

The Kingsport Times; Kingsport, Tennessee
March 15, 1933



35 KNOWN DEAD IN TWISTER
8 KILLED IN KINGSPORT VICINITY AS WIND RIPS OUT OF MIDDLE STATE

About 50 Victims of Storm Taken Care of In Kingsport's Two Hospitals.

AID EXTENDED

The death list in this immediate section from last night's tornado moved up to eight today as DEWEY LAWSON, SR., died at the General Hospital and two additional deaths were reported from Caney Valley near Church Hill in upper Hawkins county. The deaths reported from Caney Valley were REV. ARTHUR BARRETT, 40, and the infant son of KELLY BRADSHAW.

The dead reported by The Times in an extra early edition this morning included T. G. CROCKETT, 35, of Shipp Springs, two miles from Kingsport; R. S. CALHOUN, 57, of Cherry Hill; MRS. R. S. CALHOUN, 48; LONNIE EMMETT MEADOWS, 30, of Cherry Hill, and MRS. ALICE HODGE, 75, of Mill Point, ten miles east of Kingsport on the Reedy Creek road.

T. G. CROCKETT, JR., age 4, and DEWEY LAWSON, JR., age 4, were both reported near death at the General Hospital here at noon today, while MRS. W. H. RAMEY, 63, was said to be in a critical condition at the same hospital. It was believed that all of the other injured at this hospital would recover.

At the Marsh Clinic and Hospital the condition of several other injured remained critical today, but it was believed all would recover unless complications should arise. The injured at the two hospitals, numbering about 50 were for the most part recovering from the shock and responding well to medical treatment. While it was estimated that at least 50 others were injured, the injuries of the majority of those were of a minor nature and they were being cared for at their homes or the homes of neighbors.

In the meantime, the stricker area, emerged from a night of terror, was beginning the work of clearing away the wreckage today, providing food and shelter for the homeless, caring for the injured and reestablishing telephone and highway communications. The Reedy Creek Road, which was blocked throughout the night at the residence of SAM STEADMAN, two miles from Kingsport, by fallen trees, was again opened for traffic at an early hour. Groups of workmen were employed along the highway, clearing the road and repairing telephone lines.

Narrow Path

A more complete check-up by The Times today revealed that the path of the tornado was even longer than had been estimated last night. Evidently the windstorm first struck with cyclonic fury



populous suburb to the northwest of Kingsport proper, and then proceeded directly up the Reedy Creek Valley to a point northwest of Bristol â€“ a total distance of 35 or 40 miles. Its path throughout the greater part of this distance was only about 500 feet wide. The high wind, traveling with a terrific velocity, swept practically everything in its narrow path, leaving a trail of desolation and destruction in its wake. It lasted, in its more intense fury, only about five minutes, subsiding as suddenly as it had arisen. It struck at about 8:25 and continued until 8:30, accompanied by a severe electrical disturbance and a heavy hail storm. At Cherry Hill hail stones larger than hen eggs shattered windows of the houses which were left standing and pelted through the tops of automobiles.

In the light of a more complete check-up today an earlier estimate of from \$125,000 to \$150,000 in property damage in the immediate vicinity of Kingsport was substantiated. Homes, barns and outhouses were demolished; trees were mowed down; fences, telephone and power lines were twisted into a mass of wreckage; dozens of automobiles parked in driveways or by the side of the streets or roads were converted into twisted wreckage, and a great deal of livestock was killed or injured beneath falling barns and sheds or in open fields.



Those reported missing last night were accounted for today and the work of searching for other possible victims was completed without material change in the earlier published list of injured. W. H. JOHNS, MRS. JOHNS, and the latter's sister, MRS. MINNIE BRATTON, of the Reedy Creek Road, about two miles from Kingsport, who were unaccounted for last night, were found to be safe and uninjured today. Their home, which had earlier been reported completely demolished, was badly damaged but not destroyed.

The home of T. G. CROCKETT, one of the victims of the storm, occupied by CROCKETT, his wife, and four children, was completely swept from its foundation and scattered in a shattered mass of debris over the surrounding fields. It was situated on the

number of cattle and mules beneath the wreckage, and killing three cows and one mule. A number of other cattle were injured. Another barn was razed about a quarter of a mile east of the NEAL barn.

A silver ash tree at the home of SAM STEADMAN, which had weathered many storms, was uprooted by the fast moving tornado on its wild course up Reedy Creek valley. The house was badly damaged while practically all of the out-buildings were blown to pieces. Shrubbbery in the yard was uprooted and carried away by the violent wind as it traveled eastward toward Arcadia.



