

Guide to Museum Exhibits

South Wall:

Reproduction of title page from The Story of a Storm.

Reproduction of pages describing damage to Mullan Drug (104 S Main Street). Plate opposite page 212 showing Mullan drug and hospital tents where Union Block (106-112 S Main) was under construction.

Map of Pomeroy showing path of destruction.

West Wall:

Reproduction of pages 19 to 21 and 22 to 24 from The Story of a Storm. The description there indicates the Pomeroy tornado was probably a multiple vortex tornado or possibly a family of tornadoes.

North Wall

Explanation of Fujita scale & Enhanced Fujita Scale

Pictures from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Devastation looking north from (roughly) Harrison street.

This museum is dedicated to those who lost their lives in the July 6, 1893 Pomeroy Tornado and to those whose faith and tenacity rebuilt this town from the rubble

Pomeroy Tornado Museum
P O Box 3
114 South Ontario Street
Pomeroy IA 50575



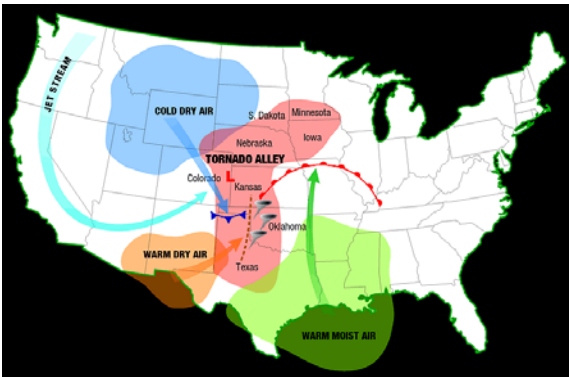
Welcome to the Pomeroy Tornado Museum



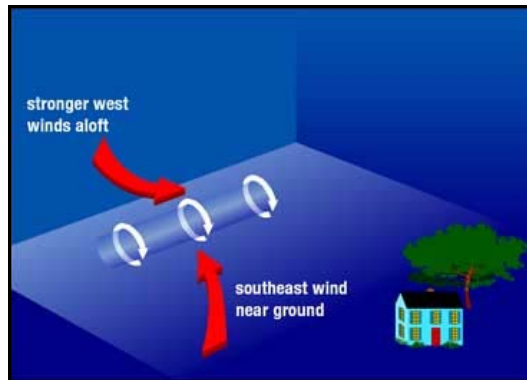
This museum was recently born and still has a long ways to grow. We appreciate your visit and encourage you to keep returning as more exhibits are completed. The graphics on the wall and in this brochure are from (1) the book, The Story of a Storm, a History of the Great Tornado at Pomeroy, Calhoun County, Iowa, July 6, 1893 written by F. W. Sprague and published by The Henry O. Shepard Company of Chicago and from (2) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. You'll enjoy the wall displays more if you read this brochure first.

www.tornadomuseum.com

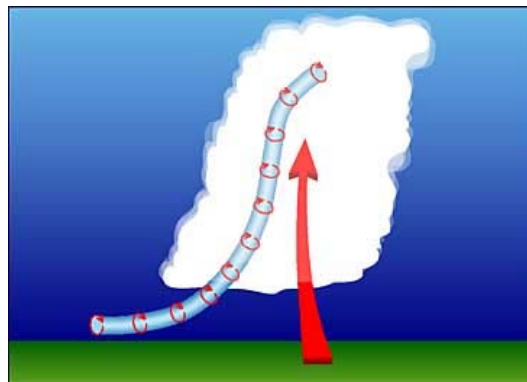
75% of all tornadoes in the world happen in the United States. It's helpful to learn a bit about how tornadoes are formed to understand why. Tornadoes have occurred in every state, but the unique combination of geographical features in the US causes an area in the central part of the country to be known as "Tornado Alley".



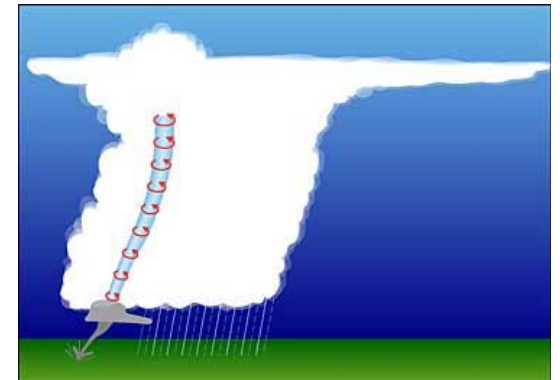
Most often, tornadoes come from supercell thunderstorms. The relatively flat land in the Great Plains allows cold dry polar air from Canada to meet warm moist tropical air from the Gulf of Mexico. Air moving down the eastern slopes of the Rockies warms and dries as it sinks onto the plains, creating a hot, dry, cloud-free zone. During the day, it moves eastward mixing up the warm moist air ahead of it. If there is enough moisture and instability in the warm air, severe storms can form.



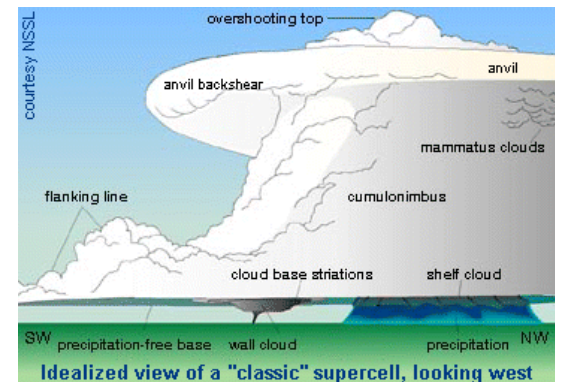
There is still much to be learned about how tornadoes form. Here's how a tornado's rotation begins if it comes from a supercell thunderstorm even develops, it is first a horizontal tube of moving air caused by wind shear. Wind shear is when one air mass is moving faster and/or in a different direction from another air mass next to it.



Rising air within the developing thunderstorm tilts the rotating air from a horizontal tube to a vertical tube. This eventually becomes a mesocyclone



A mesocyclone is a rotating column of air 2-6 miles wide. Most tornadoes form within this area of strong rotation. The "hook echo" shown by Doppler radar is a "picture" of a mesocyclone. Once a mesocyclone forms, there's roughly a 50% chance a tornado will develop from it in around 30 minutes



Pictured above is a classic supercell thunderstorm which has developed a tornado from the mesocyclone. This tornado, like many, is traveling from SW to NE. However, tornadoes can travel in any direction! The Pomeroy tornado traveled East Southeast.