

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

Web Site: WWW.RRVVHS.ORG

On Facebook: [Shreveport Railroad Museum](https://www.facebook.com/ShreveportRailroadMuseum)

Russell Pedro – President

W. Conway Link – Vice-President

Jeff Cornelius – Secretary

Bill Hasheider – Treasurer

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October, 2016

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 35th Year

Railroad Switch Keys



People collect lots of interesting things, especially railroaders. One of our long-time members, Larry Davis, collects railroad keys, lanterns, china, etc. and often brings samples of his collection to our meetings. Larry recently submitted this photo showing some of his keys, all from local lines. He also provided some interesting info. The keys shown here include (clockwise from the top):

LR&N CO Early tapered barrel key with great markings. This key has almost no wear.

L&ARR Earlier key with tapered barrel and ring. Later keys are L&ARY.

VS&P Probably 1920's rare key with good markings and pocket wear.

StLSWRY Early key with very nice markings, pocket wear and number on front instead of back.

Tapered barrel. This key is unusual because the Cotton Belt used more small steel keys than these brass ones.

Y&MVRR This key probably from 1890s. Tapered barrel, excellent pocket wear.

KCSRY Not an early key; maybe 1950s or '60s. Straight barrel, nice markings, good pocket wear.

T&P Straight barrel indicates 1940s/1960s vintage. Good markings and pocket wear.

The RRs used many keys and the locks that go with them. There are switch keys, tool house/rack keys, section house keys, oilbox and icehouse keys as well as car keys and rip track/cripple track keys. Some people collect just keys from certain roads regardless of their use and some collect keys from an area or region...Rarity depends on the RR used on, "cut" or bit, age and condition...Some details that have meaning include: tapered barrel, ring around barrel and signs it may be a fake key. The letter styles are also a good way to judge. Numbers will very often be present indicating either a "serial" type

number or maybe a division number. Some large roads would have different keys cut for different divisions...RR keys are almost always brass but there are some in steel which may indicate manufacture during a war. Usually, brass is more desirable than steel.

Of course, there is an organization for people that collect keys and other railroad artifacts. It is called **Key, Lock & Lantern**. Their interesting newsletter can be seen at www.klnl.org

Upcoming Events

October 21 – RRVRHS Meeting – 7 p.m. - Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. Call (318) 458-3123 for information.

Nov 4 - First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. – Call (318) 458-3123 for information.

The President's Message

Hello Railfans!

More good news...the proposed contract for the land on Common St. has been submitted to the City Attorney for approval. It will then be sent to the City Council where it will have to be published and read for 3 times before it can be voted on. Also, Dave said that Bobby Jelks has a check for us for 3 years of insurance that the City will require. Many thanks to the Franks Foundation and Bobby!

This past Saturday we had our booth set up at the annual Pioneer Heritage Day at LSUS. We talked to lots of people and got good comments from them. Thanks to Dave Bland, Charlie Pease and Conway Link for their help in manning the booth.

Last week Jim McClure and I went to Durango, Colorado to visit Charles Goodrich and take train and scenery pictures. It was a beautiful time of the year there. Warren and Tilley Caileff were there, also. After we came home on Friday, Charles had a slight stroke. The doctors say that he will have a full recovery. Keep him in your prayers.

Well, that's about all at this time. Hoping to see you at the next meeting.

Happy Railroading!
Russell

Have You Paid Your Dues ?

Please send a check or money order for \$20.00 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society
3012 Nottingham Drive
Shreveport, LA 71115

Next Meeting
October 21