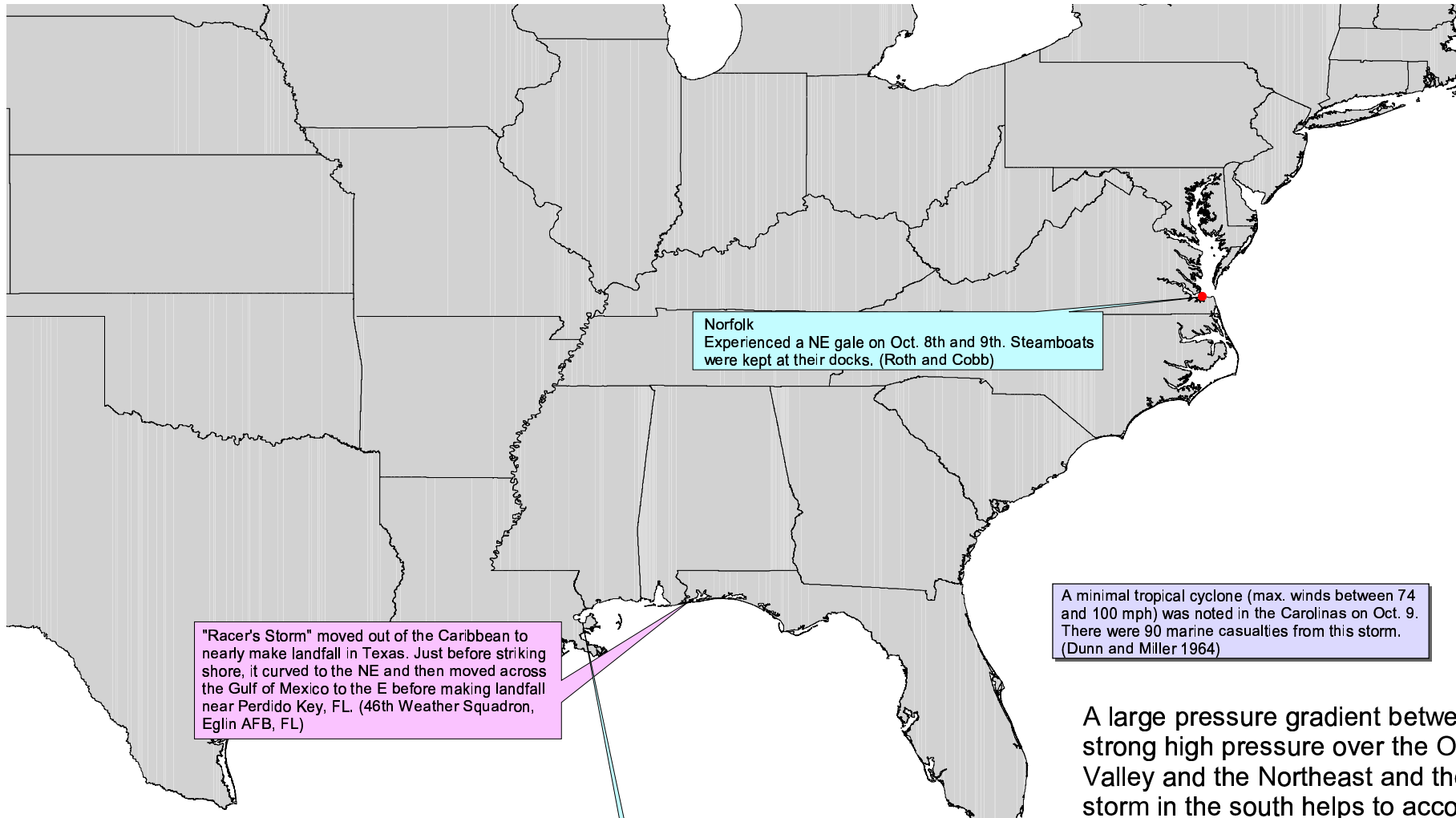


1837 - No. 10 - Racer's Storm - Oct. 1-6 - Pt. 2



"Racer's Storm" moved out of the Caribbean to nearly make landfall in Texas. Just before striking shore, it curved to the NE and then moved across the Gulf of Mexico to the E before making landfall near Perdido Key, FL. (46th Weather Squadron, Eglin AFB, FL)

Norfolk
Experienced a NE gale on Oct. 8th and 9th. Steamboats were kept at their docks. (Roth and Cobb)

A minimal tropical cyclone (max. winds between 74 and 100 mph) was noted in the Carolinas on Oct. 9. There were 90 marine casualties from this storm. (Dunn and Miller 1964)

"Racer's Storm" struck the LA coast just east of Cameron before continuing eastward. An 8 foot storm surge was felt on Lake Ponchartrain. New Orleans experienced a large amount of damage to roofs and chimneys. The Bayou St. John lighthouse was destroyed. All of the boats and wharves along the Mississippi Coast were damaged. The lower parts of New Orleans were inundated. Sugar and cotton crops in ruins. Six lives were lost. (Roth)

Ludlum noted that damage reports from the Florida Middle Coast are suspect: local editors tended to play down or remain silent about their own damage and play up the damage to rival ports. Inland evidence pointed to higher wind speeds than along the coast in LA and MS. The center moved across AL, central GA and SC, and headed for the Carolina coast near Wilmington, causing great damage to the cotton crop.

A large pressure gradient between strong high pressure over the Ohio Valley and the Northeast and the storm in the south helps to account for the high winds reported in the Upper South.

