

Collection #  
BV 3429–3445  
M 0774  
OM 0395

**BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN AND ENGINEMEN,  
EUREKA LODGE NO. 14 (INDIANAPOLIS)  
RECORDS, 1875–1975**

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Pamela Tranfield

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

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**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 17 bound volumes, 1 manuscript box, 3 oversize folders

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1875-1975

PROVENANCE: Wila Mae Wolfe, 6460 Shelbyville Road, Indianapolis, IN  
46237, 27 Nov. 2000

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.0056

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen was formed on 1 December 1873 at Jervis, New York. Medical insurance and funeral benefits were the main incentives for membership in this labor union.

Eureka Lodge no. 14 was organized in Indianapolis, Indiana, on 21 February 1875. That year the union's second annual convention was held in Indianapolis. Delegates voted that the union was to work for "protection of its members in industrial relations" in addition to existing as a life insurance organization. At that time the organization had 900 members in twenty-nine lodges across the United States and Canada.

The union merged with the International Firemen's Union in 1879. By 1894 membership had grown to 26,000 members. In 1902 membership was opened to locomotive engineers, and in 1906 the name of the organization was changed to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. The union lost membership in the 1920s for a number of reasons, including the formation of the rival United Enginemen's Association.

World War II provided a period of full employment and growth for the union. During the 1940s the brotherhood won major wage increases, a five-day week for yardmen, and an agreement that firemen would be retained in the cabs of diesel locomotives used in passenger service. This issue precipitated a 1962 strike that resulted in the removal of firemen-helpers from a number of freight and yard jobs. Several union members were jailed in 1966 over the issue.

On 1 January 1969 the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen joined with the Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and Switchmen's Union of North America to form the United Transportation Union.

Socialist leader Eugene Debs (1855-1926) was Grand Secretary of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen from 1880-92. He was a charter member of the Vigo Lodge, Terre Haute, Indiana.

### Sources:

Fink, Gary J. *Labor Unions*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1977.

HD6508 .L234 1977

Inventory of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen/Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen Collection, MS 3, California State Railroad Museum ([www.oac.cdlib.org](http://www.oac.cdlib.org)), accessed 21 March 2002.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes seventeen minute books dating from 21 Feb. 1875 to 1 May 1969. These items are stored as Bound Volumes 3429-3445. This is not a complete set of minutes, as there are no books for the periods July 1877-June 1882, Jan. 1887-April 1889, Sept. 1902-Aug. 1905, and May 1910-Dec. 1916.

The volumes are arranged in chronological order. Loose items were removed from the books for conservation reasons. These items are stored in folders in M 0774. The documents include minutes dating from 13-17 June 1907 (folder 18), financial reports, and lists related to payment of dues. Other material includes letters concerning funeral services (folder 9), correspondence with the Westinghouse Air Brake Company (folder 14), and the Constitution of the Indiana State American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), 1960. These items are stored in Series 1: Bound Volumes and Enclosures.

Series 2, Business Records, consists of items that may have been originally stored in the bound volumes, but were loose items at the time of processing. These items include minutes of 7 Nov. 1882 (folder 27), applications for relief and sickness benefits (folder 28), and the annual report of the union dated 30 June 1901 (folder 30). Other material includes election ballots (stored as OM 00395) and a seniority roster of firemen and engineers on the Pennsylvania Railroad (Western Region, Indianapolis Division, 1 January 1948). This item is stored in flat file FF 14-0.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: Bound Volumes and Enclosures, 1875–1969

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Minute Book, 21 Feb. 1875-26 June 1877	BV 3429
Minute Book, Financial Secretary's Book, 11 July 1882-31 July 1883	BV 3430
Items removed from BV 3430, n.d.-1883	M 0774, Box 1, Folder 1
Minute Book, 7 Aug. 1883-28 Dec. 1886	BV 3431
Items removed from BV 3431, 1885-86	M 0774, Box 1, Folder 2
Minute Book, 28 May 1889-30 Aug. 1892	BV 3432
Items removed from BV 3432, 1890	M 0774, Box 1, Folder 3
Items removed from BV 3432, 1891	M 0774, Box 1, Folder 4
Items removed from BV 3432, 1891-92	M 0774, Box 1, Folder 5
Application for Relief, Quarter ending 31 July 1894	OM 0395, Folder 2
Delinquents Carried, Quarter ending 1 Oct. 1894	OM 0395, Folder 2
Minute Book, 9 Aug. 1892-9 Oct. 1894	BV 3433