At Arcadia itself the Presbyterian church, a frame structure, was demolished, while many homes were shattered.

T. G. CROCKETT, a foreman in the electrical department of the Tennessee Eastman Corporation, was killed instantly with a crushed skull in the destruction of his home. MRS. CROCKETT, a 4-year-old son, TATE, JR., and a small daughter were seriously injured, while two other children suffered minor injuries. The condition of TATE, JR.,



continued
critical
today,
with little
hope held
forth for
his
recovery.

The
body of

wind had literally picked him up, carried him for perhaps 50 feet, and then hurled him to the ground. His death was due to concussion of the brain and was believed to be instant. He was a machinist and had been employed here for the past several months, coming to this city from Camp Creek, W. Va.

CALHOUN was also said to have been blown some distance when his home was swept away. His death was due to a fractured skull, while his wife died of internal injuries in the left side "possibly a punctured lung. CALHOUN was employed in the wood department of the Tennessee Eastman Corporation.

MRS. HODGE, who lived alone near Mill Point, suffered a mangled leg and broken arm when her home was demolished by the wind. She died in an ambulance en route to King's Mountain Memorial Hospital at Bristol.

DEWEY LAWSON, SR., 35, died in the Kingsport General Hospital about 6:15 a. m., today. His skull had been fractured and his brain punctured by a nail. Details were lacking with regard to the deaths of REV. BARRETT and the BRADSHAW child in Caney Valley.

CHILD UNCONSCIOUS

T. G. CROCKETT, JR., has been unconscious since the catastrophe, and little hope was held for his recovery this afternoon. He suffered a badly fractured skull, severe shock, and bruises. Little DEWEY LAWSON, JR., the same age as the CROCKETT child, has a double fracture of the skull, and his condition is likewise regarded as critical. Intense darkness, intermittent showers, and tangled wreckage added to the difficulties encountered by relief workers last night. In the face of these obstacles volunteers labored throughout the night in their efforts to find the dead and care for the injured. The ambulances of the Hamlett-Dobson Funeral Home and the J. Frank Nelson Funeral Home rendered invaluable service in bringing in the injured. The bodies of the five victims within the environs of Kingsport were taken to these homes.

Every doctor and nurse in Kingsport labored to relieve the suffering of the scores of injured, while the police and fire departments of the city gave their services to the grueling[sic] work.

The community struck by the windstorm, presented a sad spectacle after the tornado had passed on its destructive way. Groups of men, women and children, rendered homeless by the catastrophe, huddled in the rain and mud by the sides of the streets and roads or sought shelter in the homes and outlying stores. In a small room of the store building of C. R. Mislner in Cherry Hill early this morning 30 homeless ones, mostly



12 HOMES CRUSHED

In Cherry Hill alone 12 homes were completely wiped away and more than that number badly damaged. Dozens of other homes were completely demolished in Bear Town, Dry Hollow and up the Reedy Creek valley. Fire added to the terror of the night in Cherry Hill, three homes, already partially demolished by the storm, being consumed by flames. Several people were severely burned.

In Old Kingsport the school building, the home of a MR. ELLIS, and the home of

unaffected. In Bristol there were high winds, causing some damage in the business area by breaking plate glass windows, but this damage was limited to an amount estimate at only a few thousand dollars. While its suburb of Cherry Hill was being practically torn from the lofty hilltop which it commands, and the wind was raging up its entire northern limits, the city of Kingsport proper escaped the fury of the tornado, only slight damage being done here and there by high wind or hail. None of the industrial plants were damaged.

Reedy Creek was swollen to its limits by the rains today but had not reached flood proportions.

THE DEAD

TATE G. CROCKETT, 35, of Ship Springs, two miles from Kingsport on the Reedy Creek road.

R. S. CALHOUN, 57, of Cherry Hill.

MRS. R. S. CALHOUN, 48, of Cherry Hill.

LONNIE EMMETT MEADOWS, 30, of Cherry Hill.

MRS. ALICE HODGE, 75, of Mill Point, about 10 miles east of Kingsport on the Reedy Creek road.

REV. ARTHUR BARRETT, 40, of Caney Valley, about 10 miles northwest of Kingsport in upper Hawkins county.

An Infant Son of KELLY BRADSHAW, Caney Valley.

DEWEY LAWSON, SR., 35, Cherry Hill.

REV. W. H. RAMEY, 75.

The known dead in last night's tornado in other places than the Kingsport area:

Pruden, Tenn.:

MR. AND MRS. OMAR KEITH, three KEITH children.

ROBERT MASON.

Two children of LEONARD TERRY.

