

Railroad Accident

Collision of Express and Freight Train at Union Station*

Conductor Williams Crushed to Death

The cause of the Accident

* Union Station was a small village six miles west of Newark, O

(The Daily Dispatch, Oct. 12, 1871)

The passenger train which left this city last evening at 5 o'clock collided with a freight train at Union Station, six miles west of Newark, killing the conductor of the passenger train, J.R. Williams, and slightly injuring the engineer, fireman and a brakeman. From the best authority we have learned the following particulars as to the accident:

It appears that Wm. Holly, conductor of freight train No. 16, on the B.&O. road, coming west, had orders to make Union station at 5:45, last evening, but, owing to some delay, he did not arrive at Union until five minutes after his time, and, of course, was five minutes on the time of the express from this city. It is said Holly had no flagman out to protect his train, which was careless, to say the least.

The train from Columbus was in charge of J.R. Williams who, being a careful man, was seated on the engine, owing to the near approach of dusk, believing that four eyes are better than two under such circumstances.

The express came snorting up on time and seeing no flagman rounded the heavy curve, and without any warning dashed into the freight train, striking it midway as it was pulling on to a siding at the east end of Union Station. The shock was so great as to throw the engine and baggage car of the express from the track and mash up several cars of the freight train loaded with lumber. The unfortunate conductor, Williams, was thrown under the water tank and so badly crushed that it is supposed he died instantly.

Strange to say, engineer Gates, and the fireman and the brakeman of the passenger train, were only slightly scratched. As the fireman and engineer were on the engine when it collided with the lumber cars it is wonderful that they escaped with life.

The engine is in better condition than could have been expected when we consider the circumstances of the collision. This accident only proves more fully that those in charge of trains running on orders cannot be too careful in obeying those orders.