



KEY LOCK & LANTERN

News Release

For Immediate Release

May 24, 2016

Contact:

David Hamilton, KL&L President

518-439-8392

transportsim@aol.com

for media images: www.klnl.org

Railroad History Exposition to be Held in Utica Events Include Lectures, Train Excursion, and Antiques Show & Sale

From the first colonial turnpikes to the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, the developing transportation network has always played a key role in the history of Central New York. During the golden age of railroads, this area became a crossroads of commerce, with the vast switching yards in East Syracuse and Utica dispatching freight in every direction, and passengers boarding luxurious trains to the Adirondack and St. Lawrence regions. The legacy of this era remains strong, with a busy intermodal terminal operating in Dewitt Yard and passengers changing from Amtrak trains to the historic equipment of the Adirondack Scenic Railroad at the restored Utica Union Station. It is therefore fitting that Utica will be hosting the annual convention of Key, Lock & Lantern, a national railroad historical organization, on June 4th and 5th.

Events at the convention, all of which are open to the public, include a Railroad History Exposition, an evening dinner and lecture program, and a special train excursion on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad. The Railroad History Exposition will be held at the historic Hotel Utica, at 102 Lafayette Street, from 10:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday, June 4th. The Saranac Room and mezzanine will be filled with exhibits of original railroad artifacts, and visitors will have the opportunity to purchase authentic memorabilia, including lanterns, timetables, and dining car china.

One of the exhibitors at this year's event will be the Brookline Auction Gallery of New Hampshire, which holds regular auctions of railroad memorabilia. Scott Czaja, sales & consignment manager at Brookline, will provide informal evaluations of railroad antiques, in the style of the popular "roadshow" series on public television. Members of Key, Lock & Lantern will also be on hand, to share advice on the conservation and restoration of railroad memorabilia. Bring that old lantern that is hanging in the garage or that scrapbook of train tickets, and find out if you have a historical treasure!

On Saturday evening, a dinner program will be held at the Trackside Restaurant, located in the historic Utica Union Station. A banquet dinner will be served at 6:00pm, followed by railroad history lectures given by Key Lock & Lantern members and guests. A variety of presentations are scheduled, including a program about the New York Central Adirondack Line by noted author John Taibi. All railroad history buffs are invited to attend, with tickets available by advance reservation at \$25 per person.

A specially chartered Adirondack Scenic Railroad excursion train will depart from Utica Union Station at 9:45am on Sunday, June 5th, for a round trip into the Adirondack wilderness. The train will pass through pine forests, over high trestles, and along the rolling Moose River before arriving at remote Big Moose station for lunch. On the return trip, several photo stops are planned at historic depots and scenic locations along the line. The train will include air conditioned coaches, a cafe car, and an open baggage car where passenger can enjoy to cool breeze while watching to scenery roll by. Several ticket options are available, ranging from basic coach tickets at \$45 each, to seats in luxury private cars at \$159.

Continued on Next Page

Complete convention schedules and information, along with online registration and ticket sales, may be found on the Key, Lock & Lantern website at 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 railroad 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 railroad history programs, train rides, and related activities. Visit the Key, Lock & Lantern website at www.klnl.org for free newsletters about railroad preservation, an online event calendar, and related resources.

###

High resolution 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 www.klnl.org, or access the photo page directly at www.flickr.com/photos/keylocklantern/

Key, Lock & Lantern members will be attending the "Save the Rails" Rally at the New York State office building in Utica at 4:00pm on Friday, June 3rd, in support of the Adirondack Railway Preservation Society's efforts to prevent the abandonment of the north end of the railroad corridor to Lake Placid. Contact KL&L President David Hamilton at transportsim@aol.com for additional information or to arrange an interview.