

# NORFOLK & WESTERN

## ----- And Chesapeake & Ohio Railroads Have Costly Wreck -----

### Wreckage Covered Three Tracks – Traffic on Road Was Abandoned for Ten Hours – Costliest Accident in History of the Scioto Division

(Circleville Daily Union Herald, March 6, 1923)

The wreck on the Norfolk and Western railroad Monday afternoon was one of the worst in point of destruction of rolling stock that has ever occurred in the history of the Scioto division.

The wreck was a most peculiar one and said to be the first of its kind on the road. It occurred at a point on a curve just south of Clinton street. A Chesapeake & Ohio freight train speeding west, and a Norfolk & Western freight train going east were wrecked. While rounding the curve a car loaded with coal in the Chesapeake & Ohio train, thirty cars in length backed on the engine, left the track and was thrown into some loaded cars that were standing on a middle track, which is loaded between the two main running tracks. This occurred just as the engine pulling the Norfolk & Western train was passing. The wreckage on the middle track was not in the clear and before the engineer of the Norfolk & Western freight train could bring his train to a stop, the wrecked cars sheared off the whole side of his engine.

The engineer, Henry Fischtleman, of Columbus was injured. His right foot was broken at the ankle causing a compound fracture of the ankle bone. The injured man was taken in Albaugh's ambulance to Dr. Courtright's office where he was given first aid. He was later taken to Mt. Carmel hospital, Columbus, for treatment.

Fireman P.O. Dillon escaped injury by jumping from his engine.

Besides the Norfolk & Western engine, No. 1729 [Y2a, 2-8-8-2], which was sheared there was thirteen other freight cars wrecked. The C & O RR lost five and the N & W railroad seven cars making a total of thirteen cars. The engine which was put out of commission, is one of the big Mallets and has been only on the railroad a short time. They cost over one hundred thousand dollars alone. The damage can not be estimated actually, but Monday's wreck is estimated in the

neighborhood of fifty thousand dollars. The damage to the track and roadbed is not in this estimate.

The wrecking trains were on the job two hours after it happened. One came from Columbus and the other from Portsmouth. All traffic on this division was at a stand still for ten hours. The wreckage was not cleared until 12:05 o'clock this morning. The main line tracks were torn up for a distance of a thousand feet or more. All trains have received orders not to exceed the speed of six miles an hour over the tracks at the point of the wreck.

The officials of both roads were at the scene of the wreck Monday evening to determine the cause. The road that is to blame will have to shoulder the cost. Railroad people say it was one of two things that caused the wreck, spreading of the rails or a broken axle on the track of the loaded C & O railroad train.

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