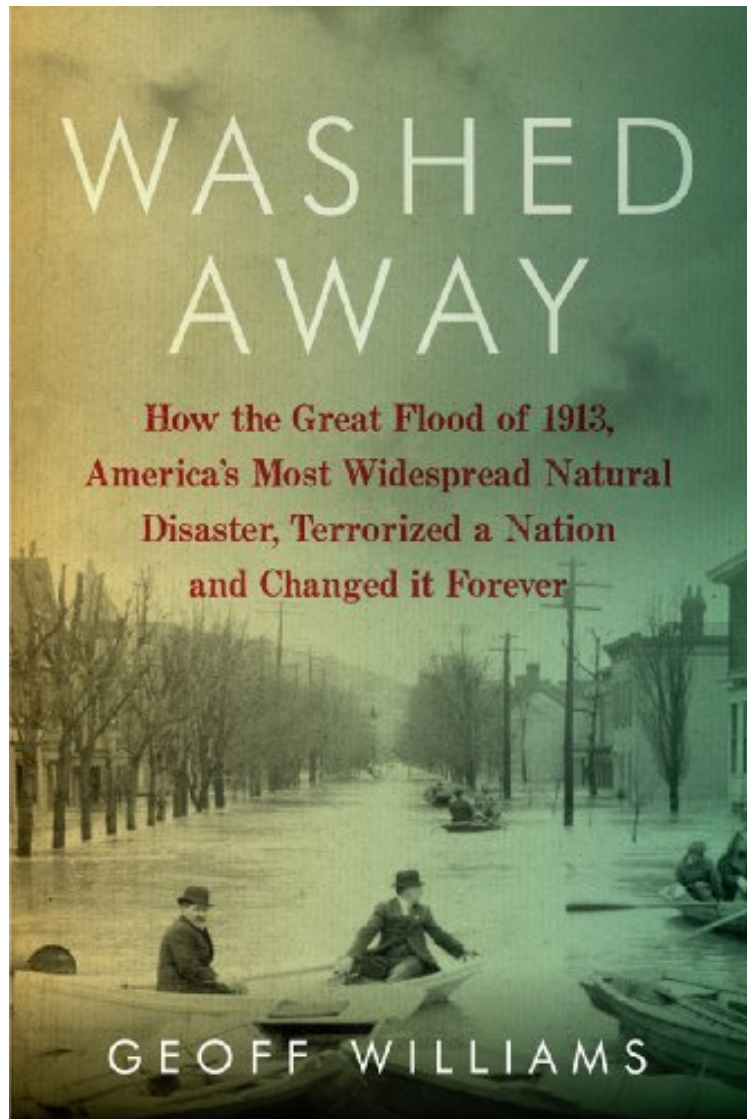


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Washed Away: How the Great Flood of 1913, America's Most Widespread Natural Disaster, Terrorized a Nation and Changed It Forever

Geoff Williams

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Geoff Williams : Washed Away: How the Great Flood of 1913, America's Most Widespread Natural Disaster, Terrorized a Nation and Changed It Forever before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Washed Away: How the Great Flood of 1913, America's Most Widespread Natural Disaster, Terrorized a Nation and Changed It Forever:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Compelling. By jbn Good book about a very tragic incident. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A timely publication in that we are celebrating the 100 anniversary. By Jeanette M. Johnson We live in an area that was affected by the flood, so wanted to know more about it. The book certainly did that. I had trouble keeping the characters straight by jumping around in time, Maybe one whole story at a time. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. really gave it 3 1/2 stars. By E. Ingalai really did not enjoy the first half of the book. the author spent a lot of time simply naming people that lived in Johnstown, the description of their homes and the street address. best to have included a map of the town. in addition all the discussion related to the topography of the area, including engineering references were difficult for me to visualize. once he started with the actual flood and concentrating on the destruction and devastation it picked up. imagine 40 people hunkering down at the top floor of a house totally surrounded by dirty muddy water full of debris and all of a sudden a person comes flying through the window and landing on the floor in front of you. imagine a man and young child (not his child) floating by on a mattress being tossed about by the raging flood and as he passes a house one of the occupants calls out to have him toss the babe to him, he does, she's safe. i also enjoyed reading about the aftermath, all the donations of food, clothing and money that flowed into Johnstown and surrounding towns, including the sultan of Turkey, the French government, etc. finally there was really no one who could be held responsible for this tragedy. some people tried to sue but their attorneys advised them to not go forward since it would be impossible to prove negligence. the author opined that in today's society there would be a slew of lawsuits and there would be payments made to the survivors.

