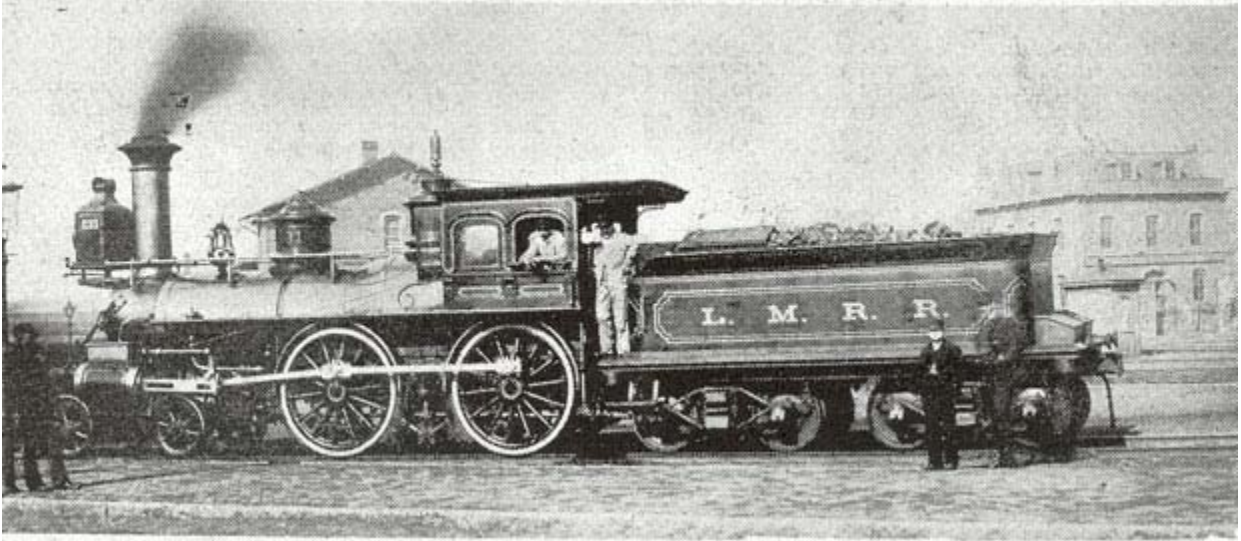


The Little Miami Railroad Right of Way Past and Present

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The Little Miami Railroad was built in the 1840s, one of the oldest in Ohio. One of its purposes was to connect Ohio River steamboat traffic with Great Lakes shipping. The railroad's early days were difficult with both a poor roadbed and financial troubles. In 1841 a trip from Cincinnati to Milford could take up to four hours. Evidently the tracks originally ran on the north side of Wooster Toll Road. The Pennsylvania Railroad leased the Little Miami Railroad in 1880 and it was in 1886 that they relocated the tracks through what became in 1893 the Village of Terrace Park.

When Pattison and Iuen were trying to sell lots in their subdivision they advertised "30 trains daily, double track, steel rails, and no other trains over this line; new and elegant coaches; attentive employees, – all of which are essential to comfort and rapid transit." The railroad was a real bonus to building in Terrace Park where homeowners were to be given "free transportation for one year". A map of the railroad's route and a Commuter's Tariff were included in Pattison & Iuens brochure. Thus for many years the railroad going through Terrace Park was considered a real advantage for residents.

In the 1970s the rail line through Terrace Park was abandoned after Penn Central went into bankruptcy. At that time there were plans for a "scenic rail line" using the existing tracks. Later there were ideas of using the former rail bed for hiking or biking. There were also quite elaborate plans for a recreational park just west of Terrace Park.

On a local map I have seen recently, areas where the railroad tracks once went are marked "Little Miami Scenic State Park" and "Kroger Hill-Little Miami State Scenic River Area". It is these areas that Stan Brown has been researching and will tell us about at the next Terrace Park Historical Society meeting on November 2nd at 4 PM in the Community Building.