

Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society Incorporated

File 15 Part 2

Cardboard Call Card, Fiberglass, Metal
Poly-carbonate Signs

Cardboard, Fiberglass, Metal, Tin Signs

- Ever since the railroads got into the passenger train business, a collection of all the various signs and placards that once adorned the walls of depots and passenger coaches has proliferated.
- Of special interest are the Express and Telephone Company blue and white porcelainized steel signs that hung on the exterior walls of small town depots. Many were two-sided so they could be read from both ends of the station platform.
- Express Companies also used signs on their baggage carts and delivery trucks and distributed call cards to the local merchants for displaying in their store front windows alerting the driver to stop and make a parcel pick-up.

Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.

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January 25, 1947

Mr. Samuel Vaughn, Jr.
Prides Crossing, Mass.
Dear Mr. Vaughn:

Car Card

You doubtless recall the conversation I had with you and your father at the dinner in New York on the ancient Boston custom of carding the cars, never used in any other city as far as I know.

The origin of this custom is obscure. The most reliable information on the subject is the statement of Mr. J. H. French, Supt. Old Colony R. R. (Mr. French entered the employ of the Old Colony in 1854 as assistant to the Agent at North Bridgewater (Brockton) in 1854 and was promoted to a position in the Superintendent's office in Boston in 1864). Mr. French said that when he came to Boston in 1864 that cars were carded then, and it had been done for years before that, but when it originated, or who was the originator of the idea, he did not know. I take pleasure in sending you under separate cover one of the old cards for your railroad collection. It is a card for a Portland express over the old Western Division.

Old Colony cards were much larger than those of the Boston & Maine and the station names were in much larger type and easier to read.

The custom was discontinued in the South Station about 1910 and in the North Station about a year later.

Yours very truly

Secretary

Warren Jacobs
1062 Marine St.
Boston
Mass

Car Card Letter Jan 25, 1947

In Boston 1864 Cars were carded then and had been done for years before that.

The Car Card is from the Portland Express over the old Western Division.

The Custom was discontinued in South Station 1910 and North Station about a year later.

Car Card Letter Feb 3, 1947

In the old North Station, the men covering this job wore a uniform cap with the insignia "Cardman".

Car Card Letter Nov 23, 1947

Smoking Car Card for Hillsboro, N.H. is rare. The Boston & Maine was the only road that ever carded smoking cars.

This card was in use at old North Station up to 1911.

Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.

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Feb. 3, 1947

Mr. Samuel Vaughn, Jr.
Frides Cross'ng, Mass.
Dear Mr. Vaughn:

Your letter received and I was glad to know you liked the car card, they are rare now. In reply to your question, the card I sent you was in use in the old North Station in 1911, at the time the custom was discontinued and probably for many years before that, as these cards were strong and durable and lasted a long time.

In the Old Colony depot cars were carded for many years by George Harrington and Mike Hayes, they wore no uniform, but they'd wear an old brakeman's cap with no insigna. In the old North Station the men covering this job wore a uniform cap with the insigna "Cardman".

An old Boston & Providence time table of 1836 said that Dedham Branch trains would bear a placard with the notice "Dedham Branch Cars" However I do not think that cars were carded in the Park Square Station as far as I can remember. Therefore the practice was not continued on the Boston & Providence.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly

Walter Fagons

Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.

