

Hurricane Recovery in Tide-Water Virginia: A Partial Report on Red Cross Relief and Rehabilitation in the Area Damaged by Wind and Tidal Wave, 1933

ARC 926
October, 1933



Hurricane Recovery in Tide-Water Virginia ·

*A Partial Report on Red Cross Relief and Rehabilitation
in the Area Damaged by Wind and Tidal Wave
on August 23, 1933*

NOT in a century has a hurricane originating in the West Indies come in full and undiminished force as far north as the one that lashed the Virginia coasts on August 23d, 1933. The wind not only inflicted direct damage but beat up a destructive surf on the Atlantic shore and piled up the waters of Chesapeake Bay into a tidal wave of sufficient height and strength to carry a heavy 45-foot cabin power-launch three miles inland and deposit it on the edge of a farm. Cultivated flats were overrun with salt water for some miles inland with the drowning of live stock and poultry, and salt spray was blown over woods and fields above the flood level. The salt deposit not only rotted sweet potatoes, corn and other vegetables but killed bushes and even trees. It left the soil unfit



Salvaging hurricane wreckage on the beach of Hampton Roads

Citation: Mathews County Red Cross Records (Barcode 1184542), Library of Virginia.