

McLean County Museum of History

Steve Gossard Railroad Collection

Processed by
Carol Straka
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1859 - 1997
RESTRICTIONS:	Several fragile items. Request assistance from Museum staff.
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also Photos for images of depots (Bloomington & Normal), Amtrak employees, etc. Provenance: Donated by Steve Gossard.

Brief History

Born in Galesburg in 1949, Steve Gossard moved to Normal to study at Illinois State University where he eventually earned a masters in art history in 1982. He worked for Amtrak from 1973 to 2009 as a ticket clerk/agent, serving at both the Bloomington and Normal depots. When the Bloomington depot closed in 1990, Gossard recovered some discarded materials originally belonging to the Chicago & Alton (C&A) and Gulf, Mobile & Ohio (GM&O) Railroads. He also accumulated research to write *A History of the Chicago & Alton Railroad Stations in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois*, published in 1991.

Scope

The collection includes materials recovered from the recently (1990) shuttered Bloomington depot such as maps, blueprints, and correspondence; Amtrak related items from Gossard's period of employment there; and research materials for his book.

Folder Inventory

Materials Recovered from Shuttered Bloomington Depot (folders 1-12)

Chicago & Alton (folders 1- 8)

Folder 1: Title Issues for Land Sale with Wm. Paul

- 1.1 Letter from Wm. Paul at Stanford to Williams & Capen at Bloomington concerning proposition to sell land to railroad company and about contacting Lillard and Geo. Ela., 16 July 1886.
- 1.2 Correspondence from lawyers Williams & Capen of Bloomington to K.F. Booth, Chief Engineer C&A at Chicago concerning land proposed to be conveyed the railroad by Wm. Paul, 5 Aug 1886.
- 1.3 Correspondence from lawyers Williams & Capen of Bloomington to K.F. Booth, Chief Engineer C&A as to the number of feet his contract covers, 6 Aug 1886.
- 1.4 Correspondence from lawyers Williams & Capen of Bloomington to K.F. Booth, Chief Engineer C&A at Chicago concerning deed just filed by Wm. Paul, 6 Aug 1886.

Folder 2: Annual Report

- 2.1 33rd Annual Report for year ending December 31, 1895. 32pp.

Folder 3: Corporate History Chart

- 3.1 Photocopy of Corporate History Chart as of 30 Jun 1919. In 20 sheets, some duplicates.

Folder 4: Employee Service Records

- 4.1 Oscar Meel of Bloomington, 1925.
- 4.2 Frank Higgins of Springfield, 1922-25.

Folder 5: Rail & Splice Prints

Note: "Vellum" in this collection refers to imitation vellum used for prints.

- 5.1 Vellum engineering print of section of 70# rail & splice, Jan 1882.
- 5.2 Vellum engineering print of section of 60# railway joint, 24 Jan 1882.
- 5.3 Vellum engineering print of section of rail, undated.
- 5.4 Large vellum engineering print of section of rail and splice for 1886.
- 5.5 Paper engineering print of standard track, rail, splice & washers at ½ size, 1 Feb 1885. Tattered and nearly in pieces.

Folder 6: Cook County Schematic Maps I

Note: "Vellum" in this collection refers to imitation vellum used for prints.

- 6.1 Vellum map of part of log in Sec. 21, 39,14 from Chicago City Surveyor's Office, 9 March 1859. "Artemas Carter" written at top left corner.
- 6.2 Paper note from T D Tracy(?) Ry Engr asking who owns the triangular crossing at Subn E ½ SE ¼ Sec 36-39-13. (Brighton) Undated.
- 6.3 Letter from Cook County Clerk's office request name of owner for Blot of Block 40 in Sub of E ½ SE 1/4 Sec 36.T39.R13. Includes reply plus an Oct 13 query about assessed party. No year, but stationary starts with "190_"
- 6.4 Vellum Brighton Park map in SW ¼ & SE ¼ Sec. 36 T. 39N. R.13E., May 1889.
- 6.5 Vellum Plat of Survey prepared by City & County Surveyor F.C. Fossiter's office for lots in R.J. Sherman's Sub and Canal Trustee's Sub. of S. Fraction of Sec. 29T.39N.R.14E. 14 Dec 1891.
- 6.6 Vellum Plat of Survey of lots in Canal Trustee's Sub S ½ frac. Sec. 29 T. 39 N. 16 Oct 1889.
- 6.7 Paper handwritten letter from Asst Engr A.P. Boardman to Mr. Baldwin with particulars about the C&A right of way west of Corwith (Yard), 8 Sep 1900. 2 pp.
- 6.8 Envelope with notes about survey of part of N W fr Sec 7.37.12. References 12 Jun 1868.

