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Cumberland & Ohio Railroad Company, 1853-1907 (MSS 2)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 2 CUMBERLAND & Ohio Railroad Company 1853-1907

1/2 box, 2 folders, 89 items

Gift of Dan McDonald, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 1966

HISTORY

The Cumberland & Ohio Railroad Company was chartered February 24, 1869, by the Kentucky Legislature primarily for the purpose of building and operating a trunk line railroad from a point on the Ohio River opposite Cincinnati, southwest to a crossing of the Kentucky River within thirty miles of its mouth, through the Kentucky counties of Henry, Shelby, Spencer, Nelson, Washington, Marion, Taylor, Green, Metcalfe, Barren and Allen. By an act of the Tennessee Legislature passed January 10, 1870, permission was extended to the C & O Railroad Company to construct their railroad from said point on the State line via Gallatin to Nashville, Tennessee.

Sometime in the early 1870s, the citizens of Taylor County voted a bond issue of several thousand dollars for the purpose of building the Cumberland & Ohio Railroad through their county. Many other counties along the proposed line voted large bond issues to secure the road, too. The railroad was to extend from the Cumberland River on the south to the Ohio River on the north. A survey was made and even some grading was done, but the only line which was ever laid was a section from Lebanon to Greensburg. After a few years, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad assumed operation of the line.

Much animosity arose when collection of railroad taxes were attempted. Many people refused to pay the tax when they realized that they would not benefit any and that no railroad was to be constructed. Lawsuits were brought by bondholders who had purchased the Taylor County bonds in good faith. Financial affairs of the county, and many individual citizens, were involved in this unpleasant and money-losing ordeal. Because of

the intense feelings harbored by citizens of Taylor County, no person could be found who would accept the position of sheriff for a number of years, since it would have been his duty to collect the tax.

Due to a decision reached by the Federal Court proceedings, a special tax collector and a Sinking Fund Commission were appointed. It seems that little effort was made to enforce collection, but some taxes were paid voluntarily. Attempts to collect the said tax were still being made in 1893 and 1894.

Bibliographical Notes

Nesbitt, R. L. *Early Taylor County History*, 1941.
Kentucky Library, Vertical Files.
The Collection.

THE COLLECTION

The correspondence covers the planning and proposed building of the Cumberland & Ohio Railroad in Allen County. The chief correspondents are G. M. Mulligan, W. H. Dulaney, W. J. McElroy, Z. F. Smith, and P. H. Leslie. Among topics described in the papers are those dealing with actions taken to achieve passage of a bill in the State Legislature, the selling of stock shares, and the concern and fear that Louisville would block the actual building of the railroad. Among the papers concerning the railroad are the following: original list of stockholders, stock receipts, report made concerning the C & O, order requesting the Allen County Court to issue bonds, copy of charter, tax receipts, and official statement booklet with map.

For additional papers concerning this subject see the E. H. Hobson Collection and SC 231.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	CUMBERLAND & Ohio Railroad Company	1853-1907	89 items
Folder 1	Business papers	1853-1874	59 items
Folder 2	Business papers	1875-1907	30 items

CATALOG CARD

MSS
2 Cumberland & Ohio Railroad 1853-1907

Correspondence and papers concerning the planning and building of the Cumberland & Ohio Railroad in Allen County. Chief correspondents: G. M. Mulligan, W. H. Dulaney, W. J. McElroy, Z. F. Smith, and P. H. Leslie.
1/2 box. 2 folders. 89 items.

(Broadsides removed to Broadside Collection)
See inventory for details.

K/29

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Allen County - Railroads
Cumberland & Ohio Railroad - Maps, 1872
Dulaney, W. H.
Gatewood, John J., b. 1830
Lawyers
Leslie, Preston Hopkins, 1819-1907
McElroy, William J., b. 1825
Map - Cumberland & Ohio Railroad, 1872
Mulligan, Gilbert Marshall, 1821-1877
Railroads - Allen County
Railroads - Construction and engineering
Railroads, C & O - Sumner County, Tennessee
Railroads, C & O - Tennessee
Railroads - Legislation and regulation
Railroads - 19th century
Receipts, Railroad - C & O, 1880
Shakers, South Union - Statement, 1873
Smith, Zachary Frederick, 1827-1911
Sumner County, Tenn. - C & O Railroad, 1873

Tennessee - Railroads - Cumberland & Ohio
Tennessee - Sumner County - Cumberland & Ohio Railroad, 1873

CHRONOLOGY CARDS

1853 1881-
1861- 1901-
1866-