

# Narrow Gauge Tourist Operations Thrive



Narrow gauge railroading in Colorado survived until the 1960s, and several tourist operations have picked up. Look at that scenery!

The White Pass and Yukon lasted until the 1980s and opened up as a tourist operation half a dozen years later. Wow, what scenery!



The Maine two-footers made it into the 1940s, and they were so cute that a well-to-do fellow bought rolling stock for his amusement park. This has been the basis for modern tourist operations.

# **Ohio's Narrow Gauge Railroads**

**Neither scenic nor enduring  
nor even cute.**

**Background**

# Basics

## ■ Names

- ▶ Railroads underwent frequent name changes in this period, so the name shown is likely one of many for a given route.
- ▶ Community names, too, have changed since the 1880s.

## ■ Dates

- ▶ Narrow gauge began operations in Ohio in 1872.
- ▶ It reached its peak in 1883 - 1884, declining thereafter.
- ▶ Only three routes were still narrow gauge at the beginning of the twentieth century.
- ▶ By 1902, only one was left. It was abandoned in 1931.

## ■ Routing

- ▶ By 1870, most of Ohio was well served by rail.
- ▶ The narrow gauge movement strove to attract investors with its low cost which would make less lucrative routes good investments.



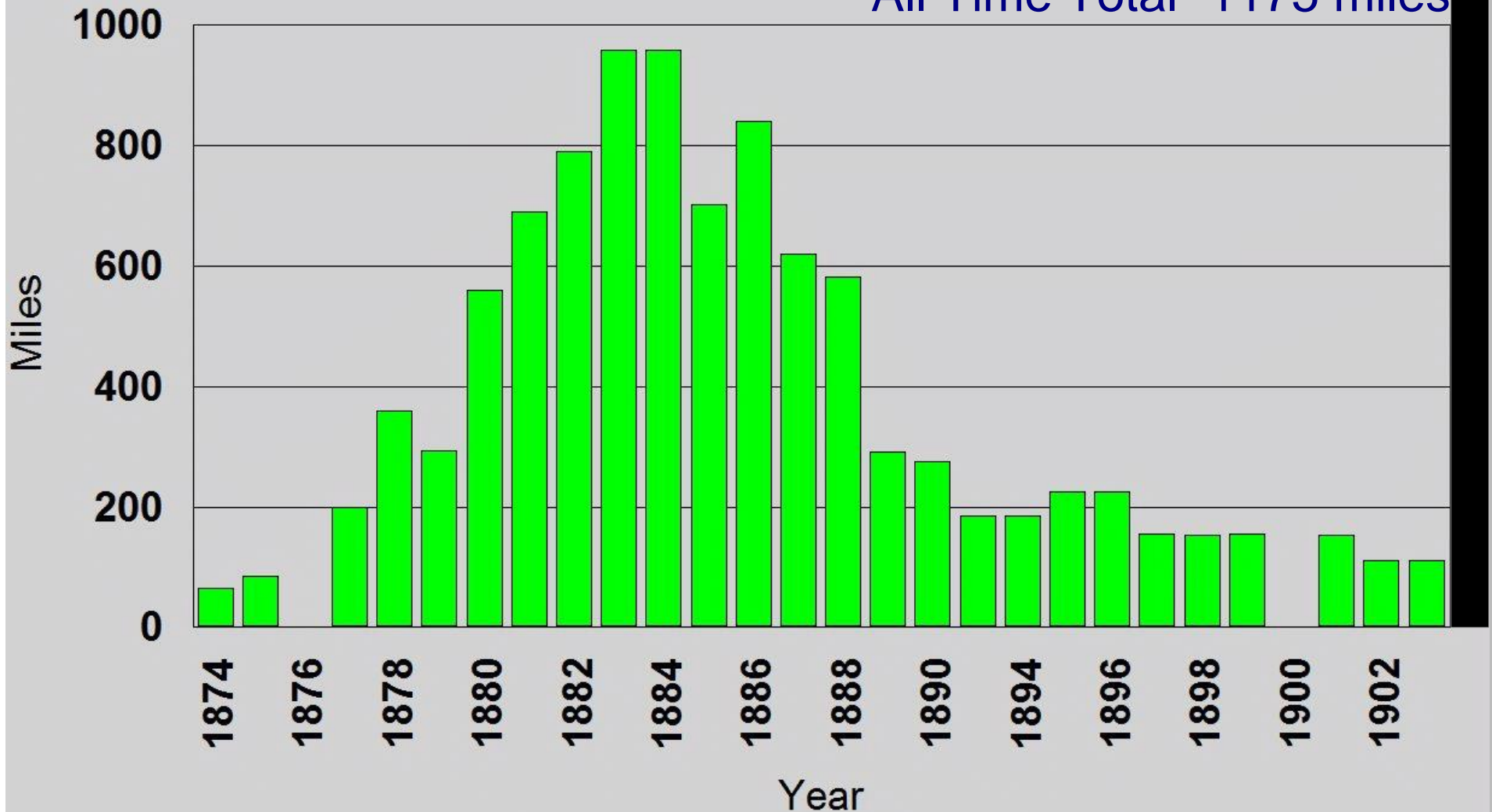
# Gauge Evolution in Ohio

- Ohio Gauge - Four foot ten inch gauge
  - ▶ An 1848 Ohio law encouraged railroad corporations.
  - ▶ It said "the gauge . . . shall be **four feet ten inches**."
  - ▶ This was farsighted legislation intended to encourage interchange capability.
  - ▶ It's too bad that they missed by 3%.
- Standard Gauge - Four foot eight and a half inch gauge
- Broad Gauge - Six foot gauge
  - ▶ The Ohio & Mississippi Railroad connected Cincinnati and East St. Louis beginning in 1857.
  - ▶ The Atlantic and Great Western Railway connected Cincinnati and New York City beginning in 1864.
  - ▶ By 1872, they began to embrace standard gauge.
- Narrow Gauge - Three foot gauge
  - ▶ This was a popular trend in the 1870s -1880s touting cost savings.
  - ▶ The first Ohio narrow gauge was incorporated in 1870.
- So, in the 1870s, there were **four** different gauges in use. Only standard gauge and narrow gauge would survive into the 1890s, though narrow gauge was moribund.

