



ArchivesSpace
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

Finding aid for the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Company collection Collection 190

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on November 08, 2023.

Description is written in: Undetermined.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Prepared by James B. Winslow

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Business Number: 616-988-5497

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/history/>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6
Series I. Annual Reports. 1872-1940	6
Series II. Employee Timetables, 1875-1899.	8
Series III. Public Timetables, 1915-1919.	8
Series IV. Business Documents	9
Subseries A. Annual Passes, 1917-1919.	9
Subseries B. Tax Documents, 1873?, 1906.	9
Subseries C. Mutual Benefit Assoc., 1882.	9
Subseries D. LEASE, 1920.	9
Series V. Ephemera. Brochures, Advertising, 1874-1912.	10
Series VI. Miscellaneous Documents, 1870's, 1907.	10

Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Creator:	Grand Rapids and Indiana Railway Company
Creator:	Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Company
Title:	Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Company collection
ID:	Collection 190
ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::RESOURCE]:	198
Date [inclusive]:	1875-1950
Physical Description:	1.8 Linear Feet Five boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Company collection is a small representation of the operations of this regional transportation business, which had its home office in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was initially known as the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company. The collection includes documents of the operations and business affairs of the railroad during the last quarter of the 19th century, and the first four decades of the 20th century. The bulk of the collection is the annual reports of the firms, from 1872-1940. Also included are representative employee timetables, public timetables, advertising and miscellaneous corporate documents. A map of the rail lines effective March 21, 1904 can be found housed in Collection 240, box 2.3, showing service from Cincinnati, Ohio north to Chicago and through Michigan to Mackinaw City. Lines also ran east and west. The GR&I used at least two generations of the Union Station as its depot in Grand Rapids.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad (GR&I) was begun by a group of businessmen in Hartford City, In. in 1854. Their goal was a road to the Michigan border, near Sturgis, to tap timber reserves. When they were unable to raise the necessary funding, the project was taken over by a group in Ft. Wayne, In.

The Ft. Wayne group's goal was a line from Ft. Wayne to a point on Michigan's Little Traverse Bay, also hoping to tap timber reserves. Financial problems and the Civil War prevented completion of any of the line until 1867, when the first 20 mile segment from Grand Rapids, Mi. north to Cedar Springs was opened.

Financial problems resurfaced in 1869. The Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) saw the line as a feeder to its newly acquired right of way into Chicago via purchase of the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad (PFW&C). The PRR set up the continental Improvement Company (Continental) to complete construction. For its efforts, the PRR received \$8 million in GR&I bonds, which gave the PRR full control of the GR&I.

Over the next four years Continental completed construction north from Cedar Springs to Petoskey, via Big Rapids, Cadillac, Elmira and Melrose. South of Grand Rapids, the link to Ft. Wayne was completed in October 1870. In 1871, the GR&I gained control of the Cincinnati, Richmond & Ft. Wayne Railroad. This road ran from Richmond, In. to Adams, In., which had trackage rights over the PFW&C, to reach Ft. Wayne.

On July 3, 1882, the GR&I opened the last link in its mainline from Petoskey to Mackinaw City, completing the 460-mile north-south line. By the early 1890's financial problems became severe and creditors foreclosed on the line in 1896. The PRR again came to the rescue, but began exerting greater influence over GR&I operations.

The financially reorganized road became the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway. In 1920 the PRR administratively combined all its lines west of Pittsburgh into divisions of the parent road. Though the PRR maintained separate entries for the GR&I for another 20 years, this combination ended the GR&I's visibility as a separate entity.

For additional history see the draft paper by Lewis B. Clingman, included in the collection. [1/2002]

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

Most noteworthy in the collection are the various annual reports, ranging from 1872 to 1940, and employee timetables for the period 1887 to 1919.

The early annual reports give details on equipment and construction, as well as past accomplishments. The latter reports are primarily summarized accounting balance sheets. The remainder of the collection provides data on timetables, efforts by the GR&I to promote patronage by extolling the various recreational amenities in Northern Michigan and a small sampling of legal issues that face the railroad.

The collection provides unique insights into the operation of a turn-of-the century Michigan railroad. Since the GR&I operated under direct control of the PRR, however, most of the GR&I detailed records became part of the PRR records.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Business Number: 616-988-5497

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/history/>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Library purchase and unknown, accession numbers 00.000, 00.[1987].1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- business records
- Railroads -- Michigan
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Grand Rapids and Indiana Railway Company
- Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Company

Collection Inventory

Series I. Annual Reports. 1872-1940

Scope and Contents

Providing the bulk of this collection, annual reports from 1872 to 1940, incomplete, are found in the collection. There are years missing from the 1870s and 1880s, but the holdings for most of the later decades are complete.

Title/Description	Instances	
1872	Box 1	Folder 1
1873	Box 1	Folder 2
1874	Box 1	Folder 3
1875	Box 1	Folder 4
1876	Box 1	Folder 5
1879	Box 1	Folder 6
1885	Box 1	Folder 7
1886	Box 1	Folder 8
1887	Box 1	Folder 9
1888	Box 1	Folder 10
1889	Box 1	Folder 11
1890	Box 1	Folder 12
1891	Box 1	Folder 13
1893	Box 1	Folder 14
1895	Box 1	Folder 15
1896	Box 1	Folder 16

Finding aid for the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Company collection Collection 190

