

## **Atlantic & Western Railway Company** <sup>[1]</sup>

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by George A. Kennedy, 2006



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

<sup>[3]</sup>

<sup>[2]</sup>See also: [Transportation: Air and Rail \(from NC Atlas Revisited\)](#)

The [Atlantic & Western Railway Company](#) <sup>[4]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[5]</sup> line between Sanford and [Greensboro](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, long operated by the [Southern Railway](#) <sup>[7]</sup>. 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/> <sup>[8]</sup>

GWRR Atlantic & Western Railroad (aquired by GWRR in

2005):[http://www.gwrr.com/operations/railroads/north\\_america/atlantic\\_western\\_railroad](http://www.gwrr.com/operations/railroads/north_america/atlantic_western_railroad) <sup>[4]</sup> (aquired by GWRR in 2005)

North Carolina Railway Association: [http://www.ncrailways.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=32](http://www.ncrailways.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=32) <sup>[9]</sup>

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

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> <sup>[11]</sup>

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

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> <sup>[13]</sup>

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](#) <sup>[14]</sup>, North

Carolina.

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**Authors:**

Kennedy, George A. [18]

**Origin - location:**

Lee County [19]

**From:**

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

1 January 2006 | Kennedy, George A.

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