

McLean County Museum of History

Illinois Central Railroad Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1853-2006
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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 – Subjects – Illinois Central Railroad

Brief History

The Illinois Central's (IC) history goes back to early and unsuccessful efforts to charter a railroad to link northern and southern Illinois. But, in 1850, President Millard Fillmore signed a land grant for constructing the railroad, creating the very first land-grant railroad in the US. The Illinois General Assembly chartered the railroad in 1851. The IC reached Bloomington in May 1853 (followed by the Chicago and Alton Railroad that October.) During the 1860s-80s, the IC expanded into the southern US (MI, LA, TN) as well as north (WI, SD, NE.) Further expansion continued in the early twentieth century.

The Bloomington area benefited from both faster passenger transportation and access to markets and suppliers throughout the nation, spurring growth in many businesses and the community at large.

The Illinois Central was a major carrier of passengers on its Chicago to New Orleans line and between Chicago and St. Louis. Amtrak began operating these passenger lines in 1971.

In 1972, the Illinois Central merged with the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad to form the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad (ICG).

In the late 1980s, the railroad divested most of the east-west lines and other redundant lines by selling them to other railways. The railroad dropped the "Gulf" from its name and again became the Illinois Central Railroad in February 1988.

During February 1998, the IC was purchased by the Canadian National Railway with integrated operations beginning July 1999.

Scope

The collection includes general histories and system maps, land sales advertisements from the mid nineteenth century, timetables, freight tariff schedules, land leases, employment applications, maintenance documents, and many internal forms.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General Histories

- 1.1 "The Railroad That Changed Illinois, By Stanley A. Changnon, in *Historic Illinois*, Vol. 29 No. 4, December 2006. pp1-7.
- 1.2 "Illinois Central Railroad," by John F. Stover. Photocopied from *The Routledge Historical Atlas of the American Railroads*, 1999. pp 76-77 plus enlarged copy of route map.
- 1.3 "Normal, Illinois, and the Illinois Central Railroad," 4 pp history, undated but likely 1950s.

Folder 2: System Maps

- 2.1 Photocopies from *Sectional Maps, Showing 2,5000,000 Acres Farm and Wood Lands, of the Illinois Central Rail road Company, in all part of the State of Illinois, with the Line of their Rail road, and other Intersecting Rail Roads*, Plates 13 & 14,1856. 3 pp.
- 2.2 "Die Gifenbahnen von New Yorff, Philadelphia, Bofton & Baltimore nad ben Landereien ber Illinois Central Gifenbahn Comp," Whitney & Jocelyn, engravers, undated.
- 2.3 "Map of the Illinois Central Railroad—and Connections," Poole Bros. Chicago, 3-27-'22 reprinted 4-1-22.
- 2.4 "System Map Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Company," amended as of Feb. 1. 1986, 11 pp. including state by state maps and 2 pp. of text describing the lines.

Folder 3: Early Development, 1850-60s

- 3.1 Photocopy of poster "Wanted! 3,000 Laborers on the 12th Division of the Illinois Central Railroad," July 1853.
- 3.2 "Offer for Sale over 2,400,000 Acres selected Prairie, Farm and Wood Lands," 32pp booklet, with missing back cover. 1855.
- 3.3 Copy of "Homes for the Industrious in the Garden State of the West," with IC offering 1.2 million acres of farm land, undated.
- 3.4 Photocopies (2) of "The Finest Farming Lands," with IC offering 1.2 million acres of farm land, undated.
- 3.5 "Illinois Central R.R. Lands for Sale!" *Pantagraph*, 5 Oct 1857, p4.
- 3.6 "Illinois Central Railroad Land in McLean County," showing tracts held by IC and those sold before 1 Jan 1868. Source and date unknown.
- 3.7 Email from Greg Koos regarding info gleaned from ICRR maps as it illuminates immigrations of Quakers, Mennonites, etc. in McLean County. 15 June 2017.

Folder 4: Passenger Depots

- 4.1 IC Depot: 4 copies of sketch of 1866 depot and freight house. Printed in *Pantagraph*, 26 Aug 1930 and 16 Nov 1917.
- 4.2 "New Freight House at Normal," *Pantagraph*, 6 Oct 1869, p 4.

- 4.3 "Want a Decent Depot," *Daily Leader*, 9 Sep 1890, p 3.
- 4.4 "Illinois Central Passenger Station," *Pantagraph*, 13 Jul 1895, p 7
- 4.5 "The New Depot," *Pantagraph*, 12 Nov 1895, p 5.
- 4.6 "Opened to Traffic," *Pantagraph*, 1 Jan 1896, p 7.

Folder 5: Passenger Timetables, Tickets, etc.

