

A FATAL WRECK

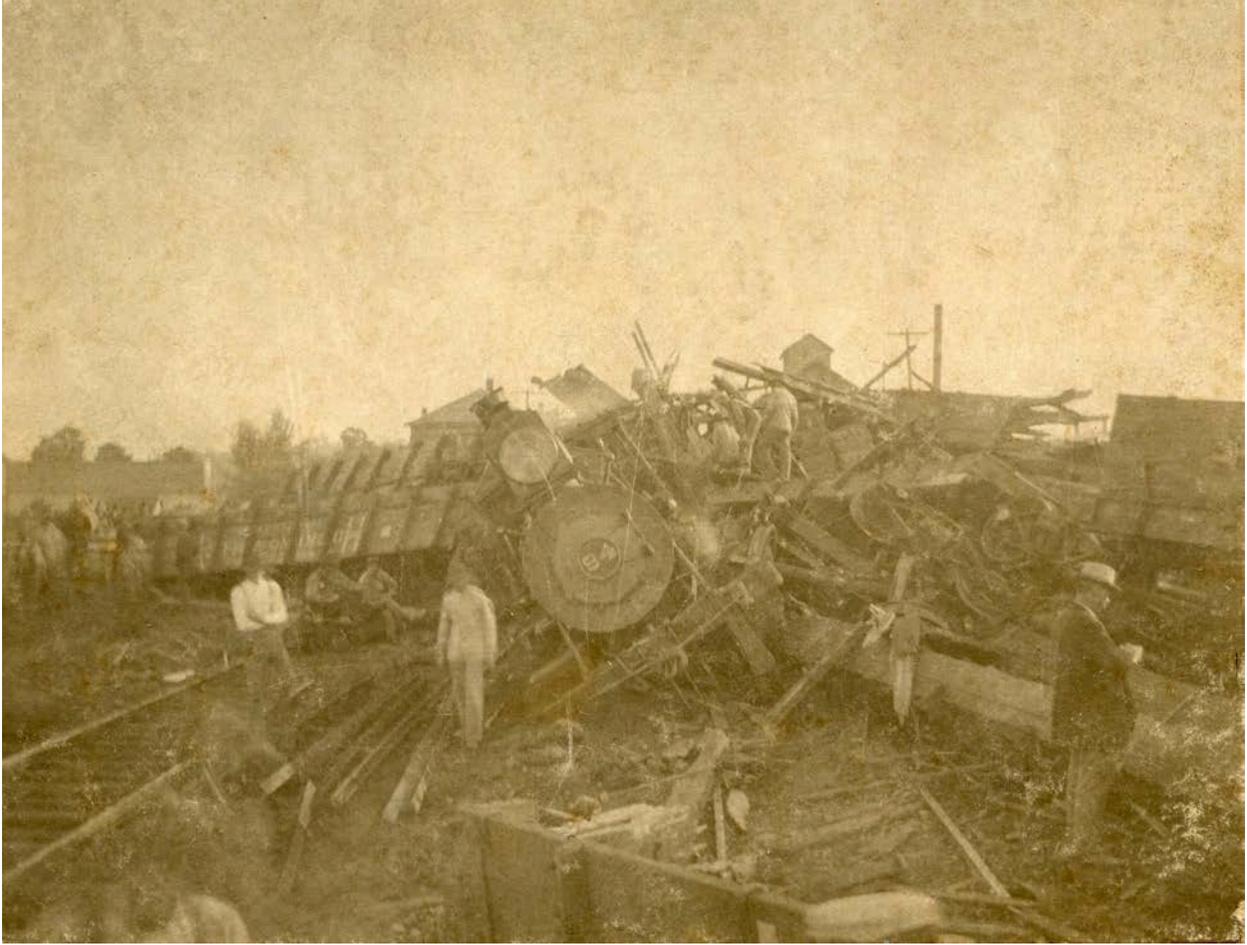
A HOCKING VALLEY FREIGHT MEETS DISASTER AT OWENS.

Albert Aiken, a Columbus Brakeman,
Squeezed to Death -
Extensive Wreckage

(Columbus Dispatch, June 14, 1898) A terrible freight wreck occurred on the Hocking Valley road at Owens, 40 mile north of Columbus, at 7:25 last evening in which Albert Aiken, brakeman, of Columbus, lost his life, and a great amount of property was destroyed. The first section of freight train No. 64 in charge of conductor McCurdy was passing Owens station at about 25 miles an hour, coming toward Columbus, when a casting in the barrel of the switch-stand broke while the engine was passing over, throwing the switch and derailing the engine, nine empty and 14 loaded cars.

Albert Aiken, brakeman on the train, was caught in the lower part of the body and so badly squeezed that he died from his injuries at 8 o'clock. The remains were turned over to an undertaker and brought to the city this morning. Pletcher's ambulance wagon removing the remains to the home at 74½ East Main street, where reside a widowed mother, two sisters and a brother, John Aiken, who is employed by the same road as yard clerk. Deceased was aged 23 years and had been on the road for two years or more. The remains are to be taken tomorrow to Jewett, O., for interment. The bother was much depressed on account of the untimely death, especially since he had endeavored to have him enter some less hazardous branch of the service.

The wreck was a terrible one, the cars and their contents being scattered over the main track and sidings, blocking the way for passenger trains. Trains in both directions last night and early this morning were detoured via the C.S. & H. between Marion and Columbus, but the track was cleared for passenger trains by 9 o'clock this morning. The Columbus wreck crew was called out and is still at work on the wreck which will require a couple of days to fully clear. The telegraph lines were broken down and it was difficult to establish communication with Columbus, telephone service being used to Marion were it was relayed to Columbus. Superintendent Connors was on the evening train coming to the city when the wreck occurred and on reaching the scene took charge and remained on duty all night directing the work of clearing the track.



No. 94 was a 2-6-0 freight locomotive built in 1890. It was repaired and put back in service

Photo from the Robert P. Swisher Collection.



The Hocking Valley wreck at Owens south of Marion, June 13, 1998. A brakeman was killed in the accident.

Photo from the Robert P. Swisher Collection.