

# Brakeman Meets Death When Freight Train is Derailed

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**ENGINEER AND FIREMAN HAVE NARROW ESCAPE**  
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William J. Jordan, of Xenia, Formerly of Columbus, Victim of Accident.

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**MANY HOGS ARE KILLED**  
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Eight Cars, Loaded With Livestock, Among Those Which Leave Rails.

(Columbus Evening Dispatch, December 7, 1923)

William J. Jordan, aged 30, Pennsylvania head brakeman, was instantly killed and R.P. Gleason and C.R. Whitacre, both of Cincinnati, fireman and engineer, respectively, narrowly escaped serious injury or possible death, when their train, a Pennsylvania special freight, was derailed at the Pennsylvania and Big Four railroad crossing at White Thorne Avenue at 7:35 o'clock Friday morning.

"When we made the curve in the tracks the signal showed that we had a clear track, but immediately after we found that the block was against us and that the derail was up" said Gleason, following the accident. "The three of us who were in the cabin of the train jumped when we found that the train could not be stopped before we struck the derailer, and Jordan was stuck in the back of the head by a large oiler on the side of the engine, killing him instantly," Gleason said.

Whitacre suffered serious injuries to the head and body, while Gleason was injured slightly about the arm. He suffered his bruises when he stumbled after jumping from the engine cab. The train left Cincinnati early Friday morning en route to Columbus with a train of 32 cars carrying livestock and perishable freight. More than 50 swine were killed in the crash, as the first eight cars in the rear of the engine were loaded with livestock, and were included in the cars derailed. The first car in the rear of the engine was completely demolished. The remainders of the hogs were corralled in nearby fields, while the wreck train cleared away the debris.

The engine, which turned over on its side, was partially buried in an embankment. The train at the time of the accident, according to the fireman, was going about 18 miles an hour.

Wreckage on the westbound track of the Pennsylvania was expected to be cleared away by 1 o'clock Friday afternoon, while that on the east track may be removed by 4 p.m., according to Trainmaster Hensley of the railroad, who personally supervised the work.

Blame for the wreck was disclaimed both by the trainmen and those in charge of the Miami crossing signal tower. Officials of the Pennsylvania system are to begin an immediate investigation to establish who was at fault.

**FLAGMAN NOT INJURED**

The only employee on the train at the time of the accident who escaped injury was Flagman E.W. Howard who was riding behind the cars which were derailed.

The body of Jordan, a former resident of Columbus, but who has lately been living in Xenia was removed to the mortuary of the Edward E. Fisher Company. The fireman and engineer were attended in a hospital car which was immediately rushed to the scene of the accident.

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