



Southwest Missouri Railroad Company Records (R0052)

Collection Number: R0052

Collection Title: Southwest Missouri Railroad Company Records

Dates: 1892-1941

Creator: Southwest Missouri Railroad Company

Abstract: The Southwest Missouri Railroad Company Records contains microfilm copies of corporate minute books of the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company and its predecessors, the Joplin and Galena Electric Railway Company, and the Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company. There is also one folder of miscellaneous correspondence between A.H. Rogers and Edgar Z. Wallower regarding financing of the road.

Collection Size: (1 roll of microfilm)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Southwest Missouri Railroad Company Records* (R0052); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The records were loaned for microfilming to the University of Missouri by H. Lang Rogers on May 21, 1981 (Accession No. RA0069).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company Records can be found in the following collections:

[Frank Carmany Wallower Papers](#) (R0057)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, September 15, 1981. Revised by Kathleen Seale, March 30, 2020.

Historical Note:

Interurban transportation in the Tri-State Mining District began in 1889, when A.H. Rogers organized the Twin City Railway Company, a horse-car line between Webb City and Carterville. It was absorbed in 1892 by the Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company, a firm organized by E. Z. Wallower and a group of investors from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A.H. Rogers, one of the few investors from Jasper County, was elected president of the new company. The railroad was in operation by 1893, linking the mining camps at Webb City and Joplin. The company expanded to Carterville and Prosperity, and in 1896 in purchased the Joplin and Galena Electric Railway and the Jasper County Electric Railway companies. The line was extended to Galena, Kansas, in 1906, and other tracks were relocated. The improvements required a new state charter and the company was reorganized as the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company. A.H. Rogers remained as president.

At its greatest extent the company operated almost one hundred miles of tracks. The line ran from Carthage through Webb City and Joplin, north to Neck City and Alba, and then turned south to Duenweg. As the center of mining activity in the Tri-State District shifted westward toward Oklahoma, the railroad put in a branch to Picher. By allowing miners to commute from residences to mining claims, the interurban did much to promote the stability of Joplin and Carthage. The railroad was a profitable enterprise for a decade, but it declined as the mineral areas in the Tri-State District began to play out. By 1927, the company was bankrupt and in receivership.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 2 series:

Miscellaneous Records
Minute Books

Scope and Content Note:

Miscellaneous Records

This series contains correspondence, minutes of meetings, and other papers regarding finance and construction of the Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company and the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company. This series is arranged chronologically.

Minute Books

This series consists of the minute books for the Joplin and Galena Electric Railway Company, Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company, and the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company. The minute books contain company meeting minutes, financial records, and property deeds. This series is arranged chronologically.

Container List:

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Roll 1	f. 1	Miscellaneous records, 1892-1941
v. 1-5		Minute books
	v. 1	Joplin and Galena Electric Railway Company, 1895-1896
	v. 2	Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company, 1895-1903
	v. 3	Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company, grants, franchises, regulations, and deeds, 1903-1904
	v. 4-5	Southwest Missouri Railroad Company, 1903-1932

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Harrisburg (Penn.)	1	v. 1-5
Jasper County (Mo.)	1	v. 1-5
John C. Bailey Electric Railroad		v. 2
Joplin (Mo.)	1	v. 1-5
Joplin and Galena Electric Railway Company	1	v. 1-5
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Railroads--Kansas	1	v. 1-5
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Wallower, Edgar Z., 1894-1963	1	v. 1-5
Webb City (Mo.)	1	v. 1-5
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