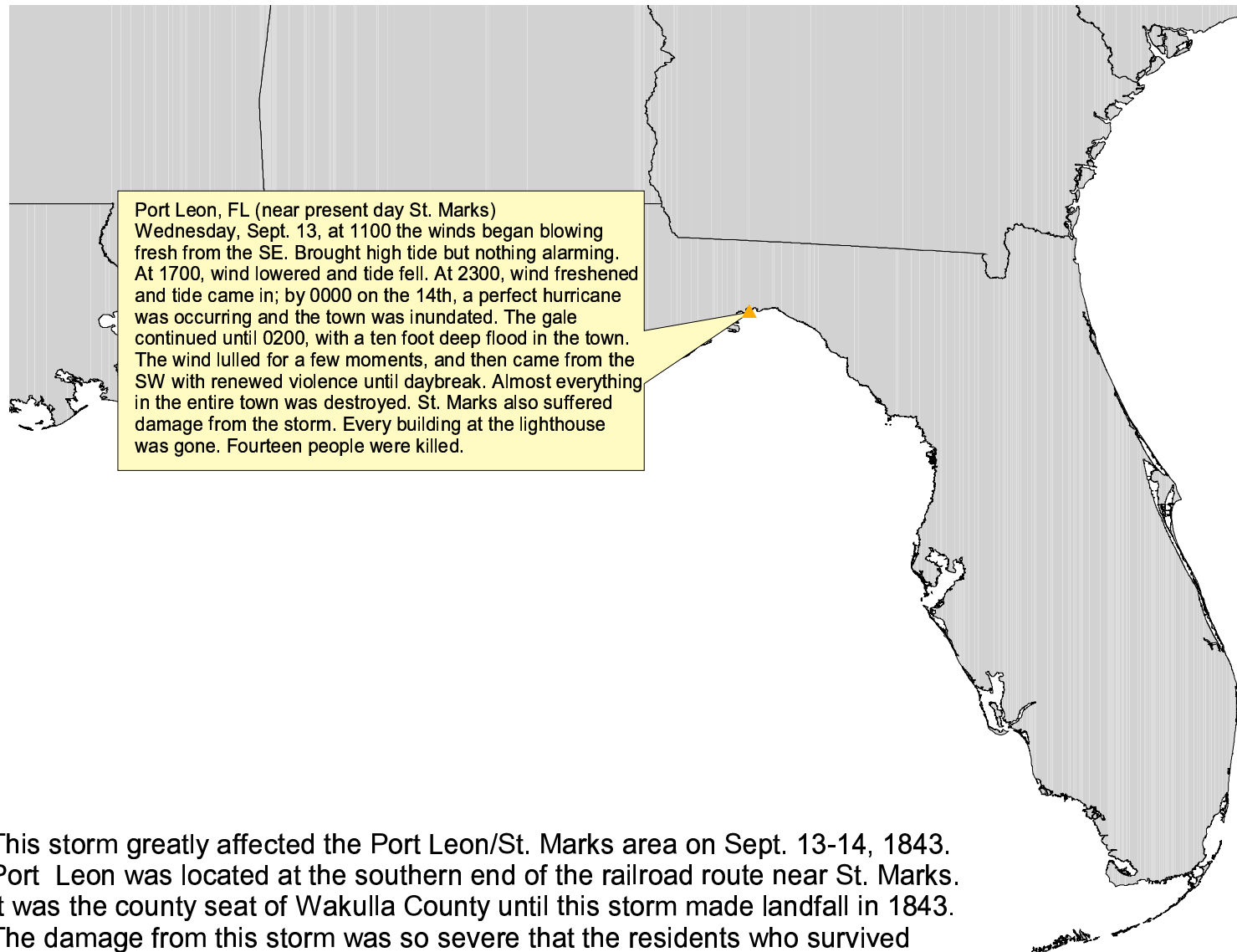


# Great Storm - Port Leon - 1843 - Sept. 13-14



Port Leon, FL (near present day St. Marks)  
Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 1100 the winds began blowing fresh from the SE. Brought high tide but nothing alarming. At 1700, wind lowered and tide fell. At 2300, wind freshened and tide came in; by 0000 on the 14th, a perfect hurricane was occurring and the town was inundated. The gale continued until 0200, with a ten foot deep flood in the town. The wind lulled for a few moments, and then came from the SW with renewed violence until daybreak. Almost everything in the entire town was destroyed. St. Marks also suffered damage from the storm. Every building at the lighthouse was gone. Fourteen people were killed.

This storm greatly affected the Port Leon/St. Marks area on Sept. 13-14, 1843. Port Leon was located at the southern end of the railroad route near St. Marks. It was the county seat of Wakulla County until this storm made landfall in 1843. The damage from this storm was so severe that the residents who survived decided not to rebuild, and made a new settlement at a site three miles upstream and called it New Port. Today, this site is known as Newport. (Wakulla County History - [www.tfn.net/~wakullac/history.html](http://www.tfn.net/~wakullac/history.html))

