

Louisville and Nashville Railroad Records Collection
Houston County Archives Manuscript Collection
MSS-15
Houston County Archives & Museum
P.O. Box 366
Erin, TN. 37061

TITLE:

Louisville and Nashville Railroad Records Collection

DATE:

1850-1986

COLLECTION NUMBER:

Houston County Archives Manuscript Collection MSS-15

EXTENT:

4 boxes (28 linear feet)

CREATOR:

Houston County Archives & Museum

LANGUAGE:

English

REPOSITORY:

Houston County Archives & Museum, 4725 East Main Street, Erin, Tennessee
37061

PROVENANCE:

This collection was part of the Houston County Historical Society collection that was donated to the Houston County Archives in 2011. Since 2011, various documents, ephemera and artifacts have been added to the collection from donors.

COPYRIGHT STATUS:

There are no copyright restrictions on this collection.

PROCESSING HISTORY:

Melissa Barker processed the collection and completed the Finding Aid in 2015. This collection was updated in 2023.

ACCES AND RESTRICTIONS:

There are no restrictions on use of this manuscript collection for research purposes.

COLLECTION CITATION:

This collection should be cited as:

Louisville and Nashville Railroad Records Collection, MSS-15, Houston County Archives & Museum, Erin, Tennessee

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION:

This collection contains various types of records, documents, ephemera, and artifacts pertaining to the building and operations of the L & N Railroad in Houston County. Unless otherwise noted, all records are original.

BIOGRAPHY/HISTORY:

The Louisville & Nashville Railroad was born March 5, 1850, when it was granted charter by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. On December 4, 1851, an act of the Tennessee General Assembly authorized the company to extend its road from the Tennessee state line to Nashville. Laying of track began at Ninth Street and Broadway in Louisville in May of 1853. By 1855, the founding fathers of the L & N, most of them Louisville citizens, had raised nearly \$3 million to finance the construction. The first train to operate over the railroad ran on August 25, 1855, when some 300 people traveled eight miles from Louisville at a speed of 15 mph.

A little more than four years later, on October 27, 1859, the first train operated all the way from Louisville to Nashville, joining the two namesake cities. For all practical purposes, the 187-mile railroad was complete. Scheduled trains began running a few days later, and except for war, fire, and several floods, they have been running ever since. The total cost of this original construction was \$7,221,204.91.

The first major expansion following World War II occurred in 1957 when the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway, a subsidiary, was merged into the company. The NC & St L, some 1,200 miles long, connected Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Atlanta. In 1969, the L&N acquired a portion of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad between Evansville, Indiana, and Chicago, permitting it to enter that important Midwestern rail center. That same year, a 131-mile segment of the Tennessee Central Railroad between Nashville and Crossville, Tennessee was purchased. In 1971, the 573-mile Monon Railroad was merged into the L&N system. It connected Louisville and Chicago and provided a valuable second entry

into the Great Lakes area. By the end of 1971, the L&N operated more than 6,574 miles of track in 13 states.

During that year, however, the Seaboard Coastline Railroad, which had owned 35 percent of the L&N stock for many years, bought the remainder of the outstanding shares, and the L&N became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Seaboard Coast Line Industries. On December 31, 1982, the corporate entity known as the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company was officially merged into the Seaboard System Railroad, ending the L&N's 132-year existence under a single name. The Seaboard System quickly lost its own corporate identity as it and the Chessie System became CSX Transportation in 1986.

The last passenger train operated in Houston County February 28, 1968.

The last freight train operated in Houston County in 1985.

Tracks removed in Houston County in 1986.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

BOX #1

FOLDER #1: L & N Railroad Histories

-*A Brief History of The Louisville & Nashville Railroad* by Charles B. Castiner, undated

-*Railroads* article from the book *The Kentucky Project: A Comprehensive Report on the Planning, Design, Construction, and Initial Operations of the Kentucky Project* published by United States Tennessee Valley Authority, 1951

-*Voters Helped Railroad Come to Paris in 1860* from *Pen Sketches: Henry County, Tennessee* by W.O. Inman Published by the Henry County Historical Society, 1976

-*The L&N's Memphis Line: Part One: 1850-1906* by Dennis R. Mize, published in the *Dixie Line* magazine, Second Quarter 1987 Page 8-27

-*Memphis Line's Tennessee Ridge* by Dennis Mize, published in the *Dixie Line* magazine, August 1993, page 15-19

-*Makin Time On the Memphis Line* by Dennis Mize, published in the *Dixie Line* magazine, August 1994, page 7-9

