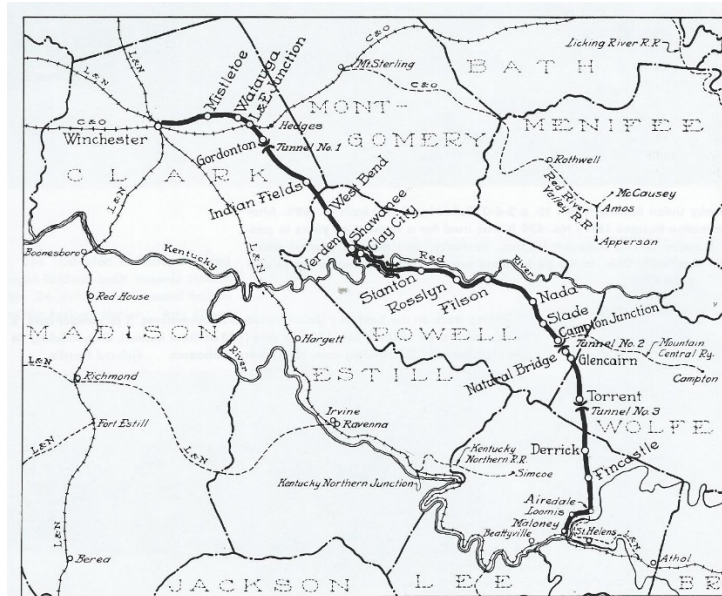


## FOLLOWING THE LEXINGTON & EASTERN RAILROAD WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY TO JACKSON, KENTUCKY

Charles H. Bogart

The Lexington & Eastern Railroad (L&E) ran from Lexington, Kentucky, to Jackson, Kentucky. The 92-mile long railroad was constructed between 1886 and 1892. In 1910, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad (L&N) acquired ownership of the L&E. Between 1942 and 1947 the L&E line between Winchester, Kentucky, to Tellega, Kentucky, was abandoned after a new mainline had been built from Winchester to Tellega via Ravenna, Kentucky. (See map below)



It is still possible to follow much of the former L&E right-of-way from Winchester to Tellega. We will start our journey at Main & Bait Street in Winchester, Kentucky, site of the L&E Depot. The depot sat on the plot of land between Bait Street and the railroad tracks. The former L&E track runs for another 200 yards to the right before ending in the cut.



Now take Bait Street east to Pendelton Street and turn right. Go one block and turn left on Winn Street. Take Winn until it forks. Take the road on the left Ecton Road, KY 1960. The L&E right-of-way will cross Ecton Road and be on the right paralleling the road. Continue on Ecton Road, KY 1960 to L&E Junction Road, KY 1960. Turn right on L&E Junction Road. The L&E right-of-way will be on the right. You will first encounter the remains of the L&E bridge over Georges Branch Creek. The next set of bridge piers mark where the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway (C&O) crossed over the L&E. The C&O right-of-way will be on the left and the L&E right-of-way on the right. After about a mile both right-of-ways will turn away from the road. The L&E will head up a hollow to run cross country.

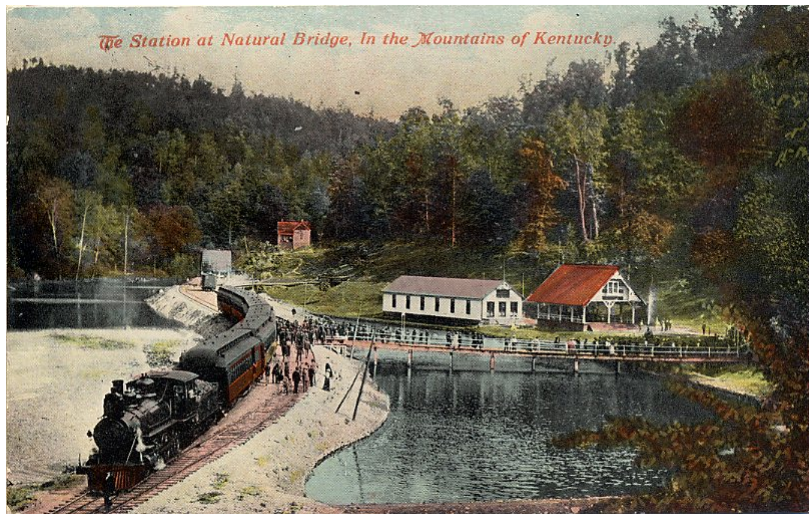
Continue on KY 1960 and turn right onto Schollsville Road. The road will cross the L&E right-of-way by a bridge over a cut. Tunnel #1 is in the cut to the left and can only be seen in winter time. Turn and return to KY 1960. At KY 1960 turn right and follow the road to Kiddsville. Turn left at the "T" onto Kiddville Road, KY 974 for Indian Fields. At Indian Fields look for Arrowhead Lane, located just past the historical marker. This lane sits on top of the L&E right-of-way. You can drive either to the left or right on Arrowhead Lane but both end in fields of mud.