# Narrow Gauge Railroads In Ohio

Summary of Mileage in Operation - Peak Mileage - 960 Miles

All Time Total - 1175 miles





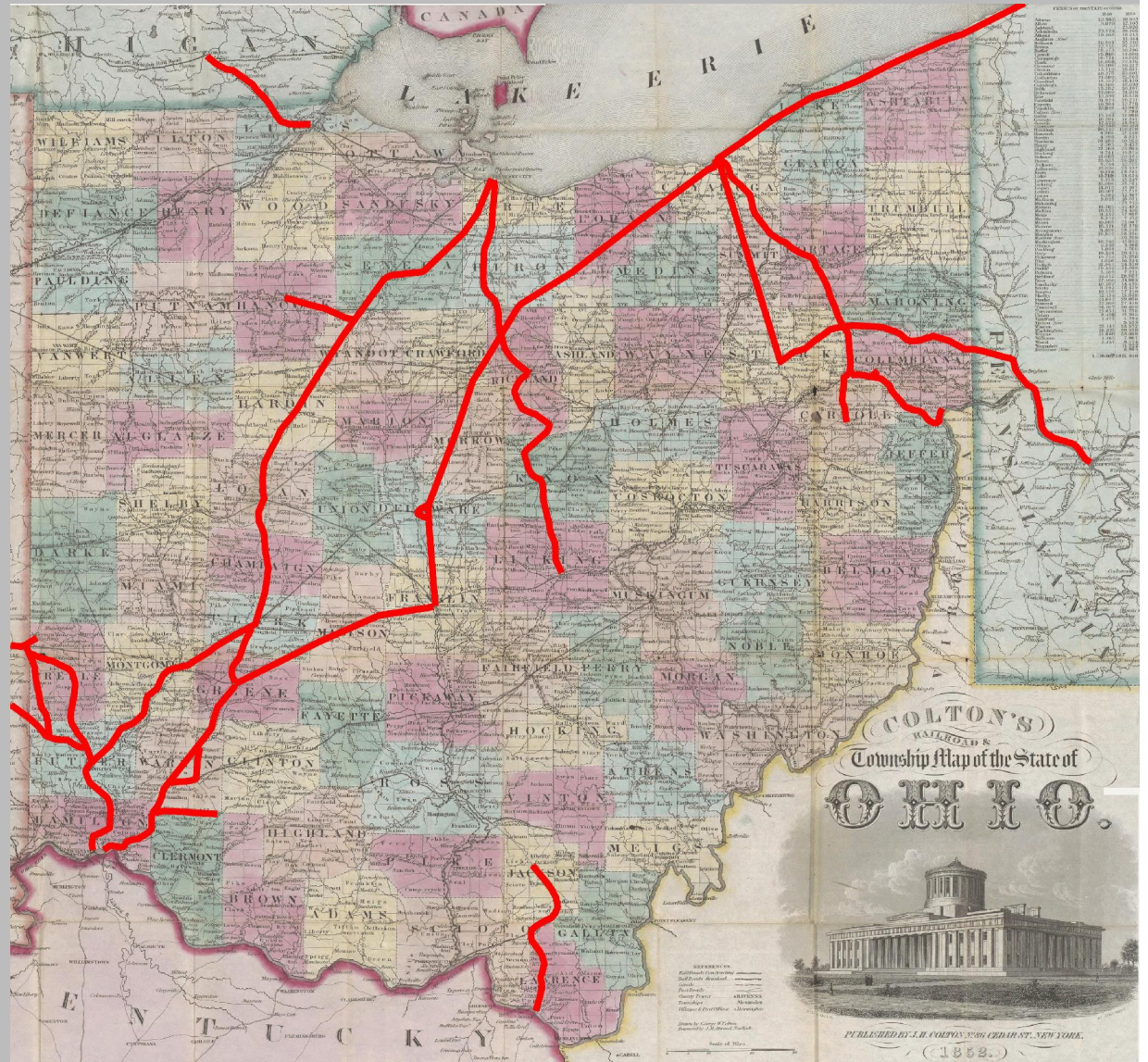
# Ohio Railroads in 1852

Railroads first connected with shipping, particularly at Sandusky, Cleveland, and Cincinnati.

There were only a few connections with other states.

The connection to Michigan from Toledo was not intentionally an interstate route. It was chartered in Michigan before the Ohio-Michigan war. The outcome of the war placed the southern terminus of the the road firmly in Ohio.

If I recall properly, the casualties of the war were limited to a broken arm and a bloody nose or two. Ohio got Toledo, and Michigan got the upper peninsula.

