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In Their Own Words
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In 1851, William Kline donated land for Eagle's railroad depot. By January 1852, the Milwaukee–Eagle line was complete, and just months later the depot rose on the south side of the tracks—along what we now know as Hwy 67. This small-town railway was the scene of a horrific crash as reported in the Eagle Quill on May 21, 1921. For more information on Eagle's history and the rails, check out the EHS website, eaglehistoricalsociety.org.



Railroad Wreck Claims Life of Bernard Marsh

On Saturday afternoon at about 2 o'clock, a disastrous railroad wreck occurred three miles west of Eagle. The train was the regular way freight which left Eagle at 1:48, west bound, and contained sixteen cars loaded with merchandise and other freight. When about three miles west of Eagle, a tank car containing oil left the track and ran along on the ties for 20 rods when the car ahead and ten cars following left the track and plunged down the embankment on either side of the road bed in a tangled mass. Cars were tipped upside down and the heavy steel rails were twisted like wire.



Bernard Marsh, head brakeman, was riding on top of one of the cars and when he saw the inevitable, he jumped, only to be struck by the car on which he was riding and be hurled to his death. People residing nearby who witnessed the accident phoned to Eagle, and soon Drs. Fitzgerald and Schmidt arrived at the place, but Mr. Marsh was dead when he was taken from the wreckage, having sustained a broken neck, collar bone and thigh, and was bruised about the face. Conductor Raymond, Engineer Bonham, Fireman Frank Rodgers, and Brakeman Connolly escaped injury. A tramp who was riding on one of the cars ahead of the tank car also escaped injury.

One car was loaded with cattle being shipped by Sol Engle from Genesee to Whitewater, and all but one escaped injury. A wrecking crew soon arrived, and Sunday morning trains were running over the track as usual.

