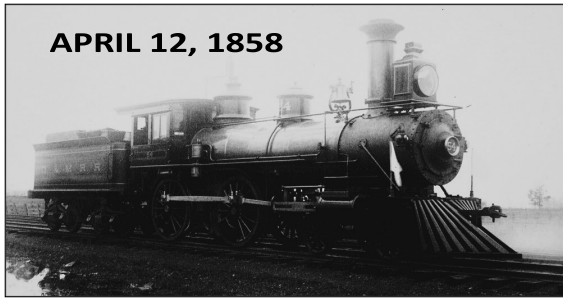


APRIL 12, 1858



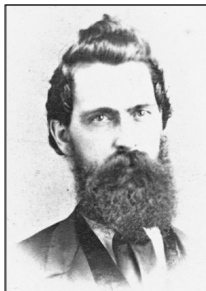
The first D&M locomotive to pass through Cridersville in 1858.

The first train traveling from Dayton to Lima, and passing through Cridersville, ran on April 12, 1858.

The new railroad provided year-round travel to Dayton, Cincinnati, and the Ohio River.

The original schedule in Lima had two trains per day—one departing Lima south at 9AM and another arriving in Lima from Dayton at 4PM.

It is hard to imagine the excitement of local residents on April 12, 1858. Most people in the area had never seen a steam locomotive. The new railroad would bring prosperity to the region and Cridersville.

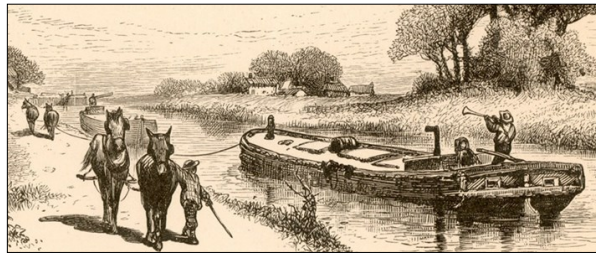


RICHARD CHANDLER

First engineer
to drive a train
through
Cridersville in 1858



The depot in Cridersville was located on the east side of the tracks just north of Main Street.



MIAMI & ERIE CANAL

Western Ohio's first transportation asset was the Miami & Erie Canal. Construction on the canal began in Cincinnati and reached St. Marys by 1837. When completed in 1845 a trip from Cincinnati to Toledo took only three days. On horseback it had taken a week. The canal passed through Minster, New Bremen, St. Marys, and Kossuth in Auglaize County.

The canal was nearly 250 miles long and took 20 years to construct at a cost of \$8 million. A crew of 500 workers could build about 15 miles of canal in two years. Work on the canal was done primarily by German and Irish immigrants using picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows.

The canal brought prosperity to western Ohio. It connected local farmers with markets for their grain and livestock. It allowed factory-made products to be shipped into the region. The completion of the Dayton & Michigan Railroad in 1858 began the decline in the use of the canal. Commercial use on the canal ended in 1915.

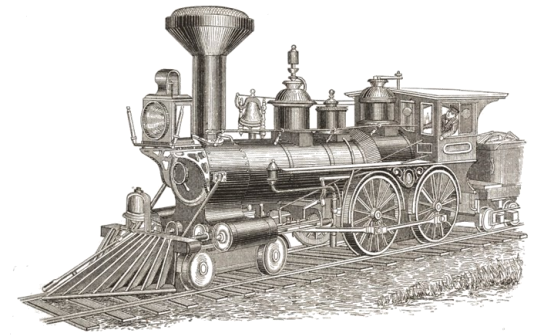


CRIDERSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

111 W. Sugar St. PO Box 2444

Cridersville, Ohio 45806

Preserving local history for future generations.



THE DAY THE TRAIN CAME

A railroad between Cincinnati and Toledo was a widely discussed topic during the 1840s in western Ohio. Steam locomotives were then the most modern and reliable transportation technology.

The Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad was chartered in March 1846. Construction of the railroad from Cincinnati to Hamilton and on to Dayton started and was finished in 1851. As the CH&D was completed, plans for a new railroad going north out of Dayton were underway.





DAYTON & MICHIGAN RAILROAD HEADS NORTH

The Dayton & Michigan Railroad was incorporated in 1851. Construction began north out of Dayton and the first train arrived in Troy on March 26, 1853.

In January 1853 a contract was let to extend the line north from Troy to Lima—at a cost of \$189,000. This portion of the railroad was opened in January 1857. Along the route, it had to twice bridge the Great Miami River.

During construction the railroad company established a stage line to carry passengers and mail to Lima.

As construction costs exceeded estimates, people in both Auglaize and Allen Counties raised additional funds to cover the excess costs and bring the railroad to Lima.



DAYTON & MICHIGAN RAILROAD Certificate for 36 shares of stock

The new railroad companies sold stock shares to raise money to pay for construction.

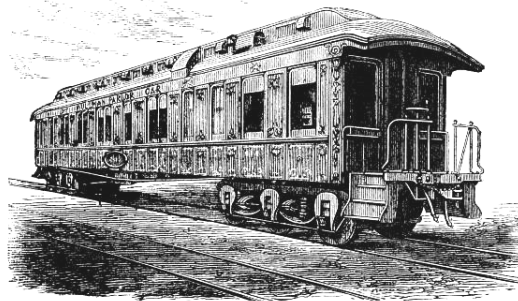


Workers at the
DAYTON & MICHIGAN SHOPS
Lima, Ohio May 1888

Soon after the line reached Lima, the Dayton & Michigan Railroad built a new assembly shop in Lima in 1859.

Both locomotives and passenger cars were built and rebuilt at this new Lima facility. It became a significant local employer.

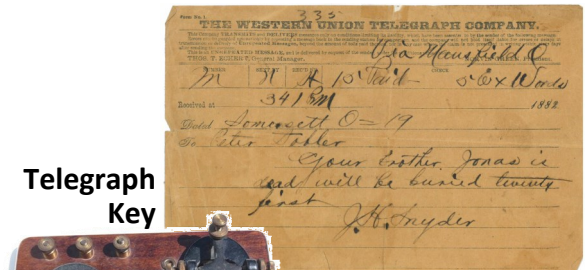
This Dayton & Michigan shop in Lima was the forerunner of the Lima Locomotive Works that was founded in Lima in 1877 and would manufacture locomotives until 1951.



TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

While local depots across the country were the places people boarded a train for travel, they also became the center of communications in most communities. Most railroad depots also became the local telegraph office. The telegraph was the fastest way to communicate during the 1800s and early 1900s.

By 1850 telegraph lines covered the eastern U.S. The first telegraph line to California was completed in 1861. It allowed news to be transmitted within minutes to every part of the country. In towns like Cridersville, the local depot was the source of news, both national and personal.



Telegraph
Key

Example of a telegram received at the local railroad depot. As it came in over the lines, it would be written and delivered to the recipient. This telegram reads:
Your brother Jonas is dead. Will be buried twenty first. Before the telephone, this was how people often received and sent important news.