Funk



Dayton, Ohio
The Otterbein Press
1913

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By the U. B. Publishing House
W. R. Funk, Agent
Dayton, Ohio

TO WHOM
IT MAY COME

FOREWORD

The terrible floods which devastated large parts of our Central States in March, 1913, wrought the greatest havoc in the valley of the Great Miami and particularly in the city of Dayton.

Among the people of the flooded territory there has risen a great demand for a reliable souvenir in book form of this disaster. Also among those of other parts of the country there is great interest concerning the details of the great flood. Since Dayton is the greatest sufferer and the producer of the most sensational phases of the flood situation, this book is presented from the Dayton standpoint exclusively.

Words fail absolutely to tell such a story, so this book is of necessity largely pictorial. Out of many hundreds of pictures taken during the flood, we have selected the best. They show as well as pictures can what Dayton looked like when Main Street was a river twelve feet deep.

This book is produced to supply the demand mentioned above but more especially that it may be instrumental in keeping in mind the terrors of 1913. Great cities have been visited by calamities of this kind *more than once*. It is the hope of the publishers that Dayton will not permit a recurrence of such a disaster. Our civic calamity has brought out great leaders among our citizenship who before another year will point the way to a bigger, better, safer, and more beautiful Dayton.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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THE FLOOD

Its Cause and Some Effects

The cause of the floods of March, 1913, which devastated such a large part of our Middle States, was record-breaking rainfall. The people of Dayton were certain that the disaster was due to the breaking of reservoirs in central and western Ohio. In fact reports of the bursting of the reservoir at Lewistown were given official circulation and thousands of people went scurrying panic stricken to the hills. This was after the crest of the flood had passed.

The Weather Department reports that over central Ohio in the short period of forty-eight hours there was an average rainfall of five and seven-tenth inches and in one district the fall for this period registered ten inches. Over three thousand square miles were covered with water.

This unprecedented rainfall was caused by the meeting of three opposing air currents. One from the west, which was the tail end of the cyclone that did such great damage on Easter day in Omaha; another was a cold current from the northeast, and the third was a warm current from the south. The collision of these mighty air forces caused the rainfall which broke all records for this part of the country.

The clouds bit off more than the rivers could swallow so the surplus was disgorged into our streets, mounted the front stoop, rang the bell and being ignored, broke in doors and windows, entering our first floors in force. Some of us were driven for safety to the up-stairs, then to the garret, and finally we punched a hole in the roof and clung to its slippery surface for two nights and days while Dame Nature first soaked us with rain then chilled us with snow. Some perished, but most of us by the aid of a thousand miracles were saved. We are very busy now putting our city into good working order and succeeding remarkably well, but when a moment comes for quiet thought we wonder in a dazed sort of way, what protecting Power saved our lives, numbering so many thousand, from a horrible death. And since we knelt at our mother's knee, until we gave up hope of life on that terrible night, we had perhaps forgotten to pray.

If the mad waters have taught us a becoming humility, and that human intelligence is but microscopic as compared to the All Wise Creator of us all, it may be yet a blessing in disguise.

Several other causes assisted in accentuating the flood in the city of Dayton. Three tributary streams empty into the Great Miami within one mile of each other inside the city limits and it is a strange fact that as each stream enters the main river the channel perceptibly narrows. At the north where the Sillwater empties into the Miami the channel between levees is eight hundred feet wide, a half mile south at the confluence of the Mad River, the channel narrows to seven hundred feet, a little farther down, Wolf Creek finds a channel of about six hundred feet and south of Dayton the combined volume of these four streams must negotiate a five hundred foot course. The N. C. R. lecturer in giving these figures asserts that "there is nothing wrong with our river map *except that it is up side down.*"

For the last fifty years property owners have encroached on the river channel and the United States Government Commissioners are to blame for this rather than the city officials.

The river bottom has been gradually filled with deposits of gravel and islands are numerous with dense growths of underbrush and even trees. Thus at times of extreme high water the bridges become dams, backing the water up dangerously in front of them. In such a case either the bridge or levees must go or the levees be overtopped. Of our six bridges spanning the main stream, the four steele-concrete structures held like adamant. The steel Fifth Street bridge and the railroad bridge were carried down. It made little difference that the latter was weighted with loaded coal cars and when this bridge went down the water is reported to have fallen eighteen inches.

The three first pictures we show on pages nine and ten evidence the rapidity of the rising water which first appeared at Main and Fourth streets at nine a.m. Forty minutes later it was three feet deep and at one p.m. easily ten feet had been reached and of a beautiful city covering sixteen square miles over half was submerged. As the flooded area included the entire business district, the merchandise loss ran on estimate close to \$15,000,000. The loss to railroad property will probably reach \$10,000,000. Of local concerns, the Barney & Smith Car Company were probably the heaviest losers.

After two terrible days, Thursday morning found people still marooned on snow-covered housetops. There was an explosion at Main and Vine streets. No one could swim the current, so one man showed the others a way of escape by walking three squares on aerial telephone cables. In this way thirty people were saved. An aged couple were marooned in a small house only one hundred

feet from dry land, but on account of the current, the rescuers were unable to reach them, every boat being capsized. They were finally rescued by backing freight cars in front of the house and using ladders. Three minutes later the house was washed from its foundation and dashed to pieces.

The National Cash Register Company was fortunate in having their own water works, heating plant and lighting system. They served two thousand seven hundred and fifty meals every day. The people who prepared them were not all employees of the N. C. R. Women whose homes were not in the flooded districts came and offered their services and worked day and night. Sixteen thousand sandwiches were made daily and distributed to men doing relief work. Two thousand five hundred baskets were given out each day to families. Motorcycle riders did excellent service by carrying messages and information from one relief station to another.

Other parts of Dayton did not have the conveniences of the N. C. R., but they were thoroughly organized and got along nicely. St. Mary's College had five hundred refugees. Every room in the Miami Valley Hospital was filled with patients. They had no heat or water and all the food for the patients was prepared at St. Mary's College. Camp Rhoades, a city of tents, is for the N. C. R. employees who were made homeless by the flood. The tents are furnished with heat, water, electric light, and other conveniences.

A train load of three hundred passengers was marooned for several days in the Union Station. All they had to eat was a case of chocolate creams which some thoughtful person carried with him to the second floor. Their diet for two days was chocolate creams and rain water.

Complete show cases filled with jewelry floated out of the windows of the Newsalt Jewelry Store. Many churches were badly damaged. Automobiles were carried three or four squares away. A street car was buffeted about for three hundred feet and finally landed in a cellar. Fifteen hundred pianos played their last tune. Sheds were washed away and some of them landed on the roofs of small houses. A good story is to the effect that one house floated four squares away, landed on another foundation, and fitted exactly. Quite a discussion arose as to who was the owner of the house.

Not only property owners and merchants in the cities were heavy losers, but farmers whose fertile farms were washed out and nothing left but beds of gravel and sand. Twenty-six other cities were affected by the flood. The real estate loss is estimated at many millions.

Many people were without food and drink from forty-eight to sixty hours. As soon as the water went down, drinking water was taken about town in water carts.

North Dayton lies lower than any other section of the city. Industries in this part of the city suffered heavy losses. On one roof a horse and mule were stranded.

About one hundred people were in the buildings which burned, but as far as can be learned, no lives were lost.

The current was so strong in some places that steel boats were crushed, a street car landed up-side-down in front of the W. C. A. building and immense stones were carried great distances.

Eighty-five thousand people were taken care of by the Relief Stations. The Red Cross Society spent \$1,600,000.00. Nine or ten thousand families were registered and taken care of.

The levees and bridges have been rebuilt and made stronger. Thousands of tons of dirt were removed from the streets. Sixteen districts for sanitation were established and the sanitation committee made house-to-house inspection. The militia has protected the homes and business houses and great credit is due to Adjutant General George Wood.

Fourteen hundred dead horses have been removed from the streets.

Every one is optimistic. The outlook for Dayton is good. Papers are full of ads for help wanted and big buildings will be erected regardless of the flood. Merchants will do more business in one year as in any other two years.

Governor Cox traveled ten days visiting the twenty-six towns in the flood.

In the San Francisco earthquake, twenty-five thousand were made homeless and the loss was \$600,000,000.00. They had the courage to rebuild in the exact places they were before and have no way of protecting themselves against earthquake. We can protect ourselves against flood, and this protection we will have at once at any cost.

CENTRAL DISTRICT



Water Invading Main Street.

