

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



**THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN:
CIRCLE LODGE FONDS**

AFC 61

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements - September 2009

**WESTERN ARCHIVES
AFC 61
THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN: CIRCLE LODGE FONDS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| FONDS DESCRIPTION | 4 |
| SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS | |
| Series 1: Minutes of meetings | 6 |
| Series 2: Visitors and attendance registers..... | 7 |
| Series 3: Treasurers' records..... | 8 |

THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN: CIRCLE LODGE FONDS
AFC 61
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

1885-1962, predominant 1886-1945

Extent

30 cm of textual records
10 volumes

Administrative History

During the early years of railroad construction, railway workers often received substandard pay and often worked under very poor conditions. The Brotherhood of Railroad Brakemen was formed in Oneonta, New York in 1883; its mandate was to represent the interests of railway brakemen in securing satisfactory contracts with management. In 1889, the Brotherhood of Railroad Brakemen became the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; as the name change suggests, the Brotherhood opened their membership to railroad workers of all kinds.

The first Canadian lodge was formed in Moncton, New Brunswick in 1885. One year later, on July 5, 1886, Circle Lodge #227 was organized in Point Edward, near Sarnia, Ontario. In 1894, the Brotherhood local moved to Sarnia, where it remained until the incorporation of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen into the United Transportation Union in 1969.

The development of the Brotherhood local in Sarnia and its amalgamation into the United Transportation Union make it a part of the largest railroad union in North America. Moreover, the founding of the Lodge #227 happened during an early and pivotal stage in Canadian railway history.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records related to the creation and development of Circle Lodge #227. The records include: minutes; visitors registers; attendance registers; records of names, cheques and statements; and treasurers membership registers and ledgers. Also included are official circulars and convention information from the international organization, as well as other early union literature.

Arrangement

The fonds has been arranged into the following series:

- Series 1: Minutes of meetings
- Series 2: Visitors and attendance registers
- Series 3: Treasurers' records

Finding Aids

Item list is available.

Custodial History

Upon the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen's absorption into the United Transportation Union in 1969, the records of Circle Lodge #227 were transferred to the custody of the United Transportation Union.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Omar J. Foisy, United Transportation Union secretary, on July 3, 1984.

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions on access.

Source of Supplied Title

Title based on contents of the series.

**THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN: CIRCLE LODGE FONDS
AFC 61
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 1 Minutes of meetings

Dates

1885-1945

Extent

20 cm of textual records

5 volumes

Scope and Content

This series contains 12 volumes of minute books, maintained by various secretaries throughout the Circle Lodge's history. Records of meetings (regular and special) are included.

File and Item List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|--|-----------------------------|----------|
| Secty July 1886-June 1890 | 5 July 1886 - 12 June 1890 | B5126 |
| June 12, 1890-Nov. 1893 Secty | 12 June 1890 - 5 Oct. 1893 | B5126 |
| Secty June 1889 - | 13 June 1885 - 2 Jan. 1890 | B5126 |
| Minutes 1893-1896 Official Circulars for Future Reference | 16 Nov. 1893 – 3 June 1896 | B5126 |
| Secty 1896-1900 | 8 Jan. 1896 – 5 Dec. 1900 | B5126 |
| Secty 1901-1904 | 9 Jan. 1901 – 17 July 1904 | B5126 |
| Secty 1904-1906 | 3 Aug. 1904 – 26 Dec. 1906 | B5126 |
| Secty 1910-1917 | 29 Nov. 1909 – 28 Nov. 1917 | X2275 |
| Secty 1918-1923 | 15 Nov. 1917 – 21 Jan. 1923 | X2275 |
| Record Book – B.R.T. | 21 Jan. 1923 – 2 Feb. 1931 | X2276 |
| Record Book – B.R.T. | 22 Mar. 1931 – 4 Apr. 1938 | X2276 |
| Record Book – B.R.T. | 20 Apr. 1938 – 18 Nov. 1945 | X2277 |

**THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN: CIRCLE LODGE FONDS
AFC 61
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 2 Visitors and attendance registers

Dates

1893-1923

Extent

5cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains name registers and attendance logs for Circle Lodge #227. Visitors' names and home lodges are listed, as well as notes documenting the home attendance of the members of Circle Lodge #227.

File and Item List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Visitors' Register – B. of R. T. | Aug. 1893 - 17 Jan. 1906 | B5126 |
| Attendance Register – B. of R. T. | 24 Jan. 1906 – 24 Jan. 1923 | B5126 |

**THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN: CIRCLE LODGE FONDS
AFC 61
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 3 Treasurers' records

Dates

1887-1888, 1902-1962

Extent

5 cm of textual records
5 volumes

Scope and Content

This series contains the financial records of the Circle Lodge chapter of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, as well as a book recording names, dividends, and statement dates. Names, dues owed, dues collected, names of beneficiaries, and receipt/disbursement logs are included.

File and Item List

| Title | Dates | Box/File |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| Treas – 1887–1888 | 1887-1888 | B5126 |
| Treas – 1902–4 | 1902-1904 | B5126 |
| Treas – 1904-1914 | 1904-1914 | X2277 |
| Treas – 1914-1918 | 1914-1918 | X2278 |
| Treas – 1918-1926 | 1918-1926 | X2278 |
| Treas – 1927-1933 | 1927-1933 | X2279 |
| Treas – 1934-1938 | 1934-1938 | X2280 |
| Index | 1937-1962 | B5126 |