

# Flood Event of 3/17/1936 - 3/20/1936

## Appomattox

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Farmville	16.00	3/18/1936	17.72	7,270	Minor	Appomattox	Appomattox River	Cumberland	Prince Edward
Mattoax	21.00	3/20/1936	25.27	10,300	Moderate	Appomattox	Appomattox River	Amelia	Amelia

## Chemung

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Chemung	16.00	3/18/1936	18.61	76,700	Minor	Chemung	Chemung River	Chemung	Chemung
Lindley	17.00	3/17/1936	17.80	32,800	Minor	Chemung	Tioga River	Steuben	Steuben

## Delaware

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Cooks Falls	10.00	3/18/1936	15.02	21,300	Minor	Delaware	Beaver Kill	Delaware	Delaware
Fishs Eddy	13.00	3/18/1936	19.21	46,000	Major	Delaware	Delaware River	Delaware	Delaware
Harvard	10.00	3/18/1936	15.58	26,200	Major	Delaware	East Branch Delaware River	Delaware	Delaware
Hawley	11.00	3/18/1936	19.10	27,600	Moderate	Lackawaxen	Lackawaxen River	Wayne	Wayne
Shoemakers	6.00	3/18/1936	6.92	4,770	Minor	Bush Kill	Bush Kill	Monroe	Cambria

## James

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
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Bent Creek	16.00	3/18/1936	23.02	115,000	Moderate	James	James River	Nelson	Appomattox
Buchanan	17.00	3/18/1936	26.80	84,100	Major	James	James River	Botetourt	Botetourt
Buena Vista	17.00	3/18/1936	22.00	-9,999	Major	James	Maury River	Rockbridge	Independent City
Cartersville	20.00	3/19/1936	28.77	166,000	Major	James	James River	Goochland	Cumberland
Covington	17.00	3/18/1936	20.97	-9,999	Moderate	James	Jackson River below Dunlap Creek	Covington City	Independent City
Holcomb Rock	22.00	3/18/1936	30.78	115,000	Major	James	James River	Bedford	Bedford
Lick Run	16.00	3/18/1936	25.65	66,000	Major	James	James River	Botetourt	Botetourt
Palmyra	17.00	3/18/1936	29.26	39,900	Moderate	James	Rivanna River	Fluvanna	Fluvanna
Richmond	12.00	3/19/1936	23.42	175,000	Major	James	James River	Henrico	Independent City
Scottsville	20.00	3/19/1936	25.46	126,000	Major	James	James River	Albemarle	Albermarle

### Juniata

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Huntingdon	12.00	3/18/1936	21.87	81,000	Major	Juniata	Juniata River	Huntingdon	Huntingdon
Lewistown	23.00	3/18/1936	43.00	-9,999	Major	Juniata	Juniata River	Mifflin	Mifflin
Mapleton Depot	20.00	3/18/1936	38.20	165,000	Major	Juniata	Juniata River	Huntingdon	Huntingdon
Newport	22.00	3/19/1936	34.24	190,000	Major	Juniata	Juniata River	Perry	Perry
Saxton	17.00	3/18/1936	24.54	80,500	Major	Juniata	Raystown Branch Juniata River	Bedford	Bedford
Spruce Creek	8.00	3/18/1936	19.10	39,800	Major	Juniata	Little Juniata River	Huntingdon	Huntingdon

Williamsburg	12.00	3/18/1936	18.58	30,000	Major	Juniata	Frankstown Branch Juniata River	Blair	Blair
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### Main Stem Delaware

