

# PAVILLION AT LONG BRANCH IN CENTER OF STORM'S PATH

The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY, Tuesday, September 17, 1912

## OPINION OF PROF. SANFORD OF WEATHER BUREAU AFTER INVESTIGATION – BELIEVES TORNADO STARTED NEAR CROSS LAKE – HIGH GROUND SUFFERED MOST DAMAGE

Prof. Morgan R. Sanford, chief of the government weather station in this city, yesterday afternoon inspected the devastated country and fully confirmed his early opinion that the storm was a genuine tornado.

Data gathered will be embodied in a report which will be sent to the Weather Bureau at Washington, accompanied by photographs. The report will probably be published in the bureau's bulletin, as the disturbance was unprecedented in meteorological annals of this section.

A brief report of the storm was telegraphed to the bureau yesterday.

“Aside from the testimony of persons who saw the storm approaching in the form of two dark, vertical columns,” said the forecaster last evening. “Long Branch supplied further convincing evidence that the occurrence was properly described as a ‘tornado’.”

“Near the dancing pavilion five trees had been torn down and lay criss-cross. This group of trees undoubtedly were in the center of the storm's path.”

“Facing eastward, the direction traveled by the tornado, I observed that the trees on the right hand had fallen forward, so to speak, and those at the left in the opposite direction.”

“This showed that the circulation of the wind was in the direction opposite that traveled by the hands of a watch. That whirl to the left is the invariable motion of a tornado.”

Other things characteristic of the work of a tornado were observed amid the wreckage at Pitcher Hill and vicinity.

“It was very noticeable,” continued Prof. Sanford, “that objects on elevated ground suffered the worse. This indicated that the storm was more intense at some distance above the lowlands.”

He was of the opinion that the tornado may have formed in the vicinity of Cross lake. He was most impressed by the comparatively small number of casualties among the 300 persons at Long Branch.

“I was surprised that scores of persons were not killed. Their escape was probably due to the fact that they took refuge in the low buildings which are protected by trees.”

“Had the tornado struck Syracuse, it would have swept a path through the city. It had force to demolish big, strong business blocks.”