

## MICHAEL LOWE - KILLED by TRAIN

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**Source:** Crawfordsville Daily Journal May 2, 1890 p3

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The east bound passenger on the Big Four was a few minutes late this morning and when it pulled in a few observant loafers discovered that the engine was smeared with butter and eggs and one or two of its cross bars were broken. The conductor of the train quietly told agent Robinson that a man had been killed the other side of Troutman's and to send out the coroner. Acting Coroner Coppage was called and accompanied by a Journal hieroglyphic maker went to the scene of the death on a hand car. It was the first crossing beyond Sugar Creek on the old Vermillion dirt road which leaves the Waynetown Pike at the toll gate and is known as the Shanklin crossing. The particulars were learned as follows: Michael Lowe was driving to town with about 25 # of butter and some eggs. He did not notice the train until within about 20' of the track and then it is supposed he thought he had better get across so as not to have trouble with the horse which was a strange one to him, belong, as also the buggy to Si Fink. His attempt was a fatal one. The horse crossed in safety only to have the engine strike the buggy between the wheels. The shafts broke off short and the horse escaped. Mr. Lowe and the buggy were carried and thrown at least 100' from the crossing. The buggy was completely demolished. The body of the victim was horribly mangled. The left leg and left arm were broken. The neck was broken and the skull was fractured, there being a wide gap on the left side of the head from the forehead back to the ear. Flesh wounds were numerous. The accident was unavoidable. In the first place it is an exceedingly dangerous crossing. Both the railroad and road have sharp curves and a high hill shuts off the line of sight between. As was the custom the engineer whistled for the crossing and slowed. As soon as he saw Mr. Lowe he whistled again, several times in succession and put on the air brakes but it was too late. It is said that Mr. Lowe was rather deaf, which is probably the reason he did not hear the first whistle. When he saw that the man was killed, the engineer immediately backed up, learned who the man was and George Markley, Master Mecahnec was left in charge of the body until the arrival of the Coroner. None but the engineer and possibly the fireman saw the accident but a crowd of friends and neighbors

**soon gathered around and after the Coroner's examination the body was carried to the house of Daniel Boraker nearby. The testimony of William H. Hurley was taken right there that of George Markley this afternoon and the engineer and fireman will testify tomorrow. Michael Lowe was a farmer 70 years old and lived about one mile west of the railroad on the George Munns farm. He had been a resident of the county for over 50 years and was widely known and as widely respected. He leaves an aged wife and four children, Mrs. Commodore Fink of Yountsville, Mrs. George Boraker, Sant Lowe of Waynetown and Mrs. Ball of Bemont, Ill.**

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