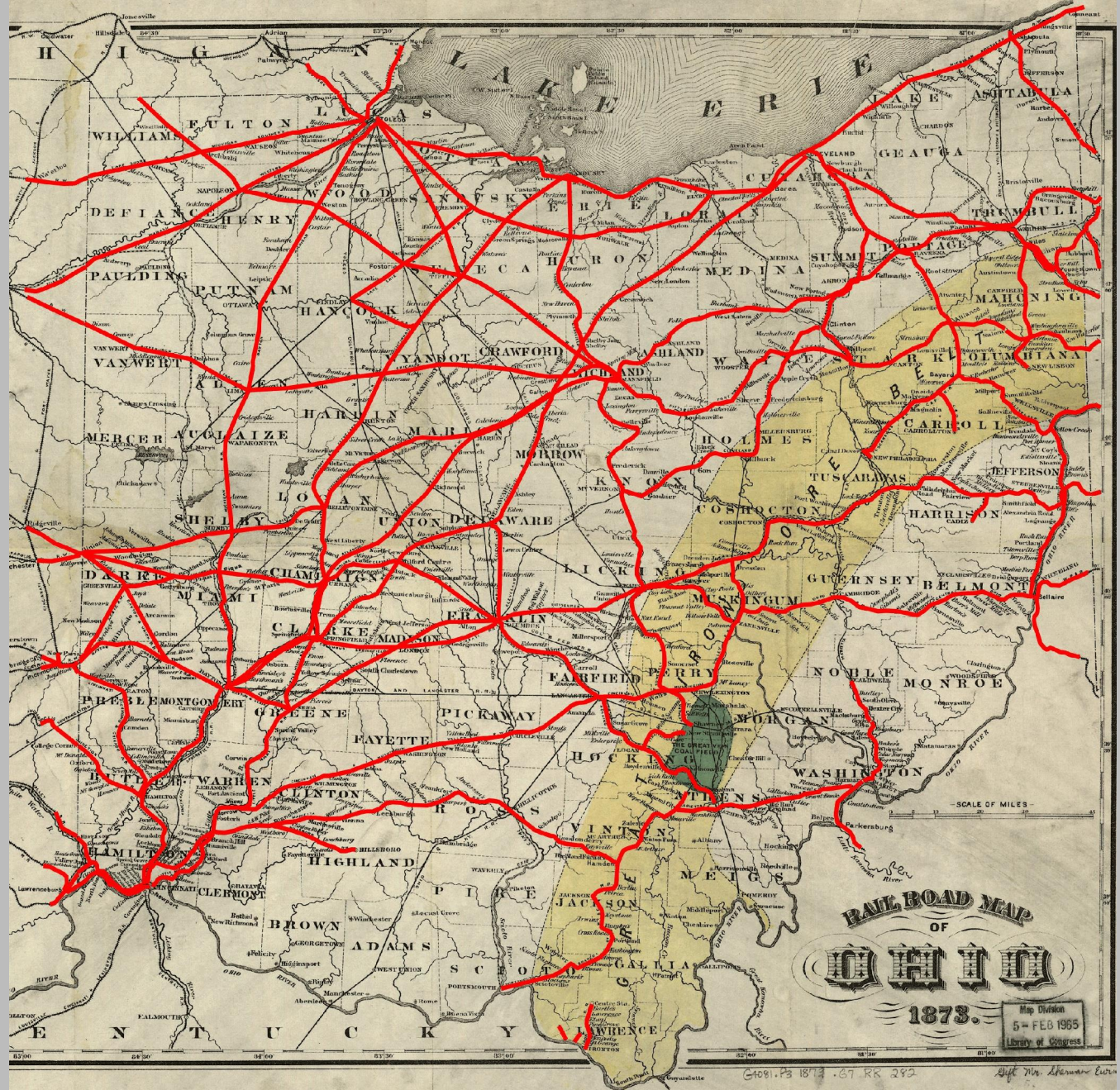




# Ohio Railroads in 1873

As you can see, Ohio had good rail coverage by this time.

Narrow gauge promoters tried to fill in the underserved areas.

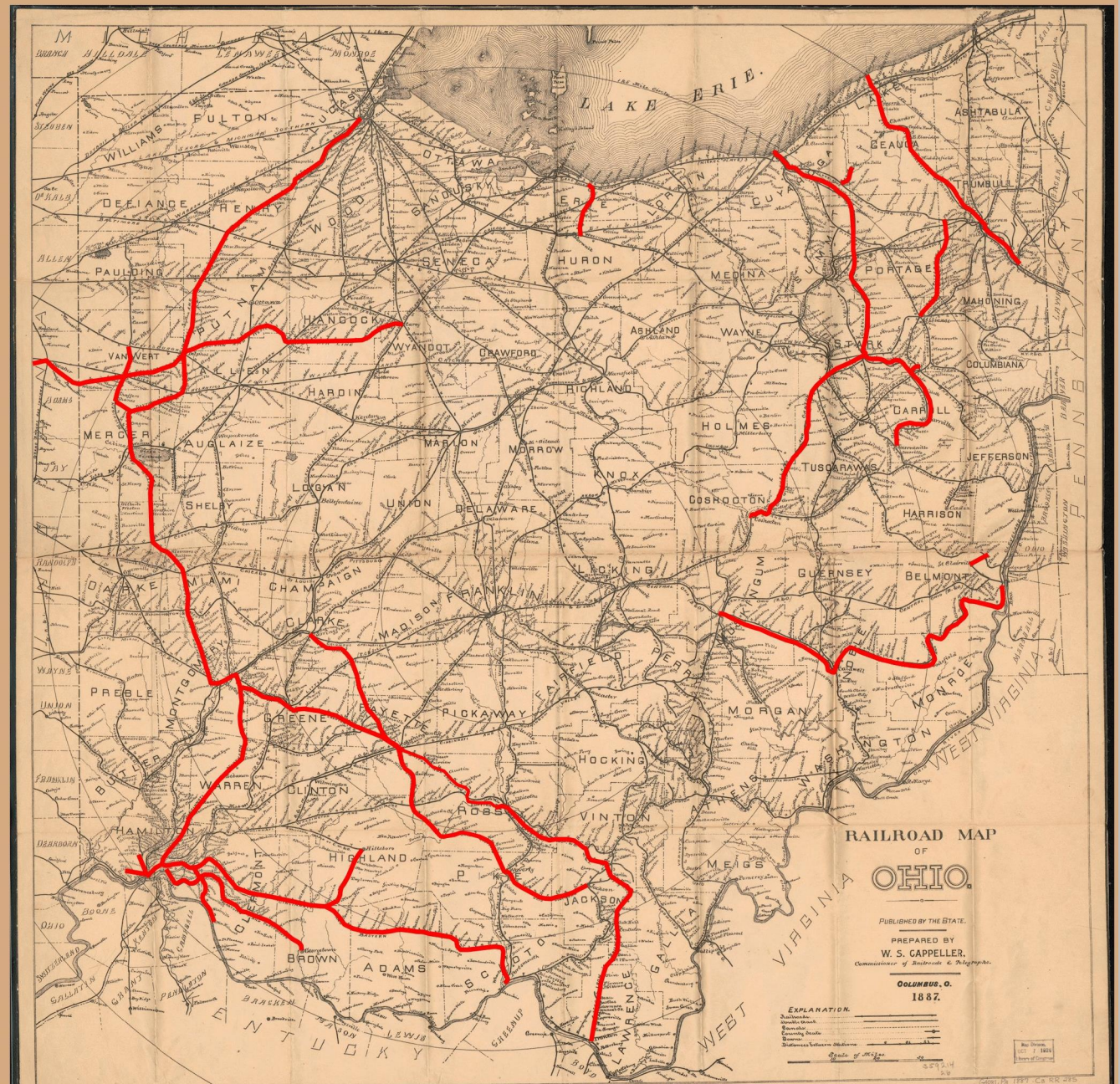




# Nearly All the Narrow Gauge Roads

The Zoo Branch and Coney Island Branch in Cincinnati and a mine branch north of Ironton are not shown.

Only common carriers are shown.