-*L&N's Memphis Line: Bowling Green, Kentucky to Memphis Tennessee* by Dennis R. Mize, published 1999, pages 25-27, 45, 90-91, 103-104, 282-283, 310-313

-*Rails and Raiders: Transportation in the Civil War*, Tennessee Civil War Trails Marker

FOLDER #2: Newspaper Clippings

-*Boiler Explosion*, published in *The Daily Tobacco Leaf-Chronicle*, May 17, 1890, (copy)

-*Saying Goodbye to Old Hill Engine No. 1349*, unknown newspaper, undated (copy)

-*Louisville & Nashville R.R. Time Table*, published in *The Houston County News*, June 16, 1893 (copy)

-*Train Demolishes Delivery Truck*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, November 21, 1950 (copy)

-*Removing Water Tank*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, October 2, 1953

-*Hills of Home Wouldn't Have Been the Same with Erin A 'Flag Stop'*, published in the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, June 24, 1955 (copy)

-*General Stops at Cumb. City Friday*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, October 8, 1963 (copy)

-*Driver Killed in Truck, Train Crash*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, August 20, 1969 (copy)

-*Danville Drawbridge Sold* published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, October 28, 1980 (copy)

-*Ira Bell Receives Promotion With L&N*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, December 23, 1980 (copy)

-*Moving A Bridge*, published in *The Leaf-Chronicle*, March 19, 1981 (copy)

-*A Rainy Day Sees an Era End in Erin*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, July 1984 (copy)

-*Railroad Tracks Coming Up in Houston County*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, March 5, 1986 (copy)

-*Houston County Pays Homage to the Railroad*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, July 1, 1987 (copy)

-*Loose Caboose Ends Erin Rail Travel*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, August 20, 1986 (copy)

-*Erin Railroad Brings Fond Memories*, published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, November 7, 1995 (copy)

-*Memories of Old Danville* by Susan Corbin, published in *The Camden Chronicle*, July 23, 1998 (copy)

FOLDER #3: Railroad Articles

-*Industrial and Freight Shippers Directory, 1915*, listing depots in Houston County 1943 and prior, also includes Cumberland City (copy)

-*Memphis Line Track Re-Location Completed*, published in *The L&N Employees' Magazine*, July 1944

-*Industrial Advertising of the L&N Railroad 1943-1945*, published in *Messages and Addresses* by James B. Hill (copy)

-*The General's Ribbon* by William R. Heffren published in *The L&N Magazine*, April 1962, page 2-3 (copy)

-*Another Great Day for The General* by Rowan Howse published in *The L&N Magazine*, April 1962, page 10-11(copy)

-*Chapter 6: Blast Furnace Routes of Mid-Tennessee* published in *Ghost Railroads of Tennessee* by Elmer G. Sulzer, 1975, pages 131-135, 140-141 (copy)

-*A Big Rail Merger Takes it Slow*, published in *Business Week* magazine, September 29, 1980 (copy)

-*History of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad* by Maury Klein, Page 130 only, Danville is mentioned, published 2003 (copy)

-*Clarksville Mineral Branch Train 1890-1936* compiled by Jim Robertson, undated (copy)

-*Southern Rambles: A Giles County Irish Railroad Community Revealed*, published by *The Center for Historic Preservation*, online, 2018 (copy)

-*Southern Rambles: Accidental Discoveries and Fortuitous Partnerships: Tracing Irish Railroad Works Across the Atlantic in 1860 and 2018*, published by *The Center for Historic Preservation*, online, 2018 (copy)

FOLDER #4: Railroad Timetables

-Memphis, Clarksville & Louisville Railroad Time Table No. 2, August 29, 1861 (copy)

-Louisville and Nashville Railroad Time Table No. 55, March 18, 1866 (copy)

-Memphis & Louisville Railroad Time Table, April 27, 1868 (copy)

-L&N Railroad Time Table No. 129, September 15, 1918 (copy)

-L&N Railroad Time Table No. 26, August 16, 1936 (copy)

-L&N Railroad Time Table No. 1, July 12, 1942 (copy)

-L&N Railroad Time Table No. 3, November 15, 1964 (copy)

-L&N Railroad Time Table No. 12, January 1, 1982

-Seaboard System Railroad Time Table No. 1, October 30, 1983

-Seaboard System Railroad Time Table No. 3, April 28, 1985

-CSX Transportation Time Table No. 1, April 1, 1989

FOLDER #5: L&N Railroad Lists of Stations and Names of Agents

-Memphis Line, March 1, 1904, includes Houston County (copy)

-No. 531, Memphis Line, April 15, 1913, includes Houston County (copy)