Folder 7: Cook County Schematic Maps II

Note: "Vellum" in this collection refers to imitation vellum used for prints.

- 7.1 Vellum map from Chief Engineer's Office for SW ¼ of SW ¼ Sec. 27.T12N.R.13W Aug 1901.
- 7.2 Five (5) vellum maps hand "corrected to 1903" showing railway near Berwyn, Cicero, Hodgkins, Spring Forest, Palos, Lemont, etc. Fragile
- 7.3 Paper blueprint "Plan of Survey for Claim of Mrs. Emma Emery" at Robey St and W. 33rd St., Chicago. As Revised 28 May 1931.
- 7.4 Small paper blueprint "Chappell" Stamped July 18, 1898.

Folder 8: Maps from Other Locations

- 8.1 Copy of plat of Town of Kansas, 7 June 1847. In two pieces.
- 8.2 Handwritten note on C&A stationary from M. McCabe(?) at Jacksonville to Agent, Murrayville, asking if limits of Murrayville have been extended since Feb 1873, 23 Sep 1874. Reply on reverse.
- 8.3 Vellum map of Metamora, IL, Jan. 1874.
- 8.4 Vellum map of Green Valley, IL, 12 Feb 1883.

- 8.5 Letter from Div. Engineer T.H. Hubbard at Louisiana to Div Engr H C Draper replying to request for description and enclosing a small tracing of part of a block in Ladd's Addition to Mexico, MO, 18 November 1885.
- 8.6 Handwritten note from agent at Louisiana to Wm Corbett, Sup Kansas City, regarding then-enclosed papers, 26 Aug 1904.
- 8.7 Vellum map of Wann Station, Madison County, IL, August 1905.

Baltimore & Ohio (folder 9)

Folder 9: Baltimore & Ohio Laying of New Rail, 1934

The C&A was purchased by the B&O in 1931.

- 9.1 Circular Governing the Laying of New Rail, 1934. 6 pp typescript plus 2 pp schematics on spiking and tie spacing. 20 July 1934.

Gulf Mobile & Ohio (folders 10- 12)

Folder 10: GM&O Personnel Files

Each file includes a variety of document such as service record, application, retirement communications, etc.

- 10.1 John J. Lenegar of Bloomington, 1918-68.
- 10.2 George Clark Seidel, Bloomington, 1912-29. Plus several subsequent employment related requests during 1930s.
- 10.3 Wilber Gauen working at Venice, 1918-62.
- 10.4 Erwin C. Streenz of Bloomington, 1917-60.

Folder 11: GM&O Trainman's Books

- 11.1 Two Train Books for R.S. Davis of Bloomington. Covers 1951-56 and 1961-62. Shows detailed records on engine number, train and contents, stops, maintenance activity, brakemen's names, etc.

Folder 12: GM&O Miscellaneous

- 12.1 Postcard for passengers, undated.
- 12.2 Switch List forms. One includes handwritten notes with names and date ranges.
- 12.3 Two GM&O routing envelopes, undated.
- 12.4 Oversize postcard of GM&O 1947 photo of General Motors F3 model locomotive. Printed 1974.

Amtrak (folder 13)

Folder 13: Amtrak Miscellaneous

- 13.1 Amtrak stickers celebrating 10th anniversary and "the dawn of a new decade." 1 sheet.
- 13.2 Plastic Rail Travel Privilege Card for employee Stephen B. Gossard and family, Dec 1986.
- 13.3 Passenger receipt stub, for Chicago to Bloomington trip for Gossard, 8 Jun 1989.
- 13.4 Amtrak mailing enveloped, undated.

