



The Goodwill Flood of 1901

Event Details

- Date: June 1901
- Flood Type: Summer Thunderstorm
- Fatalities: 44
- Main Impacted Streams:
 - Dry Fork (11 fatalities)
 - North Fork Elkhorn Creek
 - Elkhorn Creek
- Location: McDowell County, WV (All fatalities occurred here)
- Communities Impacted Most: Keystone, leager, Algoma

Mitigation Efforts

- Stream Gauge added on Tug Fork (site of 11 fatalities, or 25%)
- No mitigation was implemented for the remaining 75% of fatality sites (33 fatalities)

Risk and Impact Analysis

- **Flood Zone Classification:**
 - 40.9% Zone AE
 - 40.9% Zone AE Floodway
 - 18.2% Zone A
- **Cause of Death (limited information):**
 - All 44 deaths attributed to drowning
- **Fatality Locations (limited data):**
 - 6 occurred in structures

Demographics of Victims

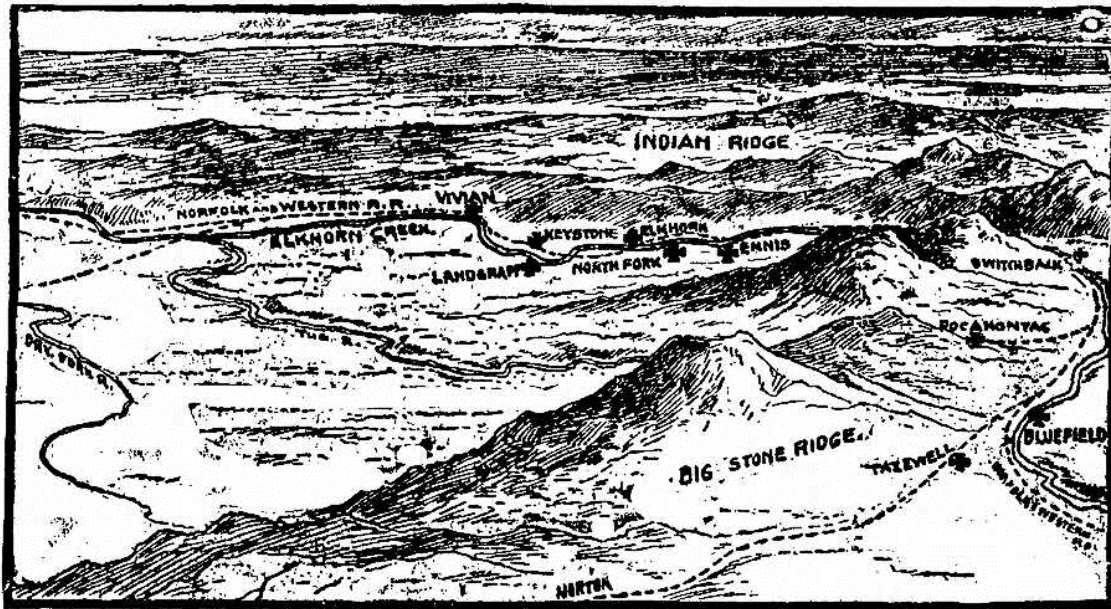
- **Age Groups (known):**
 - 9 fatalities (Ages 0–12, Children)
 - 1 fatality (Ages 19–39, Young Adult)
 - 1 fatality (Ages 70+, Old Adult)
- **Gender Distribution (of known victims):**
 - 12 female
 - 24 male
- **Race (of known victims):**
 - 23 Black
 - 17 White

Mass Casualty Events

- 75% of fatalities occurred in mass casualty events, indicating entire families or households were swept away.

Multimedia & Sources

- [*Savannah Morning News*, June 26, 1901](#)
- [*Montana Helena Independent*, June 28, 1901](#)
- [*Waterloo Press*, June 27, 1901 – Birds Eye View & Clipping](#)
- [*New York Tribune*, June 30, 1901](#)



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF SCENE OF THE WEST VIRGINIA FLOODS.

DEATH IN A FLOOD

Mining Towns in West Virginia
Are Swept Away.

KEYSTONE WIPED OUT

Elkhorn Creek in Pocahontas Field Rages
High Over Its Banks.

Cloudburst Sweeps Valley Along the
Norfolk and Western Railroad—Out-
side, Elkhorn and Many Other Places
Are Washed Away Completely—Loss
of Life Placed at 200 to 300 and Prop-
erty Damage Is Vast—A Horrible
Disaster.

