

YEAR 1862

No storm was known for 1862 before this study began. The author of this study has recently documented five storms for 1862. In terms of a percentage, the increase cannot be calculated because it would be infinite.

Storm 1, 1862 (Jun. 15-17).

This is the first storm that the author has documented for 1862.

Storm 1, 1862 was documented on the basis of the following information: 1) U.S. gunboat "Connecticut" was supposed to have stopped at Hilton Head (just N.E. from Savannah). The vessel left Key West for New York on June 14, but it could not make the stop in consequence of a heavy gale at that time (The New York Times, Jun. 22, 1862, p.1, col.4). 2) Brig "Donna Maria" took a heavy blow from N.N.E. on June 15, which lasted for 24 hours. The vessel was coming from Havana and reported having been at lat. 32 49 N., long. 77 39 W. on June 14 (The New York Times, Jun. 22, 1862, p.8, col.6). 3) Brig "Saginaw", June 16, lat. 35 10 N., long. 75 40 W., at 11 P.M. took a gale from N.E. which lasted for 24 hours (The New York Times, Jun. 22, 1862, p.8, col.6). 4) Brig "Village Belle", coming to New York from Rio Grande and having crossed the Equator on May. 26, had a heavy gale from S. hauling to S.W. on June 17 (The New York Times, Jun. 22, 1862, p.8, col.6).

With the exception of item 1), the author found the above items useful for determining the track which is shown in Fig. 5. And there are indications that Storm 1, 1862 did not reach hurricane intensity.

Storm 2, 1862 (Aug. 18-20).

This is the second new storm case that the author has documented for 1862. A track for Storm 2, 1862 is shown in Fig. 5.

The following information allowed the author to document this storm: 1) Bark "Gen. Cobb" experienced a severe hurricane from S.E. at lat. 32 30 N., long. 69 25 W. on Aug. 18, lasting for 6 hours (The New York Times, Aug. 25, 1862, p.8, col.6). 2) Ship "George Muribut" was in the northern part of a hurricane at lat. 42 N., long. 61 W. on Aug. 20. Barometer falling eight tenths of an inch in two hours, then rising as suddenly (The New York Times, Aug. 29, 1862, p.8, col.6). 3) Schr. "A. Edwards" had a violent hurricane from S.E., S.S.W., S.W., W. and ending from N.W. at lat. 42 16 N., long. 58 W. on Aug. 20. At 6 P.M. Aug. 22 spoke ship "Emily Augusta" at lat. 42 26 N., long. 57 50 W. (?) whose captain reported having had experienced the same hurricane (The New York Times, Sept. 1, 1862, p.8, col.6). Author's note: The longitude (57 50 W.) given by the "A. Edwards" at 6 P.M. Aug. 22 seems to be in error, but this is an unimportant point. 4) A message from St. Thomas indicated that the brig "Rothway", from Liverpool (Nova Scotia) to Barbados, arrived in St. Thomas after having been dismasted in a hurricane on Aug. 20 (The New York Times, Oct. 7,

1862, p.8, col.6).

The track displayed in Fig. 5 was based on items 1) through 3) and there is no doubt that Storm 2, 1862 reached hurricane intensity.

Storm 3, 1862 (Sept. 12-19).

This is the third storm which the author has newly documented for 1862. A track for Storm 3, 1862 is shown in Fig. 5.