From Indian Fields take the Mountain Parkway east to Clay City. Get off the Parkway at, Exit 16 and follow KY 15 into Clay City. The L&E right-of-way will be one block to the left as you enter town. Follow Main Street KY11/KY 15 to Eight Street and the Red River Museum. The former L&E Slade Depot is located here.

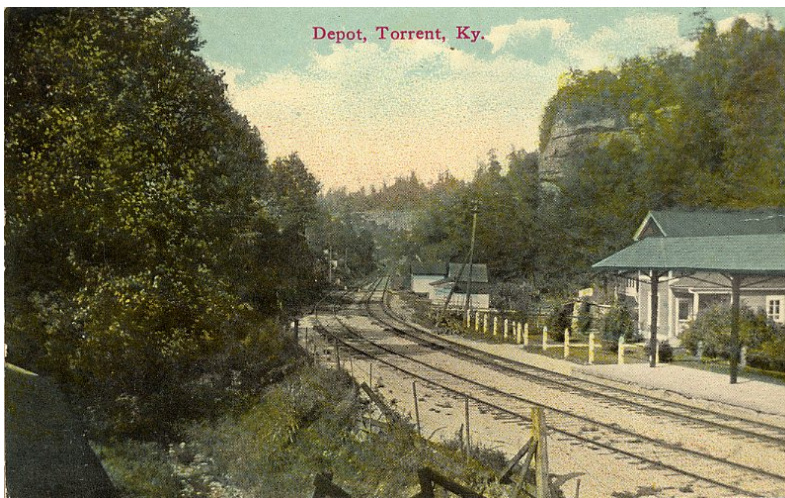
Continue east on KY11/KY15 and turn left on Pompeii Street. At "T" turn right on to Wood Ware Road. The L&E bridge piers in the Red River will be seen off to the right. The L&E right-of-way will join Wood Ward Road and the road will run on top of the right-of-way. Wood Ward Road dead ends so turn and drive back to KY11/KY15, turn left and follow KY 11/KY 15 to Stanton.

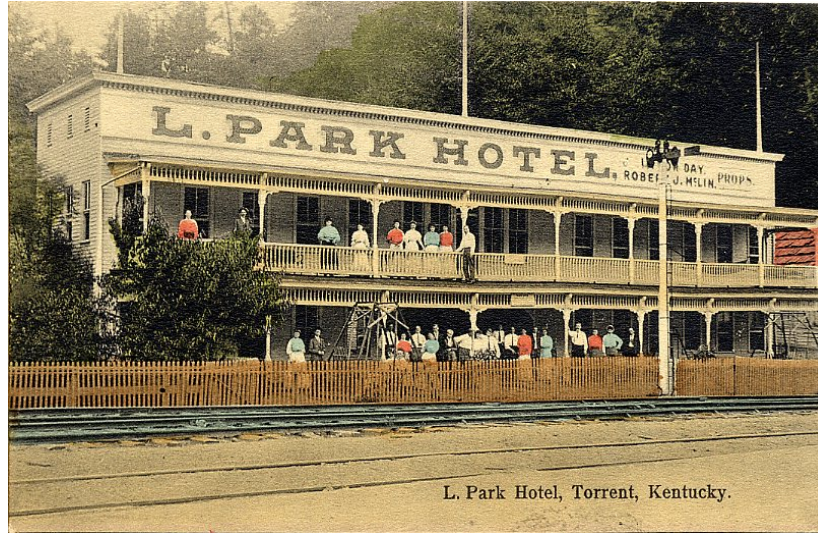
Upon entering Stanton turn left at the High School onto Halls Lane. Go to Railroad Street and turn right. Follow Railroad Street to the L&E Stanton Depot and park in its parking lot. From the Stanton Depot parking lot turn left onto Main Street. Turn left at KY15/KY11 for Slade. You will see portions of the L&E right-of-way off to the left. Later the road will run on top of the right-of-way.

