

## YEAR 1852

Tannehill (1938) has mentioned three storms for 1852, and Salivia (1972), Garcia-Bonnely (1958) and Ludlum (1963) have presented two additional cases which had not been listed by Tannehill (1938). The author of this study has not been able to document new cases for 1852. However, he has produced tracks for all of the five 1852 storms: Tannehill (1938), Garcia-Bonnely (1958), Ludlum (1963) and Salivia (1972) did not produced tracks for these storms.

Storm 1, 1852 (Aug. 19-27).

This storm is the well-known Mobile hurricane of 1852 that Tannehill (1938), Dunn and Miller (1960) and Ludlum (1963) have mentioned.

The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 4, 1852, p.4, col.4, published that a heavy blow from S.E. and S. occurred at Salt Key, Turks Is., during the night of August 19. It rained there very hard and several buildings were destroyed. These particulars were reported by the master of the brig "Huntress" which had recently arrived in New York. The above information allowed one to start the track of Storm 1, 1852 (Fig. 3) from the vicinity of 21 degrees North, 69 degrees West on August 19.

Schooner "Eleanor" encountered a severe hurricane on August 22, Cape Florida bearing W.N.W. 50 miles (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 4, 1852, p.4, col.4). The bark "Lucerne", lat. 25 45, long. 79 46, experienced a severe gale from S.S.E. on August 22 (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 6, 1852, p.4, col.4). Schooner "Leanto" was struck by a hurricane from S.E. on August 22, Salt Key bearing 15 miles E., while coming to New York from Frontera, Mexico, via the Florida Straits (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 3, 1852, p.4, col.4). In addition, the bark "Hanneman", which arrived in New York on Sept. 10 coming from Matanzas in 19 days, encountered the hurricane six hours after leaving Matanzas; the wind veered all around the compass and the hurricane lasted for 10 hours (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 11, 1852, p.4, col.4). These reports furnished by the masters of four different vessels allowed one to place the hurricane near the Florida Keys on August 22.

Before making landfall on extreme southeastern Mississippi, just west of Mobile Bay, on August 26, the storm is known to have struck at least two vessels in the eastern Gulf of Mexico: the steamship "Benjamin Franklin" and the schooner "Washington". The "Benjamin Franklin", which arrived in New York on Sept. 1 coming from New Orleans in 9 days, reported to have encountered a hurricane from N.E. to S.W. on the second day of her voyage, the storm lasting for 36 hours (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 2, 1852, p.4, col.4). Therefore, the ship should have felt the hurricane on August 24 and part of August 25. The schooner "Washington" had a severe gale from S.E. to S.W. at lat. 29 30, long. 87 on August 24 (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 18, 1852, p.8, col.6). As the "Washington" arrived in New York on Sept. 17 coming from Mobile in 25 days, the position and date given by the vessel appear to be reasonable; however, the wind direction from S.E. to S.W. appears to be in error because no S. or S.W. wind could possibly have blown over the "Washington" being the relative position of the storm to the south of the schooner on August 24.

According to the track in Fig. 3, the "Washington" should have had S. and S.W. gales on August 25-26 but not on August 24.

Ludlum (1963) stated that, at Mobile, the gale raged with terrible fury on Thursday, August 26. It was apparent by 2 A.M. that Water St. would not escape submersion. The flood was thought to be at stand by noon. The storm still prevailed and the water did not rapidly subside until 6 P.M. The wind shifted later to the W.N.W., but moderate rain continued to fall. Rain at short intervals and a hurricane prevailed at Pensacola day and night on August 24; "rain and hurricane conditions continued on the 25th." And, according to Ludlum (1963), Columbus (Georgia) had high winds, rain and flood on August 27.

Sullivan (1986) published some field notes taken by Benjamin L. Wailes, a noted geologist and naturalist, who stayed at Biloxi during the storm. Mr. Wailes wrote: "Last night (Aug. 25) set in with a heavy blow from the North which increased to a hurricane which raged with unabated violence throughout the day (Aug. 26)..."