The following information was used in determining the earlier portion of the track: 1) The Spanish ship "Julian de Unsueta", from Liverpool to Havana, entered in St. Thomas on Sept. 22 after having encountered a strong E.S.E. gale at lat. 24 N. long. 57 52 W. The ship was thrown on her beam ends and dismasted during the gale and arrived at St. Thomas under jury masts (The Times, London, Oct. 14, 1862, p.9, col.3). 2) Barks "Montezuma" and "Gazelle", from New York, had been dismasted in a hurricane on Sept. 13 and were at Barbados (The New York Times, Oct. 20, 1862, p.8, col.6). 3) Bark "Gazelle", coming to New York from Barbados, in an outward passage experienced a hurricane on Sept. 13 (The New York Times, Oct. 31, 1862, p.8, col.6). It is granted that the content of the above three items is vague for track purposes but some crude estimates for the storm location can still be inferred. By combining the three items, the author of this study has estimated a position near 22.5 degrees North, 58 degrees West for Sept. 12 and a position near 24 degrees North, 63 degrees West for Sept. 13. The Sept. 12 position resulted after assuming that the E.S.E. gale reported by the "Julian de Unsueta" was indeed related to Storm 3, 1862. This assumption was necessary because the Spanish ship did not mention the day she encountered the gale, and it appears to be a reasonable one because the vessel should have spent a number of days in reaching St. Thomas from near lat. 24 N., long 58 W. in quite a disabled condition. The storm was placed about 100 miles to the south of the vessel at 7 A.M. Sept. 12, allowing for the "Julian de Unsueta" to have received the E.S.E. gale she reported. The day (Sept. 12) was based on backward extrapolation in time from the estimated position for 7 A.M. Sept. 13, which was roughly along the New York- Barbados shipping lane where the "Gazelle" and the "Montezuma" should have encountered the storm on the second day mentioned (Sept. 13) and it assumed a storm motion towards the W.N.W. from Sept. 12 to Sept. 13.

No direct information about Storm 3, 1862 was available over the period Sept. 14-16. Therefore, the track for this period is along a smooth curve joining the Sept. 13 position and the Sept. 17 position which was estimated on the basis of the following information: 1) Bark "Abbyla" experienced a hurricane at lat. 34 33 N., long. 71 20 W. on Sept. 17 (The New York Times, Oct. 1, 1862, p.8, col.6). 2) A message from St. George, Bermuda, states that the bark "Elias Pike" and the brig "Hermann" encountered a severe hurricane on Sept. 17 and on Sept. 19. The "Elias Pike" was sailing from Boston to New Orleans and the "Hermann" from Puerto Rico to Hamburg (The New York Times, Oct. 7, 1862, p.8, col.6). Author's note: It is obvious that the "Elias Pike" was the vessel which met Storm 3, 1862 on Sept. 17 as she was heading for New Orleans,