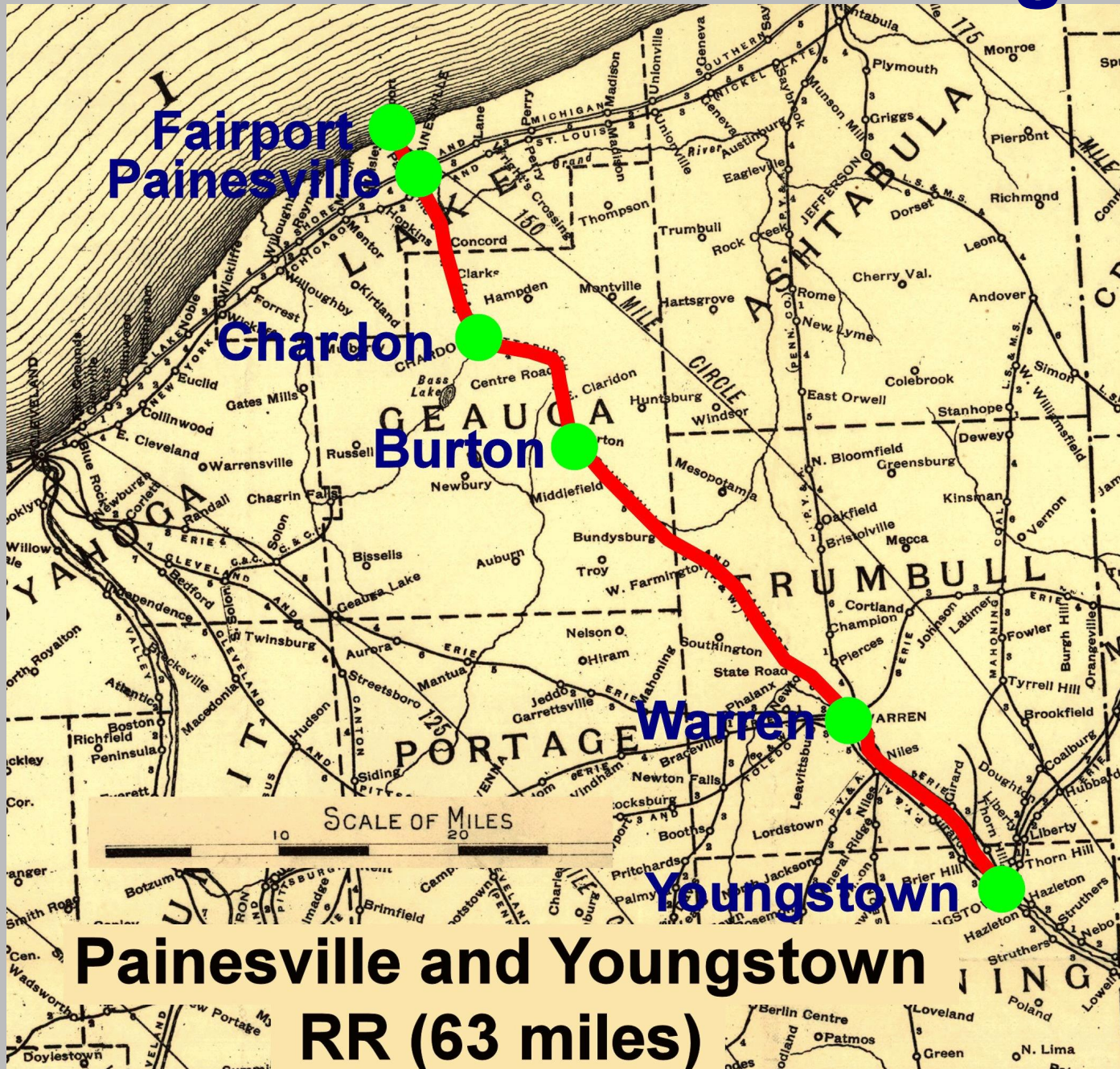
Base map is 1887



# **Individual Roads**

**We will list some stand-out roads first**

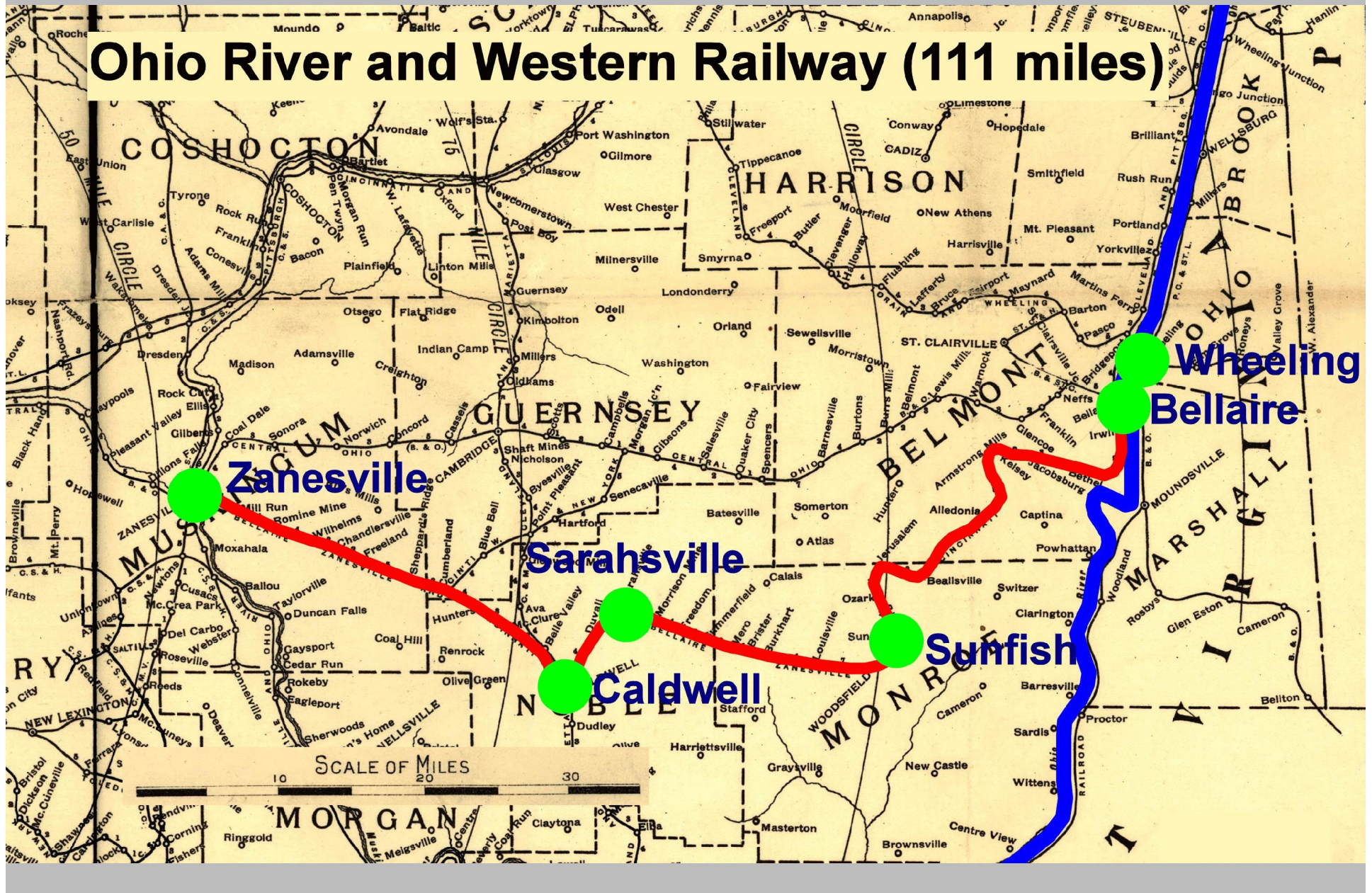
