

Membership Application

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Telephone Number: Home: _____ Cell: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Membership Type: _____
Payment Amount Enclosed: _____

Send Membership Application to:
Marshall County Railroad Historical Society
P.O. Box 242
Waterville, KS 66548

Membership

Life Member:
\$150 Family
\$100 Individual

Annual Member:
\$55 Family
\$40 Individual

Other Attractions

- Missouri Pacific Depot Museum in Waterville
- 1925 Wooden Caboose in Waterville
- Operating hand pump car in Waterville
- Missouri Pacific Caboose Museum in Blue Rapids
- Blue Rapids Historical Society Museum
- "1876" Holm Swedish Log Cabin in Blue Rapids
- Weaver Hotel in Waterville
- Historic Waterville Opera House
- Western Murals on Buildings in Waterville
- Pony Express Museum in Marysville
- Alcove Spring on the Oregon/California Trails



Have a little fun riding a hand pump car!



**Looking for a Unique Adventure?
Ride the rails of the CBRR!!**

Central Branch Railroad

The Marshall County Railroad Historical Society (MCRHS) operates the Central Branch Railroad (CBRR) on approximately 12 miles of track in SW Marshall County, KS. The MCRHS offers several excursion rides leaving from either Blue Rapids or Waterville, KS. The feature ride travels east from Blue Rapids across the Big Blue River. The Big Blue River bridge is approximately 540 feet long and 85 feet above the river below. A spectacular view!

An effort to purchase the track being abandoned by the Union Pacific RR began in the fall of 1999. MCRHS became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in May of 2000 and rides began in 2002.



Central Branch Union Pacific

The Central Branch Union Pacific Railroad (CBUP) was originally incorporated in 1859 as the Atchison and Pikes Peak Railroad with plans to build westward to the Colorado border. Construction began in 1865. In 1867 the name was changed to the Central Branch Union Pacific although the CBUP did not come under UP ownership until 1880.

The first 100 miles of the CBUP ended at the present town of Waterville. The CBUP crossed the Big Blue River on December 21, 1867. An inspection ride from Atchison to Waterville occurred on January 17, 1868. Waterville was a booming cattle town in 1868 and 1869. The shipping of cattle ended with a quarantine against shipping Texas cattle from eastern Kansas.

Over the Years

The Central Branch Railroad is one of the oldest and longest historical railroads in Kansas. It has a rich history of bringing settlers and their families west helping to establish towns in SW Marshall County.

Other significant uses include being

- a shipping point for turkeys driven from Beloit,
- part of the original Orphan Train route delivering homeless children from the east to the midwest so local farm families could adopt them (orphans were adopted from the stage of the opera house in Blue Rapids in 1883),
- a designated route to transfer WWII German POWs to the POW camp northeast of Concordia, Kansas and
- a mode of transportation for hobos (Musil Farms between Blue Rapids and Waterville was known as a good place to get a meal).

Reservations

Our operating season generally runs from April 1 thru October 31. Weather permitting we can offer rides at other times of the year. Our two passenger cars can accommodate groups as large as 32-35 depending on the number of adults and children. Typical rides include family gatherings, clubs, school groups and even nursing homes. We generally have a special Whistle Stop History ride in the spring or early summer and a ride with a hot dog roast in the fall. For reservations contact Sandy at 785-562-8803.

Celebrate at "Somewhere"

The Waterville Lions Club donated a 20 ft x 20 ft shelter located in an open area west of Waterville. The MCRHS has named this picnicking spot "Somewhere". The shelter is used for special events including a "cookout" in the fall with hot dogs, cowboy beans and s'mores. The shelter can also be rented for celebrations and family gatherings in conjunction with a ride. The rental fee is \$15 plus the ride fare.



Passenger Safety

- Do not walk or stand on the rails.
- Watch your step when getting on or off the passenger car. If you need assistance please ask a crew member.
- While the train is in motion, please keep your head and arms, etc. inside the passenger car. Do not reach for objects outside the car.
- Watch out for hanging branches.
- Do not stand up or move around while the train is in motion.
- No smoking.
- No consumption of alcohol.

Note: There are no bathrooms available. Dress for the weather and consider bringing a water bottle.

MCRHS Contact Information

PO Box 242, Waterville, KS 66548

Web: <http://www.centralbranchrailroad.com>

email: centralbranchrailroad@gmail.com

Facebook: fb.me/centralbranchrailroad

Reservations: Call Sandy at 785-562-8803

Suggested Donations:

- Adults: \$10 Children ages 6-12: \$5
Children 5 & under: Free
- Waterville west to Somewhere (45 minutes)
- Blue Rapids east across Big Blue River (60 minutes)
- Between Waterville and Blue Rapids (60 minutes)
- Waterville east across the Big Blue River - add \$5 to the basic rate (2 hours)
- Somewhere shelter rental: \$15 plus the cost of the ride