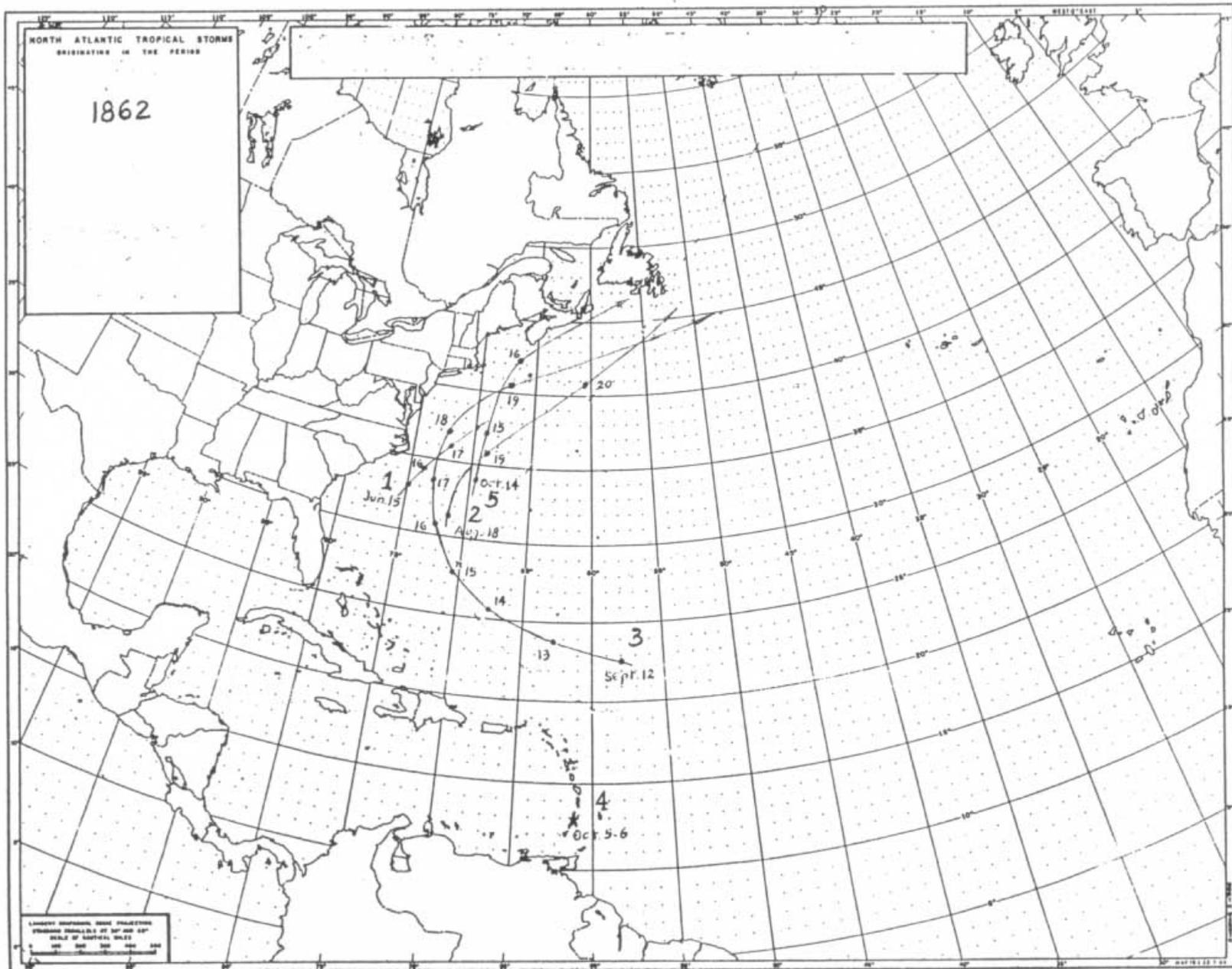


Fig. 5

having sailed from Boston. The "Hermann" could not have possibly met the storm on that day because she was sailing from Puerto Rico to Hamburg and should have encountered it on Sept. 19.

No information about the storm has been found for Sept. 18, but abundant information is available for Sept. 19: 1) Ship "Ellen Austin" encountered a violent hurricane from S.S.E. for 2 hours which then hauled to N.W. and blew with increased violence for 4 hours, at lat. 40 34 N., long. 68 12 W. on Sept. 19 (The New York Times, Sept. 24, 1862, p.8, col.6). 2) Bark "Iris" encountered a hurricane from S. to N. at lat. 40 12 N., long. 68 W. on Sept. 19 (The New York Times, Sept. 24, 1862, p.8, col.6). 3) Ship "Neptune" had a violent gale accompanied with a freightful sea at lat. 40 28 N., long. 68 10 W. on Sept. 19 (The New York Times, Sept. 26, 1862, p.8, col.6). 4) Ship "Sandusky" encountered a heavy gale from S.S.E. at lat. 40 40 N., long. 65 20 W. on Sept. 19, lasting for 6 hours (The New York Times, Sept. 26, 1862, p.8, col.6). 5) Ship "Deutschland", Sept. 19, lat. 40 30 N., long. 67 30 W., experienced a hurricane from S.E., S.W. and around N.W. with tremendous high seas (The New York Times, Sept. 25, 1862, p.8, col.6). 6) Ship "John J. Boyd". Sept 19, lat. 40 37 N., long. 67 50 W., encountered a terrific gale from S.E. to W., lasting for 6 hours (The New York Times, Sept. 25, 1862, p.8, col.6). 7) Ship "Lafayette" encountered a furious gale from S.S.E. to W. at lat. 40 30 N., long. 64 W. on Sept. 19, lasting for 8 hours (The New York Times, Sept. 26, 1862, p.8, col.6). 8) Ship "Harpwell" had a violent hurricane from S.W. to W.N.W. at lat. 41 N., long. 63 W. on Sept. 19 (The New York Times, Sept. 26, 1862, p.8, col.6). 9) Bark "Rapid", Sept. 19, lat. 41 N., long. 63 W., encountered a gale from S. to W.N.W. which lasted for 4 hours, blowing with great fury (The New York Times, Sept. 26, 1862, p.8, col.6). 10) Ship "Hermione" had a severe gale from S. to N.W., which lasted for 12 hours, 50 miles south of Sable Island on Sept. 19 (The New York Times, Sept. 26, 1862, p.8, col.6). 11) Brig "Blue Nose", Sept. 19, lat. 43 30 N., long. 60 30 W., had a heavy gale from S.S.E. to N.W. (The New York Times, Sept. 30, 1862, p.8, col.6). 12) Brig "H. B. Berry", lat. 42 50 N., long. 56 40 W., Sept. 19, had a heavy gale from S.S.E. to S.S.W. which lasted for 8 hours (The New York Times, Oct. 1, 1862, p.8, col.6).

