



# KEY LOCK & LANTERN

## News Release

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## Annual Transportation & Industrial History Conference Returns to Carbondale

For the fourth year in a row, transportation historians and antique collectors will gather in Carbondale, PA for a series of lecture programs, an exhibition of memorabilia, and a scenic train ride. Key, Lock & Lantern, a national, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of transportation history and memorabilia, will be holding its annual convention at downtown Carbondale's Hotel Anthracite, from May 9th through 11th.

On Friday, May 10th, a chartered excursion train on the Reading & Northern Railroad will depart at 10:00AM from the Pittston, PA station, for a round trip to Jim Thorpe, PA. Traveling through the Poconos and into the scenic Lehigh Valley gorge, the train will arrive in Jim Thorpe around noon, with a two hour layover planned to allow passengers to have lunch in this historic community. The train is scheduled to arrive back in Pittston at 4:30 PM.

On Saturday, May 11th, the banquet room in the Hotel Anthracite will be transformed into an exhibit hall filled with displays exploring the region's railroad and industrial history. Key Lock & Lantern members from across the country will participate in the convention's Transportation History Exposition, along with representatives from local and national historical societies. Exhibits will include displays of artifacts from railroads around the region, including "tools of the trade," such as lanterns, timetables, and locomotive fixtures. Lines that have been the subject of past displays have included the Lackawanna Railroad, the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company's railroad, and the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Visitors will have the opportunity to take home some original railroad memorabilia, as most exhibitors also offer artifacts for sale.

Several transportation history lectures will take place on Saturday evening in the Hotel Anthracite, following the group's annual meeting and dinner. Programs about the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, the Ontario & Western Railroad, and the Green Bay & Western Railroad are among the topics planned for the event. Many members of the group are current or retired railroaders, and they will be sharing stories and photos after the conclusion of the formal presentations. The convention schedule for Sunday, May 11th, has been left open for participants to visit local museums and historic sites of their choice.

While the Key Lock & Lantern annual meeting typically rotates to different locations, the group has been gathering in Carbondale since 2021. "With a history rooted in the coal mining and transportation industries, Carbondale offers the perfect venue for a conference of historians and researchers in this field," said KL&L president David Hamilton. "And with world-class museums such as Steamtown and the Electric City Trolley Museum right around the corner, it has was an easy decision to hold the convention in this region again."

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Everyone with an interest in transportation and industrial history is invited to attend these events, with registration for the Transportation History Exposition available at the door for \$10 per person, The exhibits will be open from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and the lectures start at 6:30 PM on Saturday, May 11th. The registration fee also includes admission to the evening programs. Advance registration is required for the Friday train ride, with coach seats available at \$39 per person, and Saturday banquet dinner. Additional information is available on the Key Lock & Lantern website at [www.klnl.org](http://www.klnl.org).

Key, Lock & Lantern is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, with the mission of gathering and publishing information about transportation history, and supporting the preservation of all types of related memorabilia. The annual Key, Lock & Lantern Convention began in the early 1970's as a railroaders collectors swap meet, and has grown in recent years to include a variety of history programs, train rides, and related activities. Visit the Key, Lock & Lantern website at [www.klnl.org](http://www.klnl.org) for free newsletters, an online event calendar, and other resources related to the history of transportation and industry.

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This news release is available in PDF format on the Key Lock & Lantern website News & Media page at <http://www.klnl.org/pgMedia.htm>

Images for media use are available to download on the Key, Lock & Lantern Flickr page. Visit the News & Media page on the Key, Lock & Lantern website at <http://www.klnl.org/pgMedia.htm>, or access the 2024 KL&L Convention Album directly at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/keylocklantern/albums>

Video clips for media use are available on the Key Lock & Lantern website News & Media page at <http://www.klnl.org/pgMedia.htm>

Interviews, exhibit previews, and photo opportunities on May 9th & 10th may be arranged by contacting Key Lock & Lantern President David Hamilton at [transportsim@aol.com](mailto:transportsim@aol.com) or cell phone 518-526-6941.