

Wreck on C., A. & C. Interfered with Traffic

CRASHED THROUGH TRESTLE

(Columbus Dispatch, April 21, 1902) There was a great deal of anxious inquiry at the Union station Monday morning by passengers for the C. A. & C. north.

Telegraphic reports gave the details of a terrible wreck one mile north of Sunbury and north-bound passengers were anxious to know whether they could get through to Cleveland. They were informed that arrangements had been made for the transfer of passengers at the scene of the wreck.

Sunday morning an extra freight ran on a burning trestle one mile north of Sunbury, the entire train crashing through to the creek, 33 feet below. The cars took fire and were entirely consumed with all their contents which with the bridge involves an estimated loss of \$150,000.

Conductor Harry Kiser, of Columbus with Engineer H. H. Spake, of Mt. Vernon and Fireman John Kilduff were making a fine run when heavy fog blinded the engineer and fireman and they did not see the blaze until within three rods of the flames. Spake reversed and whistled for brakes, but it was impossible to stop. The engineer and fireman jumped and they and their companions escaped with minor bruises. Extra freight No. 110 had passed two hours before and it is believed that sparks from her engine set fire to the frame trestle, which is 270 feet long and 50 feet high. One hundred and eighty-one feet of the trestle went down with the train and was consumed. But by heroic efforts of the train crew the remainder of the bridge was saved.

A passenger train heavily loaded left Columbus shortly after the disaster occurred, but was stopped by quick telegraph service before she was endangered. A special telegraph office was established at the scene of the disaster and three wrecking crews with all the [???] and special officers were hurriedly sent out to assist in clearing up the debris and protect the property.

This bridge seems to be fated, as it gave way with a freight train a few years ago and the engineer was killed and the fireman seriously injured, while the damage amounted in several thousand dollars.