

Inventory of the

**Chicago and North Western
Railroad Historical Society**

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 51

Revised July 2013

INTRODUCTION

Walter Feret made the initial deposit of records of the Chicago and North Western Historical Society Collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on March 24, 1979. Additional donations of records were added to the collection at various dates.

In March 2013, the deposit was discontinued and the records documenting the Chicago and North Western Railroad was taken into permanent possession by the Chicago and North Western Historical Society. Interested researchers should contact the Chair of the Archives Subcommittee for the society:

archives@cnwhs.org (Preferred method of contact if possible)
PO Box 1068
North Riverside, IL 60546

The remainder of the collection consists of research materials of H. Roger Grant for books he wrote on various railways. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 9.25
Number of containers: 19
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 51

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Chicago and North Western Historical Society collection partially documents the activities of the Chicago and North Western Railroad from 1836 to 1989 and includes research materials of H. Roger Grant for various books on railways. It consists of nine series: public relations department files; property records; memorabilia; Chicago and North Western printed material; related publications; the Chicago and North Western Historical Society's publications, North Western Lines; photographs; architectural drawings and maps; and H. Roger Grant's book research. The bulk of the material covers the years 1935 to 1980. When the deposit for the materials from the historical society ended, the bulk of the collection returned to the historical society.

Currently, the H. Roger Grant book research series - which includes Grant's research for the books he wrote on various railroads - is the only one available at the Regional History Center. Interested researchers of the previous eight series should contact the Chicago and North Western Historical Society.

The researcher should be aware that the W.W. Embree and Finch Marshall Railway Collections contain much valuable related material including books, periodicals, and

photographs. Also Pioneer Railroad: The Story of the Chicago and North Western System by Robert J. Casey and W.A.A. Douglas (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1948) may be useful.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Chicago and North Western Historical Society was founded in 1973 as the Chicago and North Western Historical, Technical and Modeling Society. A not-for-profit corporation, chartered in the State of Illinois, the group has over 600 members. Governed by a Board of Directors, the society rotates its annual meeting each May to a different site throughout the Midwest and publishes North Western Lines quarterly. The Northern Illinois Regional History Center has been designated as the repository of the society's historical and technical material relating to the Chicago and North Western Railroad.

Organized on June 6, 1859, the Chicago and North Western Railroad first legally used its title in 1861. The parent of the organization, the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad, incorporated in 1836, was the first railroad west of Chicago, reaching the Mississippi River in 1855. Consolidating with the Chicago and North Western Railroad on June 2, 1864, the firm grew through constructions, purchase and merger to service nine Midwestern states.

In 1869, the company assisted in the completion of the first transcontinental railroad, carrying materials to Council Bluffs, Iowa for delivery to the Union Pacific Railroad. Cooperating with this line and the Southern Pacific, an overland route was created, providing connections with the east and the Chicago North Western Railroad with the first train from Chicago to the Pacific Coast. The company has an extensive list of firsts in the industry including: providing the first sleeping cars west of Chicago (1858); introducing cupolas on railroad cabooses (1863); manufacturing railroad postal cars (1865) and putting them into service (1867); using steel rails (1865); operating the first dining car west of Chicago (1869); introducing the Pullman Hotel Car (1877); providing the first regular Pullman train service (1895); and pioneering a railroad safety program (1910). Also, in 1926, they built the world's largest freight yard "Proviso Yard," housing the largest locomotive roundhouse in the United States.

Falling under government control, the firm was regulated by the United States Railroad Administration from December 1917 to March 1920. Due to a business recession from 1920-22, a program of reconstruction was begun in 1923 and completed in 1929. The depression, causing rail earnings to recede rapidly, beginning in 1931, saw sources of private capital almost disappearing by 1933-34 and the company filing bankruptcy on June 28, 1935. Operating under the supervision of the courts, the Interstate Commerce Commission approved reorganization of the Chicago and North Western Railroad Company in 1939. It was returned to private management in 1943 and has been employee owned since 1971.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture
Chicago and North Western Railway Company
Koval, F.V.
“Northwestern Lines”
Ogden, William B.
Photographs
Railroad Stations
Railroads
Strikes and lockouts
World War I
World War II

COLLECTION INVENTORY

LOCATED AT CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

- SERIES I. Public Relations Department
- SERIES II. Property Records
- SERIES III. Memorabilia
- SERIES IV. CN&W Publications
- SERIES V. Related Publications
- SERIES VI. North Western Lines
- SERIES VII. Photographs
- SERIES VIII. Architectural Drawings and Maps