- 5.1 IC Time Table No. 1 between Galena and Cairo, 8 Jan 1855. Photocopy.
- 5.2 IC Time Table No 91, 31 Oct 1908, 70 pp.
- 5.3 Brochure: IC Green Diamond, America's First Standard Size Diesel Electric Streamlined Train, Chicago-Springfield-St. Louis, April 1936. Includes timetables from Chgo to St. Louis for the Diamond Daily, the Daylight Daily and the Green Diamond Daily.
- 5.4 IC Guide to Mid-America, City of New Orleans, undated. Instead of time table, this details points of interest on the route.
- 5.5 ICG: One Way Ticket between Randolph St. and Harvey, 19 Jan 1974.

Folder 6: Commercial Freight

- 6.1 IC Freight Waybill memo, agent's copy, 30 Mar 1962. Ralston Purina soybean oil meal.
- 6.2 IC Freight Waybill memo, 29 Oct 1965.
- 6.3 IC Special Supplement 2 to Tariff 2233-R, listing increase in rates for various commodities effective 26 Dec 1956. 5pp.
- 6.4 IC Supplement 17 to Tariff 2233-R on local distance rates and basis for joint distance rates for various commodities, effective 8 Aug 1963. 4 pp.
- 6.5 Track List for Markham, 2 May 1989, with details of 26 cars of freight.

Folder 7: Employment Applications

- 7.1 IC applications for employment (14), 1942-45. Social security numbers have been blacked out for privacy.

Folder 8: Wage Schedule for Locomotive Engineers

- 8.1 IC Schedule, 1 Mar 1953, 96 pp plus index.

Folder 9: Personal Injuries

- 9.1 Reportable Injuries for Four Months 1972, 2 June 1972.
- 9.2 IC Blank form for Report of Personal Injury.

Folder 10: Employee Magazine

- 10.1 Illinois Central Gulf News, Sep-Oct 1972. 32pp. Announcing consummation of IC – GM&O merger, company officers, statistics, employee news, new logo, etc.

Folder 11: Index and Ruling Grade Data

11.1 Results of 1943 tests, 2 pp.

Folder 12: Internal Timetables and Train Registers

12.1 ICG Illinois Division Timetable No. 6, eff 24 Apr 1977. 31pp.

12.2 ICG St. Louis- Missouri Division Timetable No. 4, eff 3 Aug 1980. 34pp.

12.3 Blank form for ICG Train Register, Southward or Westward. 2 sheets. 1972.

Folder 13: Train Orders

13.1 ICG: Seven (7) sets of orders, 1976-78 and 1988.

Folder 14: Miscellaneous Memos

14.1 Division Engineer S.C. Jump, 27 Jun 1945. 2 copies.

14.2 Division Engineer F.W. Armistead to L.H. Bond on transfer of roadway equipment, undated.

14.3 Deland Agent Halmond D. Bowden to Division Engineer P.A. Cosgrove, 19 Jun 1962 concerning gas pipe line to Deland depot.

14.4 Three communications concerning loading/reloading of corn shipment for Deland Farms Corp, Aug-Sep 1962.

14.5 Deland Agent H.C. Bowden regarding corrections on crushed stone shipments, Jul-Aug 1963.

Folder 15: Miscellaneous Forms, etc.

15.1 IC stationery: "Main Line of Mid-America"

15.2 Mileage reimbursement form for 25 Aug 1985.

15.3 IC Robbery Report forms, 1946 and 50.

15.4 IC Track Permit Control System, 1988. Some completed, some blank. 6 pp.

15.5 IC Daily report of carload and less carload shipments with freight charges of \$25 or more. . . July 1972 data.

15.6 IC Employee Suggestion Forms (8), blank but individually numbered.

15.7 IC Report of Cars on Hand.

15.8 IC Engine Foreman's Transfer Trip Report, (2), blank, undated.

15.9 Three cards for Transportation Club of Decatur with ICG logo, undated.

15.10 Envelope with ICG return address, undated.

Folder 16: Land Sales and Leases

16.1 IC: Cultivation Permit allowing Hubert P. Lisenby to garden on parcel near Weldon, IL, 15 Jan 1964.

16.2 Carbon copy of letter from Supt F.K. Stanford to John Bryson regarding lease for cultivation at Cornland, IL, 15 Oct 1965. Includes layout.

- 16.3 Carbon copy of letter from “superintendent” to Mr. E.M. Cordes about lease for Richard Reeser for site for elevator, scale, grain bins, etc. at Chestnut, IL, 4 Nov 1965. Includes layout.
- 16.4 ICG: Letter from Chicago Title Insurance Co. in Chicago to ICG regarding title issues for proposed sale of shop lands in Bloomington, 20 May 1976.