

Collection of Wellesley-Related Railroad Materials
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier

mawelhs

Local Identifier

2019.11

Name and Location of Repository

The Wellesley Historical Society

229 Washington Street

Wellesley, MA 02481

(781) 235-6690

www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

Title

Collection of Wellesley-Related Railroad Materials

Date

1882-1909

Extent

0.25 linear feet, 1 document half-box

Name of Creator

Wellesley Historical Society

Biographical Note

The Boston & Worcester Railroad Corporation (B&W) was incorporated in 1831; construction reached Wellesley by 1834, and the complete single-track line to Worcester was fully operational in 1835. By 1843 the entire length was two-way double-tracked. The B&W was the first steam-powered railroad to operate in New England.

The Boston & Albany Railroad Co. (B&A) was the result of a merger between several railroad companies, including the B&W. By 1870 the mergers were complete, and rail service extended from Albany to Boston, encompassing the line from Worcester to Boston, which included the Wellesley stops in Wellesley Square, Wellesley Hills, and Wellesley Farms, and Newton Lower Falls (the station was technically in Wellesley). The MBTA now manages the line from Worcester to Boston.

Scope and Content Note

This small collection contains several items relation to railroad service in Wellesley in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Folder 1 contains the *ABC Pathfinder Railway Guide* from June 1882; information on the B&A can be found on pages 62-65. Folder 2 contains a pamphlet outlining the 1895 debate in Wellesley regarding fares and frequency of service on the B&A line at a time it was morphing into a commuter railway system. The collection also includes tickets, a cartoon, and a ledger account book.

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Library of Congress Index Terms

Boston and Albany Railroad Co.
Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation
Broad gauge railroads
Railroads
Railroads—Fares
Railroads—Timetables
Railroad holding companies
Wellesley (Mass.)
Wellesley Hills (Mass.)

System of Arrangement

The collection is organized into three series.

- I. Railroads, General
- II. Boston & Albany Railroad Co.
- III. Boston & Worcester Railroad Corporation

Conditions Governing Access

The Collection is open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.
info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org
(781) 235-6690

Physical Access

Some of the materials are fragile, particularly the *ABC Pathfinder Railway Guide* in Folder 1.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

English

Immediate Source of Acquisition

N/A

Accruals

The Historical Society may add materials to this collection in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

Related Materials

Wellesley Historical Society: Photograph Collection: Transportation: Railroads

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Description

DACS-compliant Finding Aid created in March 2019 by Taylor C. Kalloch and Alden Ludlow. Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

Bibliography

Karr, Ronald Dale. 1995. *The Rail Lines of Southern New England*. Branch Line Press, 279–280

Railroad History Database. <http://rrhistorical.com/rrdata/> and <http://rrhistorical.com/index.html>

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Container List

***I.* Railroads, General**

Box 1

Folder 1: *ABC Pathfinder Railway Guide*, New England Railway
Publishing Co.; June 1882

Folder 2: "Wellesley R.R. Fares and Train Service: A Statement by Citizens
as to the Points in Controversy," issued for the Information of the
Public; 1895

***II.* Boston & Albany Railroad Co.**

Box 1

Folder 3: Boston & Albany Tickets; 1890

Folder 4: Boston & Albany Timetables; 1896, 1897, & 1899

Folder 5: "Men Who Don't Like B. & A. Train Service," Cartoon; undated

***III.* Boston & Worcester Railway Corporation**

Box 1

Folder 6: Boston & Worcester Electric Railway, Ledger; 1900-1909