This picture was taken at exactly 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 25, 1913. Note the Auto in lower left corner. Taken from the tenth floor, U. B. Bldg.

Photo copyright, 1913, by U. B. Publishing House.



Three Feet of Water in Main Street.

Auto shown above is being carried away by the current. Photo from the U. B. Bldg., exactly forty minutes after the first picture had been taken. Photo copyright, 1913, by the U. B. Publishing House.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



Ten Feet of Water in Main Street.

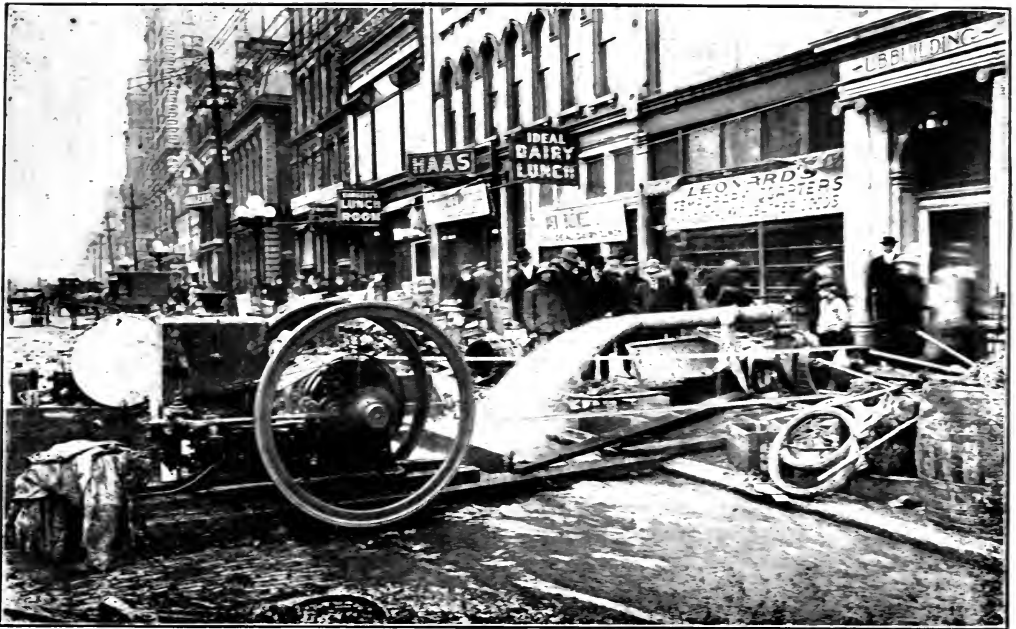
Taken from the U. B. Bldg., at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 25, 1913, immediately after the collapse of the Leonard Building. At its crest the flood here reached a depth of twelve feet. This point is one-half block from the business center of Dayton. Photo copyright 1913, by the U. B. Pub. House.



High Water in West Fourth Street.

At the First U. B. Church, three blocks west, the water reached a depth of fifteen feet. To the left is shown the Dayton Bicycle Club and the Grace M. E. Church. Photo copyright, 1913, by the U. B. Pub. House.

CENTRAL DISTRICT



Getting Rid of a Part of the Flood.

This pump is pouring through its 7-inch mouth a miniature flood into Main Street. Shows the entrance to the U. B. Building, Dayton's most imposing skyscraper.



A Small Part of the Ruined Stock of the U. B. Publishing House.

About \$60,000 of merchandise alone was lost by this concern. In this pile of refuse are thousands of books, including hundreds of Bibles.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



As the Water Looked at Night.

Davies Building and Newsalt's Jewelry Store to the left and the Reibold Building in the background. Photo copyright, 1913, by the U. B. Publishing House.



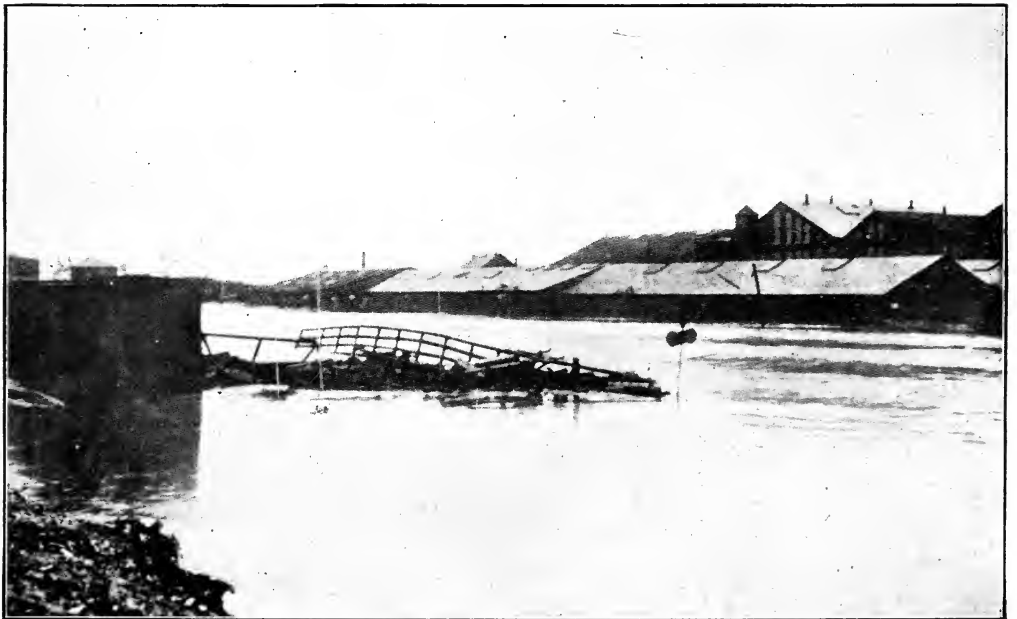
Looking West, on Third Street from Main.

Showing Phillips House and the Arcade Entrance. This corner is the civic and business center of Dayton. Note the high water mark on the Arcade entrance in the center.

CENTRAL DISTRICT



Boating in Maple Street near Perry.



Barney and Smith Car Works.

This company is one of the heaviest flood losers.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



Receding Water in North Main Street.

Photo from the old Court House. Heavy stone column undermined by current.



East Third Street, from Main.

One square away may be seen the ruins of buildings left by the great fire which threatened the whole business section.

CENTRAL DISTRICT



Poor Chance for a Boat in West Third Street.

Arcade entrance in center. Dayton's beautiful wide streets gave the current an excellent chance to run rampant. It did.



Corner of Third and Ludlow.

Showing Algonquin Hotel and the new Post-office in course of construction.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



A Heavy Traction Car.

Wrecked by the fierce current that swept around the corner of Third and Ludlow.



Another Effect of the Wild Current.

Residence on West Third Street in bad plight. State Guardsman on the lookout for looters.

CENTRAL DAYTON



Fourth Street, East of Ludlow.



Fourth Street, West of Ludlow.

Central District School to right of center and First U. B. Church in extreme right.
A horse swam into the latter building and found safety in the choir loft.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



South Ludlow from Fourth.

Photo from News Building.



Corner of Fourth and Ludlow.

Grace M. E. Church and swimming horses. Over 1,400 horses perished in the water.

CENTRAL DAYTON



Looking from Ludlow into Fifth.

Showing several persons caught by the rapidly rising water.
Man to right is wading on the sidewalk.



