

The Johnstown flood and fire of 1889 that devastated the Pennsylvania town by claiming over two thousand lives is a disaster that proved worthy of thousands of newspaper reports throughout the country. Although this tragic event surely wrought havoc upon the state of Pennsylvania, the way it was reported outside of the state may provide more insight on the reporting state in addition to the details of the disaster itself. Newspapers across the United States covered the story of the disaster that took place in Johnstown, Pennsylvania; what trends are found in how other States in the country were informed of the tragedy and why might have the newspapers reported in such a way?

The proposed paper will identify the immediate response to the Johnstown flood published in newspaper articles from other states than Pennsylvania, focusing on neighboring states and major cities. How was the devastation in Johnstown narrated by the different newspapers? The destructive storm passed over other states without causing the level of damage it did in Pennsylvania; how did the states that felt the storm's hard rain report on Johnstown's suffering? How immediate were the stories published? What were the articles on the frontpage of those papers if it was not news of the Johnstown flood? For how many days or weeks was a flood that brought terror upon a different state reported on? What took this tragedy's place as important news?

In studying the trends found in newspapers from different states, the proposed paper will analyze how other states reported on the devastating flood and what aspects of the tragedy the selected newspapers chose to focus on reporting to their readers. How did the newspapers portray a tragic event that claimed thousands of lives yet created little effect in their own states? How might have the newspapers influenced their readers, and how do the readers respond? In

searching for answers to this question, interstate relations during times of devastation in the late nineteenth century may be revealed.

The advantages that the researcher of the proposed paper have include previous experience with the topic of the Johnstown flood of 1889, and access to the newspapers necessary for research through archives such as *Chronicling America* and *Elephind*. Thousands of newspaper articles about the Johnstown flood were written in the year 1889 alone. The limitations set on the primary sources used will be date and location. As the proposed paper studies the immediate response to the Johnstown flood, results will be sorted by date and only the articles that are published within the first few weeks after the flood will be researched. Setting restrictions on which state the articles are published in will also aid in limiting the amount of primary resources utilized in the proposed paper.

This disaster took place during a time when it was not uncommon for the occurrence of one disaster to be followed with the striking of yet another. Though the Johnstown flood of 1889 caused thousands of deaths and massive destruction in Pennsylvania, newspapers from across the country delivered the details of this American disaster to their readers. The proposed paper will provide insight on how other states narrated tragedies that occurred outside of their borders when they may have been encountering, or recovering from, devastation of their own.

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I hereby declare upon my word of honor that I have neither given nor received unauthorized help on this work. I consulted the Writing Center. Ashleigh Eileen Liang Foster