

YEAR 1863

Ludlum (1863) has mentioned one storm for 1863 and the author of the present study has recently documented seven additional ones with the aid of information published in newspapers. This represents, of course, a 700 percent increase in the number of known storms for 1863.

It should be mentioned that, in a pilot study about 1863 storms previously performed by the author (Fernandez-Partagas, 1992), he also found seven storms using newspaper information alone. However, those storms are not exactly the same ones included in the present study: He has added one case which is not in Fernandez-Partagas (1992) and has eliminated one which he now believes to have been an extratropical case. The deleted storm occurred on Sept. 11, 1863 and it was encountered only by the "North American", which reported a hurricane from the S.W. at lat. 44 29 N., long. 47 10 W. (The New York Times, Sept. 27, 1863, p.8, col.6). The "hurricane from the S.W." statement (with no shifting winds reported by the "North American") suggests that the center of the storm should have been quite distant to the north of the vessel and just east of Newfoundland, and it would not make sense to accept a cyclone of tropical origin there without knowing that it had previously affected that island or properly documenting that it had come directly from the south as a very rare case. The fact that Newfoundland was not drawn on the base map used in Fernandez-Partagas (1992), inadvertently lead the author to a misevaluation of this storm at that time.

Storm 1, 1863 (Aug. 8-9).

This storm has been documented by the author of this study using the following information: 1) Ship "Francis B. Cutting" (coming to New York from Liverpool). Aug. 8, had a hurricane from S.E. to N.E. with great violence. The position given by the vessel on Aug. 10 was at lat. 41 N., long. 50 25 W. (The New York Times, Aug. 25, 1863, p.8, col.4). 2) Ship "Ashburton" had a gale from N.N.W. to E. at lat. 42 50 N., long. 47 06 W. on Aug. 9 (The New York Times, Aug. 27, 1863, p.8, col.5). 3) Brig "Rapid", lat. 42 19 N., long. 43 49 W., encountered a hurricane from S.S.E. to W.N.W. on Aug. 9, which lasted for 12 hours (The New York Times, Sept. 4, 1863, p.8, col.4).

The author's track (Fig. 6) shows that Storm 1, 1863 was moving on a northeasterly course over the two-day period Aug. 8-9, 1863.

Storm 2, 1863 (Aug. 18-19).

This is the second new storm case which has been documented by the author for 1863. A track for this storm is shown in Fig. 6.

Documentation of Storm 2, 1863 was based on the following information: 1) Ship "American Congress" (from England, July 13). Aug. 18. Had a violent hurricane from S.E. to N. commencing at 3 A.M. and going around the compass, at 8 P.M. the wind shifted N. by W., at 10 P.M. the ship laid with the lee rail on the water and the

sea was breaking over in all directions (The New York Times, Aug. 29, 1863, p.8, col.2). Author's note: No positions were given by the "American Congress". 2) Captain Barton of the ship "B. R. Millam", foundered at sea, reported that it had a heavy blow from the E. on Aug. 19 during which the ship was found to be leaking very badly. At 7 A.M., it had 6 feet of water in her hold and it was full of water by 11 A.M. By daybreak Aug. 20, the wind was light from N.E. At daybreak Aug. 21 saw the bark "Thebes" which picked him and the crew. The mate, the steward and himself were later transferred to the bark "Minona", bound for New York, and the rest of the crew continued to London on the "Thebes". The transfer was said to have occurred at lat. 43 N., long. 47 W. (The New York Times, Sept. 4, 1863, p.8, col.4). 3) Ship "Herzogin", in a hurricane from S.S.W. at lat. 42 15 N., long. 46 W. at 6 P.M. Aug. 19, lost several masts and sails (The New York Times, Sep. 10, 1863, p.8, col.5).

Storm 2, 1863 was estimated to have moved towards the east-northeast over the period Aug. 18-19 (Fig. 6).

Storm 3, 1863 (Aug. 19-23).

This is the third storm which has been documented by the author for 1863. It is surprising that this storm had not been listed before because it caused the loss of the U.S. brig "Bainbridge". A track for Storm 3, 1863 is displayed in Fig. 6.