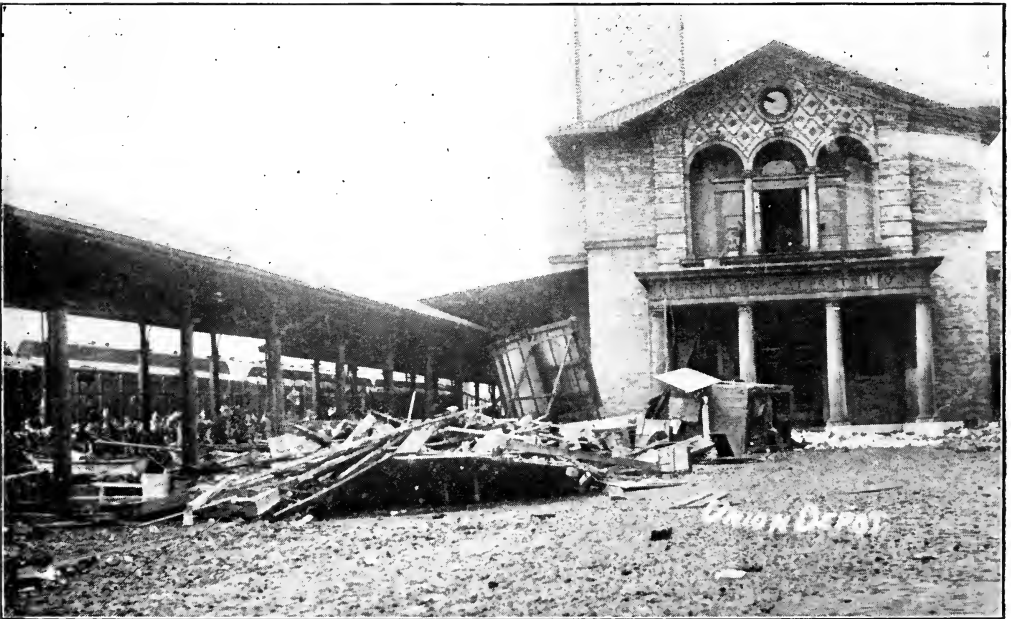
Fifth and Ludlow an hour later

Note the men struggling with the flood on debris to the right.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



Looking west in Fifth Street from the corner of Ludlow.



After effects at the Union Station

Over 300 passengers and railroad employees were marooned on the second floor for three days. Diet—rainwater and chocolate creams.

CENTRAL DAYTON



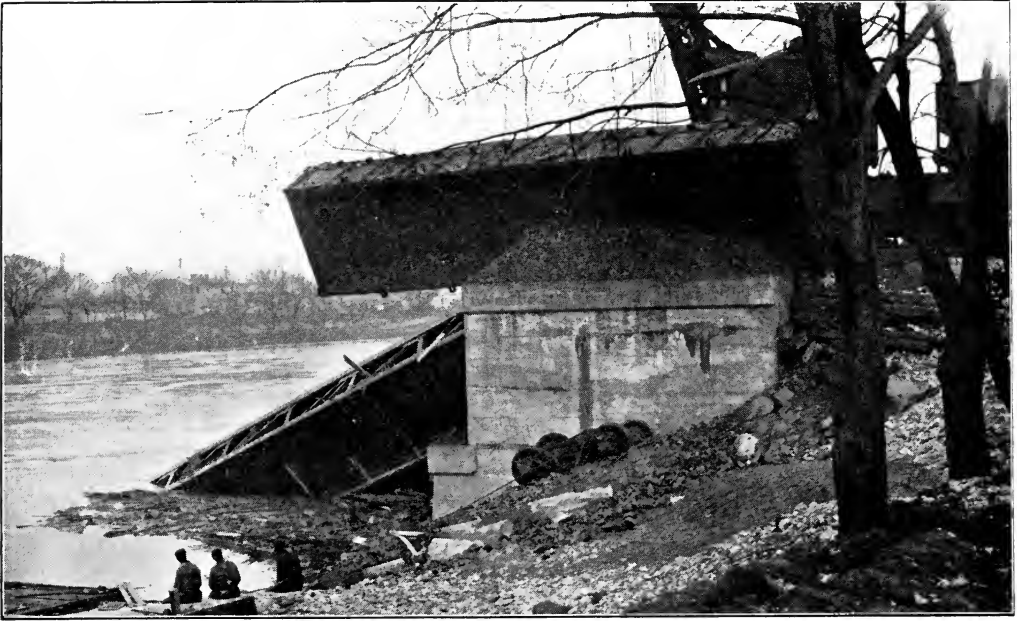
Flood scene looking from Fifth Street north on Ludlow.

To the left is the Colonial Theatre and in the distance the Commercial Building.



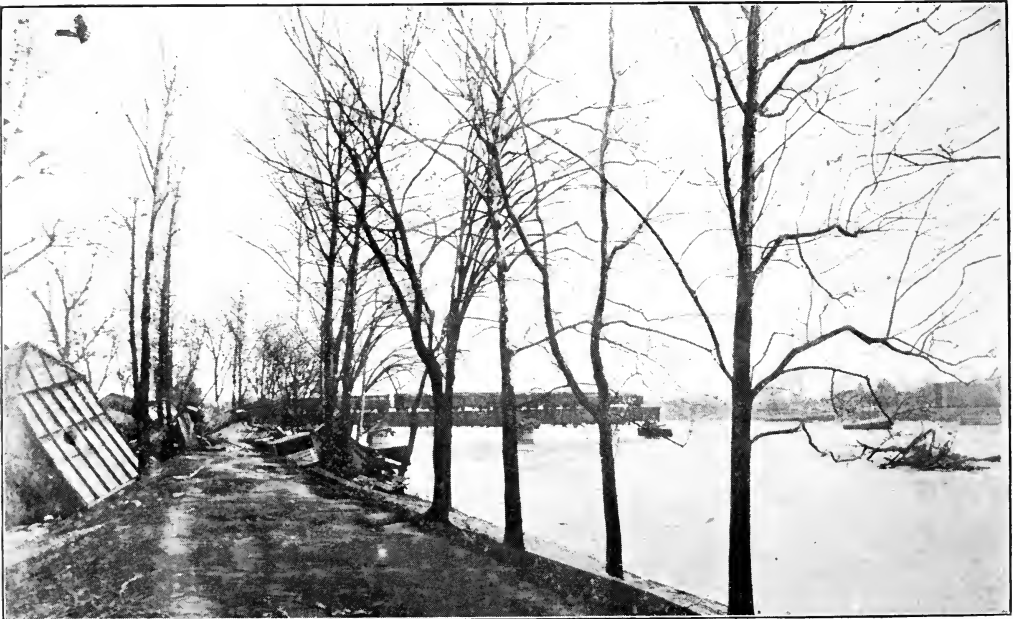
South on Ludlow from Fifth.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



The Railroad Bridge over the Miami

Responsible to some extent for the flood damage to Dayton. Until it was carried away it formed a dam that helped the water over the levees



Loaded coal cars were run on to the railroad bridge to hold it down, but to no avail. When the bridge went down the water at once fell 18 inches.

CENTRAL DAYTON



Repairing the Railroad Bridge.

One week after the flood the work was completed. The railroads lost in Dayton alone property valued at \$10,000,000.



Flood scene in Edgemont.

Several persons were marooned on floating débris here for 48 hours. Photo from S. Summit Street.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



Flood at Corner of Main and Fifth.

Photo by Bowersox.



Looking South on Main from Fifth.

The flooded territory extended to the foot of the hills in the distance.

CENTRAL DAYTON



The Old Log Cabin.

Built in 1796 by Dayton's first inhabitant. Photo shows the point where the water first invaded the downtown district. The great wonder is that the log cabin was not washed away. Spectators watched the water here until the water reached their knees. They never dreamed that the water would get any higher. With this idea in mind it is not so strange that thousands of people were similarly caught in the streets of the city and had finally most miraculous escapes from death. There must be some sort of hypnotic influence exerted by an angry river which puts people into a stupor until they are forcefully awakened by the cold water rushing upon them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

To the Honorable Messrs. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States and James M. Cox, Governor of Ohio, who provided us National and State aid of inestimable value; to the National Red Cross Society; to those valiant heroes who, forgetting they were merely mortal, braved the elements to save their fellow-men; to Mr. John H. Patterson, our leading citizen and to the people of the United States, Dayton acknowledges undying gratitude. Your sympathy extended in a thousand practical ways has put courage into a hundred thousand hearts and has saved from a beautiful city, the sinister effects of a great calamity.

