



By History Web Committee

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## The Hurricane of 1933



over.  
Harry Hull Home, Jupiter Florida - Sept 3, 1933 — Hurricane did this — Blew the ends out of 2 bedrooms as shown, part of furniture in field; there was a 2-story porch on front which is gone; blew out all doors and windows, there was another apartment on the end from Martha's and garage underneath.

Many are familiar with the major hurricane of September 1928, which killed at least 2,500 people when the dike around Lake Okeechobee was breached. Most people do not know about another September hurricane which struck the area in 1933.

Thanks to Brad Wolf's generous contribution of family photos from the Wilson/Hull family, we have proof of the major damage which occurred in the area around Jupiter on September 4, 1933.

What is known as the 1933 Treasure Coast Hurricane formed east-northeast of the Leeward Islands on August 31, and attained maximum sustained winds of at least 140 miles per hour, making landfall near the border of Palm Beach and Martin Counties as a strong Category 3 hurricane. Buildings were blown off their foundations, and citrus groves were devastated. Stuart, Jupiter, and Fort Pierce were heavily damaged.

In Stuart 75 percent of the roofs were blown away or severely damaged. Many chicken coops were destroyed, and the local chicken population was scattered and dispersed as far as Indiantown. (Florida's Hurricane History by Jay Barnes, Chapel Hill Press 1998.)



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The damage to citrus was very severe. Some citrus groves lost 100 percent of their trees! The newspaper said citrus damage in St. Lucie County was \$1,500,000 from the last two tropical disturbances – fruit equal to about 750,000 boxes destroyed. The West Palm Beach area received only minor damage - mainly trees and landscaping and a few roofs. The Post did not describe much of the damage in Jupiter, concentrating mainly on the Hobe Sound area and north, but the **pictures from the Wilson/Hull family do show that Jupiter was definitely impacted by this storm.** (Palm Beach Post of September 5, 1933)

Strangely enough, there was no real mention of the Treasure Coast hurricane of 1933 in the Palm Beach Post after September 6, even though it was the strongest and most intense tropical cyclone to strike the United States during the active 1933 Atlantic hurricane season!

An interesting 1939 newspaper article about P.B. Hull, ancestor of Mr. Brad Wolf, outlines how he lost all but 290 boxes of fruit on the trees in his groves west of Jupiter during the 1933 hurricane. He only had the goodwill of his mail order fruit business left, but on that foundation built one of the biggest private industries in West Palm Beach – Hull Fruit Company. (Read the newspaper article [here](#).)





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