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Belvidere	22.00	3/19/1936	25.00	179,000	Major	Main Stem Delaware	Delaware River	Warren	Warren
Easton (Phillipsburg, NJ)	22.00	3/19/1936	32.80	-9,999	Major	Main Stem Delaware	Delaware River	Warren	Northampton
Frenchtown	16.00	3/19/1936	21.93	-9,999	Major	Main Stem Delaware	Delaware River	Hunterdon	Hunterdon
Hale Eddy	11.00	3/18/1936	14.22	25,900	Moderate	Main Stem Delaware	West Branch Delaware River	Delaware	Delaware
Montague	25.00	3/18/1936	28.45	164,500	Moderate	Main Stem Delaware	Delaware River	Pike	Sussex
New Hope (Lambertville, NJ)	13.00	3/19/1936	17.89	-9,999	Major	Main Stem Delaware	Delaware River	Hunterdon	Bucks
Riegelsville	22.00	3/19/1936	32.45	237,000	Major	Main Stem Delaware	Delaware River	Warren	Bucks
Stockton	18.00	3/19/1936	27.00	-9,999	Major	Main Stem Delaware	Delaware River	Hunterdon	Hunterdon
Trenton	20.00	3/19/1936	24.43	227,000	Moderate	Main Stem Delaware	Delaware River	Mercer	Mercer
Washington Crossing	20.00	3/19/1936	21.30	-9,999	Minor	Main Stem Delaware	Delaware River	Mercer	Bucks

### Main Stem Susquehanna

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Bloomsburg	19.00	3/20/1936	27.80	250,000	Moderate	Upper Main Stem Susquehanna	Susquehanna River	Columbia	Columbia
Danville	20.00	3/20/1936	27.42	250,000	Moderate	Upper Main Stem Susquehanna	Susquehanna River	Montour	Montour
Harper Tavern	9.00	3/18/1936	9.92	7,710	Minor	Swatara	Swatara Creek	Lebanon	Lebanon

Harrisburg	17.00	3/19/1936	29.23	740,000	Major	Lower Main Stem Susquehanna	Susquehanna River	Dauphin	Dauphin
Hogestown	8.00	3/19/1936	9.00	-9,999	Minor	Conodoguinet	Conodoguinet Creek	Cumberland	Cumberland
Marietta	49.00	3/19/1936	60.73	787,000	Major	Lower Main Stem Susquehanna	Susquehanna River	Lancaster	Lancaster
Monroeton	14.00	3/18/1936	18.60	21,200	Major	Upper Main Stem Susquehanna	Towanda Creek	Bradford	Bradford
Penns Creek	8.00	3/18/1936	12.12	15,700	Major	Penns Creek	Penns Creek	Snyder	Snyder
Sunbury	24.00	3/19/1936	26.85	556,000	Moderate	Lower Main Stem Susquehanna	Susquehanna River	Snyder	Northumberland
Towanda	16.00	3/19/1936	25.03	188,000	Moderate	Upper Main Stem Susquehanna	Susquehanna River	Bradford	Bradford
Tunkhannock	11.00	3/18/1936	11.36	19,600	Minor	Upper Main Stem Susquehanna	Tunkhannock Creek	Wyoming	Wyoming
Wilkes-Barre	22.00	3/20/1936	33.07	232,000	Major	Upper Main Stem Susquehanna	Susquehanna River	Luzerne	Luzerne

### Neshaminy

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Langhorne	9.00	3/18/1936	10.24	9,570	Moderate	Neshaminy	Neshaminy Creek	Bucks	Bucks

### North Branch Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Cumberland	17.00	3/17/1936	29.10	88,200	Major	North Branch Potomac	North Branch Potomac River	Allegany	Allegany
Cumberland	10.00	3/17/1936	20.20	38,100	Major	North Branch Potomac	Wills Creek	Allegany	Allegany
Luke	10.50	3/17/1936	-9999.00	37,400	Missing	North Branch Potomac	North Branch Potomac River	Mineral	Allegany

