



## **The Great Virginia Flood of 1870**

### **Event Details:**

- **Date:** September 1870
- **Flood Type:** Tropical Storm
- **FEMA Disaster ID:** N/A
- **Fatalities:** 42
- **Impacted Streams:** Shenandoah River
- **Location:** Jefferson County, Virginius Island

### **Mitigation Efforts:**

- None recorded

### **Risk and Impact Analysis:** *(mostly unknown; assumptions made)*

- **Flood Zone Classification:**
  - 100% in Zone A
- **Cause of Death:**
  - 100% drowning
- **Mass Casualty Events:**
  - Limited detailed data due to historical date
  - All fatalities occurred on Virginius Island
  - Floodwaters steadily rose, initially seen as a nuisance by residents; however, a “water spout” upstream near Front Royal was reported by telegraph, signaling potentially worse flooding
  - Residents on Virginius and Overton Islands became cut off from escape to the mainland’s higher ground, leading to the fatalities (source: *Harpers Ferry Floods* by Quinith Janssen)

### **Multimedia & Sources:**

- Photo archive (private link): [Photo of flood impact]
- Written Source: [Disaster and Recovery: The Great Virginia Flood of 1870](#)
- Historical Account: *Harpers Ferry Floods!* by Quinith Janssen