

more than 200 yards; the time occupied in passing was about 45 minutes.

The storm was attended by vivid lightning, moderate to light rains, and a little hail in Union County. A funnel-shaped cloud was seen in Stanley County, but none was observed in Union County, probably because of darkness. That it existed is evidenced by the position of the débris in the path of the storm and by the twisting of the trees that were uprooted or broken off.

The tornado first struck the home of Robert L. Polk, a farmer living about a mile from Ebenezer, killing him, injuring several members of his family, and demolishing all the buildings on the farm. At Ebenezer, the church and schoolhouse were swept away, but no other buildings were touched. Two miles beyond this place the storm seems to have been at its greatest intensity. All that is left of a large and substantial farmhouse is a pile of

rocks; the barn is gone, and other outbuildings completely wrecked. A mule was hurled 100 feet against a tree stump, its body pierced by a 2 by 4 scantling; a horse was carried several hundred feet into a patch of wood, where it was found the following morning apparently unhurt; a steel range from the Preston home was found 3 miles away in a wheatfield; harrows, plows, and other agricultural implements were scattered over the fields for a mile around; a sewing machine was found hanging from a tree limb. Heavy live stock losses were sustained and an extensive orchard completely demolished. The path is marked by the wide swath of twisted and wrenched tree trunks where it passed through forests; but in several cases many houses directly in the storm track were spared. The tornado apparently came to an end in Stanley County, 2 miles west of the Yadkin River.

TORNADOES IN NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA, MAY 2, 1920.

There appear to have been three, if not four, distinct tornadoes that swept their trails of death and desolation across Rogers, Mayes, and Cherokee Counties. One struck just outside Chelsea and moved northeast, advancing about 5 miles before it rose. Its path was about a city block. This was at 6 o'clock. It resulted in five deaths. Another swept a path a half mile wide and 3 miles long across the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway right of way, 4 miles north of Choteau. Houses were tumbled in its path, but no one was killed. Scores of dead cattle and hogs were found in its wake.

The third storm wiped out Peggs, an inland town of 200 people, occupying a knoll among the foothills of the Spavinaw Mountains. At 8:35 p. m. the tornado leaped a protecting range of hills to the west, dipped into the valley, tore a path of devastation a mile wide and 3 miles long through the countryside, and disappeared. A heavy rain and hail accompanied it. On the following day the official count of the dead stood at 50 and the badly injured at more than 80. Three days later the death list was increased to 60. Most of the persons that remained unhurt after the storm had passed were those who had sought the protection of storm cellars.

The *Muskogee Daily Phoenix* of May 4 gives an account of the Peggs storm in great detail. A few excerpts follow:

[Mr. A. J. Cagle's] family of seven were in the house when the wind crushed it. Two of his sons were blown through the wall into the roadway. Except for a few slight bruises they were unhurt. [Although the house was demolished, not one of the others was scratched.]

A large hole was torn in the Robinson house [next door], and the roof of the back porch dropped to the floor. On the porch a refrigerator, heavily laden, stood between two washtubs. The wind picked up the refrigerator, sucked it out from beneath the roof, hurled it over the housetop, and carried it away. The tubs were not moved.

Only one structure in the entire town escaped wholly unscathed. That building, a small one-story house of wood, is the "city jail." [It

was unoccupied.] Not 30 feet from it the concrete store of Mr. Robinson lies in utter ruins.

By the side of the road a mile from Peggs an automobile, tangled and twisted, had been driven halfway into the ground by the wind.

At the aerological station, Broken Arrow, Okla., 40 miles west of Peggs, an observation at 3 p. m. showed a general drift of the air from the southwest, the wind veering from south-southwest, 5 m/s at the surface and 9 m/s at 1,000 meters through southwest, 14 m/s, at 2,000 meters, and west-southwest, 14 m/s, at 3,000 meters altitude. The tornado paths were observed to move with the wind above 1,000 meters, i. e., from southwest to northeast.*

The day had been oppressively warm and immense cumulus clouds prevailed during the afternoon. By 7 p. m. the lower clouds had disappeared except in the east in the vicinity of the storm, and the sky was clear except for 0.3 cirro-stratus clouds from the west.

The cloud formation over the storm was watched from Broken Arrow from 6:45 p. m. until darkness. Immense cumulus, boiling up with violent commotion, rose to a great height, above which a veil of alto-stratus spread out to the west or windward side. This view of the storm from the rear under a nearly clear sky afforded an unusual spectacle. The cumulus tops were aglow with the last rays of the evening sun and were brightly lighted at intervals by lightning within the clouds.

It is a singular fact that, although very many people in this portion of the State watched this phenomenon with interest, it was six hours after the disaster at Peggs before the news reached the nearest town from which a call for help could be sent out.—*J. A. Reihle, Broken Arrow.*

* These tornadoes occurred about the time of passage of a line of conveyance of wind from the south and west. This line extended in a general northeast-southwest direction through east Texas and Oklahoma.