OVERVIEW


Series Title: Railroad swamp land selection lists,

Dates: 1880-1926.

Abstract: Lists of state swamp lands selected by private companies as part of land grants from the state to aid in the construction of railroads or for other purposes.

Quantity: 3.3 cubic feet (3 boxes and 1 partial box).

Location: See Detailed Description section for box locations.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Lists of state swamp land selected by private companies as part of land grants from the state to aid in construction of railroads or for other purposes. The state legislature authorized the grants to these companies of designated swamp land to which the state had previously acquired title from the federal government. The selection lists established the priority of the grantee company's claim to the selected land.

The terms of the grants to the railroads varied somewhat, but most granted the company a specified amount of swamp land for each mile of land constructed. As the company completed a section of track, it submitted a selection list to the State Land Office describing the parcels it wished to acquire under its grant. The State Land Office examined the lists to determine if the selected parcels were subject to any prior claims or reservations. If no such claims existed, the lands were deeded to the railroad. In addition to several railroads, the Cannon River Manufacturer's Association received a grant "to improve the waterpower and manufacturing resources of the Cannon River."

Each selection list gives the list number, name of grantee company, citations to the legislation authorizing the grant, date the selection list was filed, and legal descriptions of the parcels selected. A subset of these files consists of a lengthy list, with related documentation, of lands selected by the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad under Special Laws 1875 c54, noting the final status of each parcel.
Filed with this series are several folders relating to congressional railroad grants, and a summary of state legislation relating to railroad swamp land grants.

ARRANGEMENT

Arranged primarily by grantee company, followed by a separate section for a Duluth and Iron Range Railroad indemnity lands case.

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:
- Public lands--Minnesota.
- Railroad land grants--Minnesota.
- Swamp lands--Minnesota.

Organizations:
- Cannon River Manufacturer's Association.
- Duluth & Iron Range Railroad Company.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

Accession Information:
Accession number(s): none; 985-143

Processing Information:
Catalog ID No.: 1735187

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location shown below.

Railroad Swamp Land Selection Lists, 1880-1926.

Location
Location

106.K.9.3B  Cannon River Manufacturer’s Association, 1881-1884.
            Lists 1-21, 23-25. This represented a portion of a grant originally
            made to the Cannon River Improvement Company. The
            remainder of the grant was acquired by the Minnesota Central
            Railroad.

            Minnesota Central Railroad, 1881-1885. 3 folders.
            Lists 1-100.

            Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pacific Railroad, 1885-1902. 7 folders.
            Lists 101-263. Successor to the Minnesota Central Railroad.

            Minneapolis and St. Cloud Railroad, 1882-1896. 6 folders.
            Lists 1-[183] and miscellaneous.

106.K.9.4F  Little Falls and Dakota Railroad, 1884-1895. 6 folders.
            Lists 1-178 and miscellaneous.

            Taylor's Falls and Lake Superior Railroad, 1880-1895. 2 folders.
            Lists 1-28 and miscellaneous lists, plats, and correspondence.

            St. Paul and Duluth Railroad, 1881-1901. 4 folders.
            Lists 1-138 and miscellaneous lists.

106.K.9.5B  Duluth and Iron Range Railroad, 1883-1919. 8 folders.
            Lists 1-204 and miscellaneous lists and correspondence.

            Northern Pacific, Fergus Falls, and Black Hills Railroad, 1884.
            Lists 1-2.

            Southern Minnesota Railway Co., 1875-1879.
            Miscellaneous lists and correspondence.

            St. Paul and Chicago Railroad, undated.
            Miscellaneous lists.

            Congressional Railroad Grants. 3 folders.
            Western Railroad of Minnesota, 1877-1925.
            Correspondence and lists.

            Northern Pacific Railway, 1901-1902.
            Correspondence.

            Hastings and Dakota Railway, 1926.

            DeGraff Settlement.
            Affidavits and correspondence relating to settlement claims
            against the St. Paul and Pacific land grant by Charles DeGraff and
            others for money owed for debts contracted in the construction of
            certain lines.
Duluth and Iron Range Railroad: Records of Swamp Land Selections, 1913-1917.

An itemized record, by parcel, of swamp lands deeded to the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad under Minnesota Special Laws of 1875, Chapter 54; and correspondence and lists, 1913-1917, regarding the completion of this land grant.

The 1875 law and its successors (Special Laws 1876 c241 and Special Laws 1883 c69) entitled the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad to ten sections of swamp land for each mile of completed road, to be selected within ten miles either side of the line, or from other swamp lands in St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties to make up any deficiencies. Notes in the file comparing granted lands with the State Land Office's "Swamp Land Record" indicate that the total acreage was to have been 606,720 acres.

In 1914 the railroad pressed claims to lands it felt entitled to receive as indemnity for lands lost to it through previous deed and title problems, occupation by other railroads' rights of way, overlapping land descriptions, and surveying errors, totaling 5966.87 acres. The state allowed an entitlement of 5448.52 acres.

The bulk of this file consists of sheets (620 pages) that appear to itemize the status of each parcel of land surveyed for possible grant to the railroad. They record each parcel's legal description, evidence of title, whether deeded to and/or filed on by the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad or for state institutions, whether vacant, and whether the state's claim was rejected. They are accompanied by various summary sheets, as well as by a folder of correspondence and lists.

Location

106.G.6.7B-2 Duluth and Iron Range Railroad: Records of Swamp Land Selections. 1 volume and 1 folder.