

# The Great Hurricane of 1938

On September 21, 1938 a hurricane devastated the northeastern coastal United States from Long Island to New England. Killing 700 people it was the worst natural disaster to hit this region.



Sea wall, New England, 1938 (NOAA)

## Books - Pictorial and Personal Accounts

Allen, Everett S. **A wind to shake the world: the story of the 1938 hurricane.** Boston: Little, Brown, 1976. Call no. JSD 76-1103.

Burns, Cherie. **The great hurricane – 1938.** New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2005. Call no. 974.721B (available for checkout).

Clowes, Ernest S. **The hurricane of 1938 on eastern Long Island.** Bridgehampton, L.I.: Hampton Press, 1939. Call no. IRM (Long Island) (Clowes, E. S. Hurricane of 1938 on eastern Long Island.)

**Hurricane in southern New England: an analysis of the great storm of 1938** edited by Bernard L. Gordon. Watch Hill, R.I.: Book & Tackle Shop, 1976. Call no. JSD 76-866.

Lafrentz, Olga L. **The hurricane; an account of the disastrous hurricane which swept New England on Sept. 21,**

**1938; as witnessed at Bridgehampton. New York:** G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1939. Call no. VBA p.v. 492.

Minsinger, William Elliott. **The 1938 hurricane: an historical and pictorial summary.** Randolph Center, VT: Blue Hill Observatory, 1988. Call no. IQN 01-7112.

**1938 Hurricane pictures: with a brief story and 400 views of destruction in New Bedford and vicinity (a few of New London and Martha's Vineyard).** New Bedford, Mass.: Reynolds Printing, 1938. Call no. IQHB 91-835.

Raymond, Allen. **Reconstruction of New England, following the floods and hurricane of 1938.** Call no. \*Z-9911 no. 27 [microfilm].

Scotti, R.A. **Sudden sea: the Great Hurricane of 1938.** Waterville, Me.: Thorndike Press, 2003. Call no. 363.3492S (available for checkout).

## Video

**The Hurricane of '38** [videorecording] a Lennon Documentary Group film for The American Experience; written and produced by Thomas Lennon and Michael Epstein. Call no. VC 551.552 H (available for checkout)

## Government Documents

Federal Writers' Project. **New England hurricane, a factual, pictorial record, written and compiled by members of the Federal writers' project of the Works progress administration in the New England states.** Boston, Hale, Cushman & Flint, 1938. Call no. PRI (United States. Works progress administration. New England hurricane)

United States. Works progress administration Massachusetts. **Storm-tide hurricane of September, 1938 in Massachusetts...Massachusetts Geodetic survey, Mass WPA project no. 16565... Sponsored by Massachusetts Department of Public Works...** Boston, 1939.

Call no. PRI (United States. Works progress administration. Massachusetts. Storm-tide hurricane of September, 1938.)

## Articles

Hall, C.L. **1938 hurricane and its effect on Long Island beach-protection structures.** Civil Engineering (New York), March, 1939; v 9, n 3, p 169-172.

Paulsen, C.G. **Hurricane floods of September 1938.** United States Geological Survey – Water Supply Papers, 1940; n 867, 562p.

Bliss, E.G. **Mobilization of telephone in hurricane emergency,** Military Engineer, Jan-Feb, 1939; p 58-61.

**Northeastern gale and flood.** Engineering News-Record, October 6, 1938; v 121, n 14 p 424-430.



Main Street, Wood's Hole, MA 1938 (NOAA)

## Websites

**Hurricane History**  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/history.shtml>

**The September Surprise: The Great Hurricane of '38**  
<http://www.intellicast.com/DrDewpoint/Library/1123/>

**Shock Troops of Disaster: the story of the New England hurricane, 1938**  
<http://www.archive.org/details/ShocTro1938>

**The Long Island Express – the great hurricane of 1938**  
<http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/mandias/38hurricane/index.html>



Breaking mooring, Wood's Hole, 1938 (NOAA)

## Electronic Databases

Articles and research papers on hurricanes can be found in many full-text databases in the library's Electronic Information Center, including:

**Academic Search Premier\***  
**Applied Science and Technology Abstracts**  
**Compendex**  
**GeoRef**  
**Earthscape**  
**Environmental Policy Index**  
**AccessScience (McGraw Hill)**

\*may be accessed from home with a NYPL library card barcode number.



Devastation in Connecticut, 1938 (NOAA)

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