#### Storm 2, 1852 (Sept. 5-6).

Salivia (1972) and Garcia-Bonnely (1958) have mentioned this storm in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Tannehill (1938) has not listed this storm. The storm is known in Puerto Rico as "San Lorenzo Justiniano". Salivia (1972) has indicated that the storm crossed over the southwestern sections of Puerto Rico on Sept. 5, 1852, causing considerable damage and a large number of deaths. Garcia-Bonnely (1958) just mentioned the storm indicating that it occurred on Sept. 4-6, 1852.

The author of this study has produced the track for Storm 2, 1852 which is shown in Fig. 3. The storm was placed just south of Puerto Rico on September 5 and over the northwestern portion of the Dominican Republic on September 6. No information has been found about this storm before it affected Puerto Rico and to the west or northwest of Hispaniola. Therefore, the track is limited to the two above mentioned days.

#### Storm 3, 1852 (Sept. 9-13).

Ludlum (1963) is the only one who has listed this storm which is not included in Tannehill (1938). Ludlum (1963) cited the storm as having occurred on the Florida west coast on September 11, 1852.

A track for Storm 3, 1852 is shown in Fig. 3. The portion of the track over the Gulf of Mexico (Sept. 9-11) is based on the following information: 1) Ship "Union". Sept. 9 at night, Southwest Pass (mouth of the Mississippi River) bearing 150 miles N.W., had a hurricane (The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 4, 1852, p.8, col.6). 2) Steamer "Black Warrior" crossed Mobile bar Sept. 8 at 5 P.M. and encountered a severe blow from the S.E. the following day (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 17, 1852, p.2, col.4). 3) Brig "Mount Vernon", from Havana for New Orleans, capsized at sea Sept. 10 and sunk. Eleven persons were drowned (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 29, 1852, p.1, col.4). 4) Ship "Queen", sailing from New Orleans to New York, experienced a 48-hr heavy gale on Sept. 10 and 11 (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 29, 1852, p.8, col.6). Ludlum (1963) cited Ft. Brooke (Tampa area) as the place of the storm occurrence in Florida on

