



Hub City Heritage Corp.

Open Sundays,

Memorial Day
Through Labor Day

1 pm - 4 pm
or by appointment



Railroad Days 2008
July 19th. & 20th.
Saturday and Sunday
9 am until 4 pm



If you would be interested in joining our group or taking part in the staffing of our Museum on weekends, write or call us. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month.

Additionally, if you have railroad memorabilia or would like to donate money to the organization, we are tax exempt.

**Hub City Heritage Corp.
P. O. Box 300
2nd. Ave. S.W. - next to City Hall
319-283-1939
Oelwein, Iowa 50662**

www.cgwo.org
cgwo@mchsi.com



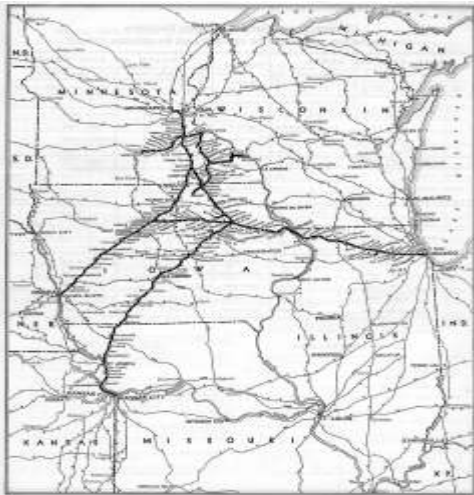
Oelwein Railway Museum And Gift Shop



About the Chicago Great Western Railway

The Chicago Great Western Railway was one of America's leading regional carriers from the turn of the century through the 1960's.

Headquartered out of Oelwein from 1952 until its merger with the Chicago and Northwestern in 1968, the CGW spanned 1,432 miles in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and to a small extent Nebraska and Kansas.



Built by imaginative and energetic Minnesotan A.B. Stickney, the modern CGW began in 1885 as a 110 mile pike from St. Paul to the Iowa State line named the Minnesota and Northwestern Railroad. Instead of selling the short line to another railroad, as Stickney had done with previous roads that he constructed, he retained ownership and quickly extended the tracks to Chicago



and Kansas City. By connecting these important gateways, the railroad became a respectable carrier.

In 1887, the M&NW was acquired by another Stickney road, the more appropriately titled Chicago, St. Paul and Kansas City Railroad. Because the three lines radiated out from Oelwein, Stickney chose this location to construct the system shops. At the time when the Oelwein shops were opened in 1899, they were the largest and best-equipped shops in the United States. The final extension of the CGW was completed in 1903 as the tracks were extended to Omaha. Initially the CGW relied heavily on rate cutting and efficient operations to compete with other railroads. Although its reputation as a rate cutter ended when Stickney retired in 1908, the railroad remained dedicated to flexible and innovative practices.

Among the pioneering efforts for which the CGW is remembered are its early use of internal combustion equipment (in 1911), extremely long trains (the longest being 276 cars), piggyback service and welded rail (in 1939).

Welcome to Hub City Heritage

Hub City Heritage Corporation of Oelwein, Iowa, a group of people dedicated to the preservation of railroad history, opened its railway museum in 1987.



Our museum features the Railway Express building, yard office, yard tower and a collection of locomotives, rolling stock, pump handcar and gift shop. We also have an extensive collection of employee records, pictures and other memorabilia.

The Railway Express building was originally the home of Wells Fargo. The yard office and yard tower were the heart of the Chicago Great Western in its heyday. The tower, which was built in 1953 is open to the public. It provides an outstanding view of the former CGW switching yards, which are now D&W Transco, and downtown Oelwein.