

Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad

Special Collections Belfast Free Library Belfast, ME

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad Records and Reports

Collector: Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad

Date of Collection: 1867-1977

Box Number: B18-20

Administrative Information:

Accession Number: 01.03.B18

Provenance: Gift facilitated by Tom Bamford

Processor: Tom Bamford/Betsy Paradis

Date Processed: 2001/2007

Restrictions: No Restrictions

Biographical/Historical Information:

The Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad, originally intended to run all the way to Moosehead Lake, was incorporated in 1867. It connected Belfast, Maine and towns along its route in Waldo County, with Burnham Junction where rail service interchange was made with Maine Central Railroad, later part of the Guilford Transportation System. The railroad was largely owned by the City of Belfast and operated over the original route until the early 1990's. For the first 55 years, Maine Central operated the railroad, but in 1926, the company decided not to renew the lease on the un-profitable line. The city of Belfast continued to run the railroad, providing freight service through the depression and Belfast's years as the "Broiler Capitol of the World." Passenger service was abandoned in 1960, but reinstated in 1986 as a tourist attraction. In the mid-1990's, the railroad was purchased by Bert Clifford of Unity and operated as an excursion service and the base of the operations was moved to Unity. After his death in 2001, ownership went from Unity Property Management to Railstar Corp. and back to UPM, and operation was sporadic. In early 2005, the Belfast City Council ended its lease with UPM, and severed the railways connection with the city. Recently (2006-07) new life has been breathed into the railroad under the management of the nonprofit Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad Preservation Society.

Scope and Contents:

The dates of the collection range from 1867 to 1977 and are contained in four boxes. Included are reports to the Interstate Commerce Commission for the

years 1894 thru 1938; directors and stockholders reports from 1867 to 1977 and a certified copy of the Act to Incorporate. Company Record Books (1955-1977) include minutes of director meetings, reports to stockholders, correspondence, and clippings. There are 59 items in all.

Arrangement:

The collection arrived at the Belfast Free Library in boxes loaded randomly. The condition was as may be expected for office records with years of use. As a result some bound books have become unbound but are now held together with acid free cotton tape. The stitched bindings between the boards are holding well. Other bindings, such as the reports to the ICC are in good condition and more recent loose-leaf binders are also in good condition and their contents very readable. Metal and tape has been removed where possible and some items that had come loose in notebooks in the third box have been moved into folders.

Note: This collection was donated to the Belfast Free Library by the B&ML Board of Directors in 1983, at a time when the future of the railroad and its assets were uncertain. The materials had been previously stored in the office safe at Water Street, Belfast. The B&ML did not cease to operate, as was feared, but continued in service under new ownership, gaining local and national recognition as a tourist attraction with trains hauled by steam and diesel locomotives. In addition to this collection, Belfast Free Library owns a small collection of related material, booklets, published articles (Box 21 and pamphlet file) and a blueprint of a diesel locomotive dated 1947. These have been donated by various other people.

Finding Aid:

Box 18	
Folder 1	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1893-94
Folder 2	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1894-95
Folder 3	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1895-96
Folder 4	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1896-97
Folder 5	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1897-98
Folder 6	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1898-99
Folder 7	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1899-1900
Folder 8	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1900-01
Folder 9	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission

	1901-02
Folder 10	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1902-03
Folder 11	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1903-04
Folder 12	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1904-05
Folder 13	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1905-06
Folder 14	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1906-07
Folder 15	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1907-08
Folder 16	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1908-09
Folder 17	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1909-10
Folder 18	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1910-11
Folder 19	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1911-12
Folder 20	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1912-13
Folder 21	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1913-14
Folder 22	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1914-15
Box 19	
Folder 1	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1927
Folder 2	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1928
Folder 3	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1929
Folder 4	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1930
Folder 5	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1931
Folder 6	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1932
Folder 7	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1933
Folder 8	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1934
Folder 9	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1935

Folder 10	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1936
Folder 11	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1937
Folder 12	Annual report to the Interstate Commerce Commission 1938
Folder 13	Annual report to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine 1939
Folder 14	Annual report to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine 1940
Folder 15	Annual report to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine 1941
Folder 16	Annual report to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine 1942
Folder 17	Annual report to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine 1943
Folder 18	Annual report to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine 1944
Folder 19	Annual report to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine 1945
Folder 20	Annual report to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine 1946
Folder 21	Annual report to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine 1947
Box 20	
Folder 1	Certified, true copy of 1867 Act to Incorporate 1914
	Stockholder Meeting Minutes 1867-1920
	Company Record Book 1955-61
	Company Record Book 1961-65
	Company Record Book 1965-71
	Company Record Book 1971-77