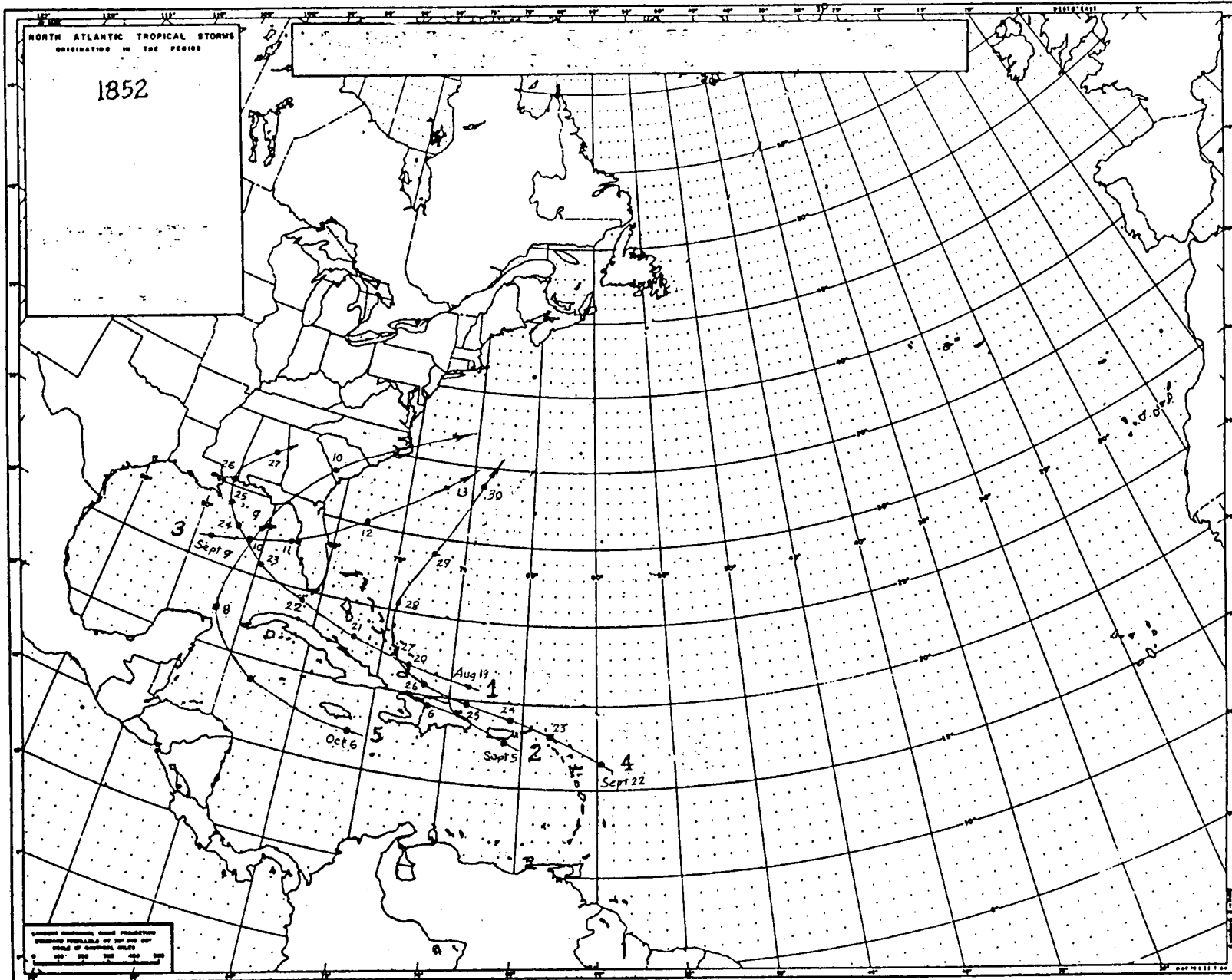


Fig. 3

Sept. 11 and quoted "SG" as the source. The portion of the track over the Atlantic to the east and northeast of Florida (Sept. 12-13) is supported by the following information: 1) Schr. "Henry C. Mead", Sept. 12, off Hatteras, squall encountered (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 22, 1852, p.8, col.6). 2) Brig "R. Rursell", Sept. 12, lat. 34 20, long. 76, severe gale (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 23, 1852, p.8, col.6). 3) Bark "Emily Banning" (from Aux Cayes, Haiti, Sept. 5 to Philadelphia, Sept. 23), Sept. 12 (no position given), the bark was knocked down by a hurricane (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 24, 1852, p.1, col.3). 4) Schr. "J. Mc.Nab", Sept. 12, lat. 34, long. 72, sudden shift of wind (The New-York Daily Times, Sept. 22, 1852, p.8, col.6).

#### Storm 4, 1852 (Sept. 22-30).

Tannehill (1938) has listed this storm as having occurred in the islands of the northeastern Caribbean in September 1852. Garriott (1900), Alexander (1902), Garcia-Bonnely (1958) and Salivia (1972) have also mentioned this storm. There is no doubt that the storm attained hurricane intensity over much of its life-span.

The author of this study has produced the track for Storm 4, 1852 which is displayed in Fig. 3. The starting day of the track is September 22 when the storm was located roughly 100 miles to the east of Guadeloupe in the Leeward Islands; the last day of the track is September 30 when the storm was about 300 miles to the west of Bermuda.

The following information helped determining the track in the vicinity of the Leeward Islands and the Virgin Islands: 1) A message from Antigua, Sept. 28, indicating that the "Samuel Cunard" put into Antigua after encountering a gale at lat. 16, long. 58 on August 22. A second message from Southampton, Oct. 16, indicating a heavy N.N.W. gale at St. Thomas on Sept. 23 and that the gale was also felt at Antigua, Nevis and St. Kitts (The Times, London, Oct. 19, 1852, p.8, col.5). 2) A fearful gale devastated Virgin Is., St. Christopher, Nevis, Antigua, Monserrat, etc. on Sept. 22 (The Times; London, Nov. 5, 1854, p.4, col.4).

