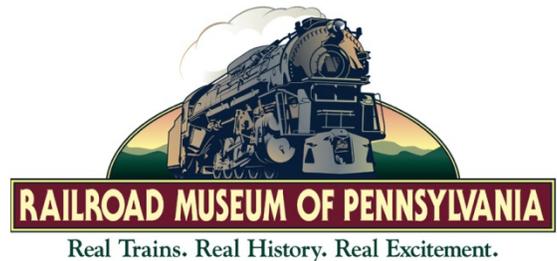


Information on Retired Railroad Workers or Relatives



Genealogists frequently contact the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania for railroad personnel information. While such information is found in corporate records, the Museum does **not** have information about who worked for a particular railroad or when. We do not have ex-railroad employee records in the archival collections.

For employees of the anthracite railroads of eastern Pennsylvania – the Central Railroad of New Jersey, the Reading Company, Lehigh Valley, Erie Lackawanna, or Pennsylvania Railroad – the best information we have indicates that Conrail “inherited” most of the personnel records of its predecessor lines, but the records were lost over time.

However, there are two sources of Pennsylvania Railroad employee information that may be helpful to genealogists. The PRR Voluntary Employee Relief Department represented the families of ill and injured PRR employees as a fund to disperse cash as payment for suffering. However, these records cannot be accessed until 25 years after the death of the employee. Their records can still be found at:

Temple University Urban Archives
Paley Library
1210 Polett Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19122
(215) 204-8257

Pennsylvania State Archives
350 North Street
Harrisburg, Pa 17120-0090
(717) 783-3281
ra-statearchives@pa.gov

Sources of western United States railroad worker information may be found at:

California State Railroad Museum
125 “I” Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 323-8073
Library.CSRM@parks.ca.gov

Information on post-1936 railroad workers covered under the Railroad Retirement Act can be found at:

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
Congressional Inquiry Section
844 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2092
(877) 772-5772
(\$27 non-refundable fee charged; employee
social security number required)

National Archives at Atlanta
5780 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, GA 30260
(770) 968-2100
Atlanta.archives@nara.gov
(inactive records only; employee social security
number required)

Additional resources of railroad employee information:

- *Biographical Dictionary of Railroad Officials in America* (published irregularly from 1885-1922; featured biographies of upper-level railroad management)
- *Who's Who in Railroading and Rail Transit* (published irregularly from 1930-1985; featured biographies of upper-level railroad management)
- *Pocket List of Railway Officials* (1895-present; list names and titles of middle- and upper- level railroad management)

Suggested reading:

- Elliot, Wendy, "Railroad Records for Genealogical Research," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 75 (December 1987): 271-277.
- Hansen, Holly T. "Railroad Records," *Family Chronicle* 5:2 (November/December 2000): 23-27.

For further questions to the museum, contact:

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