

Woods Hole Historical Collection
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER

RAILROADS
1870s-2001

2 boxes

RAILROADS

HISTORY

Woods Hole Branch

The railroad was brought to Woods Hole by the combined influences of Prince Sears Crowell of Dennis and the Pacific Guano Company in Woods Hole, John Murray Forbes of Naushon Island and Joseph Story Fay, Woods Hole's most prominent citizen, who sold much of his coastal land from Falmouth to Woods Hole for its tracks.

The Cape Cod Railroad had offered to extend its line to Woods Hole if they could get enough stock subscribed for and sold. John Murray Forbes and Joseph Story Fay bought 300 shares apiece at \$70 per share and the planning began.

A plan was announced by the Cape Cod Railroad on September 8, 1871 to build a line from Cohasset Narrows (presently the Buzzards Bay end of the Cape Cod Canal) to Woods Hole. Three days later construction began. The state legislature authorized the Old Colony & Newport Railroad Company and the Cape Cod Railroad to unite as one on March 27, 1872. The resulting entity was the Old Colony Railroad Company.

The first train arrived in Woods Hole on July 18, 1872.

The local line ran along the shore north of Falmouth, then inland and again along the shore and among marshes and woods to Little Harbor and terminated at Great Harbor where the steamships sailed to Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and New Bedford. The *Island Home* met the first train and for many decades Woods Hole was the shortest route to reach Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

"The Dude" Train, a subscription train run as an express from Boston to Woods Hole, began in 1884. It had been initiated by businessmen of Boston (including locals such as Forbes, Beebe and Fay) to take themselves, their friends and families to their summer homes. It ran from June to October until 1916. Its famous conductor was Augustus Messer.

In 1893 the Old Colony became a division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. The last train ran to Woods Hole in 1964.

SCOPE

The Collection is fortunate to have some original ephemera from the Old Colony Railroad and also from the New Haven era. Longtime Board member Avis Blomberg donated many items which belonged to her father Robert C. Neal, station master for the New Haven at Woods Hole, where he began work in 1922. Included were baggage tags, station keys, her father's lantern and his book of employee rules for the New Haven. In addition there are original Annual Reports of the Old Colony Railroad for 1868, 1879, 1884 and 1890. Other original items include Employees' Working Schedule of 1888,

several advertising brochures of the 1890s and original school-term tickets for teenagers taking the train from Woods Hole to high school in Falmouth.

Other original items include a large number of tickets for the Cape Cod Railroad.

There are some articles included which cover the local history of the railroad and also items of general railroad interest, contributed by railroad enthusiasts.

There are a small number of railroad photographs which were formerly stored with the paper items in this catalog. Since they have been made into digital formats the photos were removed to a fire-proof cabinet along with the rest of the Collection's photos. Most of these photos are copy photos along with a few originals. The most significant railroad photos are of the 1890s-early 1900s done by Baldwin Coolidge on glass plates and printed out at approximately 8 x 10 as contact prints. The detail shown in these is notable. The Coolidge images are kept in the fire-proof file under his name, not in "Railroads". See below.

SEE ALSO, in photos:

Baldwin Coolidge (digital images 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2639, 2674, 2709, 2710, 2711)

Railroad (digital images 1557-1590)

