

Atlantic & Western Railway Company ^[1]

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by George A. Kennedy, 2006



Atlantic & Western Railway. Image courtesy of Flickr user Donald Lee Pardue.

^[3]

^[2]See also: [Transportation: Air and Rail \(from NC Atlas Revisited\)](#)

The [Atlantic & Western Railway Company](#) ^[4] was chartered on 7 Mar. 1899 under sponsorship of the Edwards family of Sanford. It took over the operation of a line extending 12 miles west from Hope Mills that had been built by the Enterprise Land & Improvement Company. Between 1903 and 1913 it built its own line east from Sanford to Lillington (26 miles); plans to continue to Goldsboro were never realized. In 1926 the company was sold under foreclosure and reorganized as the Atlantic & Western Railway (A&W), which continued to operate a line between Sanford and Lillington until 15 Dec. 1961, when all but three miles from Sanford to Jonesboro were abandoned.

The A&W was reorganized on 1 Jan. 1970 as the Atlantic & Western Corporation. Since 1988, it has been the property of Rail Management and Consulting, based in Florida. In 1990 the A&W acquired the former [Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad](#) ^[5] line between Sanford and [Greensboro](#) ^[6], long operated by the [Southern Railway](#) ^[7]. What began as a link between Sanford and the east has thus become a route to the west. By the early 2000s the railroad operated ten miles of track and had connections with CSX and the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Reference:

S. David Carriker, *Railroading in the Carolina Sandhills*, vol. 2 (1987).

Additional Resources:

Inventory of the Atlantic and Western Railroad, 1905-1968, Duke University Libraries:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/atlanticandwestern/> ^[8]

GWRR Atlantic & Western Railroad (aquired by GWRR in

2005):http://www.gwrr.com/operations/railroads/north_america/atlantic_western_railroad ^[4] (aquired by GWRR in 2005)

North Carolina Railway Association: http://www.ncrailways.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=32 ^[9]

Railroads of North Carolina by Alan Coleman: <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/9780738553368/Railroads-of-North-Carolina> ^[10]

1901 Bill extending the Atlantic & Western Railway Company:<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/journal-of-the-senate-of-the-general-assembly-of-the-state-of-north-carolina-at-its-1901-session/3881629> ^[11]

North Carolina Railway Museum: <http://www.nhvry.org/> ^[12]

North Carolina Digital Collections, 1899 and act to amend private law of Enterprise Land & Improvement Co. and Atlantic & Western:<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/private-laws-of-the-state-of-north-carolina-passed-by-the-general-assembly-at-its-session-of-...1899/3883476?item=3922545> ^[13]

Zucchini, David. "The Atlantic and Western Survives: The Little Engine That Can." *The News and Observer* [Raleigh, N.C.]. July 4, 1976. "Railroads - North Carolina" Vertical Reference File, [Government and Heritage Library](#) ^[14], North

Carolina.

Image Credit:

"Atlantic & Western Railway." Image courtesy of Flickr user Donald Lee Pardue. Available from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/oldrebel/5433702877/> [2] (accessed July 5, 2012).

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Kennedy, George A. [18]

Origin - location:

Lee County [19]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. [20]

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