



Oelwein Hub City Railway Museum

New Hours

Open Sundays 1:00-5:00

May Thru September

Or Call for appointment

319-283-1939

*Visit our website for more
information on Railroad
Heritage Days 2015*

www.cgwoelwein.org

FREE ADMISSION!

Donations Appreciated.



1911 Express Building, now part of the museum

You are most welcome to join the organization and/or volunteer at the museum. Contact us at the address below.

If you would like to donate railroad memorabilia or make a cash contribution, we are tax exempt.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the museum in summer and at the American Legion building during the winter.

Hub City Heritage Corp.

P.O.Box 300 • 26 2nd Ave. SW

Oelwein, Iowa 50662

319-283-1939 • 319-240-3926

www.cgwoelwein.org

cgwo@windstream.net



Hub City Railway Museum



& Gift Shop

Oelwein, Iowa

Railroad Days

**3rd Weekend
in August**

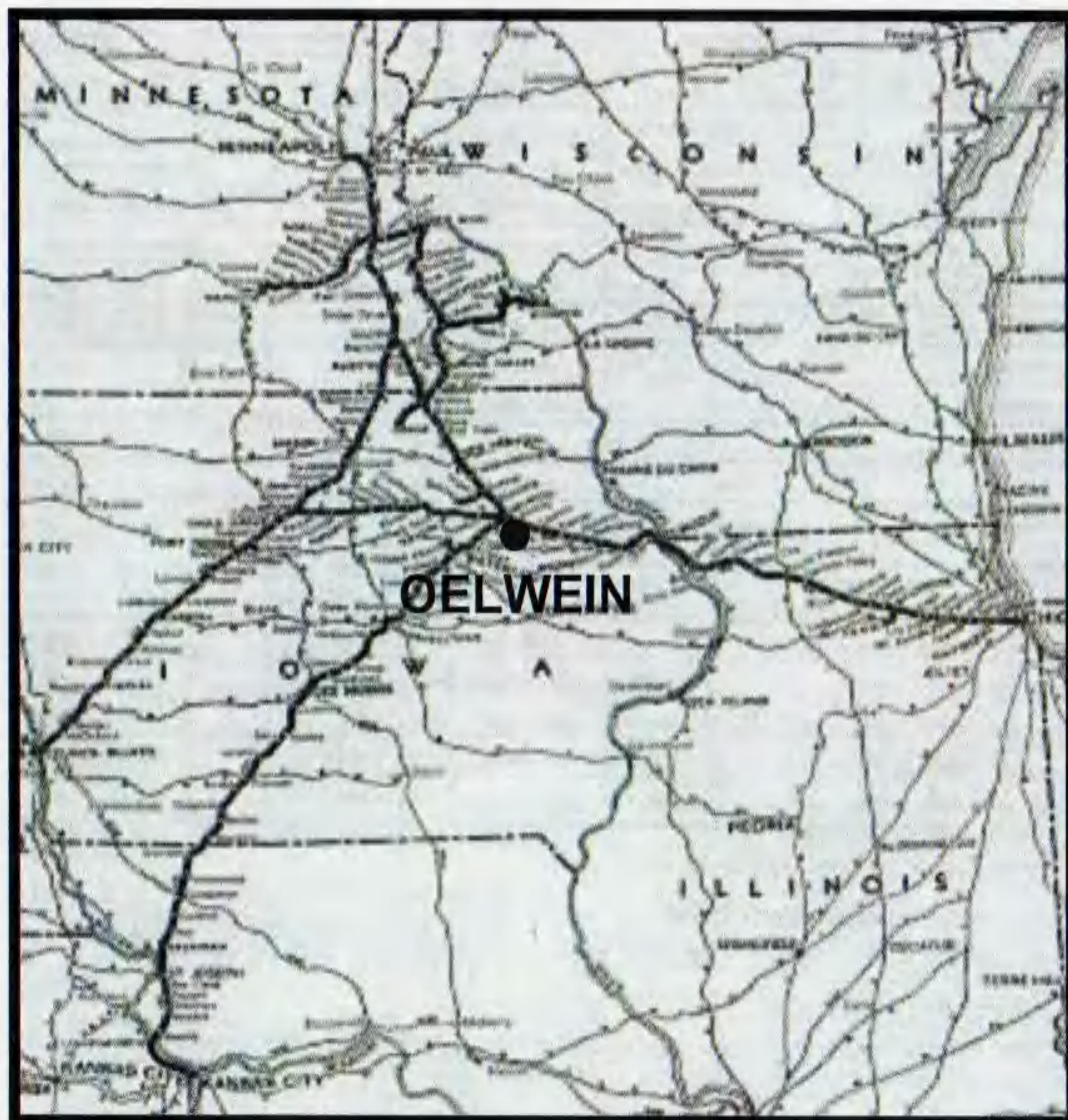
Sat. & Sun. 9am-4pm

**Climb The Tower,
Ride The Handcar,
Relive The Past!!**

About The Chicago Great Western Railway

The Chicago Great Western Railway was one of America's leading regional carriers from the turn of the century through the 1960s. Headquartered out of Oelwein from 1899 until its merger with the Chicago and Northwestern in 1968, the CGW spanned 1,432 miles in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and to a small extent Nebraska and Kansas.

Built by the imaginative and energetic Minnesotan, A.B. Stickney, in 1885 the modern CGW began as a 110-mile pike from St. Paul to the Iowa state line named the Minnesota and Northwestern Railroad. Instead of selling the short line to another rail as Stickney had done with previous roads that he constructed, he retained ownership and quickly extended the tracks to Chicago and Kansas City.



By connecting these important gateways, the railroad became a respectable carrier.

In 1887, the M&NW was acquired by another Stickney railroad, the more appropriately titled Chicago, St. Paul and Kansas City Railroad. Because the three lines radiated out from Oelwein, Stickney chose this location to construct the system shops. At the time when the Oelwein shops were opened in 1899, they were the largest and best-equipped shops in the United States.

The final extension of the CGW was completed in 1903 as the tracks were extended to Omaha.

Initially the CGW relied heavily on rate cutting and efficient operations to compete with other railroads. Although its reputation as a rate-cutter ended when Stickney retired in 1908, the railroad remained dedicated to flexible and innovative practices. Among the pioneering efforts for which the CGW is remembered are its early use of internal combustion equipment (in 1911), extremely long freight trains (the longest being 276 cars), piggyback service, and welded rail (in 1939).

cgwoelwein.org

Welcome to Hub City Heritage Museum

The objectives of Hub City Heritage Corporation are:

- To encourage and promote the preservation and restoration of railroad memorabilia as pertinent to the Oelwein area.
- To establish, furnish and maintain a railway museum for the education and enjoyment of the public.



Our museum opened in 1987 and features the railway express building, yard office, yard tower and a collection of locomotives, rolling stock, pump handcar and gift shop. We also have an extensive collection of photographs, employee records, and other memorabilia.

The railway express building was originally the home of Wells Fargo. The yard office and yard tower were the heart of the Chicago Great Western in its heyday. The tower, which was built in 1951 is open to the public. It provides an outstanding view of the former CGW switching yards and downtown Oelwein.