



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

## STATE LAND OFFICE: An Inventory of Its Railroad Swamp Land Selection Lists:

### OVERVIEW

- Agency:** Minnesota. State Land Office.
- 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:**

Minnesota. State Land Office. Railroad swamp land selection lists. *[Indicate the cited item and folder title here]*. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.  
*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

### **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**

106.K.9.3B                      Summaries of Railroad Swamp Land Legislation.

**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.

