

2009
Commemoration Year
40th

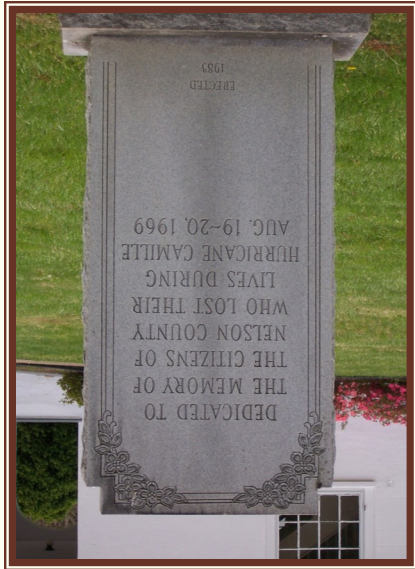


Hurricane
Camille
in
Nelson County, Virginia
Points of Interest & Map
August 19-20, 1969

Nelson County Visitors Center
8519 Thomas Nelson Highway
Lovingson, VA 22949
434-263-7015
Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 636
Lovingson, VA 22949-0636
www.NelsonCounty.com



Camille Memorial on the Courthouse Grounds



Stefan Bechtel
Roar of the Heavens
Citadel Press-Kensington Publishing Corp. 2006
Paige Shoat & Jerry H. Simpson, Jr.
Torn Land
Lynchburg VA, J.P. Bell & Co. 1970
Ernest Zebrowski and Judith A. Howard
Category 5 The Story of Camille Lessons Unlearned
from America's Most Violent Hurricane
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J. B. Halverson
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Weatherwise November, 2005
Nelson County, Virginia Heritage 1807-2000
Walsworth Publishing Co. 2001
Oliver A. Pollard, Jr.
Under the Blue Ledge
The Dietz Press 1997
Paul Saunders
Heartbeats of Nelson
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Rick Schwartz
Hurricanes of the Middle Atlantic States
Blue Diamond Books 2007
Earl Switt
The Tangleman's Lament and Other Tales of Virginia
UVA Press 2007
Newspapers - August-September 1969
Charlottesville Daily Progress
Lynchburg - The News/ The Daily Advance
Nelson County Times
Norfolk Virginian Pilot
Richmond Times Dispatch
Waynesboro News-Virginian
Anniversary Commemorative Editions
Nelson County Times
Books and Newspapers - located at the
Nelson Memorial Library
Nelson County Historical Society
Oakland Museum

Bibliography

Hurricane Camille

August 19-20, 1969

Nelson County was in the path of one of the most devastating natural disasters that the Commonwealth of Virginia had ever experienced. Classified by the National Weather Service as a Category 5 hurricane, Camille came ashore along the Gulf Coast on August 16th causing major destruction in that region. The deluge that fell on the Blue Ridge Mountains three days later came without warning. "A rainfall in excess of 25 inches largely within a 5-hour period, swept away or buried many miles of roads, over 100 bridges, and over 900 buildings. 114 people died and 37 remain missing. The damage totaled more than \$100,000,000 and Virginia was declared a disaster area." *Text from Virginia Historical Highway Marker. (Department of Historical Resources).* Recorded by the National Hurricane Center, the central barometric



Photography by Brower York

pressure dropped to 26.62 inches of mercury, making Camille the second lowest ever measured for a landfall hurricane in the U.S. Population of the county in 1969 was about 12,000, resulting in 1% of the population perishing during the flood.

The damage to the roadways, bridges and railroads was monumental. Most bridges over the Piney, Rockfish and Tye Rivers were destroyed or heavily damaged. Transportation came to a standstill with access into the county on the major highways virtually impossible for several days.

Through the resilience of the county residents and help from the state and federal governments, the county found support in the rescue, recovery and rebuilding following the flood. The efforts of the Mennonites and other volunteer organizations provided valuable services to the citizens of the county.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was established after the Camille tragedy, the result of a need to coordinate natural disaster relief under a single federal agency that could assist state and local governments.

August, 2011



**Nelson County
Hurricane Camille Resource Center**

In 2008 the Oakland - Nelson County Museum of History developed an extensive Camille exhibit at Oakland that includes display panels describing the Storm, Devastation, and Recovery in the county. Books, oral history interviews, videos, photographs, newspapers, artifacts and a computer database of scanned materials about Camille are in the process of becoming accessible to visitors.

The Oakland Museum continues to solicit items and help for the museum.



How can you help the museum?

- Volunteer to be a docent during visiting hours at the museum.
- Bring your pictures or scrap book to be scanned and returned to you for our database.
- Let us record your remembrance of August 1969.
- Send a donation to the museum to preserve the records and enhance the Camille exhibit.

With your monetary donation to the museum you can help preserve the memory of loved ones whose lives were lost in this most tragic event in the history of Nelson County.

Oakland - Nelson County Museum of History

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