

## LADOGA FIRE - December 1915

**Source:** Scrapbook of Chester Peffley of Ladoga, Indiana 1890-1916 p 22

The Louis Bischof store in Ladoga was completely destroyed by fire last Wednesday morning. The stock of goods invoiced at from \$40,000 to \$45,000. The insurance carried on stock and fixtures is \$34,000 and \$800 of that was on fixtures. This store occupied the basement and first and second floors of the Masonic Temple building a three-story brick structure erected 15 years ago by the late J.D. Brown and the Masonic Lodge of Ladoga, jointly. Mr. Brown and the Masons owned the building jointly up to the 3rd floor and the Masons owned the entire 3rd floor. There they had one of the finest and best equipped lodge rooms in Indiana outside the larger cities and a splendidly equipped banquet hall. The parts of the walls of this building that remain standing will have to be wrecked. The two story brick building adjoining on the south was owned by Fred Souther, who occupied the 2nd floor as a shoe shop. The lower floor was occupied by the Ladoga Canning Company head offices in charge of Edgar Ashby, secretary and general manager of that company. Nothing was saved there from the flames. The danger from falling plate glass at the entrance was so great that the attempt to open the doors was abandoned. The records of the company were locked in the fireproof safe and were preserved. The correspondence, very valuable to the company was burned. The insurance carried was \$500 which will about cover the loss. The next building on the south was built by Clark & Carroll, harness makers in 1899, at the same time the Fred Souther building was erected. Mr. Carroll had insurance for \$1,600 on his building and \$1,200 on stock. He saved but two rolls of leather from the fire. Mrs. V.B. Sharritts, daughter of J.D. Brown heired her father's interest in the Masonic building and also the brick residence next to the Masonic building on the west. She carried \$5,000 insurance on her part of the Masonic building and \$1000 on the brick residence which was occupied by David Shannon and family and was (sorry, rest is gone).