Turn right at Slade and follow KY 11. A former C&O caboose graces the rest stop at Slade just past the Mountain Parkway. The L&E right-of-way is to the left of the caboose, this is a dead end road. Follow KY 11 to the entrance to Natural Bridge Park, the L&E right-of-way is under the road that leads back to the chair lift. Once in the park, turn right on first road to right, this is the former L&E right-of-way. About 200 yards down this road there is a place on the left to turn around. Park here and walk up over the grass to the cliff alongside the road. Tunnel #2 is located here. There is constant rock fall at the face of the tunnel, so do not get close to the tunnel and Do Not Go In. Return to the park entrance and turn right for the lodge. Park in the parking lot before the lodge. There is a view from here down to the former L&E Railroad Park.



After viewing the former L&E Park return to KY 11 and turn right. The L&E right-of-way will be off to the right. At Torrent pull into Torrent Falls Adventuer Center parking lot. The falls only runs when there is rain. This is site of L. Park Hotel.





L. Park Hotel, Torrent, Kentucky.

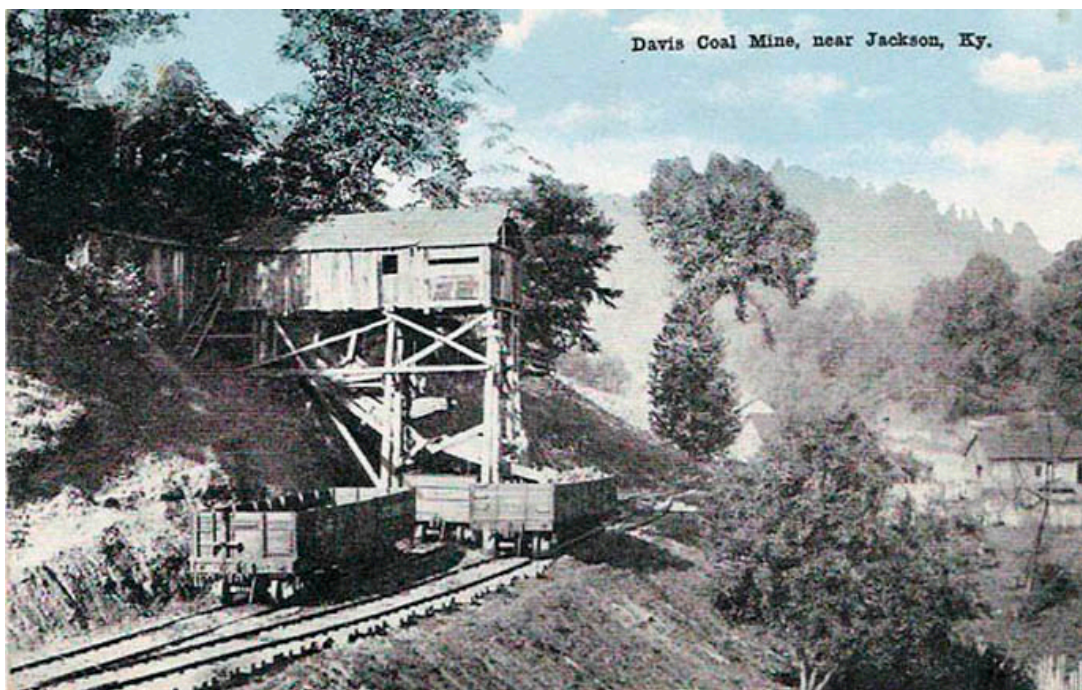
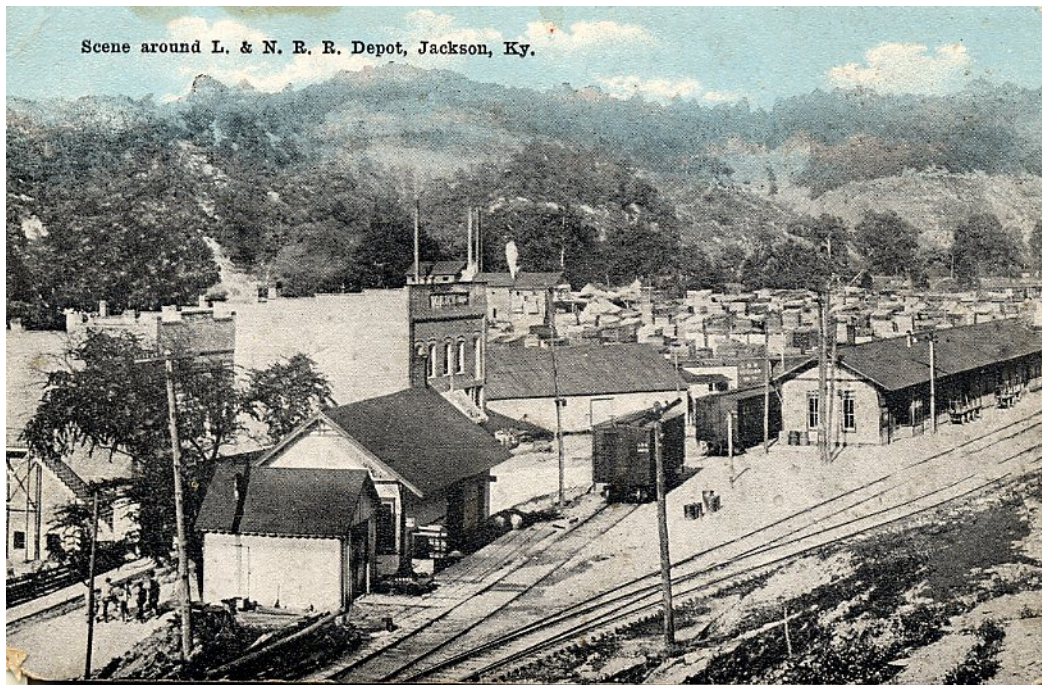
Return to KY 11 and turn right. On the left will be Torrent Church of God. Park in their parking lot. L&E right-of-way is on left against hill. Walk back toward picnic shelter. Tunnel #3 is in cliff ahead. Do Not try to approach the tunnel, as the area is infested with rattlesnakes and copperheads, plus the tunnel mouth is sealed by a rock fall.