# Ohio's First Narrow Gauge





# Ohio's Last Narrow Gauge

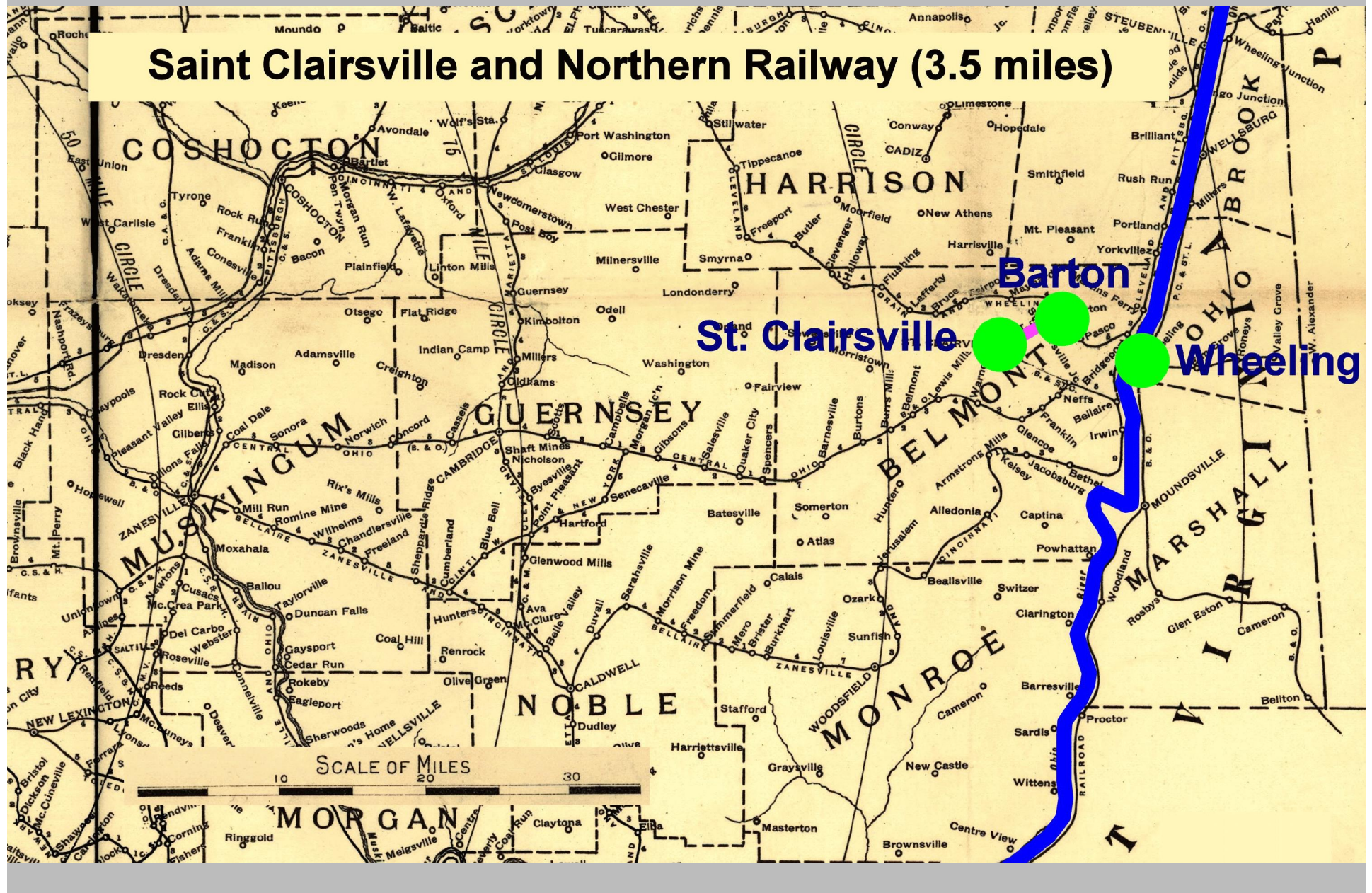
## Ohio River and Western Railway (111 miles)





