FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE B&M’S BIG CUSTOMERS IN 1951

Recently, a document came to hand that gives us a snapshot of the major freight players as far as the B&M was concerned in the years 1949-51. We’ve captured below the carload information for 1951. The list does not tell us which customers generated the most revenue nor which ones were the most profitable.

The four-page, untitled, typescript document on legal size paper, formed part of large lot of miscellaneous railroad correspondence. The original includes carload information for 1950 and 1949 which we have omitted here.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Customer. Type of business | Location | Carloads  Total 1951 | Carloads Rec’d 1951 | Carloads For-  warded 1951 | Rank 1950 |
| 1 | Brown Company. Paper mfg. | Berlin, N.H. | 15,989 | 8,917 | 7,072 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Eastern Gas & Fuel Associates. Coke and gas mfg. | Boston, Mass. | 14,772 | 0 | 14,772 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | First National Stores. Retail grocers | Blackmount, N.H. | 471 | 395 | 76 | 3 |
|  |  | Deering Jct., Me. | 1996 | 1987 | 9 |  |
|  |  | Hartford, Conn. | 81 | 81 | 0 |  |
|  |  | Providence, R.I. | 101 | 100 | 1 |  |
|  |  | Somerville, Mass. | 7,322 | Not Given | Not Given |  |
|  |  | Somerville, Mass. (Milk) | 1,195 | Not Given | Not Given |  |
|  |  | Troy, N.Y. | 270 | 13 | 257 |  |
|  |  | Total | 11,436 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | United States Government |  |  |  |  | 9 |
|  | Boston Navy Yard | Charlestown, Mass. | 1,130 | 1,058 | 72 |  |
|  | Fort Devens | Ayer, Mass. | 2,670 | 2,166 | 504 |  |
|  | Limestone Air Base | Limestone, Me. | 789 | 763 | 26 |  |
|  | Grenier Air Base | Manchester, N.H. | 378 | 359 | 19 |  |
|  | Portsmouth Navy Yard | Kittery, Me. | 1,317 | 1,099 | 218 |  |
|  | Scotia Naval Depot | Scotia, N.Y. | 2,222 | 1,362 | 860 |  |
|  | Watertown Arsenal | Watertown, Mass. | 1,118 | 671 | 447 |  |
|  | Westover Field | Chicopee, Mass. | 1,763 | 1,426 | 337 |  |
|  |  | Total | 11,387 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | H. P. Hood & Son Co. Dairy products | Charlestown, Mass. | 625 | 595 | 30 | 4 |
|  |  | Charlestown, Mass. (Milk) | 10,028 | Not Given | Not Given |  |
|  |  | St. Albans, Vt. | 95 | 78 | 17 |  |
|  |  | Total | 10,748 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Great Northern Paper Co. Newsprint and wood pulp mfg. | Millinocket, Me. | 10,256 | 0 | 10,256 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Oxford Paper Co. Book paper mfg. | Rumford, Me. | 9,226 | 2,531 | 6,695 | 7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | West Va. Pulp & Paper Co. Paper & pulp Mfg. | Mechanicville, N.Y. | 8,390 | 7,213 | 1,177 | 11 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | C. M. Cox Co. |  |  |  |  | 6 |
|  | Crosby Milling Co. | Brattleboro, Vt. | 8,468 | 3419 | 5,049 |  |
|  | Cunningham Grain Co. | Oak Grove, Mass. | 5,393 | 2,340 | 3,053 |  |
|  | Eastern Grain Co. | Bridgewater, Mass. | 489 | 489 | 0 |  |
|  | St. Albans Grain Co. | St. Albans, Vt. | 1,887 | 0 | 1,887 |  |
|  | Total |  | 16,237 |  |  |  |
|  |  | Use | 8,120[[1]](#endnote-1) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | Great A&P Tea Co. (competitive only) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Albany, N.Y. | 172 |  |  |  |
|  |  | Buffalo, N.Y. | 39 |  |  |  |
|  |  | Chicago, Ill. | 277 |  |  |  |
|  |  | New York City, N.Y. | 1,407 |  |  |  |
|  |  | Portland, Me. | 957 |  |  |  |
|  |  | Springfield, Mass. | 1,462 |  |  |  |
|  |  | Somerville, Mass. | 3,482 |  |  |  |
|  |  | Providence, R.I. | 38 |  |  |  |
|  |  | Worcester, Mass. | 16 |  |  |  |
|  |  | Total | 7,850 |  |  | 10 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Ford Motor Co. Auto Mfg. | Somerville, Mass. | 6,399 | 6,304 | 95 | 8 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | Crocker Burbank Co. Paper Mfg. | Wachusett, Mass. | 5,825 | 3,840 | 1,985 |  |
|  |  | W. Fitchburg, Mass. | 238 | 0 | 238 |  |
|  |  | Total | 6,063 |  |  | 13 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | Groveton Papers Co. Paper Mfg. | Groveton, N.H. | 3,786 | 2,218 | 1,568 |  |
|  |  | Northumberland, N.H. | 1,709 | 830 | 879 |  |
|  |  | Total | 5,495 |  |  | 14 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | United States Steel Co. | Pittsburgh, Pa. | 2,865 | 1,639 | 1,046 |  |