1897	Box 1	Folder 17
1898	Box 1	Folder 18
1899	Box 1	Folder 19
1900	Box 2	Folder 1
1901	Box 2	Folder 2
1903	Box 2	Folder 3
1904	Box 2	Folder 4
1905	Box 2	Folder 5
1906	Box 2	Folder 6
1907	Box 2	Folder 7
1908	Box 2	Folder 8
1909	Box 2	Folder 9
1910	Box 2	Folder 10
1911	Box 2	Folder 11
1912	Box 2	Folder 12
1913	Box 2	Folder 13
1914	Box 2	Folder 14
1915	Box 2	Folder 15
1916	Box 2	Folder 16
1917	Box 2	Folder 17
1918	Box 2	Folder 18
1919	Box 2	Folder 19
1920	Box 3	Folder 1
1921	Box 3	Folder 2
1922	Box 3	Folder 3
1925	Box 3	Folder 4
1926	Box 3	Folder 5
1927	Box 3	Folder 6
1928	Box 3	Folder 7
1929	Box 3	Folder 8
1930	Box 3	Folder 9
1931	Box 3	Folder 10

1932	Box 3	Folder 11
1933	Box 3	Folder 12
1934	Box 3	Folder 13
1935	Box 3	Folder 14
1936	Box 3	Folder 15
1937	Box 3	Folder 16
1938	Box 3	Folder 17
1939	Box 3	Folder 18
1940	Box 3	Folder 19

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II. Employee Timetables, 1875-1899.

Scope and Contents

Scattered holdings, mostly for 1887 and 1889.

Title/Description	Instances	
System Timetable #13, Oct. 31, 1875 I(copy)	Box 4	Folder 1
Northern Division #58, June 26, 1887.	Box 4	Folder 2
Northern Division #59, Oct. 2, 1887.	Box 4	Folder 3
Northern Division #64, May 12, 1889.	Box 4	Folder 4
Northern Division #65, June 16, 1889.	Box 4	Folder 5
Southern Division #60, June 26, 1887	Box 4	Folder 6
Southern Division #61, Oct. 2, 1887.	Box 4	Folder 7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III. Public Timetables, 1915-1919.

Scope and Contents

Includes a handful of examples from 1915 to 1919.

Title/Description	Instances	
Fall Schedules, Nov. 7, 1915.	Box 4	Folder 8
Grand Rapids to Pittsburgh, Nov. 7, 1915.	Box 4	Folder 9
"36 Hours to Florida", Nov. 22, 1915.	Box 4	Folder 10

Summer Schedules, June 25, 1916.	Box 4	Folder 11
U.S.R.A. Form 1, Nov. 21, 1918.	Box 4	Folder 12
U.S.R.A. Form 1, Mar. 1, 1919.	Box 4	Folder 13
U.S.R.A. Form 2, Aug. 1, 1919.	Box 4	Folder 14

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series IV. Business Documents

Scope and Contents

Included are a small group of documents and publications, with the largest representation being in the rules and regulations.

Subseries A. Annual Passes, 1917-1919.

Title/Description	Instances	
GR&I 1917, 1919 and USRA 1919	Box 4	Folder 15

Rules, 1875-1910.

Rules & Regulations 1875 (copy)	Box 4	Folder 16
Book of Rules 1893, updated to Apr. 15, 1895.	Box 4	Folder 17
Book of Rules 1910, effective May 29, 1910.	Box 4	Folder 18

Subseries B. Tax Documents, 1873?, 1906.

Title/Description	Instances	
Land Grant Taxation, 1873?	Box 5	Folder 1
Tax Assessment Case, 1906.	Box 5	Folder 2

Subseries C. Mutual Benefit Assoc., 1882.

Title/Description	Instances	
Proceedings of Fifth Annual Convention, May 17, 1882.	Box 5	Folder 3

Subseries D. LEASE, 1920.

Title/Description	Instances	
Proposed Lease to PRR, 1920.	Box 5	Folder 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series V. Ephemera. Brochures, Advertising, 1874-1912.**Scope and Contents**

Mostly related to summer holiday and resort travel, including advertising.

Title/Description	Instances	
One Million Acres of Land for Sale, 1874.	Box 5	Folder 5
Guide to Health Pleasure Resorts, 1879.	Box 5	Folder 6
N. Michigan Lakes & Summer Resorts, 1881.	Box 5	Folder 7
N. Michigan Lakes & Summer Resorts, 1882.	Box 5	Folder 8
Half Million Acres of Lands for Sale, 1883.	Box 5	Folder 9
Where to Go Fishing, 1897.	Box 5	Folder 10
Where to Go Fishing, 1903.	Box 5	Folder 11
Michigan IN Summer 1903.	Box 5	Folder 12
Michigan In Summer 1904.	Box 5	Folder 13
Michigan In Summer 1905.	Box 5	Folder 14
Michigan in Summer,1910.	Box 5	Folder 15
Indian Play-Hiawatha, 1912.	Box 5	Folder 16

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series VI. Miscellaneous Documents, 1870's, 1907.

Title/Description	Instances	
Conductor's Memoranda, 1870s	Box 5	Folder 17
Summary of Michigan Statutes on Railroads as Common Carriers, Sept. 1907.	Box 5	Folder 18
Excursion ticket, Thanksgiving, 1912.	Box 5	Folder 19
Governor Henry H. Crapo letters, 1866.	Box 5	Folder 20
Newspaper articles, 1910-1929 [found in collection May 2002 source unknown]	Box 5	Folder 21
Draft paper: The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, 1854-1896 / Lewis B. Clingman, n.d. [1987].1 1/22/2002	Box 5	Folder 22
Map of the GR&I in Michigan, Indiana & Ohio. March 21, 1904 / Map of GR&I in Upper Michigan [found in collection 5/2002 source unknown]	Collection 240	Box 2.3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)