FOLDER #6

-L&N's ACF Waffle Box Car, drawings expressly for Mainline Modeler by Curt Fortenberry

FOLDER #7: L&N Railroad Company Train Orders

-Order No. 12, Train Eng. 530, 1890s

-Order No. 12, Train Eng. 530, 1890s

-Order No. 12, Train Eng. 530, 1890s

FOLDER #8: Railroad Dated Nails Information

FOLDER #9: Deeds and Contracts

-Jacob and Margaret Buquo deed to L&N Railroad 5 6/10 acres in District 10, Town of Erin in Houston County, January 12, 1872 (copy)

-T.J. and M.J. Reynolds deed to L&N Railroad 1 ½ acres in District 10, Town of Erin in Houston County, May 15, 1872 (copy)

-John D. Kerr and wife Georgia Kerr deed to L&N Railroad, District 10, Town of Erin in Houston County, May 16, 1872 (copy)

-Jacob Buquo and wife Margaret Buquo deed to L&N Railroad, District 10, Town of Erin in Houston County, June 28, 1872 (copy)

-Right of Way agreement between L&N Railroad and City of Erin to use for a park, dated November 9, 1920

FOLDER #10: Irish Workers on L&N Railroad

-Irish railroad workers listed in the 1860 census (copy)

-Railroad employees from Houston County 1870 to 1982 (copy)

FOLDER #11: Erin Depot

-Original ticket claim coupon, Clarksville to Erin dated February 22, 1912

-Erin Depot floor plan revised 1919 and 1922

-*Where Are We?* published in *The L & N Magazine*, March 1968 with photo of Erin Depot

-*Where are We?* published in *The L & N Magazine*, undated with photo of Erin Depot (copy)

-*Erin's Old Depot Razed* published in *The Stewart-Houston Times*, 1970

-Letter from R.B. Stone Jr. Railroad Inspector to Mr. W. B. Pemberton Director Railroad Division about a request to abandon and dismantle the Depot building and discontinue LCL and caretaker service at Erin dated February 27, 1975

-Petition to abandon and dismantle the depot building and discontinue LCL and caretaker service at Erin, Tennessee dated May 5, 1975

-Greeting card art depicting L & N Railroad and Erin Depot

FOLDER #12: Danville Depot and Bridge

-Danville Depot floor plan revised 1919 and 1922 (copy)

-Tennessee Public Service Commission, list of petitions to remove depots, discontinue freight service, etc., includes Cumberland City, Danville, Dolomite, McKinnon, Rauscher and Stewart, October 11, 1956

-Petition by the L&N Railroad to receive permission to close the agency, remove depot and discontinue less-than-carload freight service at Danville dated October 14, 1957

-Letter from W. B. Pemberton Director Railroad Division to W. B. Price Mayor City of Erin about the bridge across the Tennessee River near Danville dated October 30, 1974

-Letter from Marshall Stuart of Mid-Cumberland Council of Governments announcing a meeting to discuss the proposed abandonment and removal of the L&N railroad bridge, August 17, 1977

-Letter from Congressman Robin Beard about removing of the Danville Bridge to Bridgeport, Alabama, January 24, 1978

-National Register Assessment L&N Railroad Bridge in Danville, Tennessee August 2011 (copy)

-*Danville Railroad Bridge* published in Four Rivers Explorer magazine, December 2006

FOLDER#13: Cumberland City Depot

-Cumberland City Depot floor plan revised 1919 and 1922 (copy)

FOLDER #14: Stewart Depot

-Stewart Depot floor plan revised 1919 and 1922 (copy)

-Sketch of Stewart Depot by Leland McAulay, 1993 (copy)

-Letter from J.L. Sykes Houston County Road Commissioner to L&N Railroad Company about relocation of the railroad crossing at Stewart, includes invoices and receipts for the work done, February 6, 1968

FOLDER#15: Tennessee Ridge Depot

-Tennessee Ridge Depot floor plan revised 1919 and 1922 (copy)

-The Official Guide of the Railways and Steam Navigation Lines 1908, advertisement for Tennessee Ridge train times (copy)

-Travelers' Railway Guide-Western Section, 1903, advertisement for Tennessee Ridge train times (copy)