# Ohio's Shortest Narrow Gauge

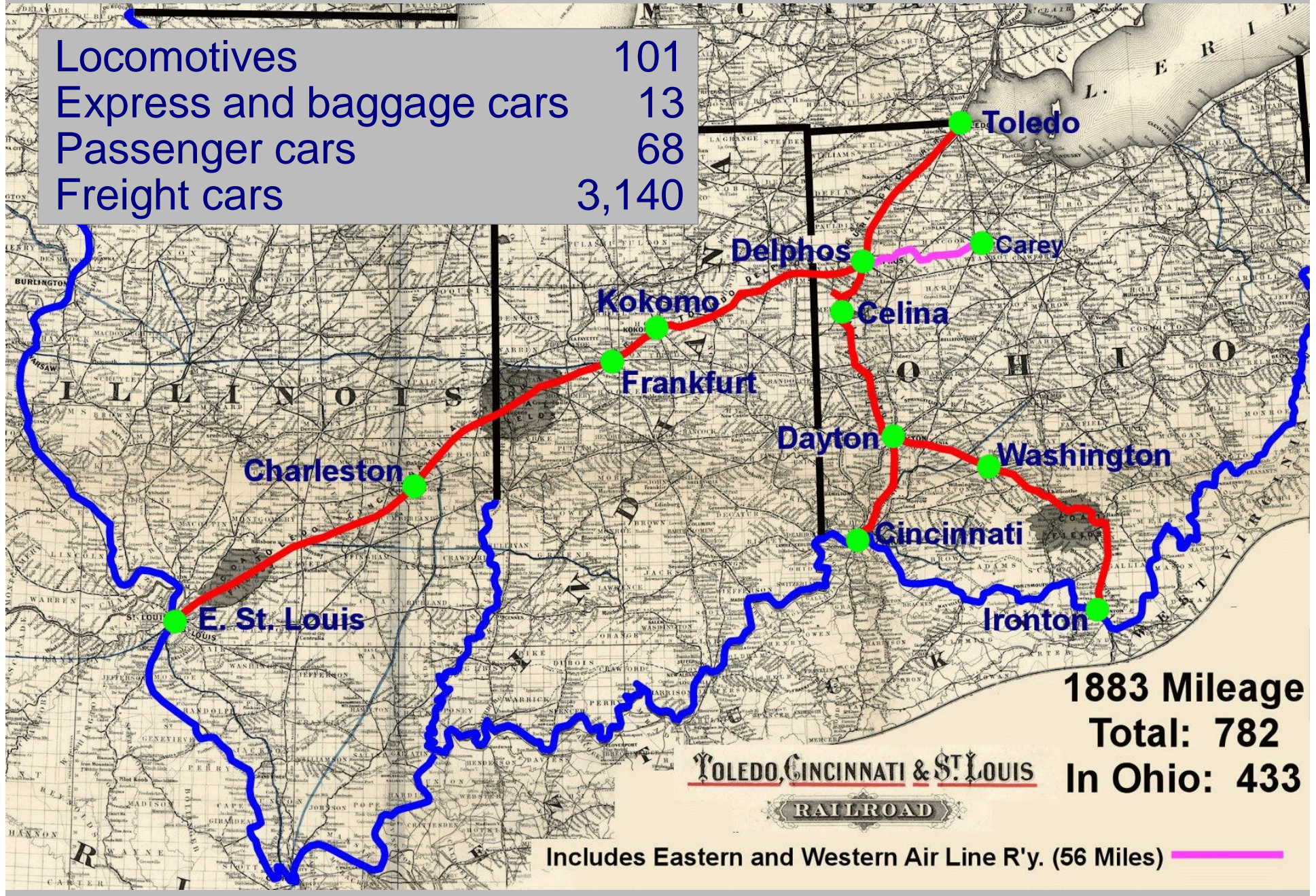
Saint Clairsville and Northern Railway (3.5 miles)





# Toledo, Cincinnati & St. Louis-Longest Narrow Gauge in Ohio

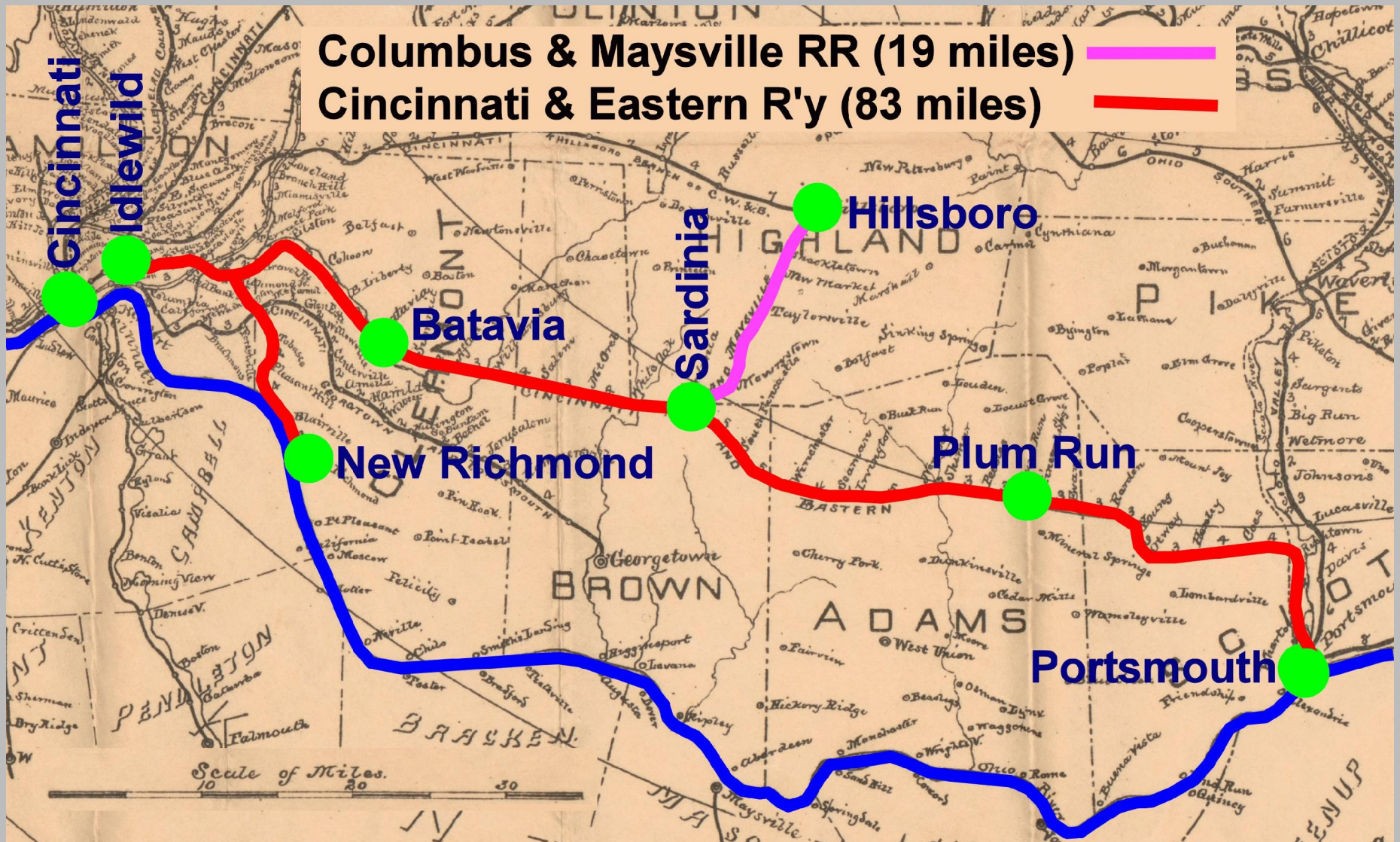
Locomotives	101
Express and baggage cars	13
Passenger cars	68
Freight cars	3,140