Oversized photos

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BOX 1: Files

OLD COLONY DIVISION-OLD COLONY RAILROAD

- 1-1. Histories of the Old Colony Railroad.
 - a. Book excerpt. *The New Haven Railroad's Old Colony Division* by Robert A. Liljestrand (2000). Xerox copy of cover, introduction and map.
 - b. Typewritten material on Nathan Carruth, first president of Old Colony.
 - c. Excerpt from *An Anthology of Naushon 1833-1917* re John Murray Forbes and the beginning of the Old Colony Division to Woods Hole. Xerox copy.
- 1-2. Annual Reports of the Directors of the Old Colony Railroad/Railway, Boston.
 - a. Fifth Annual Report of the Directors of the Old Colony & Newport Railway Company, July 1868. Original booklet.
 - b. Sixteenth Annual Report of the Directors of the Old Colony Railroad Co. to the Stockholders, November 1879. Original booklet.
 - c. Twenty-First Annual Report of the Directors of the Old Colony Railroad Co. to the Stockholders, November 1884. Original booklet.
 - d. Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Directors of the Old Colony Railroad Co. to the Stockholders, September 30, 1890. Original booklet.
- 1-3. Flyer. The Famous Seaside Resorts of America. Woods Holl. Boston, June 23, 1877. Reproduction of an original by the New Haven Railroad Historic Society, 1979. Three copies.
- 1-4. Material on "The Flying Dude" (1884-1916).
 - a. Article. 'An Old Colony "Dude"' by Paul E. Levasseur. The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad *Shoreliner*, Vol. 15, Issue 2, 1984. 2 Xerox copies.
 - b. Photo. Copy photo of postcard. R.R. Station, Cataumet, Mass. Arrival of The Dude. Xerox copy also.
 - c. Newsclipping. "The luxurious 'Dude Train' offered privacy to the rich" by Bill McLaughlin. Cape Cod Times *CapeWeek*, Reader's Page, July 4, 1987. 2 originals and xerox copy.
 - d. Newsclipping. "The Flying Dude", Falmouth *Enterprise*, n.d. Poor xerox.

- 1-5. Working schedule. Supplement No. 16 to Timetable No. 41 for Employees Only. Cape Cod Division, September 30, 1888. Original. 02-13.
- 1-6. Timetable. Old Colony Railroad and Fall River Line, Central and Cape Cod Divisions, Time Table for Passenger Trains, takes effect Wednesday, August 1, 1888. Reproduction of original, 1985.
- 1-7. Timetable. New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Manual of Old Colony Summer Resorts, 1897. Original.

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NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN AND HARTFORD RAILROAD

- 1-8. Ticket booklets. New York, New Haven & Hartford R.R. School Term Tickets, January 3, 1898-March 26, 1898 and April 11, 1898-June 25, 1898. Belonged to Mertie Crowell of Woods Hole.
- 1-9. Blueprint. Woods Hole Railroad station and dock area with electrical connections, lines and specifications, n.d. *Possibly 1902 when new station was built.*
- 1-10. Timetable. New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamboat Co. Timetable in Effect June 20, 1907. Includes train schedules and connections to New York, Lowell and Boston. Reproduction of original.
- 1-11. Receipts, 1910 and 1911 – originals. Accession Number 92-26.
 - a. Agent's Monthly Report sheets 1910.
 - b. Western Union Message Report sheets, 1910.
 - c. Monthly receipts of cash payments for freight, Old Colony Division, Woods Hole, 1911.
- 1-12. Booklet. Cape Cod, A Plain Tale of the Lure of the Old Colony Country.... by Walter Prichard Eaton. Imprinted for The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company and The New England Steamship Company, 1923.
- 1-13. Photos (xeroxed). Copies of photos done for hurricane damage assessment of Woods Hole railroad station, 1944. From University of Connecticut Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.
- 1-14. Train schedule. Woods Hole to Boston, September 30, 1945, Cut from newspaper (New Bedford Standard-Times?)
- 1-15. Timetable. The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Co., The Scenic Shoreline Route Serving New York and New England, April 27, 1952. Boston And Cape Cod schedule.
- 1-16. Magazine articles.
 - a. "The Woods Hole Branch – 1955, Part 1" by Philip H. Choate. *Cape*

Rail Dispatch, Cape Cod Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, Volume IX,

Number 11, July 1995.

b. "The Woods Hole Branch – 1955, Part 2" by Philip H. Choate. *Cape Rail Dispatch*, Cape Cod Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, Volume IX,

Number 12, August 1995. Xerox copies, stapled together.

1-17. Booklets.

a. The New Haven Railroad Book of Rules (The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, Rules For The Government Of The Operating Department), 1956. *Belonged to Robert Neal, Supr. Agent. Donated by his daughter Avis N. Blomberg, Accession Number 92-26.*

b. Tact by Sir John Lubbock. Compliments of The New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Co. *Belonged to Robert Neal, Supr. Agent. Donated by his daughter Avis N. Blomberg, Accession Number 92-26.*

1-18. Booklet. The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company Time Table No. 23. For Employees Only. May 12, 1968.

