

From humble beginnings in August, 1982 when four Oneonta residents got together to talk about starting a railroad museum, the Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society (LRHS) has grown to become one of the largest and most active railway preservation groups in New York State.

The organization was incorporated as a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) tax exempt, educational corporation by the New York State Department of Education on December 16, 1983 and became an affiliate of the National Railway Historical Society on May 7, 1983, being designated the Leatherstocking Chapter.

The Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society was created with two objectives in mind. The first was the protection and preservation of the "Little Red Caboose" in Oneonta's Neahwa Park. It was in this Caboose that the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen was organized in 1883, which became the largest rail union in the world. After raising \$10,000, a plexiglass enclosure was built around the Caboose protecting and preserving it for future generations. LRHS is still to this day the official caretaker of this historic piece of rail equipment.



The second objective of the organization became, by far, the most ambitious - the creation of an area railroad museum, which ultimately led to the acquisition and operation of the Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad (CACV), built in 1869. Since 1999 LRHS has owned and operated this 16-mile long tourist railroad, bringing visitors from Milford, NY to Cooperstown, home of several world class museums, including the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

While the Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad does employ some part time help, most of the operation

is run by our member volunteers, who make up our train crews, track gangs, and equipment restoration personnel.

From that group of four local railroad enthusiasts in 1982 LRHS has grown to more than 300 members throughout the United States and Canada. Its membership comes from a variety of backgrounds, but all with a common interest - railroads. New members are always welcome!



**Your membership entitles you to the following:**

- Members receive a pass to ride on the CACV FREE all season long (additional charges apply on some special event trains). Ride as often as you like!
- Members receive our newsletter, *Railtimes*, which contains interesting articles on railroad history, current rail news, upcoming railroad events, and, of course, news on what our organization is doing. Our *Leatherstocking Journal* highlights activities of our Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad and Leatherstocking Railway Museum.
- In addition to your free pass, members are entitled to receive a 15% discount on merchandise sales at our various facilities.
- Members can attend monthly meetings (November - April), during which they can enjoy a railroad related presentation (film, video, slide show, etc.). These meetings give members a chance to ask questions of the officers, talk with old friends, and make new ones.
- Members can run for office, serve on committees, or assist in whatever manner they feel comfortable with in the management and development of the organization and its many projects.

- Members have the opportunity to work on real railroad equipment, restoring rolling stock for displays as well as for train operations. As mentioned earlier, the Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad is operated almost entirely by its volunteer members. There is a wide variety of positions needing to be filled, from car hosts and commissary car sales personnel, to brakemen, conductors or engineers. You supply the time. We supply the training!



**National Membership:**

For an additional fee an individual can become a member of our affiliated organization, the Leatherstocking Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. In addition to the benefits listed above, NRHS members also receive the *Bulletin* six times a year, which contains historic and contemporary articles written by individuals from across the United States, as well as news about the activities of the more than 150 NRHS Chapters across the country, Canada and Great Britain. NRHS members receive discounts at rail attractions across the U.S., and can also attend the National's Annual Conventions, held in cities across the U.S., which are always major rail fan events. Go to [nrhs.com](http://nrhs.com) for more information.

These are exciting times for the Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society and its members. So if you are a railfan, a model railroader, a railroad employee, a memorabilia collector, historian or just someone who would like to see the organization's railroad, museum and other projects continue to grow, we would love to have you aboard! Please fill out the attached coupon and join today, and be a part of history in the making!

Please fill out this coupon and return it with your membership dues

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

LRHS Regular Membership \$30.00

LRHS Family Membership \$5.00 (each member)

Make Check or Money Order payable to LRHS

Mail to:  
 Leatherstocking Railway  
 Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 681  
 Oneonta, NY 13820

Please enter amounts in boxes

LRHS Dues

Tax Deductible Donation

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Received

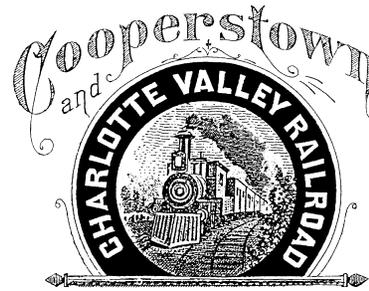
Assigned Member Number

Card Mailed

Data Base Updated



LRHS's two FL9 Locomotives shortly after being delivered to Cooperstown Junction



Christmas at the Milford Depot

# Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society

## Leatherstocking Chapter, NRHS

P.O. Box 681  
 Oneonta, NY 13820  
 607-432-2429 (Milford Office)  
 607-286-7805 (Milford Depot)

[www.lrhs.com](http://www.lrhs.com)



*Be a part of history in the making!*