Child of CHARLES BUTTERINI.

Nashville, Tenn.:

MRS. T. L. BENDERMAN.

B. B. LANIER.

M. A. ELLISON.

MRS. ARMSTRONG.

MARGARET JOHNSON.

CHRISTINE SANDERS (negro).

EDWARD SMITH (negro).

Lebanon, Tenn.:

JIM COOKSEY.

COMER HARRIS.

EDGAR WALLACE.

Unidentified Man about 60 years old.

Bellwood, Tenn.:

JOHN HARRIS.

Harrogate, Tenn.:

Two children of MR. AND MRS. ITHNEIL CADLE.

Oswego, Tenn.:

Infant of MR. AND MRS. BILL HOLLERS.

THE INJURED

MRS. W. H. RAMEY, 63, internal injuries, severe lacerations and bruises. Probably fatally injured.

DEWEY LAWSON, JR., age 4, double fracture of skull and punctured brain. Not expected to live.

MISS MAUDE RODEFER, teacher in school back of Cherry Hill, fractured collar bone and head lacerations. Condition not critical.

MRS. EDWARD BEAR, deep lacerations on foot and chest injuries.

Two small daughters of MRS. EDWARD BEAR, bruises, lacerations and shock.

PATSY CROCKETT, young daughter of MR. AND MRS. T. G. CROCKETT, scalp wound, bruises and cuts.

JIMMY BUSICK, 4 year old son of MR. AND MRS. TROY BUSICK, head injury, probably fractured skull. Condition, serious.

TATE CROCKETT, JR., of Shipp Springs, two miles out from Kingsport on Bloomingdale road, badly fractured skull, Condition, critical.

MRS. JOE HAMMONDS, shock, lacerations and bruises. Extent of injuries undetermined, but condition critical.

CHARLES HAMMONDS, age 6 months, minor injuries.

BALLARD HAMMONDS, 4, neck badly bruised but condition not critical.

MRS. MARY BUSICK, 35, head injuries and severe bruises. Condition serious.

MRS. WILL CALHOUN, 22, head injuries, lacerations and stitches taken in leg.

MRS. F. H. CALHOUN, 21, head injuries, lacerations and stitches taken in leg.

THELIUS WHITE, 21, leg lacerated, back bruised.
W. D. NELSON, 63, lacerated forehead and badly bruised leg.
SAM STEADMAN, lacerations. Not serious.
J. H. LARKEY, SR., 50, severe lacerations about nose and mouth.
J. H. LARKEY, JR., 21, compound fracture of right leg.
JOHN WEBB, 45, minor lacerations and bruises.
L. B. CALHOUN, lacerations about head.
LUCY JANE LAWSON, cuts and bruises on head and shoulder.
MRS. DEWEY LAWSON, broken ribs and lacerations.
MRS. T. G. CROCKETT, minor injuries, cuts and bruises.
CARSON HERRON, bad scalp wound, badly bruised body.
MRS. IDA BLACKBURN, cuts and bruises, possible internal injuries.
EFFIE GREER, 28, serious bruises and cuts and lacerated shoulder.
ROBERT DUCKWORTH, JR., back injury, condition critical.
ROBERT DUCKWORTH, SR., severe head lacerations, condition serious.
WILL DUCKWORTH, 58, internal injuries, extent undetermined.
RUTH CLIPPS, bruises, not serious.
DONNIE HERRON, 12 year old girl, broken left arm.
LEWIS COLLINS, 32, scratches and bruises, shock and lacerated forehead.
CREED COLLINS, 54, head injuries, not serious.
ONIE CALHOUN, 22, head injury, not believed to be serious.
MRS. H. B. KING, 45, injury in chest and fractured right shoulder, condition critical.
REV. W. H. RAMEY, 75, severe head injury, mangled foot, and other lacerations.
Expected to die.
SALLIE HERRON, severe burns, extreme shock, and deep head and leg lacerations.
Condition critical.
ELLA VINSON, burns. Not serious.
OTTO VINSON, 25, head lacerations. Not serious.
MRS. ALCEY HUTCHINS, 89, broken leg. Condition critical.
ALICE LAWSON, minor injuries.
CARL BLACKBURN, cuts and bruises.
SHERMAN BLACKBURN, cuts and bruises.
MARIE LAWSON, head and face cut and broken collar bone.
MRS. H. S. KEYS, of near Mill Point on the Reedy Creek road, wife of the former
highway commissioner of Sullivan county, injured but extent of injuries undetermined.
A woman by the name of BELL, of near Mill Point on the Reedy Creek road, injured but