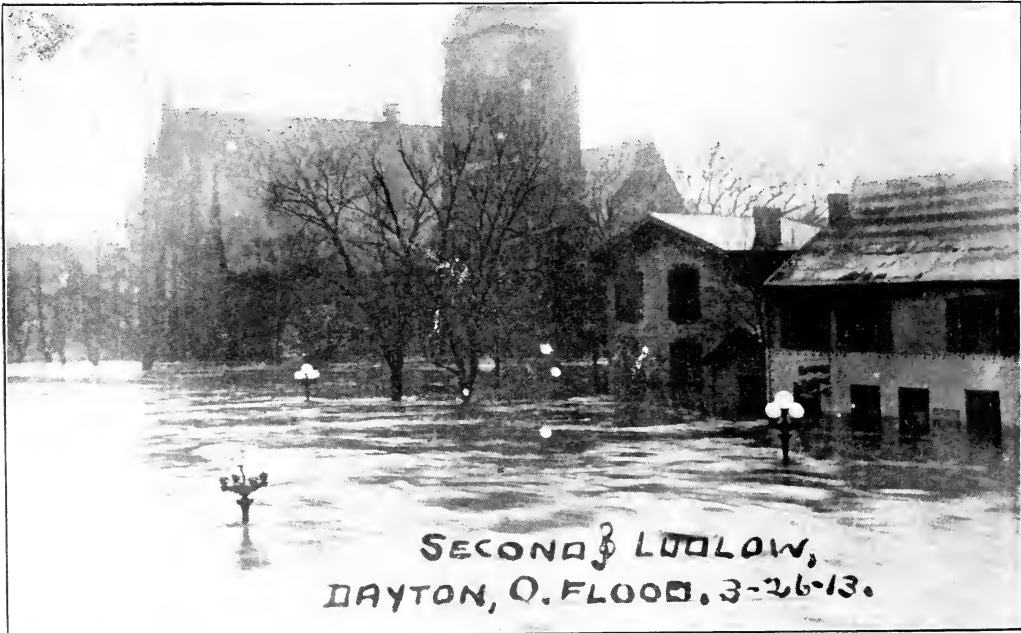
Our prayer is to Almighty God the ruler of the elements, that so long as human suffering remains so long may our citizens be ready to come to the relief of their distressed fellow-men.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



Looking toward the corner of Main and Second.

The Rike-Kumler Building in the foreground. This company, which is one of the best equipped department stores in the country, lost tremendously by the flood, but is now running its business as before.



First Presbyterian Church on the corner.

The flood left Dayton churches in as pitiable condition as the homes and stores.

CENTRAL DAYTON

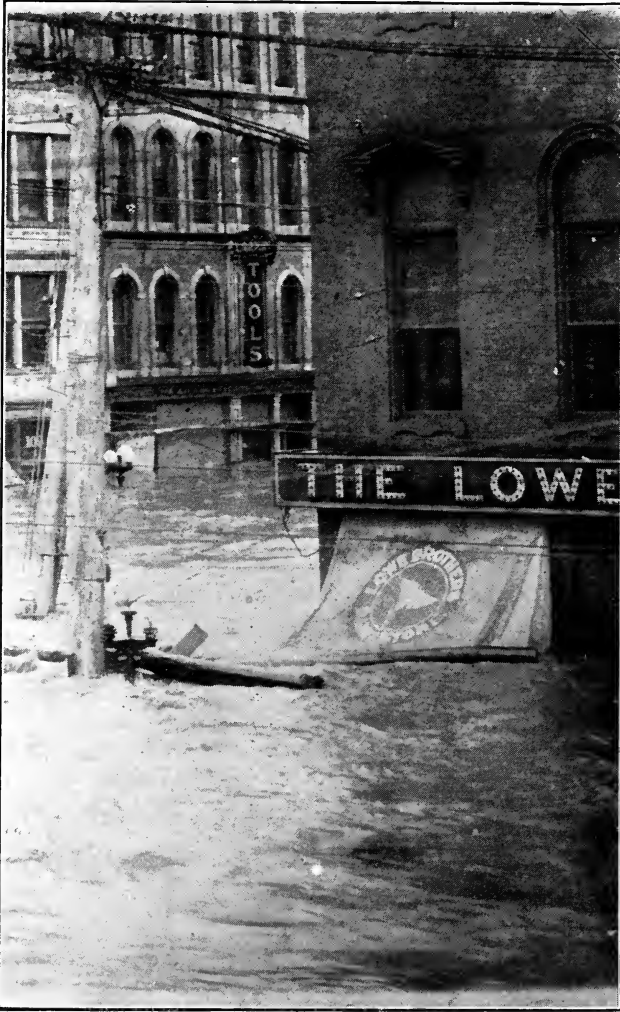


Another view in West Second Street.
Showing a corner of the Rike-Kumler Building to the right.



Receding water at the corner of Third Street and Robert Boulevard.
Note the high water mark on the building.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



Flood Tide at Third and Jefferson.

All the buildings shown in this picture were burned a short time later. Lowe Bros. Paint Store made good kindling for the blaze as well as several other large paint stores in this block. The buildings in the background are the scene of escape of 28 people from fire as well as water. See Kirkbride's story on page 34.

No story from the Dayton flood district has been more widely circulated and at the same time so greatly distorted as the one we have been fortunate enough to secure and print below. Newspapers all over the country printed the Kirkbride incident which we give as corrected by Mr. Kirkbride himself. When one stops to contemplate the magnitude of the flood and fire disaster in Dayton, he wonders how it was that so many thousands of people escaped with their lives. The story below tells why, and it is but one of hundreds of thrilling escapes which go to prove that it is not an easy matter to so corner an adult

CENTRAL DISTRICT



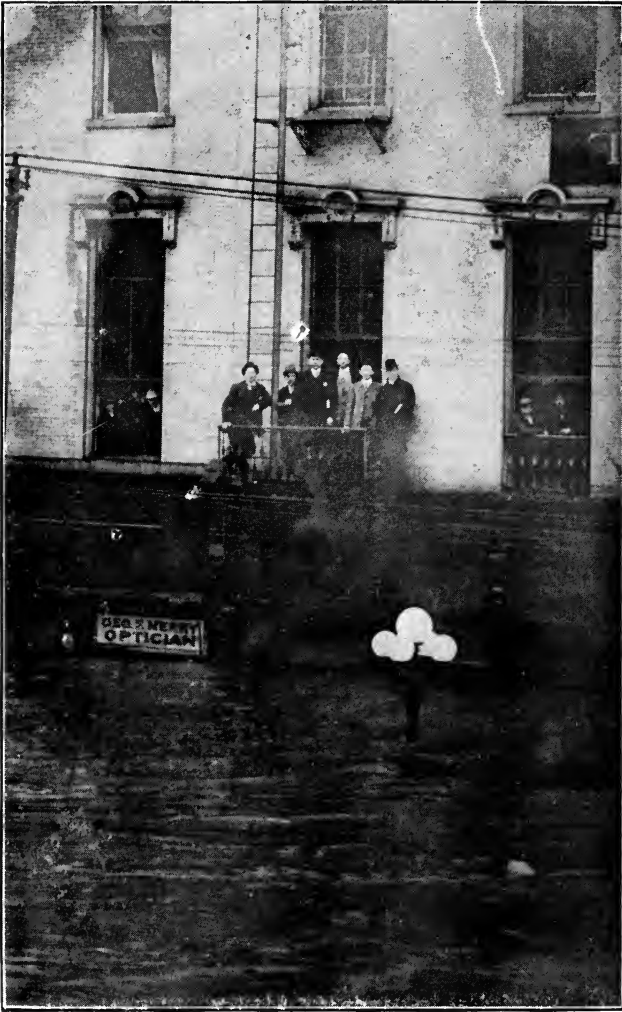
High water in South Jefferson Street.

A show that the Jewel Theater had not booked and no amateur performance at that.

human being that he will not be able, as a rule, to escape death. A man sometimes does not know his strength till some emergency gives his brain and muscle the proper stimulus. You will be interested in this story, which follows exactly as told by Mr. Kirkbride.

At 6:30 Tuesday morning we were aroused by people passing down the street telling every one that the river would soon go over its banks and that they should all prepare for a flood. At that time the water was backing up in front of our house, we living just a square from the lowest point in the down-town district. I waded through water about eighteen inches deep for half a square, reached dry land and made my way down town. Nothing seemed to be unusual. The people

