

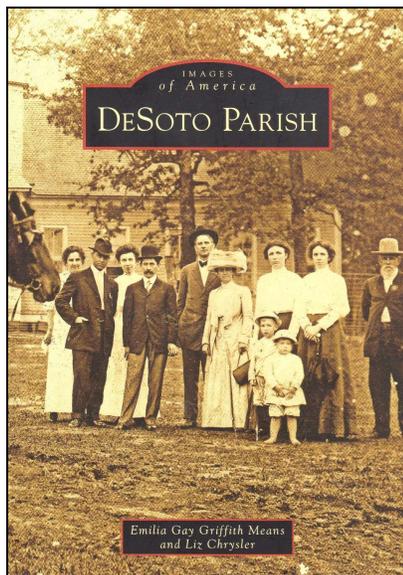
# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

July, 2011

SHREVEPORT, LA

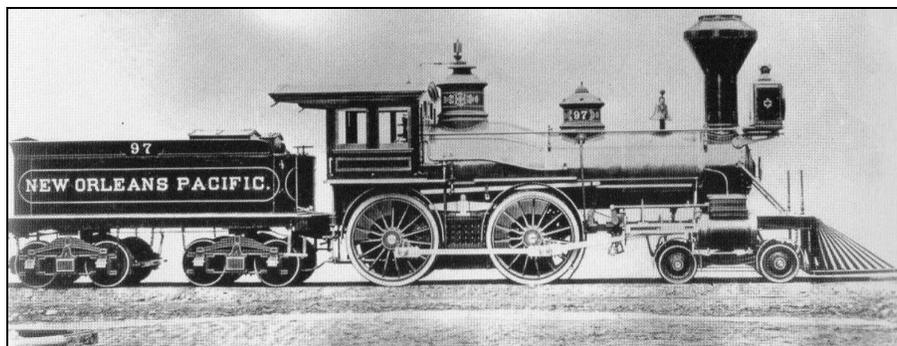
Our 30<sup>th</sup> Year

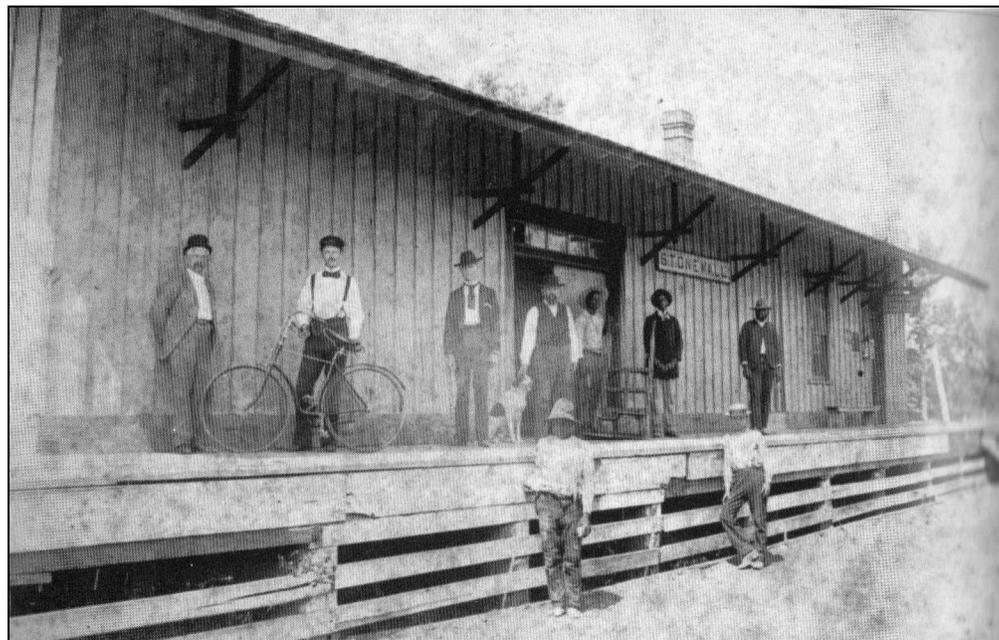
## Images of America :DeSoto Parish



A great new book is available about the history of DeSoto Parish. It contains many railroad-related photos and commentary; even a chapter titled *Along Came the Railroads*. One of the co-authors is long-time RRVRS member Gay Means, and the other co-author is Liz Chrysler. Gay is editor of the journal *North Louisiana History*, and holds B.A., M.A., Ph.D. degrees. Her Master of Arts thesis was titled *Building the Texas and Pacific Railway in Louisiana, 1850-1920*. She has published numerous scholarly articles about railroad history over the years as well as one book concerning letters of Henry Watkins Allen's journey thru the South in 1853. Liz has published four books, two which were about DeSoto Parish. Also, RRVRS member Conway Link contributed several photos for the book.

