

***BRUTUS FIRE 1915***

***Brutus, Emmet County, Michigan***

## BRUTUS ALMOST BURNED OFF MAP Nine Buildings Were Destroyed

Fire Started Early Wednesday Morning in An Old Store Building  
And Was Probably Set By Tramp

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For nearly five hours Wednesday morning it appeared as though the whole of the village of Brutus would be destroyed by fire. Two store buildings, four residences, a blacksmith shop and two barns is the toll taken by the flames in the early morning fire.

The fire was discovered shortly after 12 o'clock Wednesday morning in an old store building adjoining the building owned and occupied by Mr. Maxfield with his general store. The building had been used as a sort of club room by the ladies, who held socials and various meetings there. Tuesday evening a tramp was noticed hanging about the building and it is thought he might have set it on fire or the fire he made to cook his meal might have been responsible for the damage.

When discovered the whole building was on fire and sparks and firebrands were falling on other buildings. The Maxfield store building caught quickly and burned too rapidly to allow all of the contents to be saved. A part of the goods in the store and the furniture and clothing from the family apartments above the store were saved. There was little insurance carried.

The fire spread to the nearby dwellings and the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cupp, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. DeGraw and Mrs. H. W. Morford were soon a mass of flames. In nearly every case, however, the household goods and furniture were removed to places of safety.

Two barns in which were a considerable amount of hay, feed, machinery, etc., were also burned, and the village blacksmith shop also went up in smoke. The villagers fought the flames all the rest of the night but with no apparatus were so handicapped that little good resulted as the fire took its own time to burn out. Many other buildings caught fire but were at such a distance from the store and dwellings destroyed that the flames were easily extinguished before they had gained much headway.

The little village presents a scene of ruin and disaster and is a sorry sight indeed. Mr. Maxfield will remove the goods saved from the destroyed building to some other building in the village and open for business as quickly as possible. The families rendered homeless by the fire are being cared for by their neighbors and friends until they can have their furniture placed in buildings so they may use it at least for the present.

Ten thousand dollars will hardly cover the loss resulting from the fire and this amount will be almost a total loss for there was little insurance carried.