BUSINESS DISTRICT

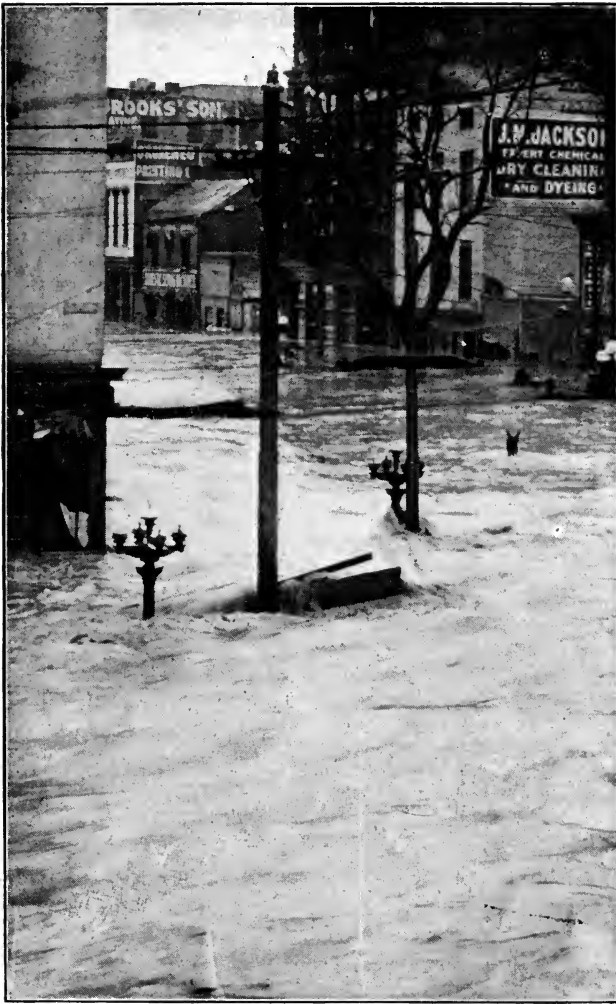


Flood Scene in East Third, near Jefferson.
Showing some of the guests of the Beckel House

were walking around the streets the same as any other day at that hour. I made my way to the office which is about seven squares from home. No water could be seen in either direction from our front door. Thinking that the flood scare did not amount to much, I went to a restaurant and got breakfast. When I returned to the office the porter was on hand and we started to get our merchandise out of the basement to the first floor. This was probably 8:30 and the water was then coming over the levee and rushing down Third Street.

The force of the current came directly across the Library Square and rushed down Third Street. After we had waded around up to our waists trying to take books and valuable papers to the second floor, we gave up and decided it was of

CENTRAL DAYTON



Looking north on Jefferson, from the corner of Third.

The more a man knows about water the more helpless he feels against such a current.

no use to continue salvage operations. We went to the front window on the second floor that we might see the current carrying away the debris as it passed our building. We saw a boy, clutching a piece of wood, come whirling around from St. Clair Street on to Third. He got footing in front of our place in the eddy and we helped him in, took him up stairs, rubbed him with towels, gave him a stimulant, and the only clothes we had to offer him, which was my cravenette.

The water was rising very rapidly at the rate of about one inch a minute. We noticed the proprietor of the moving picture show immediately across the street from us, in the reel room. He seemed to be quite content the first few hours, but after the water had reached a level of about seven feet, he showed the

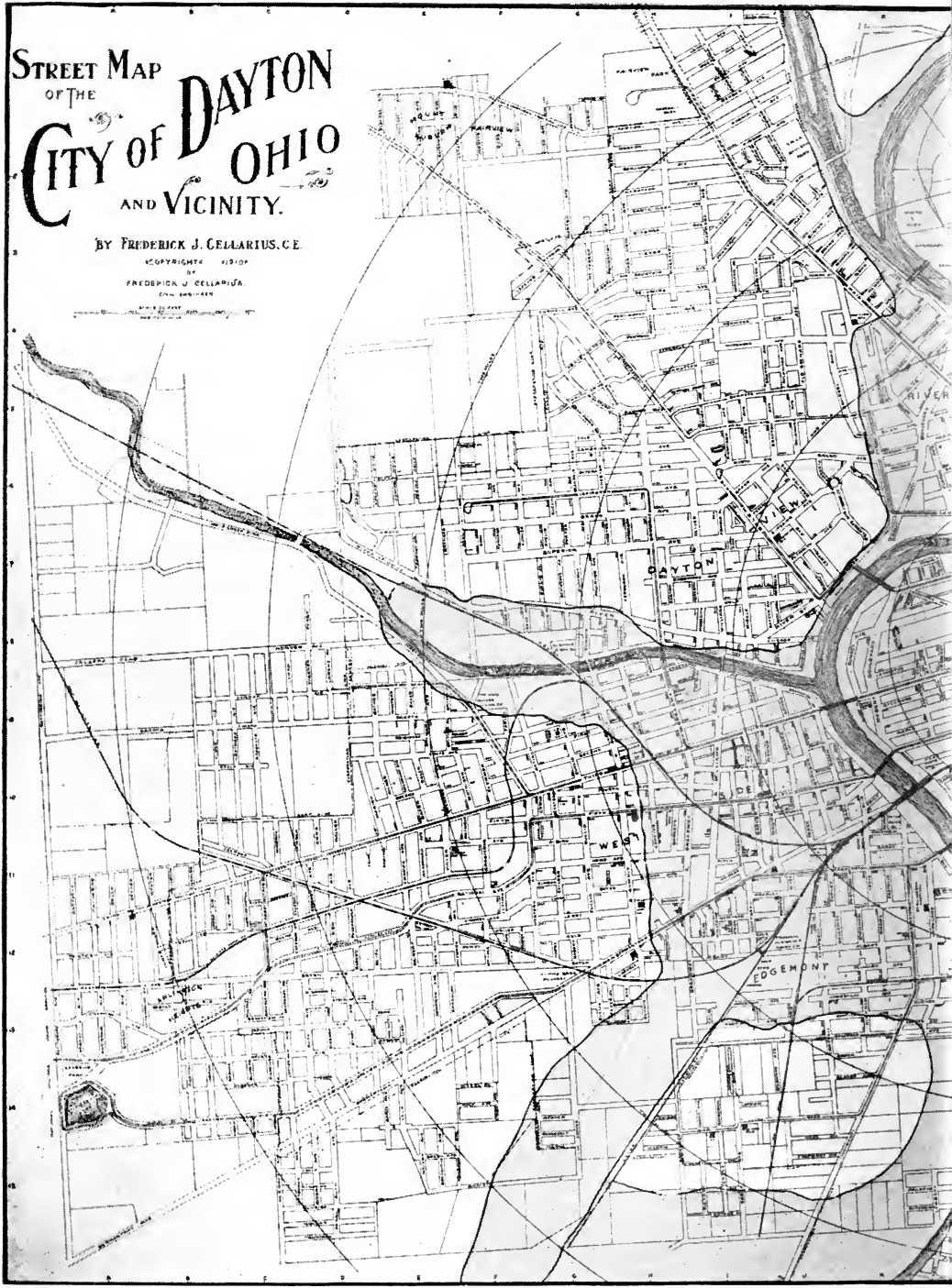
STREET MAP OF THE CITY OF DAYTON OHIO AND VICINITY.

BY FREDERICK J. CELLARIUS, C.E.

COPYRIGHT 1910

BY FREDERICK J. CELLARIUS

CIVIL ENGINEER



Shaded part shows Flooded District.



Used by Permission

BUSINESS DISTRICT



We brought 28 people including women and children out of this fire block.

distress sign by putting his head and shoulders out of the window of the reel room and making wild jesticulations. The rush of water on that side of the street was so ferocious that our calls to the men on the second floor of the building adjoining the moving picture show, could not be heard. We megaphoned to them and by signaling, managed to let them know that the man was in distress. One of them crawled down on the cornice and threw a rope to him. He tied it around his body below the arms and jumped into the water. Four men at the other end of the rope, by very skillful maneuvers which were almost entirely directed by us from across the way, managed to pull him through the window. We slept the rest of the morning. About two o'clock in the afternoon the walls of the drug store on the corner fell. This being only about seventy feet from our building, we thought it best to move. We climbed to the fourth story by means of a ladder, crawled up through the hatch to the roof. We found that all the people in our square had done the same thing. Our building being the first one of the four story buildings on the square, we did a good deal of rescuing of people in the lower buildings between us and the corner, who had also crawled to the roofs. By means of a rope we pulled two women and five men off the roof of the Finke Brothers' Notion Store. Then in the rear and from the roof of a building west of us, we rescued a man, his wife and little boy, who were standing

BUSINESS DISTRICT

on a very low shed, the peak of which was just out of the water. The building on which they stood was about fifteen feet from the foot of the building on which we were standing. We threw a rope to them and the man tied it around his wife's body just under the arms and about ten of us men on the roof managed to pull her up on to the building. There was a stretch of fifteen feet over which she had to swing before we could pull her up. Not being accustomed to such gymnastics, she bruised herself badly by striking against the wall. But the man and little boy profited by her experience and were able to break the force of the blow with their feet. It continued to rain the rest of the day and we killed time by walking around on the roofs of the nine buildings which are all one level. One building was occupied by the Kiefaber Company, Commission Merchants, where we found lots of apples and grape fruit. The W. L. Adamson Company, wholesale grocers, supplied us with canned goods and tobacco. In Evans Brothers' wholesale drug house we secured playing cards, and playing on boxes and benches, during the rain, helped to pass the time away.

