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Troy and Rutland Railroad Company; Records

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title:	Troy and Rutland Rail Road Company Records
ID:	mss122
Date [inclusive]:	1814-1919
Physical Description:	1.8 cubic ft. processed to date
Physical Location:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Troy & Rutland Rail Road Company Records contain legal and financial papers, board member correspondence, as well as voting certificates, ballot slips, & engineering drawings.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Troy and Rutland Rail Road Company Records, 1814-1919. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Troy and Rutland Rail Road Company Records).

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Organizational Sketch

The Troy & Rutland Rail Road Company was a division of the much larger Rutland Railroad of Vermont. Although the Rutland operated for more than a century, the Troy & Rutland existed as such for only six of those years. Railroad historians have given detailed accounts of other Rutland rail lines, but extensive background on the Troy & Rutland remains elusive, perhaps due to the brevity of its existence. [1]

The Troy & Rutland was chartered on April 10, 1849, but financial issues prevented the start of construction until the following year, and it was not completed until early 1852. The T&R directors contracted with Barker, Sipperly, & Company to build what would become the southern portion of the

Rutland Railroad's domain by connecting Salem Village (near the Vermont state line) to Eagle Bridge in Rensselaer, NY. From its inception, the Troy & Rutland had close ties with the Troy & Boston Co. as well as the Rutland & Washington. The latter played a pivotal role in the completion of the Troy & Rutland by helping to build trackline from Salem north to the Vermont line, resulting in a portion of track shared by the two companies which formed a continuous route up to Rutland. [2]

Upon completion, the railroad served dual purposes by transporting passengers and freight. Although the Troy & Rutland spanned less than 40 miles, it was part of nearly 400 miles of track operated by the Rutland Railroad, extending all the way up to Montreal. [2] The T&R had only just become fully operational when it was leased to the Rutland & Washington Railroad in July 1852 [3], eventually extending the latter's control entirely over the Troy & Rutland's trackline by 1855. Most records of the Troy and Rutland drop off sharply after that year. Although letters from the mid-1850s show interest in T&R track by the Albany Northern Rail Road, sources indicate that after the Rutland & Washington took over the Troy & Rutland, financier Jay Gould purchased many of the Rutland and Washington's bonds in 1857 [3]. The tracklines of both the T&R and the Rutland & Washington eventually became incorporated as the Troy, Salem, & Rutland Railroad by 1865 [4], only to fall under the auspices of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company in the early 1870s [3].

Today, the distinctive green-and-gold livery of the old Rutland Railroad can still be seen via the Green Mountain Railroad, which has ties to the original Rutland & Burlington line. The Green Mountain Railroad offers scenic rides to tourists as well as freight service anywhere from six to seven days per week [5].

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Scope and Contents

The Troy & Rutland Rail Road collection contains a variety of legal and financial papers as well as correspondence between board members and their colleagues. Legal documents include bond agreements, indentures, mortgage papers, and legal summons. Financial accounts include cost estimates, expenditures, and delivery receipts. There are several folders containing proxy voting certificates and ballot slips as well as one oversize box with engineering drawings. The collection also features miscellaneous items of interest such as a field book and several copies of the *Troy Daily Whig*. Correspondence has a wide range of senders and recipients including William Law, J.M. Stevenson, Bernard Blair, George Barker (of Barker, Sipperly, & Co.), bankers, and shareholders.

Box 4 is oversized and contains engineering drawings which are undated but would logically be circa 1850. Items are mainly loose papers plus one large, bound book. Drawings include several depot plans as well as land surveys and measurements for abutments and track line. Specifically mentions Foster's Bridge, Prospect Avenue, the Hoosic River, Owl Kill Bridge, the Batten Kill, and stations at Cambridge and White Creek.