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GEORGE P. BECKER
TREASURER

1052 Main Street
Hingham, Mass.
November 23, 1947.

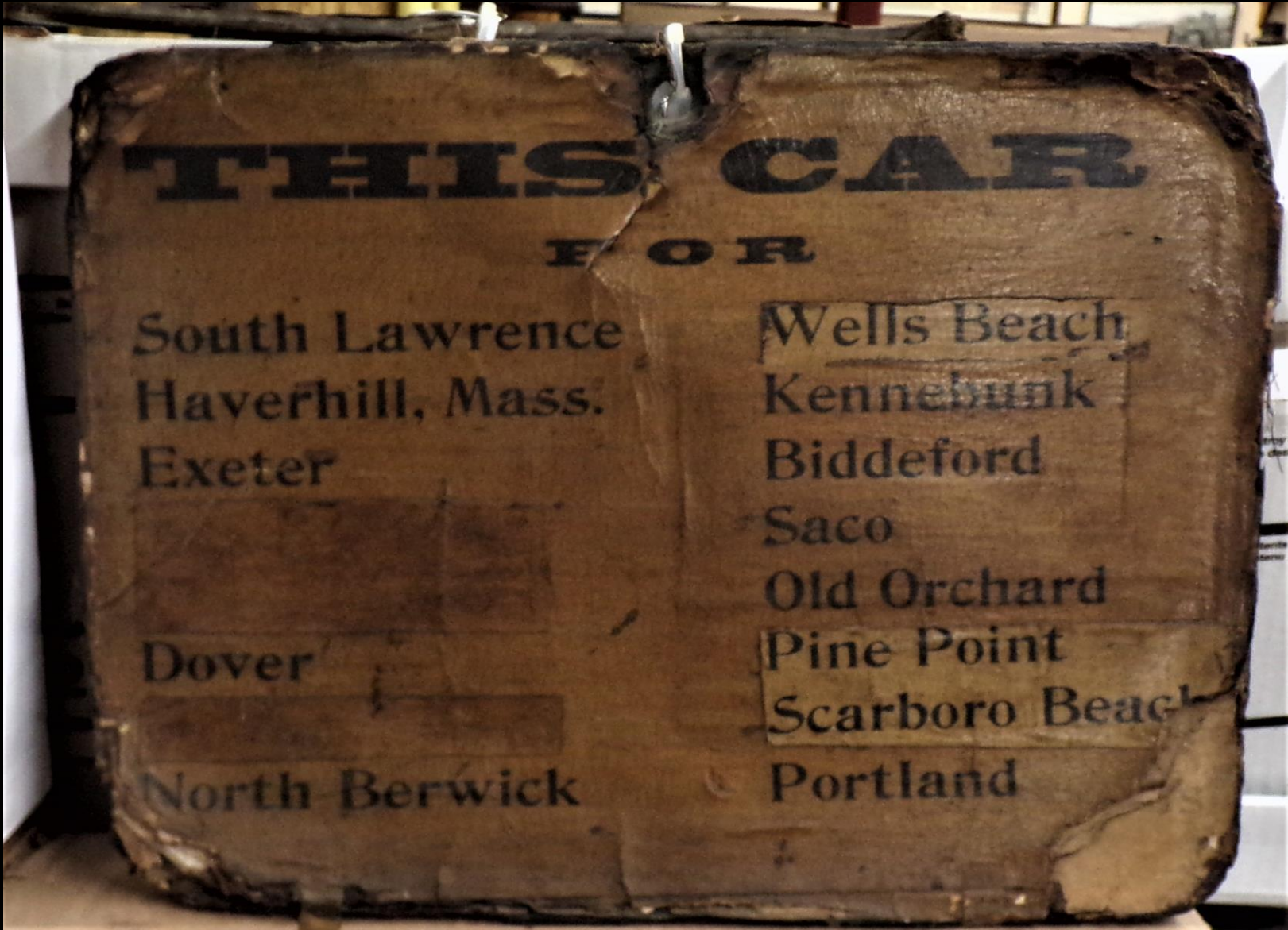
Mr. Samuel Vaughn Jr.
Frides Cross'ng, Mass.
Dear Mr. Vaughn,

I sent you a few days ago a car card of smoking car for Hillsboro, N. H., which I thought you might like to add to your collection. This card is rare as the Boston Maine was the only road that ever carded smoking cars. The Old Colony never carded them. This card was in use in the old North Station up to 1911 and probably for a good many years before that.

I am sorry we do not know more of the origin of this ancient Boston custom:

Yours very truly

Walter Fagons
Secretary



Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card
14" x 11" Sign

Donation by; Allan P. Vaughan

3. P. M.

SMOKING

FOR

Nashua, N. H.	Russell
Blood	Greenfield, N. H.
South Merrimack	So. Bennington
Pcne nah	Elmwood
East Milford	Bennington N.H.
Milford, N. H.	Antrim
Richardson	Hillsboro
Pine Valley	
Wilton, N. H.	
South Lyndeboro	

Boston & Maine Railroad
Cardboard Call Card
14"x 11" Sign

Donation by; Allan P. Vaughan



Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card

14"x 11" Sign

The smoking car was a combination of improvised theater and voyeuristic give and take.

People seemed to gravitate to them less from boredom than emotional need.

Donation by; Anonymous Donor

THIS CAR

FOR

Malden

Oak Grove

Wyoming

Melrose

Melrose Hglds.

Greenwood

Wakefield Junct.

Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card

14" x 11" Sign

Donation by; Kevin T. Farrell



Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card

18" x 12" Sign

Donation by: Frank Kyper



Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card
18"x 12" Sign

Donation by; Frank Kyper



Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card

18"x 12" Sign

Donation by; Frank Kyper



Boston & Maine Railroad
Cardboard Call Card
18"x 12 Sign

Donation by; Frank Kyper

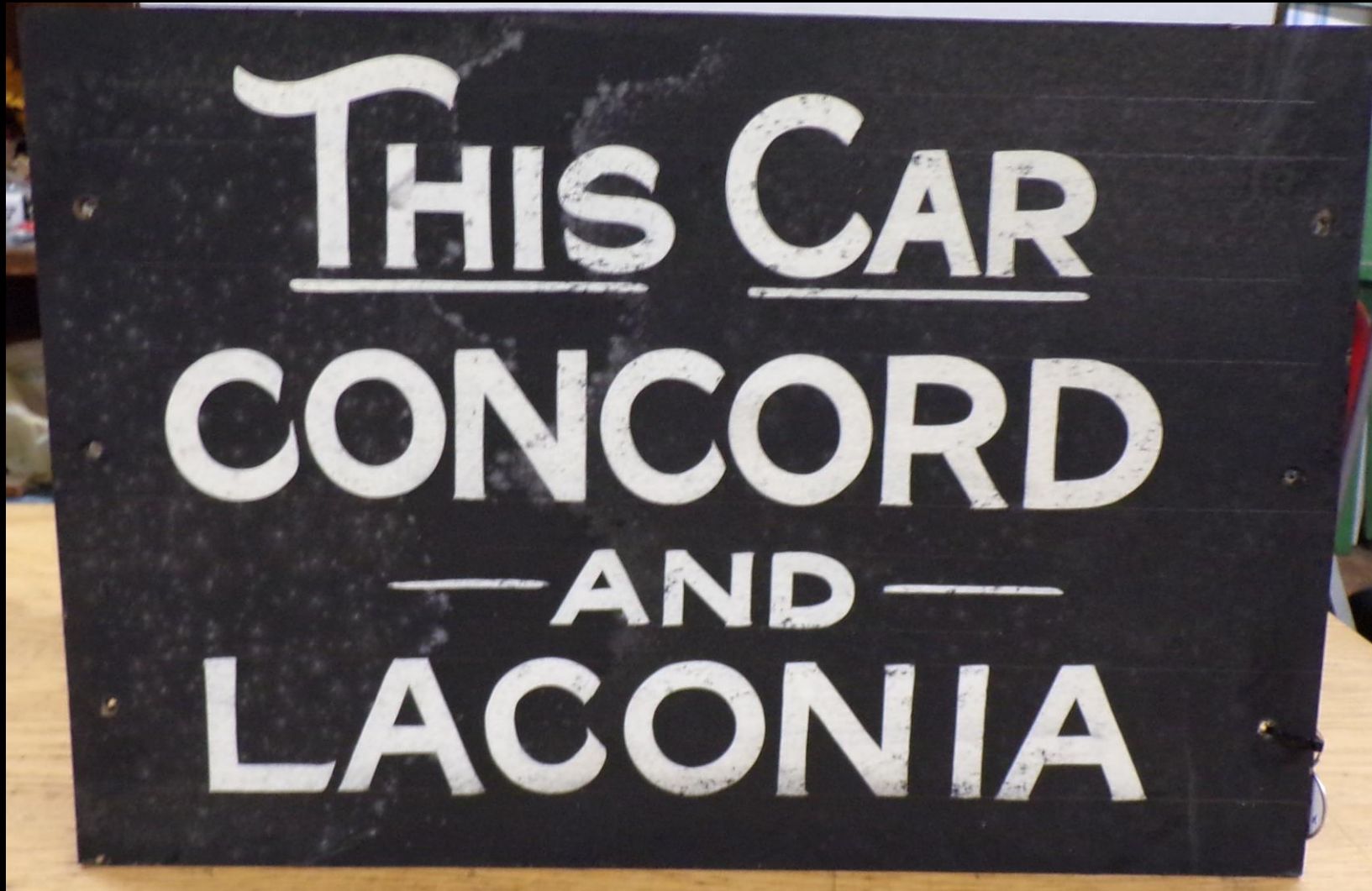


Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card

18"x 12 Sign

Donation by; Frank Kyper



Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card
18" x 12 Sign

Donation by; Frank Kyper



Railway Express Agency

Cardboard Call Card
19"x 19" Sign

Donation by; Mr. Janatas

ROCKINGHAM TICKETS

ROUND TRIP

TICKET

\$3⁰⁰

Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card

Boston to Rockingham Race Track,
Salem, New Hampshire

21 ½" x 11 ½" Sign

Donation by; Martin R. Lacarbonara

POLICE

B&M R.R.

