

# THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL COTTON BELT SYMPOSIUM: RAILROAD LEGACY AND LORE



**Saturday, August 16, 2008 | 9:00am – 12:30pm**  
Commerce, Texas

At the James G. Gee Library on the campus of Texas A&M University-Commerce

This is a free, public event to share, document, preserve, and celebrate the legacy and experiences of the employees and families connected to the St. Louis Southwestern Railway in northeast Texas and system-wide.

All former and current railroad employees, family members, and any interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

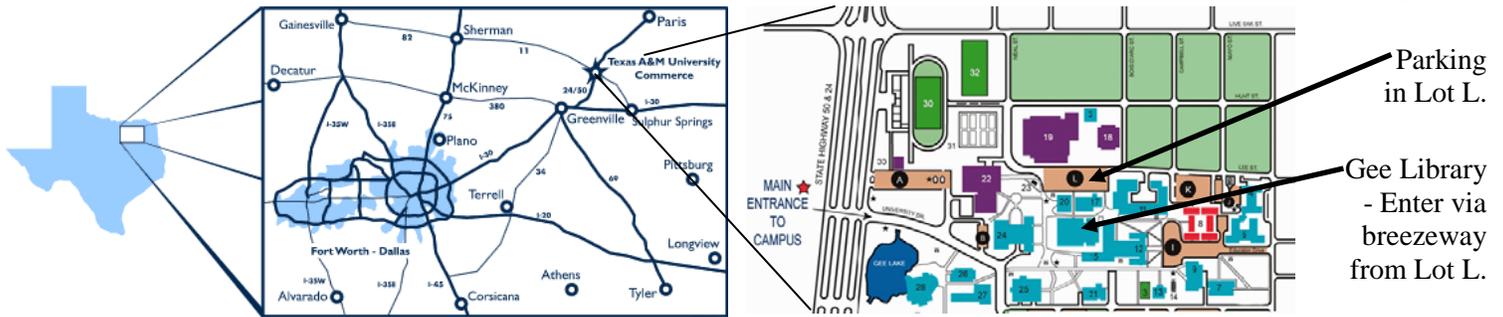
Featuring noted authors and historians, Jonathan Gerland, Dr. Otha Spencer, and Cheryl Westhafer.

Mr. Gerland will discuss the service of the Cotton Belt and connecting railroads to early logging operations in east Texas.

Dr. Spencer will discuss the social impact of the railroad in the communities in and around the Commerce area.

Ms. Westhafer will present artifacts from, and discuss the railroad collection at the Commerce Public Library.

The program will also feature a panel comprised of current and former railroad employees and family members who will recount various aspects of railroad life. The proceedings will be videotaped for entry into the Gee Library's Digital Archives. Cotton Belt and railroad artifacts from the Commerce Public Library and the Arkansas Railroad Museum's Cotton Belt Rail Historical Society collection will be on display. Attendees are invited to bring and display railroad photos and other artifacts. There will be time allotted in the afternoon for visiting, sharing, and recording video histories related to railroad experiences.



For more information: <http://faculty.tamu-commerce.edu/jdavis/railroad/symposium/>  
Jason\_Davis@TAMU-Commerce.edu, 903-886-8066, or Gee Library @ 903-886-5737



*Presented by the TAMU-Commerce Department of Educational Leadership, the James Gee Library, and the Commerce Public Library.*

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