



Five-Mile Spur Line: A Railroad History of Sycamore, Illinois.

By Clint Cargile 2013 Zea Mays Publishing; Sycamore, IL

This history of the railroads in Sycamore is the sort of local work that every community deserves. But it is also a railroad history, and historians of mid-sized towns in the Midwest will want this book as an archetype-analysis of the forces that caused railroads and towns to develop together.

The C&NW was the major player because its main line in DeKalb was just a few miles away, but note well that the CGW main line was only a few miles north of DeKalb and that railroad had a branch through Sycamore to DeKalb that threatened some of the C&NW's traffic. Beyond that there is the history of the Sycamore & Cortland, which is fascinating in itself. And, beyond that, there is a whole chapter on electric interurbans.

One focus of the book and, perhaps its genesis, is the wonderful surviving depot of Sycamore. It once was a C&NW depot, but it has been restored and now is the home of the DeKalb County Community Foundation. It is worth a visit when you are in the DeKalb area.

The book is well-illustrated and the images are worth the price of the book. And there are other resources in the back of the book.

Recommended!

Joe Piersen

Where you can buy the book

<http://www.zeamayspublishing.com>