|  | American Bridge Div. | Elmira, N.Y. | 103 | 3 | 100 |  |
|  | National Tube Div. | Lorain, O. | 296 | 0 | 296 |  |
|  | National Tube Div. | Pittsburgh, Pa. | 32 | 29 | 3 |  |
|  | Am. Steel & Wire Div. | Cleveland, O. | 119 | 118 | 1 |  |
|  | Am. Steel & Wire Div. | Worcester, Mass. | 1,690 | 1,310 | 380 |  |
|  | U.S. Steel Supply Div. | Cambridge, Mass. | 178 | 0 | 178 |  |
|  | Univ. Atlas Cement Co. | Hudson, N.Y. | 337 | 3 | 334 |  |
|  |  | Total | 5,440[[2]](#endnote-2) |  |  | 17 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | United States Rubber Co. | Chicopee Falls, Mass. | 5,418 | 2,895 | 2,523 | 12 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | Norton Co. | Worcester, Mass. | 4,461 | 1,893 | 2,568 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | Doeskin Products, Inc. Paper | Mt. Tom, Mass. | 3,470 | 2,539 | 931 |  |
|  |  | Wheelwright, Mass. | 768 | 277 | 491 |  |
|  |  | Total | 4,238 |  |  | 16 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | Merrimack Farmers Exchange. Feed and grain | Concord, N.H. | 3,810 | 1,880 | 1930 | 15 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | Fitchburg Paper Co. | W. Fitchburg, Mass. | 3,288 | 2,139 | 1149 | 20 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | Whiting Milk Co. | Charlestown, Mass. | 70 | 56 | 14 |  |
|  |  | Charlestown, Mass. (Milk) | 2,237 | Not Given | Not Given | 21 |
|  |  |  | 2,307 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | Hood Rubber Co. Footwear | Watertown, Mass. | 2,267 | 903 | 1,364 | 23 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | United States Gypsum Co. (competitive only) | Boston, Mass. | 1,390 | 277 | 1,113 | 19 |
|  |  | Buffalo, N.Y. | 158 | 43 | 115 |  |
|  |  | Chicago, Ill. | 4 | 0 | 4 |  |
|  |  | Cleveland, O. | 112 | 1 | 111 |  |
|  |  | Memphis, Tenn. | 15 | 0 | 15 |  |
|  |  | New York, N. Y. | 166 | 16 | 150 |  |
|  |  | Portland, Me. | 141 | 15 | 126 |  |
|  |  | St. Louis, Mo. | 18 | 8 | 10 |  |
|  |  | Total | 2004 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | Container Corp. of America. Paper boxes and containers | West Medford, Mass. | 1,842 | 1,175 | 667 | 22 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | Am. Steel & Wire Div. | Worcester, Mass.[[3]](#endnote-3) | 1,690 | 1,310 | 380 | 25 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25 | Boston American. Newspaper | Boston, Mass. | 1,472 | 1,472 | 0 | 24 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26 | A&P Corr. Box Co. | Lowell, Mass. | 635 | 420 | 215 | 26 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.5[[4]](#endnote-4) | General Electric Co. | Bridgeport, Conn. | 134 | 19 | 115 | 10.5 |
|  |  | Elmira, N.Y. | 6 | 6 | 0 |  |
|  |  | Erie, Penna. | 388 | 159 | 229 |  |
|  |  | Everett, Mass. | 829 | 540 | 289 |  |
|  |  | Fitchburg, Mass. | 163 | 80 | 83 |  |
|  |  | Holyoke, Mass. | 646 | 158 | 488 |  |
|  |  | Lowell, Mass. | 193 | 126 | 67 |  |
|  |  | Lynn, Mass. | 4,865 | 2,130 | 2,735 |  |
|  |  | Pittsfield, Mass. | 229[[5]](#endnote-5) | 223 | 5 |  |
|  |  | Schenectady, N.Y. | 97[[6]](#endnote-6) | 26 | 78 |  |
|  |  | Somersworth, N.H. | 139 | 73 | 66 |  |
|  |  | Total | 7,688[[7]](#endnote-7) |  |  |  |

The B&MRRHS Archives Committee meets monthly to organize and preserve our growing collection of material about the B&M and other New England railroads. Volunteers and visitors are always welcome. Contact Rick Nowell, Chairman, Archives Committee, [fnowell3@yahoo.com](mailto:fnowell3@yahoo.com)

1. “These [are] all M.I.T. [Merge In Transit?] cars so [there is] much duplication and [I/we] feel 50% of total gives better picture.” [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Should be 5,620. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Appears to duplicate data in U.S. Steel section above. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. It is unclear why GE is listed at the end as 10½. Perhaps it was left out inadvertently and added hastily at the end of the report. Three addition errors in the GE information support this supposition. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Should be 228. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Should be 104. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Should be 7,689. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)