Return to KY 11 and follow KY 11 to Beattyville. The L&E right-of-way is in the hills off to the left. There are a few forestry roads that lead back to the L&E right-of-way but they are only suitable for ATVs. At Beattyville cross the Kentucky River and turn left on KY 52. Take KY 52 to KY 2016. Turn left at KY 2016. The first road on left is Old Railroad Grade Road, this is L&E right-of-way. The L&E Depot was where the Post Office is now located. Turn left onto Old Railroad Grade Road. It runs about a mile to end in a sea of mud. There is a turn around just before the end of the road.

Return to KY 52 and turn left for Jackson, Kentucky. KY 52 will run on the L&E right-of-way until it joins the CSXT, ex L&N, track at Tellega, Kentucky. The CSXT track will then follow the L&E right-of-way into Jackson. At the "T" turn left on KY 30 for KY 15. At KY 15 turn right for Jackson. At Jackson turn right onto Washington Street, this street leads into downtown

Jackson. Go two streets and turn right onto Main Street. At “T”, turn left on Sycamore Street and go one block. Turn right on College Street, KY 3094 and cross river. Just before the railroad underpass, turn left on Armory Street. The L&E/CSXT railyard will be on the right.



To return to Winchester return to KY 15 and turn left for Campton and the Mountain Parkway