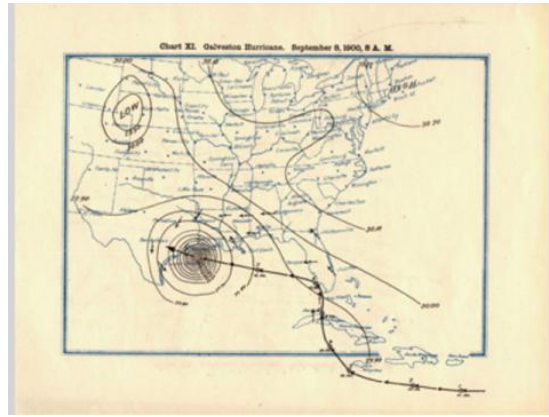


0. STORM WARNINGS - Story Preface
1. CAPE VERDE HURRICANES
2. WEATHER PREDICTIONS IN 1900
- 3. STORM WARNINGS**
4. RISING WATER
5. SHOCK
6. WORST U.S. DISASTER
7. THE VICTIMS
8. THE SURVIVORS
9. THE HARBOR
10. DESTRUCTION EVERYWHERE
11. CLARA BARTON HELPS
12. A NEW SEA WALL
13. MEMORY OF THE DISASTER
14. A STORY OF TRAGEDY



This NOAA map depicts the direction of the Great Storm of 1900. Unfortunately for the people of Galveston, they were unaware that a major hurricane and a massive storm surge were about to overwhelm their barrier island. The map, depicted here, was created after-the-fact. Online via NOAA.

How much warning did the people of Galveston have? According to Erik Larson, who researched the U.S. National Archives for his book *Isaac's Storm*, they could have had much more.

Had the newly formed U.S. Weather Bureau been willing to listen to Cubans who had experienced the storm as it moved over their island, Galveston's death toll may have been less. But days before "The Great 1900 Storm" developed, Willis Moore (who was Washington D.C.'s chief of the self-proclaimed "most perfect weather service in the world") made a momentous decision.

He ordered a ban on all Cuban weather dispatches.

The Cubans were outraged.* At the height of the hurricane season, with people depending on their expertise, how could they communicate with other weather stations if their warning cablegrams were banned?

Tracking the tropical storm, and interpreting its data, the Cubans believed it would intensify and move into the Gulf of Mexico as a full-fledged hurricane on a course toward Texas.

William Stockman, a U.S. Weather Bureau employee in Cuba, thought the storm would turn east as it passed over Cuba and then move up the Atlantic coast. He did not call it a hurricane.

People who worked for the U.S. Weather Service, at the time, were not allowed to use that word unless the Bureau chiefs approved. Merely using the word "hurricane" would scare people.

Working with limited weather-predicting tools, the Bureau's reputation for accuracy wasn't good in those early years. Unlike today, weather prediction then was more like weather speculation.

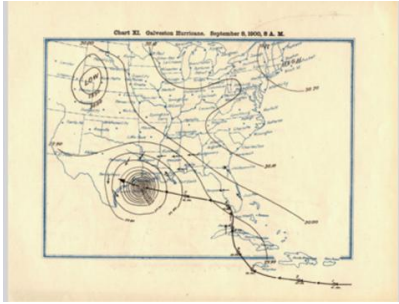
*See Footnote 104, page 288, of *Isaac's Storm* which states: "The complete story lies in Box 1471" of the National Archives; General Correspondence.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/STORM-WARNINGS-Galveston-and-the-Great-Storm-of-1900)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/STORM-WARNINGS-Galveston-and-the-Great-Storm-of-1900>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/STORM-WARNINGS-Galveston-and-the-Great-Storm-of-1900)

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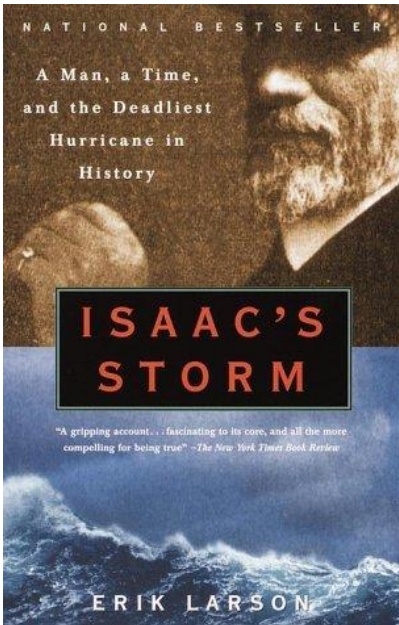


Path of the Great Storm of 1900

NOAA, NOAA

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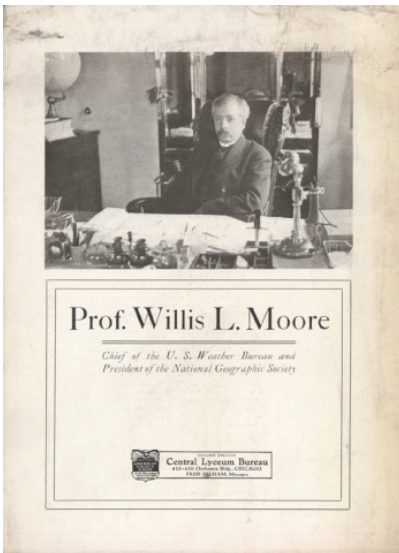


Isaac's Storm - by Erik Larson

Book-cover image, online courtesy Amazon.

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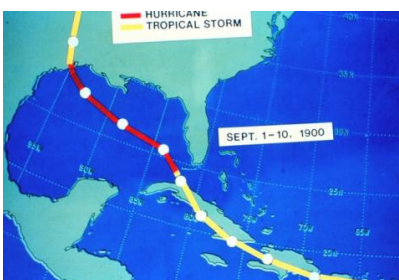
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Willis Moore

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Willis-Moore>



Great Storm of 1900 - Hurricane Track

Image online, courtesy NOAA.

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