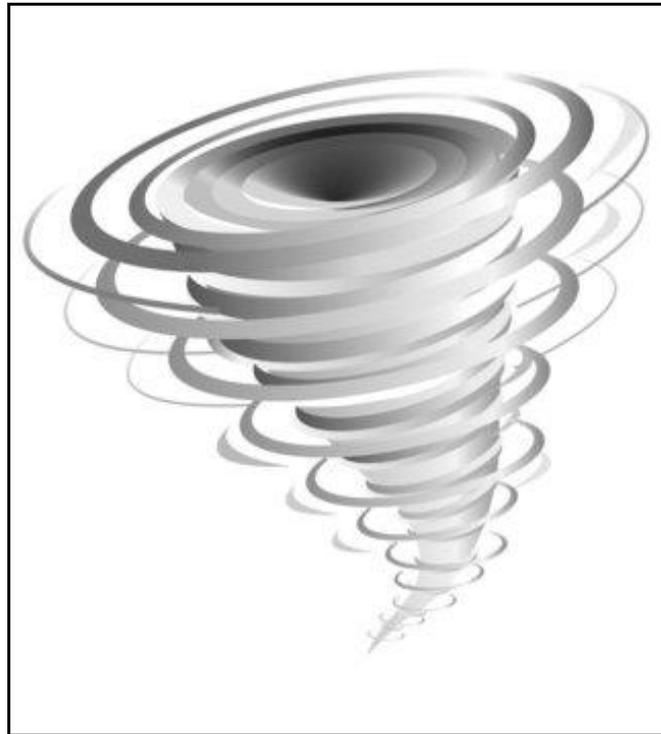


**A WHIRLWIND IN WORTHINGTON AND  
TONGE ON THE 2nd JUNE 1620  
AS DESCRIBED IN JOHN NICHOL'S  
ANTIQUITIES OF LEICESTERSHIRE**



**SAMUEL T STEWART - JULY 2023**

On the 2d of June, 1660, the effects of a whirlwind were severely felt in this and the adjacent villages, which was thus described by two contemporary writers:

“ About three or four of the clock in the afternoon it began to be very dark with clouds, as if some very great storm were ready to come; which occasioned many people about Worthington to repair from the fields into their houses; and suddenly there arose a mighty whirlwind, which untiled and unthatched many of the houses in Worthington; and thence it went to Worthington hall, where the effects were as great or greater. It took away, or cast down, several bays of a building there, bringing down the great barn. Also it took up a great log of wood from a mill-pond, whirling it out. And so it passed on to a wood called Spring wood, where the place that it passed through may be yet discerned, by the great trees blown down, and arms of trees, and unbarking of many trees, &c. Thence it passed along to Tonge, a village near it, where it blew down many trees, tearing some up by the roots. Amongst other things there, major Benskin told Mr. Archdale Palmer, late high-sheriff, that it took away a hive of bees of his, of which he could never hear since. And though there was harm to dogs, by the fall of tiles, &c. the Lord wonderfully preserved men, women, and children<sup>1</sup>.”

“ Near the town of Worthington, began a very dreadful whirlwind; which turned an house on one side, tore up a great tree by the roots, casting it four or five yards from the place where it grew; it rent off the great limbs of an apple-tree, and threw down a house into the street; the chapel was sorely shaken, and the chancel in danger of falling; then passed off with great force and noise to Worthington hall, where it overturned five bays of barn building and a gate-house. It blew down a stack of chimnies, and hurried a man into the orchard, where with his arm he caught hold of a tree, and so stayed himself. Hence it passed, renting trees and turning some up by the roots, to a house that stands alone, where it took away a load of thorns, few of which could ever be found after; it took out also the side of another house. At a town called Tonge, it overthrew a bay of barn building, and reat a house, where a woman with three children were miraculously preserved; to this house also it brought a great log of wood, none knows from whence. Between Worthington and Tonge, it is conceived that this wind rent off, and turned up by the roots, twenty loads of wood; it carried away likewise a hive of bees, which could not afterward be heard of. This whirlwind ran three miles in length, and the effects of it were seen above 20 yards in breadth. Some say that flames of fire were seen in it<sup>2</sup>.”