

## 1937 Flood

In this aerial photograph of Jeffersonville, you can see the bridge, The Quadrangle (in the center at the top), and Branham Tabernacle's roof (it is circled; it is located at the top of the photograph, about a quarter of the way in from the right-hand side).



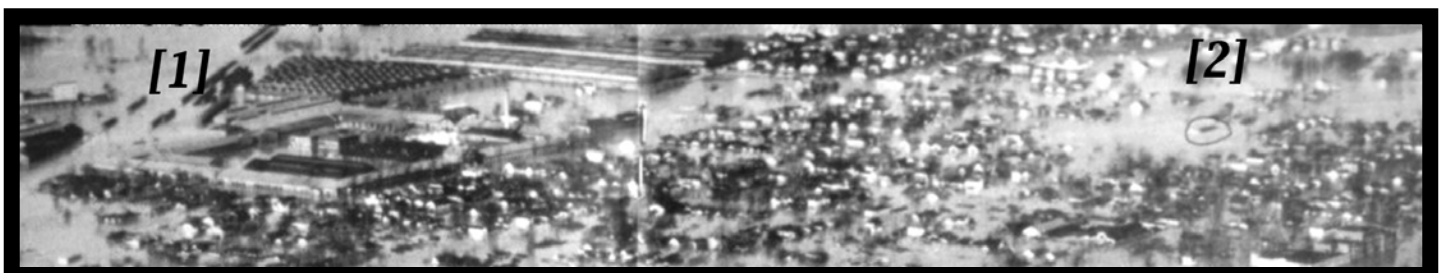
OHIO RIVER FLOOD CREST JAN 27, 1937 UPPER GAGE ST. VIEW LOOKING NORTH JEFFERSONVILLE, IND. NO. 3

1937 Flood – Jeffersonville, Indiana  
The Quadrangle



In this aerial photograph of Jeffersonville, you can see the bridge, The Quadrangle (in the center at the top), and Branham Tabernacle's roof (it is circled – and it is located at the top of the photograph, about a quarter of the way in from the right-hand side).

In the photograph below, the Quartermaster (Quadrangle) is numbered "1" and the Branham Tabernacle is by the "2" and is circled.



## 1937 Flood

The photograph below is of an old army supply depot, called "The Quadrangle," and also known as the Quartermaster Depot. It is located on Tenth Street in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

When the flood began, they put up tents in the Quartermaster for the people to stay in whose homes were flooded, but the Quartermaster also flooded and they had to move the people to another location.

# 50 Flood Refugees Live In U. S. Quartermaster Depot In Isolated Jeffersonville

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Rhea Kimball McColl, daughter of Army Captain C. D. McColl and Mrs. McColl, has been marooned for more than six days with forty-nine other persons in the administration building of the U. S. Quartermaster Depot in flood-isolated Jeffersonville. The following account, written especially for the Associated Press, was sent over the town's one remaining telegraph line.)

By RHEA KIMBALL McCOLL.  
Jeffersonville, Ind., Jan. 28 (AP)—  
Fifty of us have been marooned on the third floor of the administration building since last Friday.

The water is now at its long-awaited crest.

Personal messages from friends and relatives began coming in today for the first possible time. The tension we have all been under is considerably lessened. I am typing this for the Associated Press by the light of one candle. The utilities of the town are as though they had never been. The quartermaster power plant went under water Sunday night.

We are ten officers, their wives and families. The remaining are civilian employees courageous enough to stay with the ship.

We cook two fairly adequate meals each day in the recreation hall kitchenette, hitherto devoted

to chicken salad and ice cream. Our equipment for this is one large Army stove and mess kits, with a few cups and plates usually used for officers' club parties.

Our greatest blessing is that we have only one member of the group ill. All twelve children and the two grandmothers of our group are well, and all doing his or her share of the duty. The (Western Union) operator who moved to this building when compelled to leave the office downtown is our only contact with the outside except by boat. Our last telephone line went out many hours ago.

Our husbands have averaged much less than two hours sleep in twenty-four since last Saturday, but are happy in the knowledge that our gravest danger is past, and that there is as fine and heroic record behind all this as ever was told after a battle.

Twenty-nine canaries left by the refugees after Sunday night's evacuation are being cared for by an officer's wife. The twelve children, the youngest 5 years old, are kept under constant surveillance in fear of contamination and drowning in the filthy water on the first floor.

We greet our friends on the outside, feeling that we have passed a great crisis.

Courier Journal, January 29, 1937

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Aerial view of Quartermaster Depot — Tents in center hardly had time to be used before the rising waters forced refugees to evacuate by train.

**1937 Flood**  
**Jeffersonville, Indiana**  
**The Quadrangle**  
**(Quartermaster Depot)**

The photograph below is of an old army supply depot, the Quartermaster Depot, also called the Quadrangle, which is located on Tenth Street in Jeffersonville.

In the photo on the right, it is in the background.

When the flood began in January 1937, tents were put up for the refugees to stay in. (Sister Hope was one of them, and she was quite sick at the time.) When the Quartermaster also became flooded (as you can see in the photo on the right), the people were evacuated to another location.



**Quartermaster Depot as viewed from Eleventh Street.**

Courier Journal, January 29, 1937



**Aerial view of Quartermaster Depot — Tents in center hardly had time to be used before the rising waters forced refugees to evacuate by train.**

## 1937 Flood

Aerial photograph of Jeffersonville with Clark Memorial Bridge approach and Rose Hill School in top center. Credit: U of L Photographic Archives.



Courier-Journal, January 28, 1937

### *1st Word From Jeffersonville Says 15,000 Are Evacuated*

First news for days from inundated Jeffersonville came to Louisville Tuesday night in the form of a single hand-written sheet of tablet paper forwarded by Frank Rager, correspondent of The Louisville Times.

A series of brief bulletins the message disclosed:

Forty-six patients in the Clark County Memorial Hospital have been evacuated and sent by Pennsylvania Railroad to Sellersburg

#### **90 Taken From Flooded Hall.**

Three hundred other refugees reached Speed, Ind.

Two hundred Negroes were taken from a church as it threatened collapse.

Coast Guardsmen rescued ninety

persons from the flooded American Legion Hall.

Volunteers rescued a woman from under a collapsed basement wall as flood waters rose about her.

Seventy-seven residents of the Spring Hill Apartments were taken out.

#### **15,000 Evacuated.**

Evacuations by the Red Cross are estimated to total 9,000. Persons who got out of the flood area by their own efforts total about 6,000.

The Jeffersonville dispatch apparently came across by one of the few boats able to brave the swollen river. Fliers over Jeffersonville today reported the whole town apparently covered by water, and judged that the flood extended into warehouses during earlier stages of the flood.

## 1937 Flood

When Brother Branham told about the vision of the angel taking a rod and measuring the floodwaters as twenty-two feet over Spring Street in Jeffersonville, Indiana, people mocked and laughed at him. The flood waters had never been near that height before. But in January 1937, the flood waters reached that point and a high water mark of 22 feet was set at the corner of Court and Spring Streets, as seen in the photo below.

January 27 marked the crest of the flood. We speak of 57.1 feet as the high water mark which was really 40 feet above normal river level. A high water mark of 22 feet was set at the corner of Court and Spring Streets, Jeffersonville.



**Spring Street looking south near the crest of the flood.**



**Corner of Spring and Court Avenue in Jeffersonville around the crest of the flood on January 27, 1937.**