Descriptive Summary


Title: Waterbury Railroad and Transportation Collection


Collection Number: M-4

Quantity: .66 cubic feet (2 manuscript boxes)

Abstract: This is an artificial collection composed by the archivists at the Mattauck Museum to document the railroad and transportation development in and surrounding Waterbury. The collection is largely paper based, but also includes various tokens used for passage.

Language: English.


Scope and Content Note:

The collection documents the development and implementation of public transit and other forms of transportation in Waterbury spanning 1845 through circa 1920. It is arranged into two series, Railroad and Trolleys, Buses, and Other Transportation. The Railroad series contains records relating to the development, implementation, and ridership of the Naugatuck Rail Road. The Trolley, Bus and Other Series contains
documents regarding local bus and trolley routes, as well as automobiles. Both series contain documents related to the employees of the transportation companies, as well as the riders.

The collection is largely paper based, but also includes physical tokens used for bus lines. Documents include: tickets, schedules, advertisements, magazines/journals, commemorative documents, histories of the railroad, a student thesis, broadsides, and administrative documents.

References and Related Collections:

In the Photograph Collection there are also photographs of various modes of transportation.

In the M-2 Waterbury Button Company Records, the personal records of the president, JR Smith, contain information about registering his automobile and state laws about drivers’ licenses.

Administrative History:

Processing Note: In 2020 the archivist modified the original finding aid.

Preferred Citation: Waterbury Railroad and Transportation Collection. M4. The Max R. Traurig Library and Archive, Mattatuck Museum.

Container List: This section provides descriptions of the materials found within each series. Each series description is followed by a container list, which gives the titles of the folders and their locations in the numbered boxes that comprise this collection.

Box  Folder
1 A Brief centennial history by Rawson Haddon, plus Haddon’s notes for
article, 1949
B Incorporation papers, 1845
C Reports to stockholders, 1853, 1862, 1887
D Two announcements re: the leasing of the Naugatuck RR, 1887
To the New York, New Haven and Hartford RR, 1887
E Announcement of personnel changes, 1892
F Monthly account of ticket sales, Naugatuck Station (Number of tickets
sold, destinations, cash received), March 1857
G Records of payment received, 1861, 1871
H Receipts from merchants & utilities, 1855, 1857, 1865, 1869-71, 1876-77, 1880
I Payroll, 1857-1877
• Payroll, March 1857
• Payroll, April 1858
• Payroll, July 1858
• Payroll, December 1863, 1871
• Payroll, November 1875
• Payroll, December 1877
J Individual Pay Receipts, 1876-77
• Theodore Baker, ticket agent-July 1876 and June 1877
• F. Bishop, president-Sept. 1877
• H. Bishop, president-Sept. 1877
• George W. Beach, superintendent-Sept. 1877
K G. W. Beach-Letters from G. Kendrick, L. Coe, F.J. Kingsbury re: County
Reorganization 1859 (proposal to make Waterbury area a separate county,
with railroads determining boundaries)
L G. W. Beach -Honors and invitations, 1883 and 1890
M High Rock Grove (owned by Naugatuck RR), misc. papers, brochure,
poem, circa 1880
Timetables and Schedules

- Announcements of special trains, 1868 and 1888
- Timetables, 1886-94
- Fare schedule, 1880
- Two advertisements for connecting stage lines, 1851 and 1869

Summer schedule for railroads, undated

Timetables, bound in a notebook (for employee use), includes rules of operation and procedures for:

- New York, New Haven & Hartford (owner of Naugatuck RR) 1916, 1918, and 1928
- Central New England & Western RR, 1892
- New Haven & Derby RR, 1871

Housatonic Railroad, undated

Stocks and Bonds,

- Meriden, Waterbury & Conn. River RR-1 share of stock, 1888
- Old Colony & Newport Railway Co. - Blank Bond Certificate, 1866

Providence, Hartford & Fishkill Railroad, 1853-54, 1862, and 1876

- Itemized labor bill from George C. Foster (contractor) for construction of Quidnick Brook trestle, w/receipt attached, 1853
- Other receipts from firms and individuals, 1853-54, 1876
- Payroll, 1862

Shepaug Railroad, 1892, 1972

- Announcement of absorption by New York, New Haven and Hartford RR, 1892
- Commemorative Article, 1972

Tickets and Seat Checks-misc. railroads, circa 1850

- “F. H. & W.”
- New York and New Haven
- Lackawanna & Bloomsburg
- “C.C. & C.”
• New Haven, New London and “S” (eymour?) Stonington, etc.

Box Folder

1 V Commemorative picture of earliest American locomotives, 1875
W Correspondence re: Railroad collection, 1938 and 1963
X The New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, Shoreliner Magazine, Vol. 11 Issue 2, 6 copies, Articles on Naugatuck Railroad and Watertown & Waterbury Railroads, 1980
Y The New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, Shoreliner Magazine
  • Vol. 15 Issue 1, Article on Waterbury trains 1984
  • Vol. 22 Issue, Article about Bank Street Junction, Waterbury 1991

J Rail Pass for Miss (or Mrs.) Chase on the New Haven and Derby Railroad.

Series: Trolleys, Buses, and Other Transportation, 1909-1997

Box Folder

2 A Waterbury Trolley Strike, 1919.
  • Department of Justice investigation – copies.
  • Book chapter (?) – Community, Class, and Conflict: The Waterbury Trolley Strike of 1903.


D  Three bus tokens: (2) CSL (Cooke Street Line), (1) CRL (Connecticut Railway & Lighting).

G  White Star Line Information for Passengers. Contains the deck plans for the *Germanic*, *Britannic*, *Celtic*, *Adriatic*, and the *Republic*.


K  Early mileage chart to Connecticut towns.