The majority of the records in this collection would have been maintained by Troy & Rutland secretary William Law; however, his resignation as secretary in 1853 means that the records did come under

the jurisdiction of other board members (including J.M. Stevenson, treasurer) from 1853 to 1855. One other exception is the Rutland Railroad logbook, which was acquired separately from the rest of the collection and deals with the parent company, the Rutland Railroad, in the early 20th century. Its keeper, railroad employee Ernest Reynolds, recorded which engines made trips on various days, where they went, and who the conductors were. Sometimes there are special notes, such as the one regarding the Lester Junction accident in which Reynolds broke his ankle. The log book covers April 1916 to May 1919. A black and white photograph of Reynolds was also acquired with the logbook.

Special Note: Items in Box 1, Folder 4 (Bound materials) are all folded and therefore very fragile-- assistance in handling will be necessary; some records may be unable to be viewed.

Special Note: Box 1, Folder 7 contains three letters that predate the T&R charter, one by thirty-three years and two by sixteen years. Despite the length of time that separates them from the charter in 1849, the letters make reference to the Troy & Rutland Rail Road as well as its president, Bernard Blair. William Law is also named as a letter recipient; uncertainty as to whether it is the same William Law who acted as railroad secretary from 1849-1853.

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Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is arranged alphabetically. There are no series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Encoded in EAD byCarolynn Verne 2012

Processing Information

Processed in 2009 by Kerry Lynch.

Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

Acquisition Information

All items in this record group were purchased by the University Libraries, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, from dealer New Englandiana on December 23, 1969.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Rensselaer County, New York
- Railways
- Business and Industry
- Railroad companies
- Troy & Rutland Rail Road Company
- Troy (N.Y.)
- Rutland (Vt.)
- Minutes
- Contract Documents
- Voting Papers
- Articles of Agreement
- Drawings
- Financial Records
- Troy & Rutland Rail Road Company

Collection Inventory

Box & Folder List, 1814-1919Undated

Physical Description: 1.8 cubic ft.

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles of Association & By-laws, ca. 1850	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 1
Ballot Slips, ca. Undated	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 2
Bond Agreements, ca. 1855	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 3
Bound Materials (Includes <i>Troy Daily Whig</i> , property table, bonds, poll lists, bids & estimates, tied up in cloth--various dates), Various	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 4
Building Contracts, 1849	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 5
Building Contracts, 1850	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 6
Correspondence, 1814-1833-1849-1852	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 7
Correspondence, 1853-1855-1906	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 8
Cost Estimates, 1851	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 9
Delivery Invoices, 1851	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 10
Delivery Receipts, 1853-1878	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 11
Depositions, c. 1851	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 12
Director's Resolutions, 1849-1855	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 13
Expenditures, 1849-1855	Box 1 (1-Box & Folder List)	Folder 14
Indentures, 1850-1852		

	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 1
Legal Agreements, 1850-1851	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 2
Legal Summons, 1852	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 3
Meeting Minutes *April 10, 1849 minutes contain copy of railroad charter*, 1849-1851	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 4
Meeting Minutes, 1852-1855 June	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 5
Meeting Minutes Index, 1849-1855	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 6
Mortgage Papers, 1851 February	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 7
Oath of Inspection, 1852	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 8
Poll List & Votes, 1855	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 9
Proxy Voting Certificates, 1851-1852	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 10
Proxy Voting Certificates and Tallies, 1852	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 11
Proxy Voting Certificates and Ballot Slips, 1853	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 12
Proxy Voting Certificates, 1854	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 13
Proxy Voting Certificates and Ballot Slips, 1855	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 14
Reynolds, Ernest-- Logbook, 1916-1919	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 15
Reynolds, Ernest-- Photograph, Undated		

	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 16
Shareholder Circular, Undated	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 17
Stockholder's 1st Annual Report, Undated	Box 2 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 18
Survey Chart, Undated	Box 3 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 1
Travel Receipts, 1851	Box 3 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 2
T&R Book of Levels, Undated	Box 3 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 3
T&R Field Book, Undated	Box 3 (1- Box & Folder List)	Folder 4
Engineering Drawings, c.1850	Oversized 4	

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