

Information Sheet

R **Southwest Missouri Railroad Company.**
52 **Records, 1892-1941.**
 5 volumes, 1 folder.

MICROFILM

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

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 it purchased the Joplin & Galena Electric Railway and the Jasper County Electric Railway companies. The line was extended to Galena, Kansas, in 1906, and other trackage was 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.

The Southwest Missouri Railroad collection was loaned for microfilming by Lang Rogers, grandson of A. H. Rogers. The collection consists of corporate minute books of the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company and its predecessors, the Joplin & Galena Electric Railway Company, and the Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company. There is also one folder of miscellaneous correspondence between A. H. Rogers and E. Z. Wallower regarding financing of the road.

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Shelf List

This collection consists of miscellaneous papers and corporate minute books of the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company and its predecessors, the Joplin & Galena Electric Railway Company, and the Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company.

Folder 1: Miscellaneous correspondence, minutes of meetings, and other papers regarding finance and construction of the Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company and the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company, 1892-1941.

Minute Books, 1895-1932

- v. 1 Joplin & Galena Electric Railway Company, minute book, 1895-1896 (99 p.).
- v. 2 Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company, minute book, 1895-1903 (152 p.).
- v. 3 Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Company, "Corporate and Municipal Grants, Franchises and Regulations, Corporation Deeds," 1903-1904 (21 p.).

v. 4 Southwest Missouri Railroad Company, minute book, 1903-1910 (87 p.).

v. 5 Southwest Missouri Railroad Company, minute book, 1906-1932 (250 p.).

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