There is abundant information supporting the evolution of the storm from a position about midway between the southeastern Bahamas and Bermuda on Aug. 19 to a location just to the northeast of Nova Scotia on Aug. 23. This information is as follows: 1) Schr. "Addie Barnes" experienced a hurricane at lat. 28 18 N., long. 67 25 W. on Aug. 29 (?) which lasted for 4 days (The New York Times, Aug. 25, 1863, p.8, col.4). Author's note: It is obvious that the day is in error, it should read Aug. 19 in lieu of Aug. 29. 2) Brig "Ceres". Aug 20., experienced a terrific hurricane (The New York Times, Aug. 25, 1863, p.8, col.4). 3) Brig "H. S. Emery" had a gale from E. at lat. 33 N., long 75 W., Aug. 18-20 (The New York Times, Aug. 26, 1863, p.8, col.5). 4) Brig "Teteran" had a very heavy gale from E. at lat 34 N., long. 70 W. on Aug. 20 (The New York Times, Aug. 26, 1863, p.8, col.5). 5) Brig "Mary Mc Rae", Aug. 21, experienced a hurricane during which the sea made a clear breach over her (The New York Times, Aug. 25, 1863, p.8, col.4). 6) Brig "La Favorita" (coming to New York from Honduras, Aug. 2). On Aug 21, lat. 34 N., long. 74 45 W., had a heavy gale from N.E. to W. (The New York Times, Aug. 29, 1863, p.8, col.2). 7) The captain of the brig "South Boston" picked up a seaman from a boat, the only survivor of the U.S. "Bainbridge", in the evening of Aug. 22 at lat. 37 N., long. 74 W. The survivor stated that on the 21st the brig foundered during a violent gale with all hands, except himself and a cook who went crazy five hours after being on the boat and jumped overboard (The New York Times, Aug. 26, 1863, p.1, col.6). 8) Article reproduced from the Philadelphia Leader. The U.S. brig "Bainbridge" capsized in the storm off Hatteras in the morning of Aug. 21, having foundered with all hands, except one person (The New York Times, Aug. 27, 1863, p.5, col.2). 9) Brig "Unico". On Aug. 21, had

a hurricane from S.S.W. at lat. 36 30 N., long. 72 W. (The New York Times, Aug. 30, 1863, p.8, col.6). 10) Ship "Guy Mannering". Aug. 22, lat. 40 53 N., long. 68 25 W., had a very heavy gale from S.E. veering to W.N.W. Lowest barometer: 28.80 inches (The New York Times, Aug. 26, 1863, p.8, col.5). 11) Ship "Ashburton" experienced a furious hurricane at lat. 41 30 N., long. 67 30 W. on Aug. 22, lasting for 5 hours. Barometer: 28.80 inches (The New York Times, Aug. 26, 1863, p.8, col.5). 12) Ship "Jean Baptiste" experienced a severe hurricane from S.E. off Hatteras on Aug. 22 (The New York Times, Aug. 26, 1863, p.8, col.5). 13) Schr. "Vapor". Aug. 24, spoke Schr. "Rachael D. Miller" which had encountered a hurricane (The New York Times, Aug. 26, 1863, p.8, col.5). 13) Ship "Robert L. Lane" experienced a hurricane commencing from the S. at lat. 41 30 N., long. 65 45 W. on Aug. 22 (The New York Times, Sept. 2, 1863, p.8, col.5). 14) Bark "Margaret" had a hurricane from S.S.E. with a heavy sea at 5 P.M. Aug. 22 (The New York Times, Sept 2, 1863, p.8, col.5). 15) Ship "American Congress", off George's Shoals, had a severe hurricane from S.W. on Aug. 22 (The New York Times, Aug. 29, 1863, p.8, col.2). 16) Ship "Cultivator". Aug. 22, lat. 42 20 N., long. 64 20 W., had a violent hurricane which came on very suddenly from S.E. and continued for 3 hours, when it moderated to an ordinary gale from S.W. (The New York Times, Aug. 29, 1863, p.8, col.2). 17) Ship "Antoinette", Aug. 22, had a violent hurricane from S.E. (The New York Times, Aug. 29, 1863, p.8, col.2). 18) Ship "Java", 30 miles east of George's Shoals, encountered a hurricane from S.E. (The New York Times, Aug. 29, 1863, p.8, col.2). 19) Ship "Empire", Aug. 22, lat. 43 30 N., long. 62 30 W., experienced a heavy gale from S.E. (The New York Times, Aug. 29, 1863, p.8 col.2). 20) Ship "Energy" (from Liverpool, Jul. 26). Aug. 23, had a furious hurricane from S.E., which lasted for 4 hours. The ship had been west of the Banks for 14 days and was off Nantucket on Aug. 27 (The New York Times, Sept. 1, 1863, p.8, col.5). Author's note: The "Energy" likely met the storm quite early on Aug. 23. 21) Brig "Phantom" (from Glace Bay, C. B., in 12 days). Aug. 23, had a severe gale from S.W. in which split foresail and fore and main topsails (The New York Times, Sept. 4, 1863, p.8, col.5). 22) Message from New York, Aug. 28. The "Minor", from Yarmouth for Quebec, was wrecked on the south side of St. Paul Island on Aug. 23 in a gale of wind (The Times, London, Sept. 12, 1863, p.5, col.6). Author's note: St. Paul Island is a small island located off northeastern Nova Scotia.

