HURRICANE OF 1821

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Following Hurri-
cane Isaac in 2012, which re-
named the hurricanes of 1880, the 1821 hurricane
was reclassified as the fourth strongest
hurricane since landfall in Cape May. It was
classified as a Category 4 hurricane in 1821.

Old newspapers and military
logs have accounts of the event.

Hurricanes were not named
ing the 1800s but the 1821,
storm is referenced as the Norfolk and
Long Island hurricane on the Great September Gale.

The hurricane struck on Sept. 1,
with winds of 200 mph. In this hurricane,
storms winded extended as far as Philadelphia
with some gusts reaching 200
mph. The storm followed a path
similar to a driver going north
on the Garden State Parkway
hugging the coast to New York
City. The storm had its origin
off the coast of Africa. The Hurricane of 1821 struck
Guadeloupe on Sept. 1. It then
turned north, passing the Bahama
Islands at that point, the hurricane
was believed to be as intense as a
Category 5 hurri-
cane striking Cape
New Jersey. The storm hit Sept.
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