The incredible story of a flood of near-biblical proportions—its destruction, its heroes and victims, and how it shaped America's natural-disaster policies for the next century. The storm began March 23, 1913, with a series of tornadoes that killed 150 people and injured 400. Then the freezing rains started and the flooding began. It continued for days. Some people drowned in their attics, others on the roads when they tried to flee. It was the nation's most widespread flood ever -- more than 700 people died, hundreds of thousands of homes and buildings were destroyed, and millions were left homeless. The destruction extended far beyond the Ohio valley to Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and Vermont. Fourteen states in all, and every major and minor river east of the Mississippi. In the aftermath, flaws in America's natural disaster response system were exposed, echoing today's outrage over Katrina. People demanded change. Laws were passed, and dams were built. Teams of experts vowed to develop flood control techniques for the region and stop flooding for good. So far those efforts have succeeded. It is estimated that in the Miami Valley alone, nearly 2,000 floods have been prevented, and the same methods have been used as a model for flood control nationwide and around the world. 16 Pages of BW Photographs

From Booklist Of the major natural catastrophes of the early twentieth century, the Great Flood of 1913 is one of the least remembered. Over several days in March of that year, heavy rains with fierce winds and tornadoes caused severe flooding in 14 states. Before the storm abated, rain turned to snow. Every major river east of the Mississippi rose, many bridges washed away, and fallen telegraph and telephone lines isolated towns and cities in need of outside help. Hundreds of people died between Nebraska and Vermont from drowning, fires, freezing temperatures, accidents, and suicide. Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania were the hardest-hit states. Williams weaves tragic and heroic stories of people in the various affected states into an almost hour-by-hour account of the deadly storm. This quick-reading history published for the storm's centennial should interest readers who enjoyed Erik Larson's *Isaac's Storm* (1999), about the Galveston hurricane of 1900, or Simon Winchester's *A Crack in the Edge of the World* (2005), about the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. --Rick Roche Of the major natural catastrophes of the early twentieth century, the Great Flood of 1913 is one of the least remembered. Over several days in March of that year, heavy rains with fierce winds and tornadoes caused severe flooding in 14 states. Before the storm abated, rain turned to snow. Every major river east of the Mississippi rose, many bridges washed away, and fallen telegraph and telephone lines isolated towns and cities in need of outside help. Hundreds of people died between Nebraska and Vermont from drowning, fires, freezing temperatures, accidents, and suicide. Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania were the hardest-hit states. Williams weaves tragic and heroic stories of people in the various affected states into an almost hour-by-hour account of the deadly storm. This quick-reading history published for the storm's centennial should interest readers who enjoyed Erik Larson's *Isaac's Storm* about the Galveston hurricane of 1900 or Simon Winchester's *A Crack in the Edge of the World* about the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. - Booklist Deeply researched, personal accounts of the Midwestern natural disaster whose ramifications can be felt today. Journalist Williams offers an eerily prescient work that comes in the wake of another storm of the century, Hurricane Sandy. In mid-March 1913, a series of tornadoes accompanied by a deluge of rain on saturated, thawing ground caused inordinate damage to a swath of Ohio and Indiana, impacting both neighboring states and those as far away as Vermont and New Jersey and leaving approximately 1,000 dead and untold damage to the heartland. Williams has delved into the archives and extracted the stories of survivors and many who perished, tragedies witnessed by many and recorded in newspapers, books and memories passed down. A well-honed chronicle of a significant national disaster, especially timely following the destruction of Sandy. - Kirkus

sAbout the AuthorGeoff Williamsis the author ofC.C. Pyle's Amazing Foot Race: The True Story of the 1928 Coast-to-Coast Run Across America.For most of his life, Williams has lived less than an hour away from the Great Flood's epicenter in Dayton, Ohio.