

## Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Collection

Records, 1899-1988

4 linear feet  
4 storage boxes

Accession #1535  
DALNET #  
OCLC #

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE) was founded at Demopolis, Alabama, in July, 1887 under the name of the Order of Railroad Trackmen with John T. Wilson as its first president. At first, membership was restricted to track foremen, but within a few years it broadened its jurisdiction to include all workers who build and maintain the tracks, bridges, buildings and other structures of the railroads. BMWE became international in scope in 1899, when it amalgamated with a similar organization in Canada. Its Grand Lodge headquarters were permanently established in Detroit, Michigan in 1913, but it wasn't until 1951 that the Brotherhood constructed its own building on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park, an enclave of Detroit. The Grand Lodge is comprised of System Divisions or Federations, each of which has under its jurisdiction one or more railroad systems and the Subordinate Lodges located on those systems.

The first local chapter of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the BMWE was organized at Macon, Georgia in 1898, prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of the Auxiliary at the 1902 convention of the Brotherhood. Funding problems forced the discontinuance of the auxiliaries during World War I, but they reappeared with renewed vigor during the 1920s, when both the Denver and Twin Cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Auxiliaries, minutes of whose meetings form part of this collection, were chartered.

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Collection consists primarily of outgoing presidential correspondence for the years 1899-1900 and 1912-1914, preserved in letterpress copybooks, Grand Executive Committee meeting minutes and proceedings for the years 1918-1920, including those documenting the resignations of President A. E. Barker and Secretary-Treasurer, George Seal, and BMWE Ladies' Auxiliary convention proceedings as well as minutes and correspondence of the Denver and Twin Cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Auxiliaries.

**PLEASE NOTE: Folders are computer-arranged alphabetically in this finding aid, but may actually be dispersed throughout several boxes in the collection. Note carefully the box number for each folder heading.**

**Important subjects in the collection:**

BMWE Ladies' Auxiliary  
Railroads--Collective bargaining agreements  
Railroads--Employees--Canada  
Railroads--Employees--Trade-unions  
Railroads--Employees--United States  
Railroads--Maintenance and repair

**Important correspondents in the collection:**

T. H. Gerrey  
A. B. Lowe  
John T. Wilson

**Non-manuscript material:**

Several videotapes on labor topics from the BMWE Video Library, a few photographs and a collection of pins and badges have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection. A number of publications, including convention proceedings, constitutions and by-laws, the *Journal of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes* and a history of the Brotherhood from its founding to 1955, have been transferred to the Archives Library.

<b>Box-folder</b>	<b>Folder heading</b>
4-15	BMW convention; corres., Secretary-Treasurer's report, 1986
4-14	BMW headquarters building dedication reminiscence, 1951
4-16	BMW history, c. 1960s
4-12	Columbia Realty Co.; articles of association, minutes, 1921-25
4-13	Columbia-Clifford Streets property sale, 1922-26
4-11	Denver Ladies' Auxiliary #2; audit reports, 1932-49, 1962-63, 1976-80
4-10	Denver Ladies' Auxiliary #2; constitutions and by-laws, n.d., 1937-62
4-3	Denver Ladies' Auxiliary #2; ledger, 1922-24
4-1 thru 2	Denver Ladies' Auxiliary #2; ledgers, 1932-80
4-4 thru 9	Denver Ladies' Auxiliary #2; minute books, Sep 1927 -Jun 1979
3-1	Grand Executive Committee; minutes, proceedings, corres., 1918
3-2 thru 9	Grand Executive Committee; minutes, proceedings, corres., Sep 1919 - May 1920
3-10	Grand Lodge; employees' salaries, c. 1919
3-11	Grand Lodge; ledger sheets, misc., 1918-19
1-1	Grand Lodge President; outgoing corres., 9 Aug 1899 - 16 Jul 1900
1-3	Grand Lodge President; outgoing corres., 12 Jul 1912 - 24 Sep 1912
1-4	Grand Lodge President; outgoing corres., 24 Sep 1912 - 18 Dec 1912
1-5	Grand Lodge President; outgoing corres., 18 Dec 1912 - 2 Apr 1913
2-1	Grand Lodge President; outgoing corres., 2 Apr 1913 - 28 Jun 1913
2-2	Grand Lodge President; outgoing corres., 2 Jul 1913 - 12 Sep 1913
2-3	Grand Lodge President; outgoing corres., 12 Sep 1913 - 4 Dec 1913
2-5	Grand Lodge President; outgoing corres., 17 Apr 1914 - 31 Aug 1914
2-4	Grand Lodge President; outgoing corres., 16 Mar 1914 - 29 May 1914
1-2	Grand Lodge Secretary-Treasurer; outgoing corres., 25 Jul 1911 - 7 Dec 1912
3-13 thru 16	Grand Lodge President/Secretary-Treasurer; mailings, 1985-88
3-32	Ladies' Auxiliary; constitutions and by-laws, 1928-74
3-18 thru 28	Ladies' Auxiliary convention; proceedings, etc., 1922-62
3-29 thru 31	Ladies' Auxiliary convention; proceedings, etc., 1970-78

<b>Box-folder</b>	<b>Folder heading</b>
3-33	Ladies' Auxiliary; ritual, 1970, 1978
3-17	Lodge #9 (Detroit); minutes, corres., 1974-88
3-12	Order of Skilled Railway Maintenance of Way Employes; constitution and by-laws, 1922
3-34 thru 40	Twin Cities Ladies' Auxiliary #29; minutes, corres., reports, 1926-45, 1958
3-41 thru 50	Twin Cities Ladies' Auxiliary #29; minutes, corres., reports, 1963-78, 1983