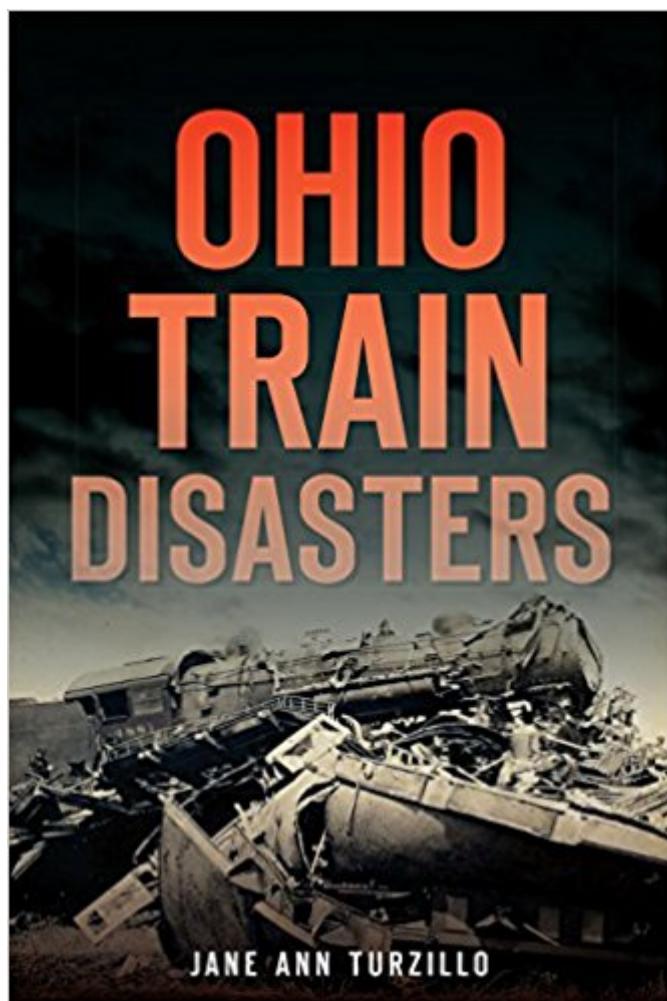


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# Ohio Train Disasters (Transportation)



## **Synopsis**

In nearly a century of heavy rail travel in Ohio, a dozen train accidents stand out as the most horrific. In the bitter cold, just after Christmas 1876, eleven cars plunged seventy-five feet into the frigid water below. The stoves burst into flames, burning to death all who were not killed by the fall. Fires cut short the lives of forty-three people in the head-on Doodlebug collision in Cuyahoga Falls in 1940 and eleven people in a train wreck near Dresden in 1912. Author Jane Ann Turzillo unearths these red-hot stories of ill-fated passengers, heroic trainmen and the wrecking crews who faced death and destruction on Ohio's rails.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Jane Ann Turzillo writes about Ohio history and true crime. *Wicked Women of Northeast Ohio* combines both. She was one of the original owners of the *West Side Leader*, a large northeast Ohio weekly newspaper, where she covered police news and wrote a historical crime column. She has won several Ohio Press Women awards for fiction and nonfiction and is the author of two historical books on Bath Township and Hudson, Ohio.

Great book! Great Writer!! Fascinating!!

I've read about plenty of British train crashes including the bookÂ Tay Bridge Disaster: The

People's Story, which mentioned some other disasters that happened in Britain and elsewhere. Among them was the Ashtabula disaster in Ohio. I'd never read a book about American train crashes and decided to look for one. I was really looking for one that covered the whole USA, but it just happened that this book about Ohio was the first book I found. I'll look for another book someday, but this is a great book in its own right. Although this is not the first book I've read that was written by a woman and has a railway or railroad theme, it is a rarity in that respect. However, women usually look at the subject a bit differently from men. I've noticed their books place a little less emphasis on the technical details and a little more emphasis on the human aspects. For me, their slightly different perspective adds to the interest. Twelve chapters each focus on one disaster, and of course Ashtabula is among them. There are some horrific pictures but they are limited to the damage to trains and structures. We don't get gruesome images of people injured or dead, and I'm glad about that. The pictures selected make very clear what happened. Near the sites of train crashes in Ashtabula and Republic are two haunted cemeteries that both contain graves of unidentified victims. A bridge collapse that caused a train to fall into Paint Creek near Bainbridge was transporting two racehorses, their owner and other passengers. The owner and racehorses survived, but one was never able to race again. This is a great book about a very sad subject.

. Originally, I thought that if you are from the Buckeye State and know the places and people mentioned, you will love this book. Curiously enough, immediately after I finished reading this book, the Spring 2015 train wreck occurred in Philadelphia, and I began to rethink my evaluation of this book. In light of current events, this book might be of great interest to railroad commuters and transit service providers across the nation. "Ohio Train Disasters" is well-written and nicely illustrated with old black and white photographs. It is designed as a collection of essays by this author on a variety of individual train wrecks that took place in Ohio. The book has an attractive layout and design. The book is not as useful to outside historians as it could easily have been. The publisher is at fault for not requiring footnotes, an index, or an interpretive essay that puts these train wrecks in context, comparing and contrasting them to each other and/or to other train wrecks in other states. No overarching question is asked; no conclusions are drawn. Good writing, dramatic stories of collisions, and horrifying happenings. Kim Burdick Stanton, Delaware

This book is very detailed. I have been interested in the Republic accident since the mid 1980's. Hank Harvey, a reporter for The Toledo Blade, wrote a fine story about the tragedy. In the mid 1990's, I read all the articles in the Tiffin newspaper that appeared at the time of the accident. Jane Tuzillo

also follows up on what happened in the court cases afterward. Hers is the most complete detailed account that I have read. The other articles are just as good.

bought and received quickly-book is great

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