## North Branch Susquehanna

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Binghamton	14.00	3/18/1936	22.90	-9,999	Major	North Branch Susquehanna	North Branch Susquehanna River	Broome	Broome
Chenango Forks	10.00	3/18/1936	15.26	50,100	Moderate	North Branch Susquehanna	Chenango River	Broome	Broome
Conklin	11.00	3/18/1936	20.14	61,600	Major	North Branch Susquehanna	North Branch Susquehanna River	Broome	Broome
Owego	30.00	3/18/1936	-9999.00	112,000	Major	North Branch Susquehanna	North Branch Susquehanna River	Tioga	Tioga
Sherburne	8.00	3/18/1936	10.60	12,500	Major	North Branch Susquehanna	Chenango River	Chenango	Chenango
Unadilla	11.00	3/18/1936	16.60	31,300	Major	North Branch Susquehanna	North Branch Susquehanna River	Otsego	Otsego
Vestal	18.00	3/18/1936	30.50	107,000	Major	North Branch Susquehanna	North Branch Susquehanna River	Broome	Broome
Waverly	13.00	3/18/1936	21.40	128,000	Major	North Branch Susquehanna	North Branch Susquehanna River	Bradford	Tioga

## Passaic

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Wanaque	5.00	3/19/1936	6.07	1,940	Moderate	Passaic	Wanaque River	Passaic	Passaic

## Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Fairview	10.00	3/18/1936	13.27	13,700	Moderate	Potomac	Conococheague Creek	Washington	Washington
Great Cacapon	9.00	3/18/1936	30.10	87,600	Major	Potomac	Cacapon River	Morgan	Morgan
Hancock	30.00	3/18/1936	47.60	340,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Washington	Washington

Harpers Ferry	18.00	3/19/1936	36.50	-9,999	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Jefferson	Jefferson
Leesburg	12.00	3/17/1936	13.61	6,010	Minor	Potomac	Goose Creek	Loudoun	Loudoun
Little Falls (Washington DC)	10.00	3/19/1936	28.10	484,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Montgomery	Montgomery
Martinsburg	10.00	3/18/1936	17.50	19,100	Major	Potomac	Opequon Creek	Berkeley	Berkeley
Paw Paw	25.00	3/18/1936	54.00	240,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Allegheny	Morgan
Point of Rocks	16.00	3/19/1936	41.03	480,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Frederick	Frederick
Sharpsburg	8.00	3/18/1936	8.88	3,930	Minor	Potomac	Antietam Creek	Washington	Washington
Shepherdstown	15.00	3/19/1936	42.07	335,000	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Jefferson	Jefferson
Williamsport	23.00	3/18/1936	48.60	-9,999	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Washington	Washington
Wisconsin Ave, Washington, DC	6.00	3/19/1936	17.30	-9,999	Major	Potomac	Potomac River	Dist. of Columbia	Dist. of Columbia

### Rappahannock

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Culpeper	14.00	3/18/1936	19.25	21,000	Moderate	Rappahannock	Rapidan River	Culpeper	Culpeper
Fredericksburg (Old Site)	18.00	3/18/1936	18.10	-9,999	Minor	Rappahannock	Rappahannock River	Spotsylvania	Independent City

### Shenandoah

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Cootes Store	15.00	3/17/1936	23.25	40,500	Major	Shenandoah	Shenandoah River	Rockingham	Rockingham
Front Royal	12.00	3/18/1936	26.01	98,000	Major	Shenandoah	Shenandoah River	Warren	Warren

Luray	14.00	3/18/1936	23.60	81,600	Moderate	Shenandoah	South Fork Shenandoah River	Page	Page
Lynnwood	16.00	3/18/1936	26.57	77,000	Major	Shenandoah	Shenandoah River	Rockingham	Rockingham
Millville	13.50	3/18/1936	26.36	151,000	Major	Shenandoah	Shenandoah River	Jefferson	Jefferson
Strasburg	17.00	3/18/1936	30.21	89,000	Major	Shenandoah	North Fork Shenandoah River	Warren	Shenandoah

### South Branch Potomac

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Franklin	7.00	3/18/1936	13.00	18,500	Major	South Branch Potomac	South Branch Potomac River	Pendleton	Pendleton
Moorefield	10.00	3/17/1936	14.90	30,400	Major	South Branch Potomac	South Fork South Branch Potomac River	Hardy	Hardy
Petersburg	10.00	3/17/1936	20.30	49,800	Major	South Branch Potomac	South Branch Potomac River	Grant	Grant
Springfield	15.00	3/18/1936	34.20	143,000	Major	South Branch Potomac	South Branch Potomac River	Hampshire	Hampshire