Storm 3, 1862 seems to have attained hurricane intensity over most of her life-span.

Storm 4, 1862 (Oct. 5-6).

This is the fourth storm which the author has recently documented for 1862. Documentation of this storm was based on the following information: Letter from St. Lucia, Oct. 11. On Sunday Oct. 5, the town was inundated with water. It rained all day and night without intermission. Boats were sailing in the streets as in the sea. Information from Barbados. The weather was boisterous during the nights of October 5 and 6. Heavy fall of water occurred at "Speights" Town on the 5th. On the night of October 6, lightning, thunder and wind were terrific (The Times, London, Oct. 30, 1862, p.12, col.2).

The above information allowed the author to place Storm 4, 1862 somewhere near St. Lucia and Barbados on Oct. 5-6 and a

location at 13 degrees North, 61 degrees West was arbitrarily chosen to denote the storm (Fig. 5).

No track has been produced for Storm 4, 1862, which apparently was not strong when it affected Barbados and St. Lucia and very possibly St. Vincent. This storm might have been the same one that dismasted ship "Camden", from Cape Verde for Honduras, which put into Kingston (Jamaica) in distress on Oct. 17 (The Times, London, Nov. 14, p.3, col.6). If this were the case, the storm would have moved westward and probably intensified somewhat over the Caribbean Sea.

Storm 5, 1862 (Oct. 14-16).

This is the fifth previously unknown storm that the author of this study has documented for 1862. This storm has been accepted because, in spite of that it was estimated near latitude 34 N. on Oct. 14, it was moving practically northward at that time which suggested that it has come from a lower latitude. However, it is likely that Storm 5, 1862 would have been in the process of gradually becoming extratropical over a portion of its known period of existence. A track for Storm 5, 1862 is displayed in Fig. 5.

Documentation of the storm was based on the following information: 1) Message from New Bedford, Oct. 26. Bark "Mary Ann" reports that, at lat. 32 40 N., long. 66 10 W. on Oct. 16, fell in with Schr. "Albert Treat" (14 days from Portland to Puerto Rico) reporting that on Oct. 14 the schooner was thrown on her beam ends in a gale, lost 3 men and suffered considerable damage (The New York Times, Oct. 27, 1862, p.8, col.5). 2) Message from Boston, Oct. 30. Bark "Acacia" put into Portland in distress. She was knocked down in a hurricane on Oct. 15 (The New York Times, Oct. 31, 1862, p.8, col.6). 3) Bark "Gazelle" (coming to New York from Barbados). Oct. 27, off Montauk, spoke Schr. "Albert Frost" returning to port after encountering a hurricane (The New York Times, Oct. 31, 1862, p.8, col.6). 4) Ship "Somerseshire". Oct. 16, lat. 42 N., long. 67 W., experienced a tremendous gale from S. to W. (The New York Times, Oct. 31, 1862, p.8, col.6). 5) Brig "Serena P. Smith". Oct. 16 (no position given), experienced a tremendous gale from S.E. lasting 4 hours when it shifted to N.W. and blew with equal fury, with a bad sea (The New York Times, Oct. 29, 1862, p.8, col.6). 6) Ship "Oder". Oct. 16, off Sable Island, had a tail end of a hurricane during which lost sails (The New York Times, Oct. 30, 1862, p.8, col.6).

According to the information above, Storm 5, 1862 seems to have been accompanied by hurricane winds over a portion of her known life-span.