At 6:00 in the evening we all went to sleep installing ourselves in the Chas. A. Cooper Company's building on the second floor where they kept a large supply of lap robes and horse blankets. The display tables which extended the length of the building, we made use of as beds. There were five women, one boy about twelve years old, and twenty-two men. Two men formed the lookout and every hour measured the rising stage of the water. The highest stage was reached at twelve o'clock Tuesday night. This was eight feet and eight inches on the floor of our building. This meant about eleven feet on Third Street.

Our supply of drinking water was obtained from three galvanized iron tubs which we placed on the roof. These three tubs in about four hours would catch a bucket of water.

On Wednesday, we all arose early, had our breakfast of canned goods of every description and the men went to the roof for the morning smoke regardless of the pouring rain. Our rule was "No Smoking Below the Roof." About one o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, those in the front of the store looking out of the window, noticed the fire which originated in the drug store on the corner of Third and St. Clair Streets. There was a high wind blowing from the north and east which fanned the fire and it was only a matter of a few minutes until the two buildings on the corner were ablaze. Everybody went to the roof. A man whom we had taken from a boat and who had spent the night in Library Park in a tree, was the last one to reach the roof, as he had been sleeping between blankets and had to dress. He and I went to the roof together. I closed the hatches of the nine buildings to make sure that the fire would not jump. I knew there were fire walls between these buildings and that unless we gave the fire a good opportunity, it would be rather slow in reaching us. We all moved west over the roofs to the last one of the four-story buildings which was occupied by Sol Rauh & Sons Company. There we went down through the hatch and down the stairs to the second floor, leaving the building from the rear window. By climbing around on low roofs, soaked with water, we got into the Beckel Build-

BUSINESS DISTRICT

ing, occupied by the Fourth National Bank, which is on the corner and just one block from where the fire started. It was very cold and there were but few of us who had wraps or overcoats. Nearly every one wore blankets taken from the Chas. Cooper Company. We also carried provisions and water along with us. The fire gained headway rapidly and one at a time the buildings caught, the fire moving directly toward us. The fire walls seemed to have no resistance whatever but I learned later that it traveled along the cornice from building to building and the strong wind moved it right in and flames would curl around the walls, break the windows and then the suction would draw the flames inside. We thought it best to move north on Jefferson Street toward the river, as we would gain higher ground by going in that direction. We left the Fourth National Bank Building, crawled over the roof of the Traction Depot, into the side entrance of a building and traveled north on the cornices to the Simms Building on the corner of the alley. We could not cross the alley, the water being probably eight feet deep. The current was strong so that it was impossible for any one to swim. By means of a rope we got the women across the alley with food provisions and water. The men followed. We reached Groneweg's bindery from the window in the south side and again made our way north by passing from building to building around the cornices. Where the cornices were not on a level, we stretched a rope from window to window as a hold, and where they were unusually dangerous we stretched two ropes and the women crawled between them. When we reached the Johnson Printing Company, we were able to walk with perfect ease, the cornice being wider. We passed through the printing establishment to the rear window and then by means of a ladder reached the low roofs of out buildings and entered a residence on Second Street. Of course, as we traveled from the bank building north, all the places being occupied and everybody wishing to reach safety, there were about seventy-five who were in this residence. The weight being so great, the men were fearful that it might collapse. By means of a ladder, we overflowed into Geiger's residence which was the next door east. From there we took to the water, made our way across Second Street, some going north and some west to the Rike-Kumler building. The water on Second Street was then up to our shoulders. The current was so strong that we would not have been able to cross Second Street had it not been for the rope which we managed to get across and had securely fastened at each end.

It was rather hard to keep track of the time and I noticed my watch had stopped at twenty minutes after six. We had been nearly six hours and had only traveled two and one-half squares. The fire had by this time burned the buildings which we had first occupied and was gradually traveling toward us. Most of the low buildings in the rear and up to the alley were ablaze. Five of us spent the night at the Iddings residence at the corner of First and Jefferson streets. We felt safe here as we were one square away from the burning block and the wind was blowing away from us.

The next morning at about six o'clock, we left Iddings and waded through the water across Jefferson Street, west on First to the Victoria Theatre, then

CENTRAL DISTRICT



Steele High School Building

Suffered from the violence of the current.

north on Main Street and reached dry land in front of the Peckham garage on Main Street, which is about the highest point in the down-town district. There was water east, west, and south and the river on the north. I went to the home of J. W. Johnson on Monument Avenue where I changed my clothes and started to look for food and water. It was very cold, snow was falling and every one was in distress. The gas had not been turned on, of course, and few people had coal and no alcohol at the drug stores. The first warm food we had we got at a soup house temporarily installed at the engine house. We waited our turn in line which was fully a square long.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



Looking north up the Miami and Erie Canal.

To the right and to the left in St. Clair Street. Photo from Fifth Street Canal Viaduct.
In 1866 this canal caused a flood which reached a depth of over four feet in Main Street.



Looking West in Fifth Street from the Canal.

Snow added to the sufferings of refugees in attics and on housetops.

CENTRAL DAYTON



East Third Street from Wayne Avenue.



West Third Street from Crescent.

The water here reached a depth of over 15 feet completely overtopping the street car in the center.

BUSINESS DISTRICT



The remains of the West Fifth Street Bridge over the Miami.
Our steel concrete bridges held like adamant and one of this sort will
replace this old steel and masonry type.



Miller's Bridge, South of Dayton.
No chance for such a bridge to outlive the flood.

CENTRAL DISTRICT



View along the Miami and Erie Canal. Puzzle—Find the Canal.



Scene in Riverdale Street.

DAYTON VIEW



The Dayton View Bridge.

Hundreds of flood victims were brought to safety across this bridge. The Relief Organization of Dayton View was unsurpassed.

RESOLVED!—*Since the Flood*

That the definition of luxury depends upon your environment.

That a little candle makes a *good light*.

That eggs may be fried in a furnace, but that success depends upon experience.

That rain water is better than no drink at all.

That Mr. Patterson should be our next President.

That a gasoline stove is the height of luxury.

That he is lucky who ordered enough coal.

That Major Rhoads knows his business.

That it is a blamed peculiar sensation to have a khaki-clad youngster assume charge of your automobile when you are in a big hurry to go the other way.

That we have had our last flood.

That water is all right *in its place*.

That we are glad the N. C. R. is on high ground.

That there is no country on earth like the old U. S. A. and no heart so big as an American's.

That the elements must "go some" to get the average Daytonian.

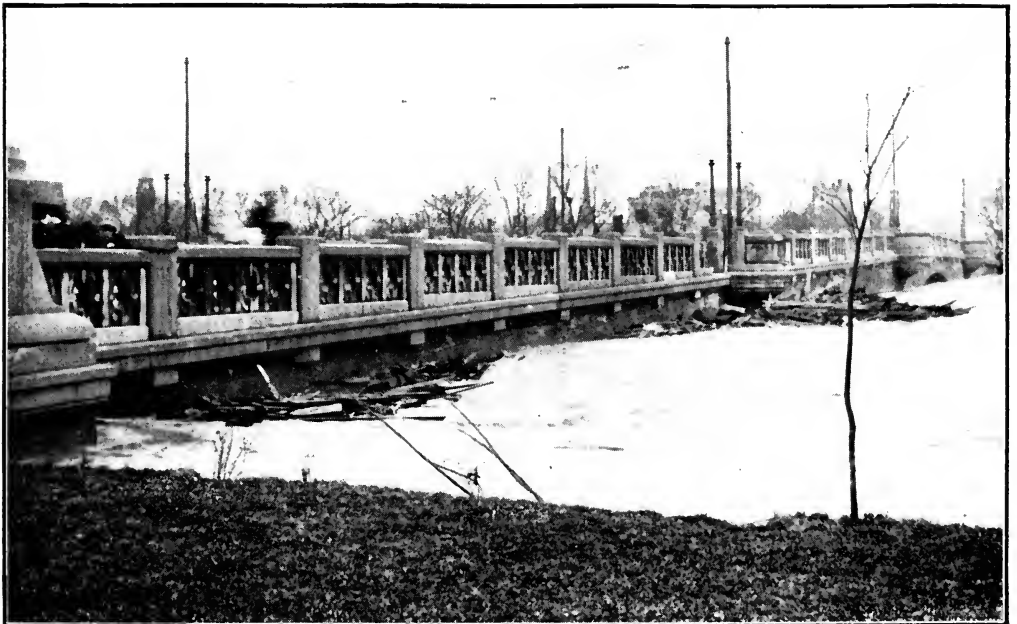
That a man don't know his strength *until he must!*

That the flood left the best there is in us—courage!