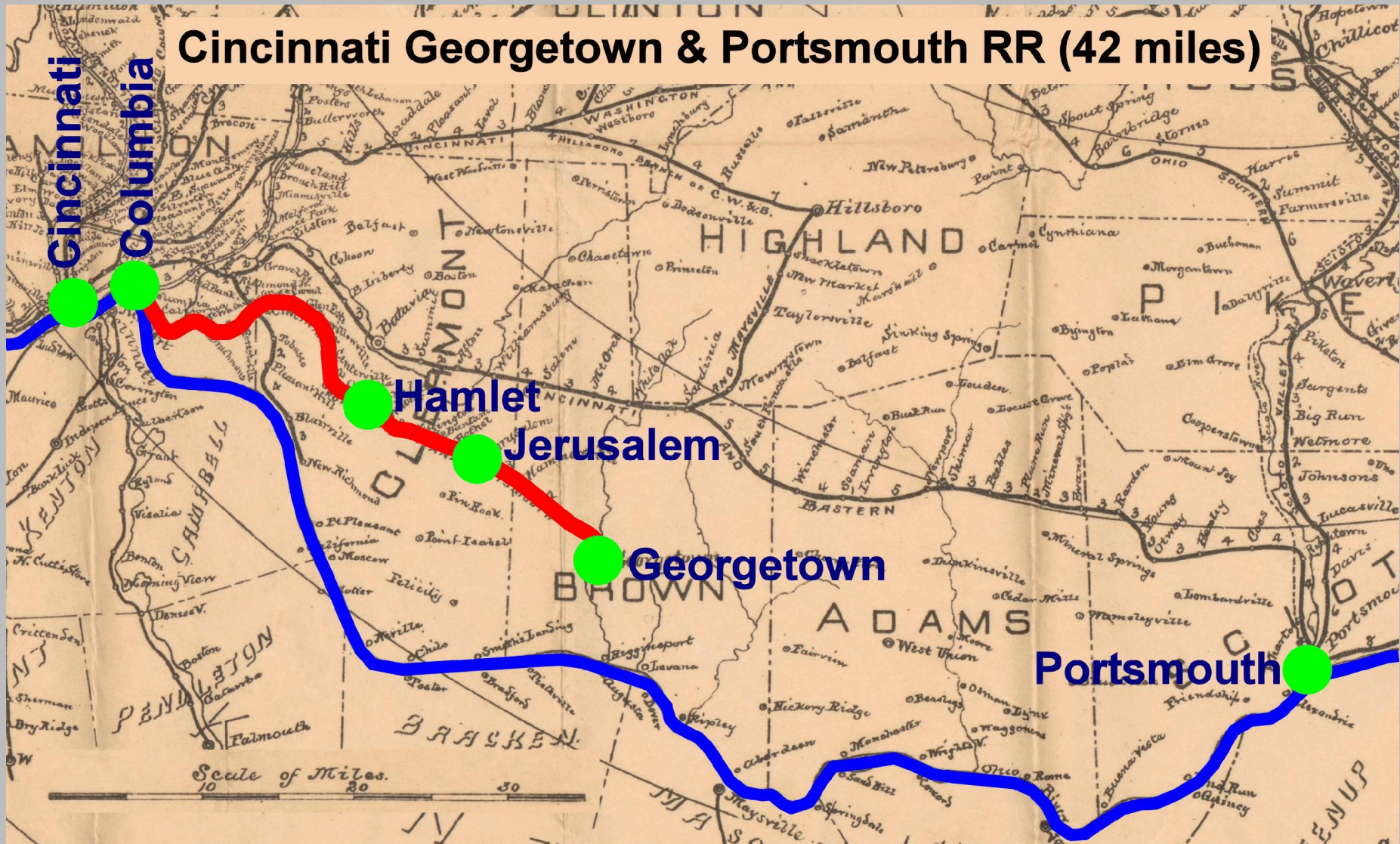
# **Southwest Ohio**

# East of Cincinnati



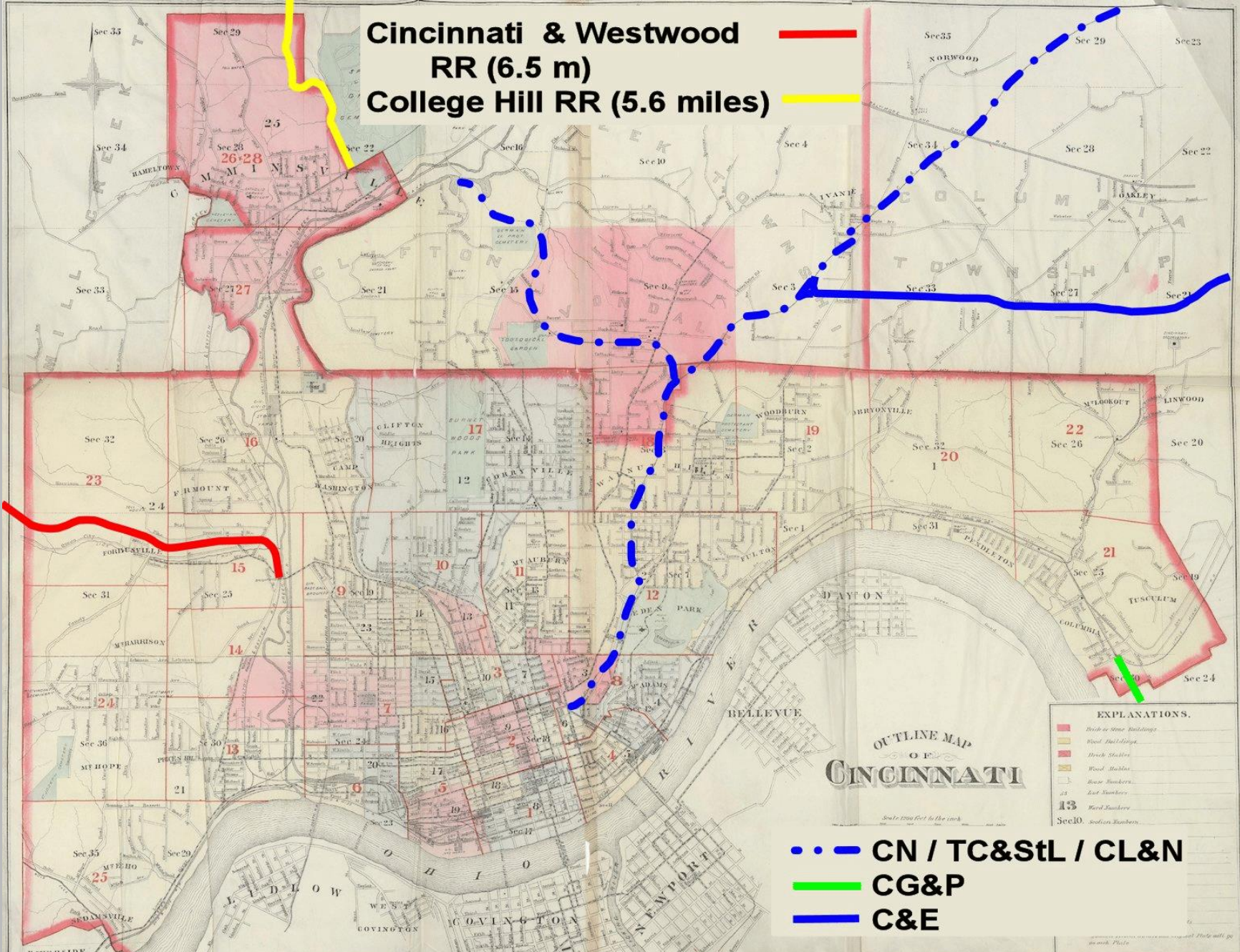


# Also East of Cincinnati The Coney Island Branch is not shown.