FOLDER #16: L&N Railroad Employees in Houston County

- E.B. Calhoun, Assistant Freight Agent business card, undated
- Scrap paper listing Mr. McLay Section Foreman for L&N and Mr. Stinson Supervisor
- Buttons Awarded to L&N Employee*, published in *The L&N Employes' Magazine*, June 1934, C.W. Satterwhite honored (copy)
- L&N Railroad Company Employee Income Tax Table dated January 15, 1946
- Charles E. Smith's United Transportation Union Rules and Regulations Book, June 1, 1978
- Sickness Benefits for Railroad Employees
- Employee identification cards for Will T. Jones for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, dated 1960-1967
- Tribute by Dennis Mize of Ira Bell (1926-2005) in L&N Magazine, undated (copy)
- Tribute by Dennis Mize of Ira Bell (1926-2005) printed in L&N Magazine, undated and unabridged (copy)
- Obituary for Ira Lee Bell from "The Tennessean" newspaper, July 15, 2005 (copy)

FOLDER #17: Receipts

- L&N Railroad Way-Bill dated 9-25-1900
- Receipts from L&N Railroad for Houston County fee to L&N railroad to maintain telephone wire on their cross arms on the Tennessee River Bridge at Danville, date range of receipts 1958-1981

FOLDER# 18: Correspondence

- L&N Railroad Envelopes (Blank)

-Letter from J.E. Harmon Auditor of Disbursements with L&N Railroad to W.H. Wiseman County Judge of Houston County about payment for installation of telephone line across the bridge at Danville, dated February 5, 1959

-Letter from W.H. Wiseman County Judge of Houston County to J.E. Harmon Auditor of Disbursements about the payment for installation of telephone line across the bridge at Danville, dated February 11, 1959

-Letter from D.M. Wear Superintendent to Home Cary County Judge for Houston County about the renewal of contract to install and maintain telephone wires on our cross arms on the Tennessee River Bridge at Danville, dated February 2, 1968 (copy)

-Letter from D.M. Wear Superintendent to Home Cary County Judge for Houston County about the renewal of contract to install and maintain telephone wires on our cross arms on the Tennessee River Bridge at Danville, dated March 11, 1968

-Letter from A.P. Fish Manager L&N Central Contract Bureau to Home Cary County Judge of Houston County about a draft agreement contract for covering telephone wires attached to the cross arms on Tennessee River Bridge at Danville, dated May 13, 1968

-Letter from J.B. Sellers L&N Railroad Superintendent to Vernon R. Knight County Judge of Houston County about moving a crossing sign in the town of Erin, January 1, 1976

-Letter from Charles Castner Consultant University of Louisville to Nina Finley about L&N's steamboat operations, dated June 24, 1993 (copy)

-Letter from Leslie L. Scherr to Mr. W.I. Bell about giving authorization to Mr. Bell to enter CSX property to pick-up retired crossing signals, dated June 1, 1994 (copy)

-Letter from Nina Finley to Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves of Tennessee State Library and Archives about the history of the railroad in Houston County, September 23, 1998 (copy)

-Email from Ira Bell to Kay French County Librarian about locating a date when the Erin Depot was torn down, dated February 1, 2001 (copy)

-Email from Ira Bell to Kay French County Librarian about locating a date when the Erin Depot was torn down, dated February 2, 2001 (copy)

-Email from Kay French County Librarian to Dennis Mize author about his book *L&N's Memphis Line*, April 14, 2006 (copy)

FOLDER# 19: Betsy Ligon Railroad Park

-Sketch and information for the making of the Railroad Memorial Pavilion (copy)

-Dedication Ceremony for Betsy Ligon Railroad Park Program, dated October 16, 1994 (8 original copies)

-Ira Bell's speech at the new Betsy Ligon Railroad Park Pavilion entitled *I've Been Working on The Railroad* given on October 16, 1994 (2 copies)

-History of Doc the Leprechaun statue in Betsy Ligon Park with sketches, 2005

FOLDER #20: Tennessee Rail Plans

-State of Tennessee Department of Transportation Tennessee Rail Plan Phase A, October 1977

FOLDER #21: L&N Operating Rule Books

-Rules of the Operating Department Effective July 1, 1966, belonged to C.E. Smith, donated to Houston County Historical Society by C.E. Smith June 20, 1999

-CSX Transportation Operating Rules Effective April 1, 1989 belonged to C.E. Smith, donated to Houston County Historical Society by C.E. Smith June 20, 1989

BOX #2

FOLDER #22: Employee Time Books and Pay Stubs

-Time book dated April 1, 1940 to June 19, 1945, belonged to W.A. Dickens, donated to the Houston County Historical Society

-Time books belonging to C.E. Smith for years, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983

-L&N Payroll Stubs for C.E. Smith dating 1969-1973

FOLDER #23: Safety Rules

-L&N Railroad Rules Operating Department dated May 1, 1909, Belonged to J.O. Shackelford, Engineer