DAYTON VIEW



The Up-stream, or East Side of Dayton View Bridge.
Showing the flood high above the apertures of the bridge and the latter
clogged with wrecked houses.



Down Stream or West Side of Dayton View Bridge.
Note the swell of the water as it sweeps under the bridge.

RIVERDALE



Rescue Scene in Grand Avenue.

Refugees being brought in and food and clothing being taken to marooned sufferers.
Heroic rescue work centered at this point.



Looking East in Lehman Street and along Riverdale Levee.

Marked by trees to the right. This is the lowest part of Riverdale and great havoc was done here.

RIVERDALE



Looking East on Palmer from Forest Avenue.

One block down this street the water was fifteen feet deep. McKinley Park to right.



Another View of the Lehman Street Levee.

Showing the Main Street Bridge and Steel High School in the distance. Many Riverdale houses made their exit through this channel.

RIVERDALE



Rescue work being carried on to the north of Main Street Bridge in Riverdale.



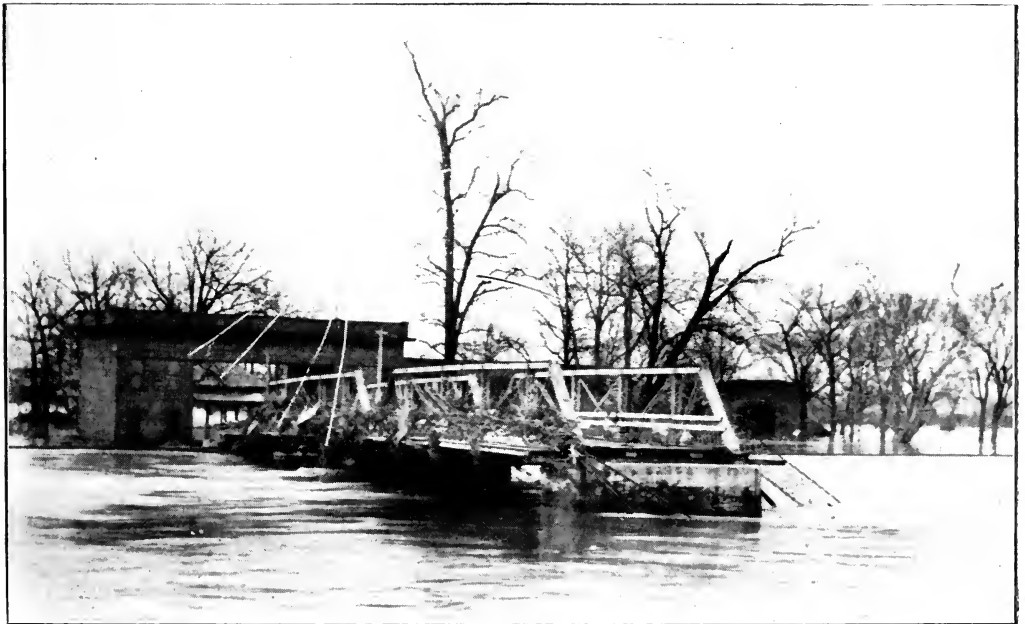
Another Rescue Scene in Riverdale.

Photo from the bridge



Levee at the Riverdale end of the Steele Dam.

Showing how the current by flowing over the levee wore it down. The levee did not break.



The White City Bridge.

It will require some work to put White City back on the map as an amusement park.

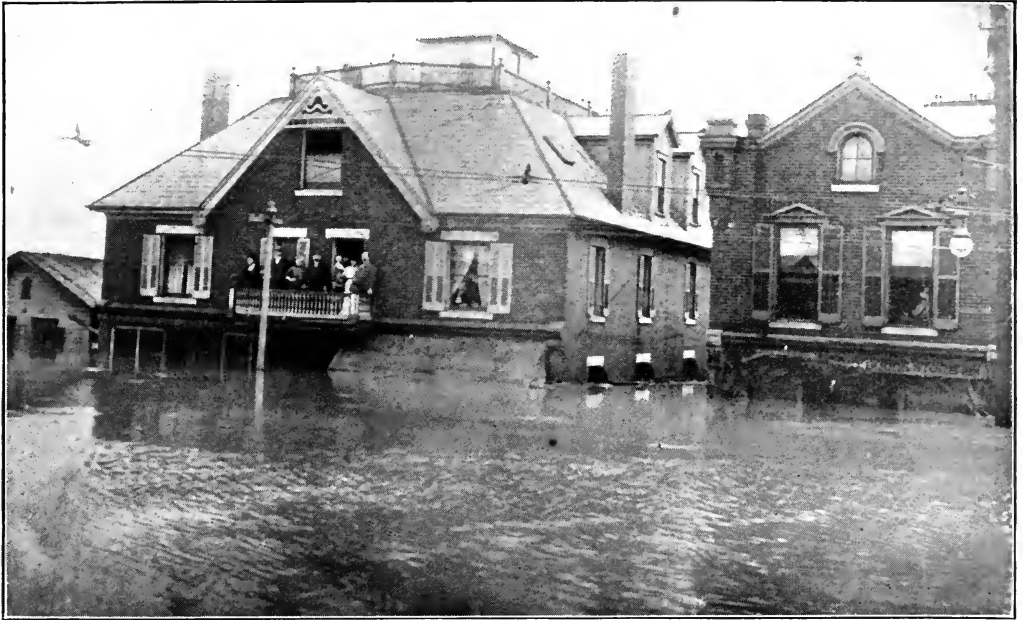
NORTH DAYTON



Wrecked House in North Dayton.

15,000 families were either permanently or temporarily rendered homeless by the flood.

NORTH DAYTON



Valley Street at Corner of Troy.



Grocery Store at the Corner of Troy and Valley Sts., North Dayton.

NORTH DAYTON



Troy Street, looking South from Leonard St., North Dayton.



The North End of Troy Street.

Photo from Leonard Street, North Dayton.

NORTH DAYTON



Another Scene of Destruction in North Dayton.

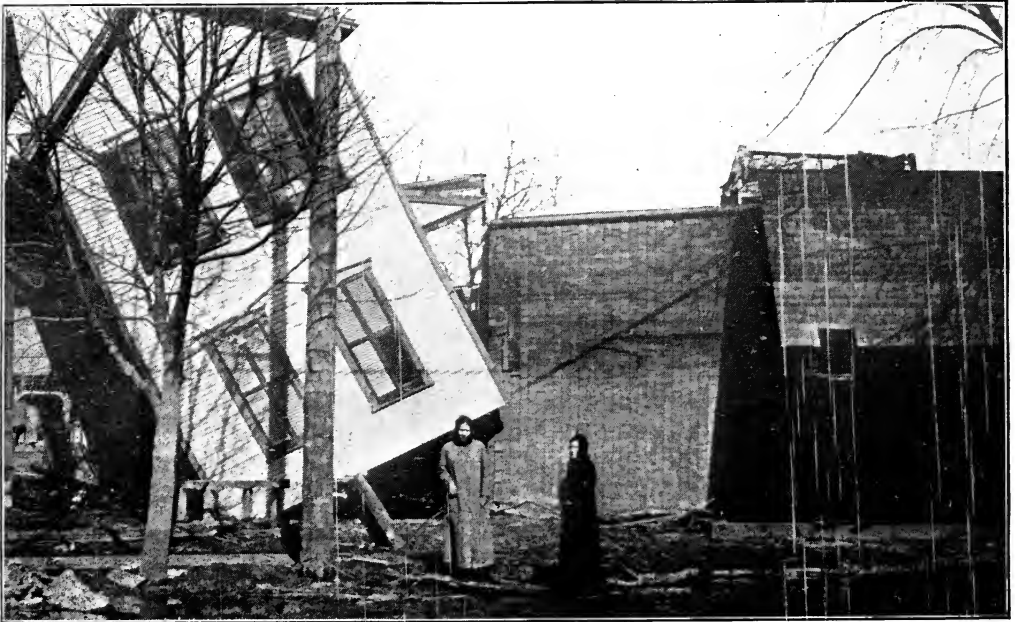


High Water in North Dayton.

NORTH DAYTON



North Dayton is the Lowest Part of the City.



This is not an unusual sight, as almost every block in the city has houses in such disorder.