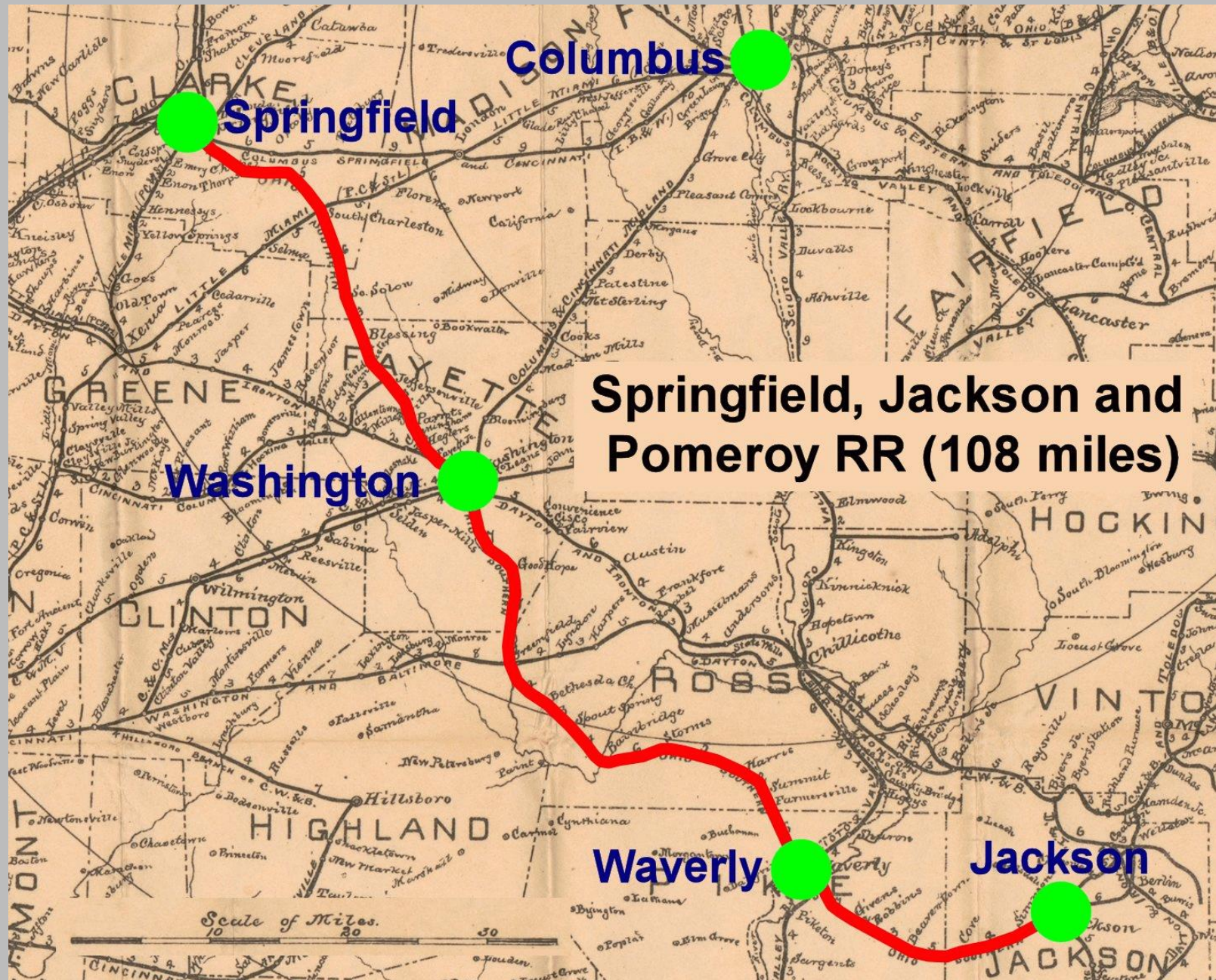


# Cincinnati 1884





# Still in Western Ohio





# Completing Western Ohio

Celina, Van Wert and State Line RR (10 miles)