Boston & Maine Railroad

Cardboard Call Card

12"x 12" Sign

Donation by; Joseph Shaw

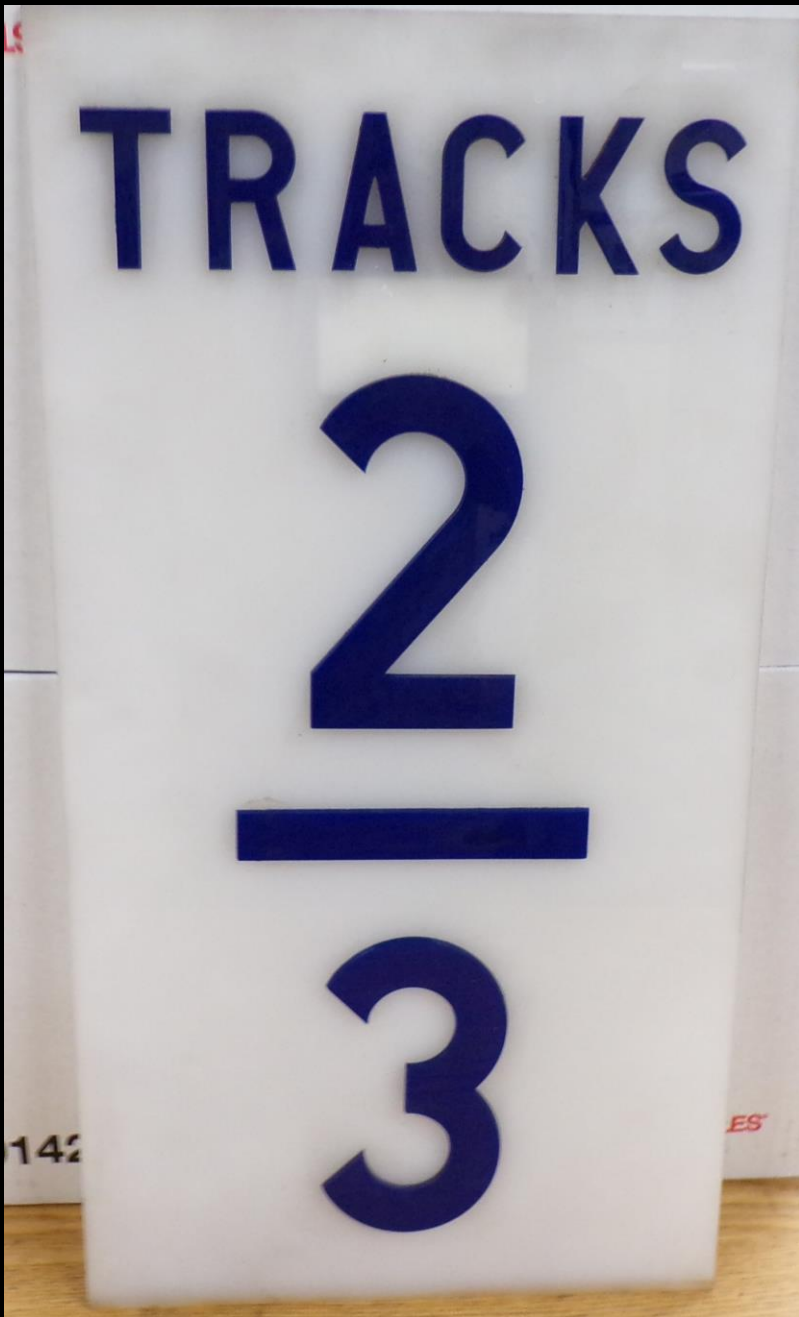


The Pullman Company

Form 93.8247

5"x 7" Cardboard Card Sign

Donation by; Anonymous Donor



Boston & Maine Railroad

Tracks No. 2 / 3 & 4 / 5
19"x 10" poly-carbonate
Track No. Signs

Donation by; Frank Kyper



Boston & Maine Railroad

Metal Yellow Track No.16

Hung at end of Track Canopy
at North Station, Boston, MA

Donation by; Frank Kyper

Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society

Acknowledgement

- The following donation have made it possible to preserve the Boston & Maine Railroad as part of our New England railroad history.
- Anonymous Donors:
- Donors: Kevin T. Farrell, Frank Kyper, Martin R. Lacarbonara, Joseph Shaw, Allan P. Vaughan,

- Submitted by;
The Hardware Committee
Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society