From 200 to 300 lives were lost and property estimated at several millions of dollars was destroyed by a flood which swept down the Elkhorn valley from Kanawha to Vivian in West Virginia Sunday morning. The mining towns of Keystone and Vivian are practically destroyed and a number of smaller towns have suffered heavily. About thirty miles of track of the Norfolk and Western Railroad are swept away, with scores of trucks and box cars and a number of passenger coaches. Some of the finest homes in the valley and hundreds of miners' shacks are gone.

In the valley is located the celebrated Pocahontas oil fields. Nearly all the machinery and buildings were wrecked.

Millions in Property Loss.
The property loss will run into the tens of millions, but it will be many days before the real extent of the loss to life and property can be ascertained. The

NOTABLE FLOODS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Thousands of lives are lost every year in storms and flood. The following summary includes the more notable floods in the United States for the last quarter of a century.

May 10, 1912—Bursting of a reservoir in Mill River Valley, near Northampton, Mass. killed several persons; 144 persons drowned.

July 24, 1912—Water spent at Elkhorn, Nev. 50 drowned.

July 24, 1912—Flood of the Sacramento River at Pittsburg and West Alameda, Pa. about 200 lives.

Feb. 7, 1894—Inundation of the Ohio River; 15 persons drowned, 5,000 homeless.

May 24, 1885—South Fork River, four miles square, burst near Johnstown, Pa. The flood swept down the Kanawha Valley, destroying the city of Johnstown and drowning 3,000 persons. The wreckage, stopped by a stone railway bridge, caught fire, and 600 were burned to death.

June 1, 1880—In Virginia and New York, 8 persons drowned at Harper's Ferry, Md. at Corning, N. Y. Estimated loss at Washington, D. C., \$1,000,000.

June 5, 1860—Floods after heavy rains in the Pittsburgh region resulted in a flood of Tennessee oil tanks, were upset and ignited by burning stream, with burning wreckage, scores of houses.

June 5, 1860—Flood in the Kanawha Valley, West Virginia, destroyed 15,000 square miles; 200 lives lost; property lost, \$13,000,000.

July 3, 1860—Inundation of the Brazos and Colorado Rivers in Texas over a flow of from 100 to 200 persons, destroying \$2,000,000 worth of railroad property.

Sept. 8, 1860—A hurricane swept the western coast of Mexico or the Gulf of California, Texas, destroying the greater part of the city, drowning at least 5,000 persons, and destroying property estimated at from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

ADELBERT HAY DEAD.

Son of Secretary of State Falls from New Haven Hotel Window.

Adelbert Hay, son of the Secretary of State, and enroute to the South African Republic, was found dead on the sidewalk in front of the New Haven Hotel in New Haven, Conn., early Sunday morning. He retired to his room at 1 o'clock, and an hour and a half later his body was found. It is supposed that he was taken ill and accidentally fell from the window of his room to the sidewalk. Secretary of State Hay, who arrived from Washington in the afternoon collapsed when he passed upon the body of his son. He had to be assisted to bed and a physician was summoned.

Adelbert S. Hay was 26 years old and was born in Washington, D. C. He attended United States Naval Academy at



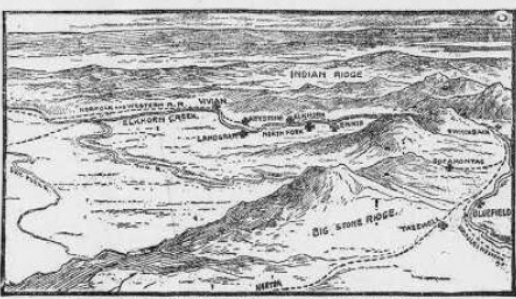
ADELBERT S. HAY.

GHOULS STRIP FLOOD VICTIMS.

Law Officers Ordered to Shoot Filth-
sters in Pocahontas Valley.

Human ghoulies in the form of desperate negroes and foreigners hovered over the stricken Pocahontas coal region ready to strip the dead and pilfered of any valuables. The law officers and the militia had orders to shoot down any one found robbing a body or pilfering a home. The dead were buried in the best manner possible. No coffee being available many

the American representative at Pretoria. He returned from South Africa about four months ago and resigned his position as United States consul. Hay was appointed consul to Pretoria in December, 1898. Adelbert Hay remained in Pretoria until after the capture of the city by Lord Roberts, and acted in behalf of the English soldiers who had been captured by the Boers as well as looking after British interests generally. His policy was much criticised by the friends



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