- 13.5 Ticket from Bloomington to Normal, 10 Jun 1990
Special ticket from Bloomington to Normal, 10 Jun 1990
Both in Amtrak sleeve.
“One of the last tickets issued from the old Washington Street Station” per Gossard's handwritten note.
- 13.6 “Amtrak overflow diverted to buses,” *Pantagraph*, 4 Jan 1993.
- 13.7 Letter from President of Amtrak Intercity to Gossard in Bloomington offering belated congratulations on 25 years of service, 22 Jul 1999.
- 13.8 Form letter to employees from Executive Vice President Beverly Richardson regarding upcoming Service guarantee and retention of “Amtrak” name, etc. 23 Jun 2000. 3pp.
- 13.9 Info sheet on Chicago’s Union Station, undated.
- 13.10 Info sheet on Denver’s Union Station, undated.

Research Materials for Gossard’s Book on Bloomington-Normal Stations (folders 14-22)

Folder 14: Normal Passenger House Blueprints

- 14.1 Photocopy of blueprint for Normal depot, 30 Apr 1872 as revised 13 Mar 1917. 9 sheet capturing different portions of the print and in different sizes.

Folder 15: Contracts for Normal, Illinois, Station

- 15.1 Mimeograph copy of contract No. 4521 between Illinois Central Railroad and receivers of the railways and property of the Chicago & Alton Railroad regarding ownership, maintenance, etc. of the station and related structures, executed 8 February 1927 with accompanying half sheet memo from comptroller R.S. Benson dated 27 Jan 1928. 11pp plus memo and blueprint map.
- 15.2 Carbon copy of contract between Illinois Central Railroad and Chicago & Alton Railroad canceling agreement of February 15, 1913 and now agreeing to new terms of ownership and maintenance, 1 July 1916. Attached note about same. 8 pp plus note
- 15.3 Carbon copy of contract between Illinois Central Railroad and Chicago & Alton Railroad creating written agreement about the stations which has been jointly used for “several years past,” 15 February 1913. 5pp.

Folder 16: Bloomington Depot

- 16.1 “Bloomington Bygone,” by Steve Smedley, in *Passenger Train Journal*, October 1990, pp28-34.
Discusses Blm. depot, history and current conditions, and new Normal depot.
- 16.2 Correspondence from National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc. to Steve Gossard regarding failing to identify manufacturer of Blm. depot clock, 5 July 1991.

Folder 17: William B. Clooney

- 17.1 “The Union Depot,” by William. B. Clooney, Dec. 1949. 9 pp. TS.
- 17.2 “Auto-Biography of William B. Clooney,” 6 pp. TS.

Folder 18: Newspaper Articles I

- 18.1 *Daily Bulletin* articles on transportation related events of the times, including Wright Brothers flight, automobiles, Titanic disaster, etc., 1910-13.

Folder 19: Newspaper Articles II

- 19.1 Local newspaper articles about the new and old depots and C&A shop enlargement, 1910 & 1913.

Folder 20: Newspaper Articles III

- 20.1 Local newspaper articles about the 1873 Lemont bridge disaster, railroad news and events of 1910-13, etc.

Folder 21: Newspaper Articles IV

- 21.1 *Pantagraph* newspaper articles about old Bloomington and new Normal stations, 1988-97.

Folder 22: Miscellaneous

- 22.1 Letter from Transportation Communications International Union noting that Gossard's book is no longer for sale at ticket window but can be ordered via mail, 2 Jun 1991.
- 22.2 Book review: "Bloomington depot remembered," by Michael G. Matejka, in Livingston & McLean Counties Union News, Vol. X. No. X., Mar 1991.
- 22.3 Book review: by Allen Brougham, published in The Bull Sheet newsletter, 1 Sep 1991, p.6.
- 22.4 Miscellaneous notes and articles.