The barometer reading of 28.80 inches reported by both the "Guy Mannering" and the "Ashburton" leaves no doubt that Storm 3, 1863 was a hurricane.

Storm 4, 1863 (Aug. 27-28).

This is the fourth storm which the author has newly documented for 1863. The storm had not been known before and he based his documentation on the following marine reports: 1) Steamship "Dolphin", coming to New York from Key West, encountered a severe hurricane from S.E. and veering to N.N.W. at lat. 34 45 N. in the night of Aug. 27, continuing for 18 hours with unabated fury (The New York Times, Sept. 1, 1863, p.8, col.5). Brig "Camilla" (from

Pittsburg to Cork, England) returned to Pittsburg for repairs, having experienced a heavy gale from S.W. and been struck by a heavy sea when 200 miles from Sandy Hook on Aug. 28 (The New York Times, Aug. 31, 1863, p.8, col.4).

The above information allowed the author to produce the track for Storm 4, 1863 which is shown in Fig. 6.

Storm 5, 1863 (Sept. 9-16).

This is the fifth storm which the author of this study has documented for 1863. A track for Storm 5, 1863 is shown in Fig. 6.

The Times (London), Oct. 14, 1863, p.11, col.1 and 2, published that the brigantine "Frank W." had encountered a very severe gale on the night of Sept. 8 and morning of Sept. 9 at lat. 20 N., long 63 W., and that the gale commenced from E.N.E. and blew very strong from N. The above information allowed the author to start a track for Storm 5, 1863 from the vicinity of 20 degrees North, 62 degrees West on Sept. 9.

The following information was used in determining the track over the period Sept. 9-16: 1) The "Mary Ann", from Halifax for Puerto Rico, was dismasted in a hurricane on Sept. 9 (The Times, London, Oct. 9, 1863, p.10, col.6). 2) The "Meg Merilles", from Algoa Bay (South Africa) to New York, was at Bermuda with damage suffered in a gale on Sept. 9 (The Times, London, Oct. 9, 1863, p.10, col.6). 3) The steamer "Ella and Annie" put back to Bermuda with damage in a hurricane on Sept. 11 (The Times, London, Oct. 9, 1863, p.10, col.6). 4) Message from St. George (Bermuda), Sept. 18. The bark "Merilles" was towed into this port with main and mizzen masts gone and decks swept of everything, including the forward house. The damage was received from the sea in a hurricane off the southeast end of these islands on Sept. 11 (The New York Times, Sept. 27, 1863, p.8, col.6). 5) Bark "Emma", at lat. 42 26 N., long. 54 30 W., had a hurricane from S.E. to N.E. and N.W. on Sept. 14 (The New York Times, Sept. 29, 1863, p.8, col.4 and 5). 6) Bark "Machae" was spoken with at lat. 40 N, long. 51 30 W. on Sept. 17, having been dismasted during a hurricane on Sept. 14 (The New York Times, Sept. 29, 1863, p.8, col.4 and 5). 7) Ship "Sunrise" (coming to New York from Liverpool), had a heavy gale from S.E. on Sept. 14 (The New York Times, Sept. 29, 1863, p.8, col.4 and 5). 8) Ship "Albert Gallatin". Sept. 14, lat. 45 N., long. 49 W., had a heavy gale from S.E. to S. and back to N.W., blowing very heavily from every point (The New York Times, Sept. 29, 1863, p.8, col.4 and 5). 9) Ship "North American" had a gale from E. on Sept. 14 (The New York Times, Sept. 27, 1863, p.8, col.6). 10) Ship "M. Mottebohn", at lat. 43 51 N., long. 46 30 W., had a heavy gale from S. to W.S.W. on Sept. 15 (The New York Times, Sept. 30, 1863, p.8, col.6). 11) Ship "Glad Tiding", lat 50 N, long 37 W., experienced a heavy gale on Sept. 16 (The New York Times, p.8, col.5 and 6).

The information above allowed the author to estimate morning positions for the storm on Sept. 9, Sept. 11 and from Sept. 14 to Sept. 16; positions for other days were based on interpolation along the smooth track shown in Fig. 6.

Storm 6, 1863 (Sept. 16-18).

Ludlum (1963), citing NA as a source, has referred to this storm as a hurricane offshore Charleston and Wilmington on Sept. 17-18. The author of this study has produced the track for the storm which is shown in Fig. 6. This track was started near South Florida on Sept. 16, 1863.