### West Branch Susquehanna

Site	Flood Stage	Date	Crest	Flow	Category	Basin	Stream	County of Gage	County of Forecast Point
Beech Creek Station	11.00	3/18/1936	14.42	25,600	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	Bald Eagle Creek	Clinton	Clinton
Jersey Shore	26.00	3/18/1936	37.90	254,100	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Lycoming	Lycoming
Karthus	19.00	3/18/1936	24.50	135,000	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Clearfield	Clearfield
Lewisburg	18.00	3/19/1936	32.10	287,000	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Northumberland	Union
Lock Haven	21.00	3/18/1936	32.30	-9,999	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Clinton	Clinton
Milton	19.00	3/18/1936	34.07	-9,999	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Union	Northumberland

Montgomery	20.00	3/18/1936	36.00	-9,999	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Lycoming	Lycoming
Muncy	20.00	3/18/1936	35.90	-9,999	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Lycoming	Lycoming
Renovo	16.00	3/18/1936	29.39	236,000	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Clinton	Clinton
Sinnemahoning	17.00	3/18/1936	21.94	61,200	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	Sinnemahoning Creek	Cameron	Cameron
Watsonstown	23.00	3/18/1936	36.25	-9,999	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Northumberland	Northumberland
Williamsport	20.00	3/18/1936	33.57	264,000	Major	West Branch Susquehanna	West Branch Susquehanna River	Lycoming	Lycoming

### Weather Summary

March 17-18, 1936: During the period March 9-22, successive storms crossed the eastern region of the U.S. with floods occurring from Virginia to Maine. A total of 150 to 200 lives were lost and damage was in the millions. In Virginia, the Potomac, Shenandoah, Rappahannock, James, and York Rivers flooded. Most large flood events in Virginia are associated with tropical systems. This flood was the largest non-tropical flood event. The winter of 1935-1936 was marked by long-continued periods of low temperatures and heavy snowfalls. In December, it was estimated that areas in the northern Blue Ridge Mountains exceeded 40 inches of snow. Some snow melted during a mild January, but more fell in late January to mid-February. March began with warm temperatures and a thaw. The first rainstorm came in the second week with up to three inches falling. The rains melted the snow, adding an equivalent of one to two inches of rainfall. This caused the rivers to rise and set the stage for the next rain event. The primary flood-producing rains came March 17 and 18 when a storm, drawing moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, tracked right across Virginia. It dumped an additional six inches of rain on top of the already saturated soil. The North Fork of the Shenandoah crested eight feet above flood stage in Rockingham County. At Front Royal, the Shenandoah flooded the city rising to 14 feet above flood stage. The Potomac River in Washington, D.C. rose nine feet above flood stage flooding portions of Arlington and Alexandria including the old airport (where the Pentagon is now located). The fresh water inundation on the Lower Potomac and tributaries killed thousands of bushels of oysters and seedlings. In Culpeper, the Rapidan crested at over five feet above flood stage and in Fredericksburg, the Rappahannock flooded. The James River, at Richmond, reached 26.5 feet (18.5 feet above flood stage) causing serious flooding to the city's industrial and business sections. From NWS Sterling, VA office. We have heard a total of 150 to 200 lives were lost and estimated damage was over \$1 million.

Source: Watson, Barbara. "NWS Sterling, VA - Virginia Floods." Virginia Floods. National Weather Service Eastern Region Headquarters, 28 Dec. 2005. Web. <<http://www>

### Crest Statistics and Flood Information

Second flood of 3 that occurred in Mar, 1936  
 Seventh flood of 11 that occurred in 1936  
 Number of Floods at MARFC Forecast Points - 98

Number of Floods Cresting in Minor Range - 12  
 Number of Floods Cresting in Moderate Range - 18  
 Number of Floods Cresting in Major Range - 67  
 Number of Floods Cresting in Missing Range - 1