NORTH DAYTON



For many days every person in the city was dependent upon charity for their food. Clothing and fuel were given out also. Millionaires were as helpless to buy provisions as paupers.



Nearly 15,000 Homes were Flood Bound.

Some of the finest residences in the city were affected as well as the lowly cottage of the poorest citizen.

SOUTH PARK



Looking North from the Fairgrounds, and West of Main Street at Apple.
One-story cottages in distress.

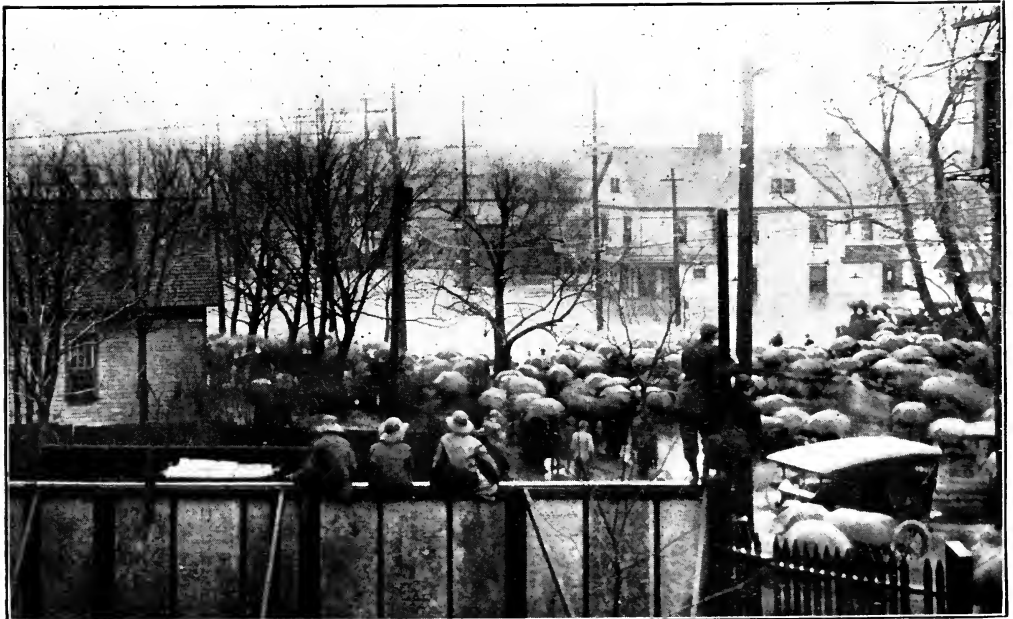


Another View from the Fairgrounds.
Many thrilling rescues were made here. The current was very dangerous.

SOUTH PARK



Looking North from Fairgrounds, near Corner of Main and Apple.
Skyscrapers in Business District in distance. From this point the
flooded territory extended three miles north.



Corner of Main and Apple Streets.
From which point, Mr. Patterson directed heroic rescue work.

SOUTH PARK



Looking South in Main Street from Apple.

Escaping to dry land by walking on aerial telephone cables. Thirty men and women walked three squares on these wires when the grocery at Main and Vine exploded, setting fire to their block.



South Main Street, looking North from Apple.

A string of loaded freight cars was pushed through the water on the street railway tracks to assist in rescue work. The house to the right is floating in the middle of Main Street.

SOUTH PARK



Burns Avenue in Southeast Dayton.

Where many lives were lost in the violent current. Whole blocks of houses were carried away and no traces of them found.



Looking East on Apple Street from Main. Receding Water.

SOUTH PARK



Some of the Destruction on Burns Avenue.

Taken at the corner of Morton.



When the Water Went Down.

After three days' rampage, some streets were hardly recognizable.

SOUTH PARK



South Brown Street, looking North from Wyoming.



Showing Rescue Work in South Brown Street.

One can hardly imagine the water within two squares of Woodland Cemetery.

WEST DAYTON



West of Negley Place

Showing part of Miami City and the bridge across Wolf Creek.



Near the Corner of Grimes and Edgewater in Miami City.

The horse in the center distance is standing on the levee.

WEST DAYTON



Rear of Grimes Street at Edgewater.



Looking South of Negley Place.

On a part of Miami City.

WEST DAYTON



The Western Edge of the Flood on West Third Street
Extended to the Malleable Iron Works beyond Conover Street.



Looking East from Conover Street into West Third.
Near the railroad crossing at Conover Street.

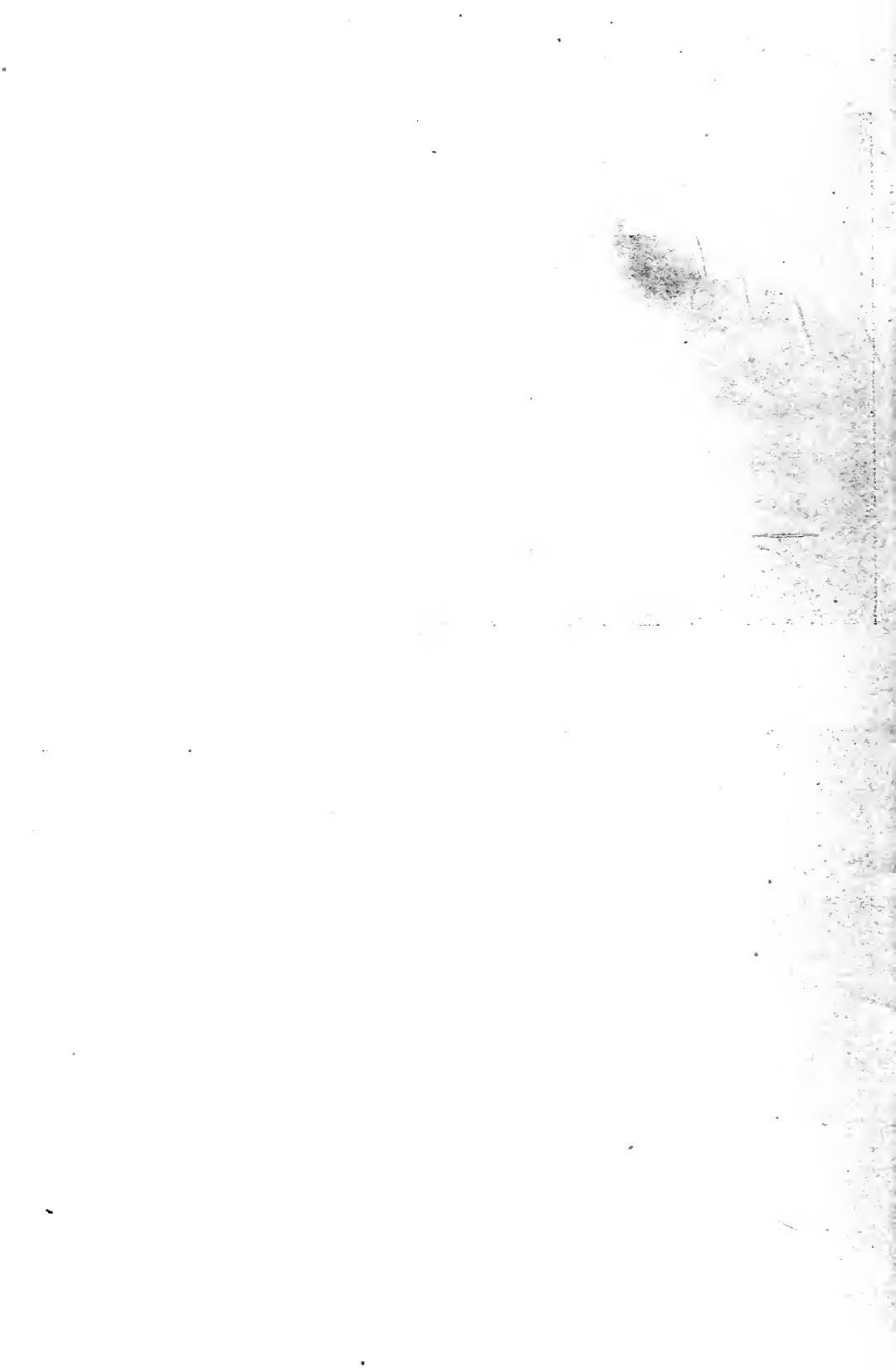
WEST DAYTON



Flood Ruins on Third Street, near Mound, looking South.



The Western Edge of the Flood on West Fifth Street
Extended to Conover Street.



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