

# Flood Event of 9/28/1896 - 10/2/1896

## James

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Buena Vista	17.00	9/30/1896	-9999.00	-9,999	Missing	James	Maury River	Rockbridge	Independent City
Richmond	12.00	9/28/1896	-9999.00	-9,999	Missing	James	James River	Henrico	Independent City

## Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Harpers Ferry	18.00	10/1/1896	33.00	-9,999	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Jefferson	Jefferson
Point of Rocks	16.00	10/1/1896	27.20	204,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Frederick	Frederick
Virginia	-99.99	10/1/1896	-9999.00	-9,999	Missing	Potomac	Potomac River	All	All

## Shenandoah

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Luray	14.00	10/1/1896	25.40	-9,999	Major	Shenandoah	South Fork Shenandoah River	Page	Page
Millville	13.50	10/1/1896	19.72	105,000	Major	Shenandoah	Shenandoah River	Jefferson	Jefferson

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## Weather Summary

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A hurricane that made landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast devastated Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania on September 29. It was one of Virginia's, Maryland's and Pennsylvania's most destructive windstorms. Richmond, Fredericksburg and Alexandria had peak wind gusts likely in excess of 100 mph, while the Maryland weather office estimated a 68 mph gust. In Richmond, power and communications was knocked out for days. Several buildings were unroofed in Petersburg. In Buena Vista, the fire department rescued people from their homes. There was flash flooding in the Shenandoah Valley and a deadly dam failure in Staunton. Along the Potomac River, the Potomac, Chesapeake and Ohio Canals merged into one giant canal as the flood waters rose. "The abomination of desolation was on every side," according to an account from Sandy Spring, Md. The extensive damage included massive tree and crop losses, a daily dam in Staunton, VA, near-destruction of a church in Rockville, a covered bridge in Columbia and many houses were unroofed.

Source: Schwartz, Rick. (2007) "Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States "<http://www.midatlantichurricanes.com/index.html>

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## Crest Statistics and Flood Information

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First flood of 1 that occurred in Sep, 1896

Third flood of 3 that occurred in 1896

Number of Floods at MARFC Forecast Points - 7

Number of Floods Cresting in Minor Range - 0

Number of Floods Cresting in Moderate Range - 0

Number of Floods Cresting in Major Range - 4

Number of Floods Cresting in Missing Range - 3