1-19. Newsclippings

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a. Newsclipping. "Trains To New York And To Boston", Falmouth *Enterprise*, May 27, 1960. Xerox copy.

b. Newsclipping. "The Twilight of Our Railroads", Unknown Newspaper, May 17, 1970. Original and xerox copy. Accession Number 92-26.

c. Newsclipping. "New Haven Railroad Preserved in Memory", *The Hartford Courant*, April 24, 1977. Original and xerox copy. Accession Number 92-26.

d. Newsclipping. "Mementos Of Days When Old Colony Line Was New" by Katharine R. Woodwell, Falmouth *Enterprise*, June 7, 1977. Original and xerox copy. Accession Number 93-14. *WHHC exhibit coverage.*

e. Newsclipping. "The Old New York Trains", Falmouth *Enterprise*, June 11, 1986.

Original and xerox copy.

f. Newsclipping. "Do You Remember?" Photographs of Canal bridges prior to 1930s.

Unknown Newspaper, n.d. Original and xerox copy.

1-20. Notes.

1-21. Book excerpt. "Robert Clifton Neal, Station Agent". From *Cape Cod Railroads* by Robert H. Farson, 1993, pp. 288-292. Typewritten copy by E. Frances Shepherd.

CAPE COD RAILROAD

1-22. Booklet. 1996 Annual Report, The Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank.

“Dedicated to Railroad Workers of the Past, An Historical View”.

1-23. Tickets. Collection of original Cape Cod Railroad tickets, 1866-1879. Accession Number 94-06.

CAPE COD AND AREA RAILROAD INFORMATION

1-24. Magazine article. “The Most Scenic Trash Ride In America” by Richard Chase. Pp. 6-11, Cape Cod Magazine, Fall 2001.

1-25. Newsclipping. “Railroad Bridge From Top To Bottom”. Photographs by Ellen L. Drenzo, Falmouth Enterprise, October 1, 2004. Original and Xerox copies.

MISCELLANEOUS RAILROAD INFORMATION (Not Cape Cod)

1-26. Pamphlet. A Sketch of Narragansett Pier And Its Delightful Attractions As A Watering Place. Published by the Passenger Department, New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, Boston, Mass. 1896. Accession Number 90-1.

1-27. Timetable. Boston and Maine Railroad Condensed Timetables Between Principal New England Points, Canada, Maritime Provinces, The West, North and Southwest.

In Effect June 25, 1906. Accession Number 90-1.

1-28. Newsclippings.

a. “Iron Horse”. Photo of steam locomotive in Wilmington (DE), August 1964. Unknown newspaper. Original and xerox copy. Accession Number 93-14.

1-29. Booklet. 1971 Steam Passenger Service Directory Including Electric Lines And Museums.

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BOX 2: Ephemera and Artifacts

2-1. Framed print. Flyer. The Famous Seaside Resorts of America. Woods Holl. Boston, June 23, 1877. Reproduction of an original by the New Haven Railroad Historic Society, 1979.

2-2. Framed photograph. Copy photo of the narrow-gauge railroad at Oak Bluffs, Locomotive “Active” and Steamer *Monohansett*. C. 1880s-1890s.

2-3. Timetable and Guide Book. *The Official Guide (Standard Time) of the Railways and Steam Navigation Lines of the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and Cuba*.

February 1968. Accession Number 92-26

2-4. Keys. Four skeleton keys with brass baggage tag (NY, NH & H) on key ring. Belonged

to Robert C. Neal, Woods Hole Station Master. Accession Number 94-08.

2-5. Baggage tags, brass. Baggage tags from New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. Accession Number 92-26.

2-6. Railroad Lantern. Chrome and rubber lantern (NH 4147) belonging to Robert C. Neal,
Woods Hole Station Master. Accession Number 03-3.

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