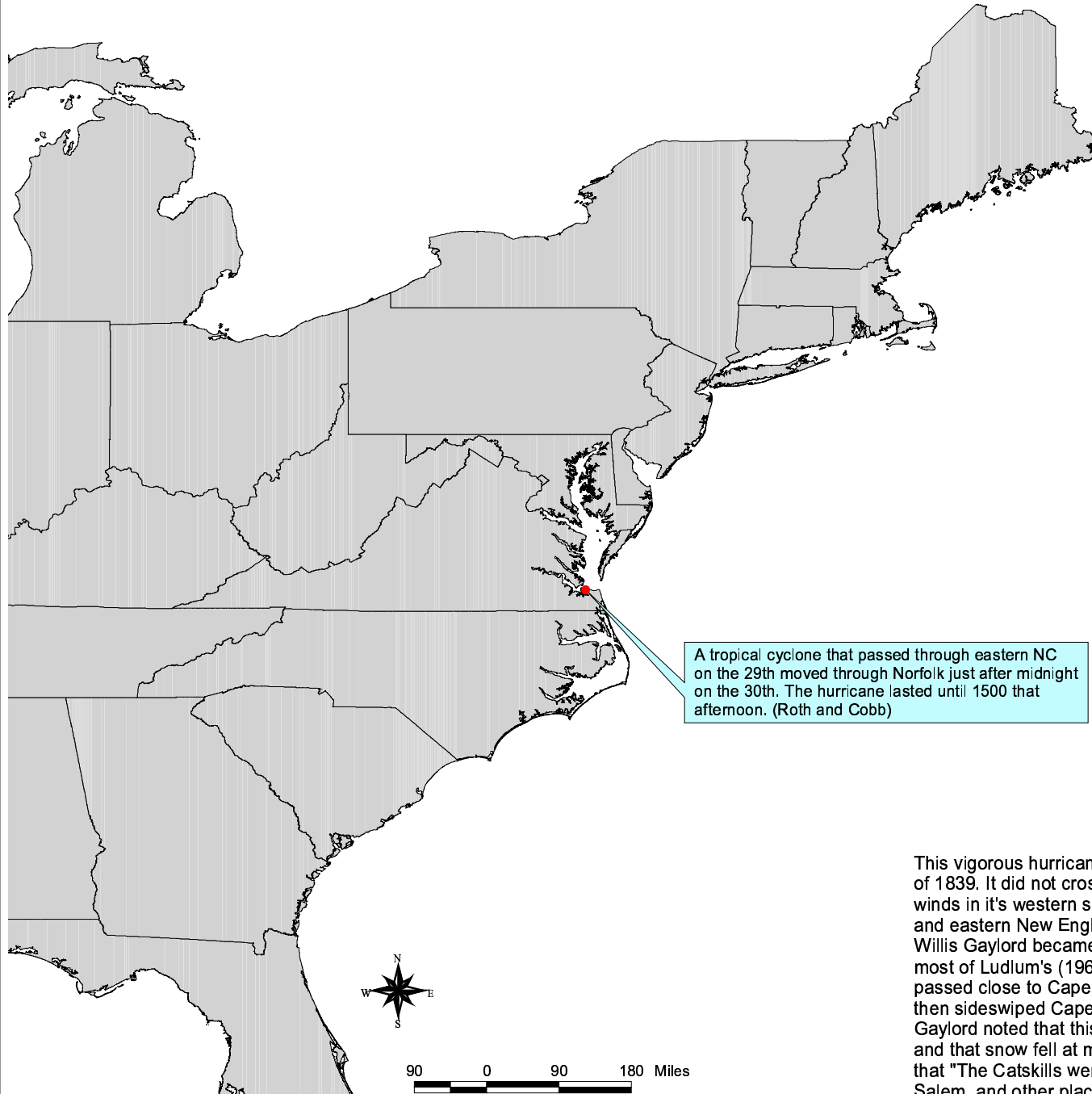


The Atlantic Coast Hurricane of Late August 1839 - Aug. 28-31



A tropical cyclone that passed through eastern NC on the 29th moved through Norfolk just after midnight on the 30th. The hurricane lasted until 1500 that afternoon. (Roth and Cobb)

This vigorous hurricane moved up the Atlantic coast in late August of 1839. It did not cross the coastline, but its nearshore track and winds in its western semi-circle caused crop damage in North Carolina and eastern New England, as well as buffeting coastal shipping. Willis Gaylord became the self-appointed historian for this storm; most of Ludlum's (1963) account stems from his notes. The center passed close to Cape Hatteras around noon on the 29th. The center then sideswiped Cape Cod and adjacent islands as it curved along the coast. Gaylord noted that this storm was associated with particularly chilly weather, and that snow fell at many places along the coast and the interior. He stated that "The Catskills were whitened; and considerable [snow] fell at Salem, and other places."