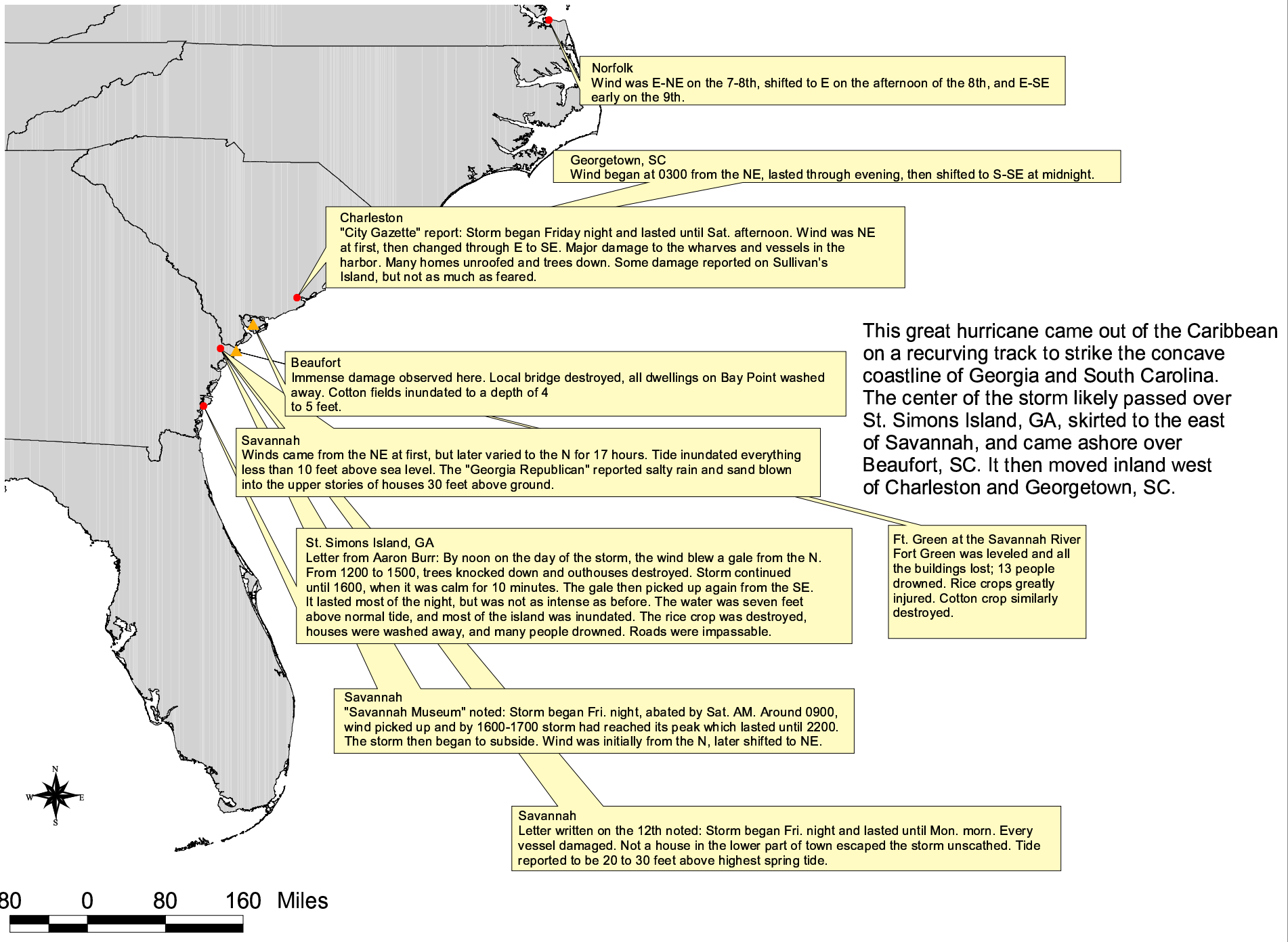


The Great Gale of 1804 in Georgia and Carolina - Sept. 6-8



Norfolk
Wind was E-NE on the 7-8th, shifted to E on the afternoon of the 8th, and E-SE early on the 9th.

Georgetown, SC
Wind began at 0300 from the NE, lasted through evening, then shifted to S-SE at midnight.

Charleston
"City Gazette" report: Storm began Friday night and lasted until Sat. afternoon. Wind was NE at first, then changed through E to SE. Major damage to the wharves and vessels in the harbor. Many homes unroofed and trees down. Some damage reported on Sullivan's Island, but not as much as feared.

Beaufort
Immense damage observed here. Local bridge destroyed, all dwellings on Bay Point washed away. Cotton fields inundated to a depth of 4 to 5 feet.

Savannah
Winds came from the NE at first, but later varied to the N for 17 hours. Tide inundated everything less than 10 feet above sea level. The "Georgia Republican" reported salty rain and sand blown into the upper stories of houses 30 feet above ground.

St. Simons Island, GA
Letter from Aaron Burr: By noon on the day of the storm, the wind blew a gale from the N. From 1200 to 1500, trees knocked down and outhouses destroyed. Storm continued until 1600, when it was calm for 10 minutes. The gale then picked up again from the SE. It lasted most of the night, but was not as intense as before. The water was seven feet above normal tide, and most of the island was inundated. The rice crop was destroyed, houses were washed away, and many people drowned. Roads were impassable.

Ft. Green at the Savannah River
Fort Green was leveled and all the buildings lost; 13 people drowned. Rice crops greatly injured. Cotton crop similarly destroyed.

Savannah
"Savannah Museum" noted: Storm began Fri. night, abated by Sat. AM. Around 0900, wind picked up and by 1600-1700 storm had reached its peak which lasted until 2200. The storm then began to subside. Wind was initially from the N, later shifted to NE.

Savannah
Letter written on the 12th noted: Storm began Fri. night and lasted until Mon. morn. Every vessel damaged. Not a house in the lower part of town escaped the storm unscathed. Tide reported to be 20 to 30 feet above highest spring tide.

This great hurricane came out of the Caribbean on a recurving track to strike the concave coastline of Georgia and South Carolina. The center of the storm likely passed over St. Simons Island, GA, skirted to the east of Savannah, and came ashore over Beaufort, SC. It then moved inland west of Charleston and Georgetown, SC.

