

## Roots & Route of the Big Four Route through Columbus, Ohio

**Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Railroad**  
(Cleveland – Columbus) built 1851

Entered Columbus Through Worthington – running east of and parallel to fourth street, then swinging southwestward to Columbus Union Depot on North High Street.

Springfield, Mt. Vernon & Pittsburgh Railroad  
(Springfield – Marysville – Delaware) built 1862

Became part of C,C&C RR in 1862

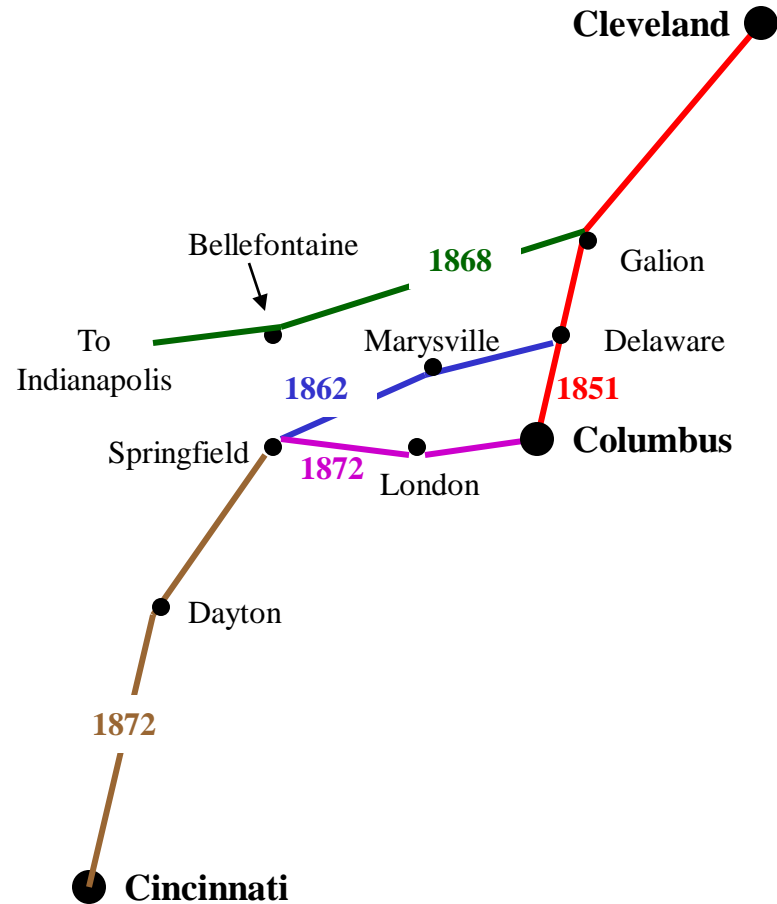
Bellefontaine Railroad  
(Galion – Indianapolis)

1868 the C,C&C RR consolidated with the B RR to become the **Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis Railroad**

In 1872 the C,C,C&I RR took control of the:

- Cincinnati & Springfield Railroad  
(Cincinnati – Dayton)
- Cincinnati, Sandusky & Cleveland Railroad  
(Dayton - Springfield)

This completed control of the Cincinnati – Cleveland trackage.



Columbus & Springfield Railroad  
(Springfield – London) built 1853

Became part of C,C,C&I RR in 1872. The gap between London & Columbus was closed providing a more direct line Cleveland – Cincinnati. The Springfield -Delaware via Marysville line became a secondary route.

The C&S RR entered Columbus thru Lilley Chapel and Georgesville, crossing W. Broad St. extending eastward, crossing the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers, running paralleled with Spruce Street to the Union Depot area.

← Completing the more direct route from Cleveland – Columbus – Cincinnati gave rise to the nickname “**The Bee Line**”

In 1889, the C,C,C&I RR consolidated with lines in Indiana and Illinois becoming the **Cleveland Cincinnati Chicago & St. Louis Railroad**.

← Adding St. Louis to the growing railroad gave us the nickname “**Big Four**”. Later The Railroad officially adopted the name “**Big Four Route**”.

In the twenty century the Big Four Route became a part of the **New York Central System**.