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	7	Advertisement, June 1957
	8	Advertising by Anthony Haswell, 1979
	9	Agreement Between C&NW Railway Co. and Union Pacific Railroad Co., Joint Department of Tours, 1934
	10	Agreement Between The Pullman Company and the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, October 1, 1912- September 30, 1932
	11	Amendment to Railplan South Dakota 1980 Hearing, Gettysburg, SD, February 19, 1981
	12	America's New Competitive Route for Wyoming Coal, 1983- 1984
	13	"An Analysis of Commercial Traffic and Potential for Division Restructuring," November 9, 1978
	14	Annual Report, Department of Tours of the C&NW-Union Pacific, 1917
	15-16	Annual Reports, C&NW, 1861-1863, 1972, 1977-1982
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	9	Bargain Fare Group Tours, 1972-1973		
	10	Before the Federal Railroad Administration, Application of the Western Railroad Properties, Incorporated and Chicago and North Western Transportation Company, For Federal Assistance Pursuant to Section 511 of Public Law 94-210 and Regulations Issued Thereunder at 49 CFR 260.1 et seq, August 1978, Amended January 1979		
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5		Cartoons, 1979-1984		
6		C&NW Articles of Consolidations, Agreements, Act, Orders, etc., 1859-1944		
7		C&NW Corporation, Annual Meeting of Stockholders, Remarks of James R. Wolfe, June 14, 1988		
8		C&NW Employee Buy Out, 1970		
9		C&NW’s Advance into Minnesota and Dakota Territory, n.d.		
10		“The Cheap Railroad Lands of Southwestern Minnesota and Southeastern Dakota,” June 1, 1884		
11		<u>Chicago & North Western Facts</u> , n.d.		
12		Chicago & North Western Historical Society, Annual Meeting Program, May 18, 1989		
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	17	Chicago & North Western Railway Company, Directors' Meetings, January 20, 1956, January 11, 1968, February 5, 1970	
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	19	"Chicago & North Western Ry. and the Projected West Coast Extension, 1904-1906"	
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	3	Chicago & North Western Transportation Company, Special Report to Employees, n.d.	
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	5	"Chicago Area Transportation. . . Putting it all together" Remarks by the Honorable Norman A. Erbe, Regional Representative of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, October 13, 1971	
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	5	Data Concerning the New Diesel Service and Heavy Repair Shop of the Chicago and North Western Railway Company, December 1948	
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	9	Finance Docket Nos. 30400 (Sub No. 1) Sante Fe Southern Pacific Corporation-Control-Southern Pacific Transportation Co., Notice of Settlement and Settlement Agreement, 1987	
	10	FRA Docket No. 511-78-11, Application of Western Railroad Properties and C&NW Before the Federal Railroad Administration, Comments of Union Pacific Railroad Company, November 6, 1978	
	11	Freight Service, 1932, n.d.	
	12	Galena & Chicago Union and Chicago & North Western Consolidation, 1865	
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	14	Handy Map and List of Freight Stations Served by the New C&NW Railway, n.d.	
	15	Harlon & Kirkman Railway Company, Board of Directors Meetings, 1899-1900	
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	17	Historical Information, Personnel, 1877-1976, n.d.	
	18	Investigation of Railroads, Holding Companies and Affiliated Companies, United States Senate, Subcommittee of Committee on Interstate Commerce, n.d.	
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	4	Left Handed Operation of C&NW, 1931-1954, n.d.	
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	6	Litchfield and Madison Railway, Reconstruction Finance Corp., Railroad Division, n.d.	

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	11	Pioneer Locomotive, 1929, n.d.	
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	13	Preference Shares to Finance Track Rehabilitation, 1976-1981	
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	15	Press Kit, Editors of Iowa Newspapers, December 1, 1980	
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	8	"Tickets, Please," 1977-1978	
	9	Publications for Management Reading, 1984-1985	
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	11	Quarterly Report, Form 10-Q, Security and Exchange Commission, March 31, 1989	
	12	Radio Release, 1983	
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	2	<u>Railroad Impact Study</u> , July, October, December 1975	
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	6	Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company, Proposal for Unification of the Milwaukee Road and Chicago and North Western Railway Company, March 7, 1961
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136	1-6	Correspondence from Chicago and North Western Railroad to board members, 1939-September 1947
137	1-2	Correspondence from Chicago and North Western Railroad to board members, October 1947-1989
	3	Newspapers clippings, 1937-1945
	4	Correspondence from the American Waterways Operators, Inc. to affiliates, 1945

ADDENDUM

137	1 volume	Report of the survey of the route of the Galena and Chicago Union Rail Road, 1847
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