According to Salivia (1972), the storm had only minor effects in Puerto Rico, which is in agreement with a track north of that island on Sept. 24. However, marine information revealed that the storm was intensifying and probably became a hurricane on that day: The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 11, 1852, p.8, col.6, published that the schooner "Alexander" experienced a hurricane at lat. 20 40, long. 68 15 on Sept. 25, and The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 28, 1852, p.8, col.6, indicated that the brig "Gem" was wrecked in a hurricane at lat. 19 51, long. 67 10 on Sept. 25. The hurricane moved just north of Hispaniola on Sept. 25-26 and The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 7, 1852, p.8, col.6, contained the following phrase: "On the night of Sept. 26, it blew for 5 hours a perfect hurricane at Inagua". Storm 4, 1852 turned northward in the vicinity of the southeastern Bahamas and it was found to be moving on a north-northeasterly course over the period Sept. 28-30. Several ships met the storm over this period: 1) Bark "J. Forbes" had a heavy E.N.E. gale at lat. 30 50, long. 69 15 on Sept. 29 (The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 11, 1852, p.8, col.6). 2) Ship "Josiah Bradly" reports having experienced a hurricane at 32 degrees N., 69 degrees W. on Sept. 29. The wind commenced from the N.E. and hauled suddenly around to the W.N.W. (The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 25, 1852, p.6, col.3). 3) Brig "R.H. Pacher" had a hurricane at lat. 28 30, long. 69 30 on Sept. 29 and 30 (The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 30, 1852, p.1, col.6). 4) Brigantine "Forrest" was dismasted in a hurricane at lat. 29 30, long. 73 on Sept. 30 (The New-

York Daily Times, Nov. 1, 1852, p.8, col.6). 5) Brigantine "Waterloo" encountered a hurricane about 300 miles west of Bermuda on Sept. 30 (The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 30, 1852, p.1, col.6).

#### Storm 5, 1852 (Oct. 6-10).

Tannehill (1938) has listed this storm in Florida on October 9, 1852. Garriott (1900), Dunn and Miller (1960) and Ludlum (1963) has also referred to this storm. The author of this study was able to trace the storm as far south and east as Jamaica on October 6, 1852.

Fig. 3 shows the track for Storm 5, 1852. The Times (London), Oct. 28, 1852, p.7, col.1, stated that a violent hurricane was experienced at Jamaica on October 6. The Jamaica storm retained the steamship "Sierra Nevada" for 40 hours and it was the worst in that island in many years (The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 28, 1852, p.5, col.1). As no mention has been made of this storm in Cuba, its track was kept over the open Caribbean Sea on October 7 and over the Yucatan Channel on the night of October 7. Reports from three vessels in the Gulf of Mexico allowed one to document the storm motion on October 8: 1) Ship "Orlando" had bad weather and heavy sea 120 miles off the Passes (mouth of the Mississippi River) on October 8. 2) Ship "Astoria" experienced a hurricane from the E. 250 miles S.E. of the Passes during the evening of October 8. 3) Brig "Hebe" encountered a very severe hurricane at lat. 25 36, long. 86 30 on October 8. It started from the E.N.E. around 3 P.M. and abated at 7 P.M. The wind increased again from the S.S.W. at 8 P.M., lasting till midnight. The three reports above were published in The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 25, 1852, p.6, col.3.

The hurricane made landfall in northwestern Florida early in the afternoon of October 9. According to Ludlum (1963), winds from S.E. to S.S.E. increased to hurricane force at Newport around 2:30 P.M. and it was said that for about 30 minutes the wind blew harder than ever experienced before. About 6 P.M. the wind started to lull and shifted to S.W. And, according to a storm description published in The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 23, 1852, p.2, col. 6, the water level at Newport rose 7 feet.

Savannah, Georgia, experienced a violent storm from the S.E. commencing at 11 P.M. on October 9 (Ludlum, 1963). U.S.M. ship "Alabama", coming to New York from Savannah, encountered a very severe S.E. gale for 12 hours, which commenced almost the ship had passed Tybee Light, and a vessel (name unknown) had a heavy gale from S.S.E. to N.N.E. at lat. 37 10, long. 75 50 on Oct. 10, the gale lasting for 10 hours (The New-York Daily Times, Oct. 13, 1852, p.8, col.6). Finally, the bark "Peerless" (no position given) experienced a terrific gale from S. to N.N.E. on October 11 (The York Daily Times, Oct. 16, 1852, p.8, col.6).