



# THE STORM OF 1826



These two accounts talk about a storm that moved through the White Mountains on August 28–29, 1826. The storm caused flooding, landslides, and lots of damage to the region.

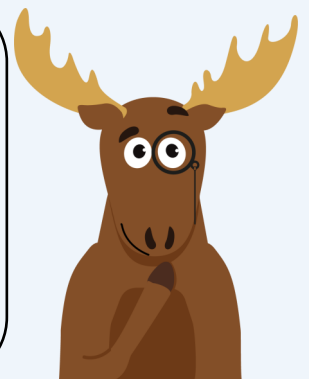
**Benjamin Willey wrote:** As I came toward my house, I took note of the gathering clouds. I had often seen storms gather in the regions of the White Mountains, but never before with such grandeur and awfulness. The clouds were not moving quickly, but their size and blackness made up for the want of speed. They reminded me of some heavy armed soldiers moving slowly and steadily to battle. At the close of that day, when the darkness was just coming on, it began to rain; and such a rain I never knew before. It came on in its fury.

**Lucy Crawford wrote:** The next morning the storm had passed, and we were awakened by our little boy coming into the room, and saying, "Father, the earth is nearly covered with water, and the hogs are swimming for life." I arose immediately and went to their rescue. I waded into the water and pulled away the fence, and the hogs swam to land. What a sight!

The sun rose clear; not a cloud was to be seen; all was still and silent, excepting the rushing sound of the water, as it poured down the hills. The whole valley was covered with water. The bridge which had so lately been crossed had come down and taken with it 90 feet of the shed. Fourteen sheep that were under it drowned, and those which escaped looked as though they had been washed in a mud puddle. The water came within eighteen inches of the door of the house, and a strong current was running between the house and stable. It carried away timber and wood, and moved a wagon which stood in its course.

## Notice & Wonder

- Circle any words you don't know and look them up in a dictionary.
- Based on their accounts, how do you think Benjamin Willey and Lucy Crawford felt before and after the storm of 1826?
- How would people's experiences of such a strong, damaging storm be different today than they were in 1826?



Sources: Benjamin G. Willey, *Incidents in White Mountains History* (Boston: Nathaniel Noyes, 1856), p. 119–20; Lucy Crawford, *History of the White Mountains from the First Settlement of Upper Coos and Pequaket* (Portland, Me: F.A. & A.F. Gerrish, 1846), p. 92. These excerpts have been edited to make them easier to read.