The following information was useful in studying the evolution of Storm 6, 1863: 1) Brig "Winthrop" brought to New York the captain and crew of the sloop "Eliza". The captain of the "Eliza" stated that, on Sept. 16, tried to get into the northwestern part of Matanilla Reef but that the wind was blowing so heavily that the vessel was compelled to scud before the wind. At 5 P.M. (Sept. 16) cut away the mast, the wind then blowing very heavily from S.E. (The New York Times, Oct. 3, 1863, p.4, col.4). Author's note: Matanilla Reef is located off the northwestern Bahamas, about 50 miles to the north of Grand Bahama Island. 2) Bark "Gen. Warren". Sept. 17, lat. 28 N., long. 78 W., had a gale from S.E. to S.W. (The New York Times, Oct. 3, 1863, p.8, col.2). 3) Brig "Caroline" (from Zaza, Cuba, in 35 days). Sept. 17, had a heavy southeaster (The New York Times, Oct. 3, 1863, p.8, col.2). 4) Message from Washington, D. C., Sept. 19. During the storm yesterday (Sept. 18), among other damages in the Lower Potomac, two schooners were capsized, crops were destroyed by rain and a railroad bridge was carried away by the stream at Lauret last night (The New York Times, Sept. 20, 1863, p.8, col.3). 5) Brig "George Burnham" lost fore and main topmasts during a squall off Cove Point, Chesapeake Bay, on Sept. 18 (The New York Times, Sept. 22, 1863, p.8, col.5). 6) Ship "Fulton" reported that on Sept. 20 spoke with brigantine "Caroline" (from Cuba, 20 days) and her captain informed that in the gale in the evening of Sept. 18, her masts and boats were carried away (The New York Times, Sept. 23, 1863, p.8, col.6). 7) Wind at New York harbor: During the day (Sept. 18), a gale from S.E.; at sunset, S.W. moderate (The New York Times, Sept. 20, 1863, p.8, col.3). 8) Brig "E. F. Eaton" (from Marseille, Aug. 12 and Gibraltar, Aug. 23), Sept 19, during a gale from S.W. sprung fore topmast, lost sails, etc. (The New York Times, Sept. 27, 1863, p.8, col.6).

Although Ludlum (1963) has referred to this storm as a hurricane offshore, the author of this study has not found any evidence that Storm 6, 1863 was indeed a hurricane.

Storm 7, 1863 (Sept. 18-19).

This is the sixth previously unknown storm that the author of this study has documented for 1863. Information published in The Times (London) has allowed him to document this storm: 1) Message from Tampico, Sept. 26. The "Smoker" was lost on the bar during a heavy norther on Sept. 18 (The Times, London, Oct. 30, 1863, p.9, col.6). 2) Message from Bristol, Oct. 30. The "J. K. L." and the "John Howell", both loading in the Gulf of Mexico, were wrecked in the night of Sept. 19. Captain Ibertus of the "J. K. L." and nine of the crew were drowned (The Times, London, Oct. 31, 1863, p.12, col.5).

The existence of Storm 7, 1863 was primarily inferred from the report of a heavy northern at Tampico (Mexico) on Sept. 18. Such a weather condition is known to occur at that place and time of the year only when a tropical cyclone is located over the western Gulf of Mexico off the Mexican coast. Therefore, the storm was placed near 22.5 degrees North, 96.5 degrees West, or just east of Tampico on Sept. 18-19 (Fig. 6). Due to insufficient information, no attempt was made to produce a track for Storm 7, 1863. The two-day life-span attributed to the storm was based on the assumption that the two shipwrecks reported to have occurred in the night of Sept. 19 were related to the storm. No specific location is known for the wrecks, but they might not necessarily have occurred in the Tampico area. A track for the storm would probably have been achieved had the location of the shipwrecks been known.

Storm 8, 1863 (Sept. 26).

This is the seventh storm that the author of this study has documented for 1863. This storm is not included in Fernandez-Partagas (1992). The one-day track for Storm 8, 1863 displayed in Fig. 6 was based on the following information: 1) Schr. "Horace E. Bell", Sept. 26, lat. 30 N., long. 72 W., gale from N.E. split sails (The New York Times, Oct. 5, p.8, col.5). 2) Message from Holmes' Hole, Ma., Oct. 4. Schr. "Freeman", from Santo Domingo for Boston, arrived here. On Sept. 26 at lat. 32 N., long. 72 W., in a gale from N.N.E., the vessel lost a deckload of mahogany (The New York Times, Oct. 7, 1863, p.8, col.6). 3) Brig "Anglo-Saxon" (coming to New York from Algoa Bay, South Africa). Sept. 26, lat. 35 40 N., long. 73 W., had a strong and stormy N.N.E. wind. Barometer: 29.50 inches (The New York Times, Oct. 3, 1863, p.8, col.2).

There are strong indications that Storm 8, 1863 was moving quite rapidly on a course slightly west of north on Sept. 26. This was the only way for it to have affected the "Horace E. Bell", the "Freeman" and the "Anglo-Saxon" on the same day. However, there is no indication that the storm reached hurricane intensity.