Items removed from BV 3433, 1892-93	M 0774, Box 1, Folder 6
Items removed from BV 3433, 1893-94	M 0774, Box 1, Folder 7
Minute Book, 23 Oct. 1894-27 Jan. 1898	BV 3434
Items removed from BV 3434, 1895-97	M 0774, Box 1, Folder 8
Items removed from BV 3434, 1896-98	M 0774, Box 1, Folder 9
Minute Book, 4 July 1898-25 Aug. 1902	BV 3435
Items removed from BV 3435, 1898-1900	Box 1, Folder 10
Items removed from BV 3435, 1901	Box 1, Folder 11
Items removed from BV 3435, 1901	Box 1, Folder 12
Items removed from BV 3435, 1902	Box 1, Folder 13
Items removed from BV 3435, 1902-05	Box 1, Folder 14
Minute Book, 3 Sept. 1905-27 June 1907	BV 3436
Items removed from BV 3436, n.d.-1906	Box 1, Folder 15
Items removed from BV 3436, 1906	Box 1, Folder 16
Items removed from BV 3436, 1906-07	Box 1, Folder 17
Items removed from BV 3436, 1907	Box 1, Folder 18
Official Ballot, circa 1906	OM 0395, Folder 2
Minute Book, 11 July 1907-14 April 1910	BV 3437
Items removed from BV 3437, 1907-10	Box 1, Folder 19
Minute Book, 25 Jan. 1917-29 Dec. 1921	BV 3438
Items removed from BV 3438, 1921-n.d.	Box 1, Folder 20
Official Ballot, n.d.	OM 0395, Folder 1
Minute Book, 5 Jan. 1922-22 Dec. 1925	BV 3439
Items removed from BV 3439, 1924-25	Box 1, Folder 21
Minute Book, 7 Jan. 1926-26 May 1932	BV 3440
Minute Book, 26 May 1932-16 July 1942	BV 3441
Minute Book, 6 Aug. 1942-21 June 1951	BV 3442

Items removed from BV 3442, 1942	Box 1, Folder 22
Minute Book, 5 July 1951-21 June 1956	BV 3443
Items removed from BV 3443, 1955-56	Box 1, Folder 23
Minute Book, 5 July 1956-3 Jan. 1963	BV 3444
Items removed from BV 3444, 1960-61	Box 1, Folder 24
Minute Book, 7 Feb. 1963-1 May 1969	BV 3445
Items removed from BV 3445, 1910-ca. 1966	Box 1, Folder 25

## **Series 2: Business Records, 1882–1975**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Insurance Policy, 4 Nov. 1882	Box 1, Folder 26
Minutes, 7 Nov. 1882	Box 1, Folder 27
Relief, Sickness Benefits, 1891-96	Box 1, Folder 28
Clipping re: Alleged Embezzlement, 12 Feb. 1898	Box 1, Folder 29
Annual Report, 30 June 1901	Box 1, Folder 30
Correspondence, ca. 1902-n.d.	Box 1, Folder 31
Bylaws, Eureka Lodge no. 14, 1 Jan. 1931	Box 1, Folder 32
Pennsylvania Railroad, Seniority Roster of Engineers and Firemen, 1 Jan. 1948	Flat File: FF 14-0
Roster of Charter Members on 1 Feb. 1875 ; 1955	Box 1, Folder 33
Roster, 9 Dec. 1964	Box 1, Folder 34
Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund, 1976	Box 1, Folder 35
List of Charter Members on 1 Feb. 1875 [n.d.]	Box 1, Folder 36
Ephemera, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 37

## **CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, BV 3429).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.