Shown above is the cover of the book and one of the rare photos it contains. The Union Depot in South Mansfield (LA) was used by the New Orleans Pacific/Texas Pacific Railway (NOP/TP), Mansfield Railway and Transportation Company and the Kansas City Southern line. The settlement of South Mansfield developed around the area where the NOP/TP track passed through because the railroad had bypassed the parish seat of Mansfield. Shown below is an 1875 New Orleans Pacific 4-4-0 locomotive (No. 97) that was used in the area.





Two other interesting depots are shown in the book. The top one was in Pelican, Louisiana (12 miles south of South Mansfield) on the Pleasant Hill Branch of the Texas and Pacific Railway. The bottom photo shows the Texas and Pacific station at Stonewall, Louisiana (named for Confederate General “Stonewall” Jackson) in about 1890. It was constructed in 1881 and was also on the Pleasant Hill Branch. Note what appears to be a messenger with a bicycle ready to deliver telegrams.

The photos used in the newsletter are by courtesy of the authors. The book is available at the local Barnes and Noble store, Amazon.com, BN.com or by calling Gay Means at 631-9164. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the next RRVRS meeting.

## Upcoming Events

- July 15 RRVrHS Meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.  
August 9 Discussions at the Depot – “The Eads Legacy” by Dr. Mary Thompson Price - 6:00 pm at the T&P Depot Museum, Marshall  
August 19 RRVrHS Meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.  
September 16 RRVrHS Meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.  
October 11 Discussions at the Depot – “A Brief History of the Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Railway” by Larry Davis - 6:00 pm at the T&P Depot Museum, Marshall  
October 29 RRVrHS Fish Fry at the McNeill Street Pumping Station

### Next RRVrHS Meeting on July 15 at the Glen

The meeting will be held on Friday, **July 15** at **7 p.m.** in the library at the Glen Retirement Village, 403 East Flournoy Lucas Road. **Please be on time** for the beginning of the meeting so you won't miss anything. The Glen Retirement Village is located on the south side of Flournoy Lucas Road between Ellerbe Road and Youree Drive (Highway 1). For information or directions call Dave Bland at (318) 470-5933.

As noted on page 1 of the newsletter, this year marks the **30<sup>th</sup> birthday** of the Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society. This significant milestone will be covered in the August newsletter. If you have any photos or other material relating to the history of the Society, please bring them to the **July 15 meeting**.

### Please Support Our Friends !

#### McNeill Street Pumping Station (Shreveport Water Works Museum)

Call (318) 221-3388 for information and directions.

#### Texas & Pacific Depot Museum in Marshall

Call (903) 938-9495 for information about their ongoing programs.

#### Historic Jefferson Railway

Call (903) 665-6400 for train schedules and information about their “Engineer for a Day” program.

#### See Current and Previous Newsletters in **COLOR** at our website

(Thanks to Tommy Crenshaw)

[www.rvrhs.org](http://www.rvrhs.org)

## The President's Message – July 2011



Hello Railfans:

Welcome home Russell! Oh, that's me. I've just returned home after almost 2 weeks in wonderful Colorado. While there I had the opportunity to ride 2 new railroads that were not in operation the last time I was up in that part of the country.

The first was a short ride over a line that was shut down in 1985, the Denver and Rio Grande Western RR located between the towns of South Fork and Creede Colorado. This short line is owned and operated by the Rio Grande Historical Society and two brothers, Bob and Dan Shank. They can legally use the name because they purchased it from the UP RR. The ride is about 15 miles long and they are currently using a 14-passenger rail car (photo above left). They have a Florida East Coast Pacific steam engine currently being rebuilt, numerous passenger cars and 3 diesel locomotives. They also have the original Hooper Depot that has been rebuilt.

The second train was the Rio Grande Scenic RR between Alamosa and La Veta (photo above right). It is also called the San Luis & Rio Grande RR. It is 62 miles long and a common carrier RR earning its keep handling freight from the San Luis Valley to Walsenburg with a connection to the UP. They have several diesel locomotives including an F-unit and at least 4 steam engines. From Friday to Sunday they operate steam between Alamosa and La Veta. We left Alamosa at 9:00 am and did not return until 5:30 pm. Several deer, elk and bears were seen on the ride.

I enjoyed both rides and would recommend both. I plan to ride them again, and look for a show on both in the near future.

Happy Railroading!  
Russell

### **RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. Shreveport, LA**

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