-L&N Railroad Safety Rules Booklet dated December 1, 1940, donated by Elizabeth Jones wife of Tom Jones to the Houston County Historical Society

-L&N Railroad Safety Rules Booklet dated October 1, 1948, donated by Elizabeth Jones wife of Tom Jones to the Houston County Historical Society

-Signal Rules, undated (copy)

FOLDER #24: Vacation Claim-Engine And Train Service Employees

-CSX Blank Vacation Claim forms, donated by Charles E. Smith to Houston County Historical Society on June 20, 1999

FOLDER #25: Yard Conductor's Work Order Report

-CSX Blank Yard Conductor's Work Order Sheets, donated by Charles E. Smith to Houston County Historical Society on June 20, 1999

FOLDER #26: Freight Train Conductor's Switch List

-CSX Blank Freight Train Conductor's Switch List Forms, donated by Charles E. Smith to Houston County Historical Society on June 20, 1999

FOLDER #27: Work Train Conductor's Report

-CSX Blank Work Train Conductor's Car Handle-Wheel Mileage Report, donated by Charles E. Smith to Houston County Historical Society on June 20, 1999

FOLDER #28: L&N Employee's Magazine

-June 1942, October 1942, May 1943, October 1943, December 1943 (copied from Google Books)

-January 1956 and May/June 1974 Issues

FOLDER #29: L&N Railroad Historical Society *Dixie Line Magazine*

-6 Issues, February, April, June, August, October, December 1997

FOLDER #30: L&N Railroad Historical Society *Dixie Line Magazine*

-6 issues, February, April, June, August, October, December 1998

FOLDER #31: L&N Railroad Historical Society *Dixie Line Magazine*

-6 issues, February, April, June, August, October, December 1999

FOLDER #32: L&N Railroad Historical Society *Dixie Line Magazine*

-2 issues, October, December 2000

BOX #3

FOLDER #33: L&N Railroad Historical Society *L&N Magazine*

-1 issue, March 2007

FOLDER #34: L&N Railroad Historical Society *The Old Reliable Newsletter*

-4 issues, 1997

FOLDER #35: L&N Railroad Historical Society *The Old Reliable Newsletter*

-3 issues, 1998

FOLDER #36: L&N Railroad Historical Society *The Old Reliable Newsletter*

-4 issues, 1999

FOLDER #37: L&N Railroad Historical Society *The Old Reliable Newsletter*

-1 issue, 2000

FOLDER #38: Tennessee Railroad Association Railroading in Tennessee Newsletter

-1 issue, undated

FOLDER #39: Maps

-L&N Railroad Company System Map, undated

-L&N Railroad Company Diagram donated by Ira Bell (copy)

-L&N Railroad Company Map, undated (copy)

FOLDER #40: L&N Railroad Historical Society

-History of L&N Railroad Historical Society and membership card for Houston County Historical Society

FOLDER #41: L&N Railroad Accidents

-Railroad Accident Investigation Report No. 4079, March 7, 1966 (purchased from eBay)

FOLDER #42: L&N Railroad Abstract of Local Way-Bills Received at Erin 1962-1964

FOLDER #43: Handbook of Instructions for Care and Operation of Maintenance of Way Equipment, 1957

BOX #4 Artifacts

-L&N Railroad Monkey Wrench, donated by Bob McKinnon, belonged to George Shuff

-Caliper, donated by Bob McKinnon, belonged to George Shuff who was a bridge tender on the Danville Bridge

-Railroad Tie "S" Pin, donated by Charlie Britt

-Railroad bolt

-Railroad bolt, 6 inches long, 3 inches of threads-Railroad spikes, 8 ½ inches long, skinny (2)

-Railroad bolt, 17 ½ inches long, with a washer attached

- Railroad bolt, 17 ½ inches long, with a washer attached, bent
- Railroad spike, 6 inches long (4 examples)
- Railroad spike, 6 inches long (4 examples)
- Railroad spikes, 6 inches long, from Stribling Railroad (3 examples)
- Railroad spike, 10 inches long, donated by Charlie Britt
- Dated Railroad Nails
 - 1933 (2)
 - 1934 (2)
 - 1936 (1)
 - 1944 (5)
 - 1947 (1)
- Railroad Spike Driver (on display)
- 4 Railroad lanterns (on display)
- Railroad Signal Light (on display)
- L&N Railroad two headed open-end wrench (on display)
- L&N Railroad adjustable pipe wrench (on display)
- Smut Pot (on display)
- L&N Railroad door knobs, one from a home in Erin and one from a home in Tennessee Ridge