

When Did The Old Depot Burn?

The Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton (CH&D) railroad was the catalyst for the development of Glendale. By the time its first train ran on September 18, 1851, Glendale was already at the planning stage.

CH&D published an annual report in May each year starting in 1850. Many of these reports now reside at the University of Michigan and have been digitized on HathiTrust.org. Using these reports we can identify specific events that relate to Glendale.

The 1852 report states "Wood sheds 30x150 feet have been put up at Dayton, Glendale, and Cumminsville..." These sheds housed the wood used in the engine's fire box.

One year later, the 1853 report states "During the year passenger and freight houses have been completed at Lockland, Glendale, Jones, Trenton..." This is the first mention of a passenger depot building in Glendale.

Jumping ahead 22 years to the 1875 report, it states "On the afternoon of Thursday, August 27th, 1874, Passenger Depot at Glendale took Fire in the roof and was burned down. Fire is supposed to have originated from a spark from passing Engine. A temporary depot was made by fixing up and painting small Freight Depot. A new and suitable Depot should be erected this year."

A new depot wasn't built that year since, a year later, the 1876 report states "The passenger depot at Glendale which was burned a year ago last September, will also be re-built."

Unfortunately, the CH&D's 1877 report no longer exists. But all is not lost, The Commissioner of Railroads and Telegraph of Ohio also published an annual report. Its 1877 report, also published in May, lists a payment "Rebuilding depot at Glendale, burned August 27, 1874.....\$4,468.02"

In recent times, it was commonly thought the depot burned in 1879 and was rebuilt in 1880. These records tell a different story. The depot burned five years earlier on August 27, 1874 and was rebuilt some time between May, 1876 and May, 1877. So, the new depot was already there to witness to the conflagration that destroyed the other side of the village square in 1880.