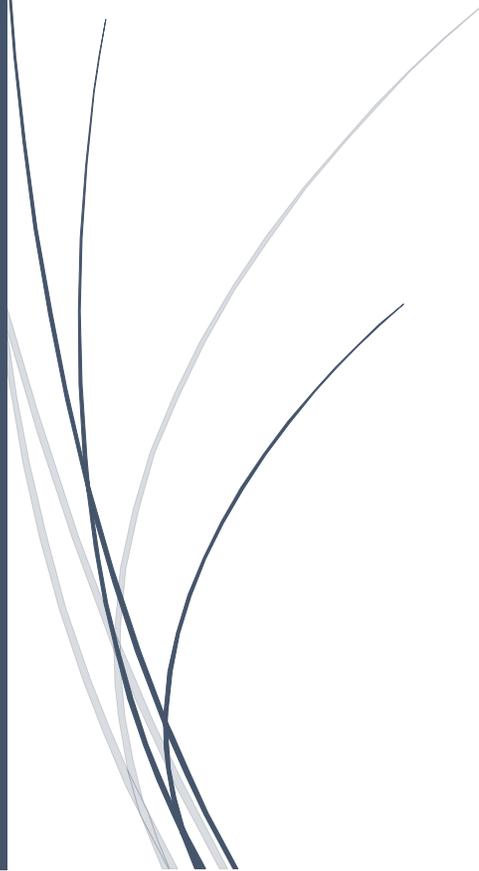# Research Paper Proposal

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Ms. Ginger Glosowske
HY 103: US HISOTRY FROM 1865

Research Topic:

The topic I found to be of interest to me that I would like to research is about the Galveston hurricane of 1900. It is obvious that hurricanes produce mass destruction, so the main focal points in this paper will be primarily on how the town prepared for the storm, what happened during landfall, and the aftermath. Other possible interest would be on the technology scientist had at the time to forecast storms.

Thesis (working):

Although the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 had rivaled the Galveston storm that occurred only years prior in calamity, the Galveston storm was more deadly causing significant amount of deaths, eradication of buildings, and the inability to recover in its previous glory.

Thesis Road Map:

1. The storm itself.
2. The town before and after the storm.
3. Technology meteorologist had at the time, and their knowledge on hurricanes.

What I know about this topic and why am I interested:

From what I can remember watching on the television, it was said that there was no radar back in those days which of course does not surprise me. A weatherman had predicted that a terrible storm would make landfall but regrettably his warning was not taken seriously. To my dismay, this is the only bit of information that I currently know about this particular storm.

Mother nature has always fascinated me. As a child, I would watch the weather channel series 'Storm Stories' and would be utterly captivated by the power these storms contained. I've lived in areas where hurricanes frequently blow through, and they can be quiet frightening at times. My own experiences can help me relate to this specific topic, though thankfully I have never had to endure something anywhere near as tragic. There were a few other topics that had grabbed my interest, but because I've always been enthralled with natural disasters.

What I want to learn:

Once again, I will reinstate that I am in love with storms and what they are capable of. It will be extremely interesting learning about the history the storm had created. I also look forward to comparing how our technology is today to what they had available to them over one hundred years ago. I'm curious how the town pulled together as a community to become functional once again, and how the towns people were affected by the catastrophe. I know in the past century our ability to forecast a disaster has increased dramatically to the point where the chances of something like the Galveston hurricane would be miniscule, but it makes me wonder what they did have available to them during those days that could indicate a storm was brewing.

Initial Questions:

1. Were they able to track storms, and if so, how?
2. How did they prepare for hurricanes back in those days?
3. How long did it take to reconstruct the town?
4. What were the short and long term impacts the hurricane caused?
5. Did this event inspire for better warnings of hurricanes?
6. Where did people live while their homes were being rebuilt?

7. What were the citizens thinking while the storm was over the town?

8. What state is the town in today compared to how it was before the storm hit?

9. Why is it still considered the worst natural disaster in U.S. history?

10. What other disasters has the town Galveston encountered and were they better prepared?