

# Trains collided in 1890 on 'Smithville Hill'

The July sun was beginning to heat up the Monroe County landscape as the Monon accommodation train chugged northward toward its regular stop at Smithville. The passengers and crew may have been giving some thought to what they would be doing later in the day. Fate had other plans for them.

The date was July 15, 1890, to be exact and the trauma of a train wreck awaited the passengers on what was known as "Smithville Hill." The *Bloomington Telepho* devoted plenty of space to the story, but it was relegated to the back page.

To begin with, the train was running some 17 minutes late, which may have been the cause of the wreck. According to the newspaper, "... Engineer Jimmie Myers was astounded to see a train coming down the same



## Looking back

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track at full speed, and not 50 yards ahead of him. He reversed the engine, and he and David Warren, his fireman, jumped for their lives. The crash followed immediately, and it was terrible as the strong locomotives came together."

Because it was smaller, the passenger train engine was completely demolished. Six cars were also relegated to the debit side of the Monon ledger.

As for the passengers and  
**see Train wreck, page A8**