

## Who is George Lafayette Carter?



George L. Carter provided the vision, the drive, and the perseverance that led to the development and success of the Clinchfield Railroad. Carter also truly made a tremendous difference in the prosperity and growth of the East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia region. There is probably no one in the past century who has done more to establish the Mountain Empire Region as a thriving center of commerce with an excellent quality of life. At the time of his death in 1936, no one truly knew the final success and financial growth of his investments and business ventures, or the economic growth of the region.

Several examples of how his leadership and entrepreneurial drive led to so many successful ventures for the region include:

- The Clinchfield Railroad which became one of the most well-designed and profitable railroads in America.
- The hundred of thousands of acres of coal fields that Carter developed and owned produced energy and heat for millions of people for decades.
- His initial railroad development efforts led to the creation of Eastman Chemical Company and the largest ammunition plant in America.
- And as the primary benefactor of a new institution of higher education, 100 years later, East Tennessee State University is excelling in academics, enrollment, and now includes a Medical School.

Carter's initial vision was coal, but now over 100 years later, Johnson City has transitioned to a regional center for higher education and health care. In many ways, George Carter's biography and legacy continues to grow, to flourish, and to be written.

As a testament to the success and iconic legacy of the Clinchfield Railroad, a wonderful museum was established and now thrives in Johnson City in Carter's honor, the George L. Carter Railroad Museum and the Johnson City Railroad Experience.

*The information in this article was taken from the  
clinchfield.org website*



Clinchfield #800 emerges from the Goff Tunnel in Steinman, VA. This tunnel is one of 54 located on the length of the Clinchfield



Norfolk & Western J-611 coming out of the smoke and steam near Staunton, VA on October 13, 2023

Johnson City Railroad Experience  
207 N. Boone Street, Suite 2000  
Johnson City, Tennessee 37604  
423-631-5273

G. L. Carter NRHS Charter Number C242

## GEORGE L. CARTER CHAPTER NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Mission of the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is to preserve and promote the Legacy of the local Railroads that helped shape our past and to remember those who had a part in that legacy.

This Chapter was established in 2010.



Original painting of the Carolina Clinchfield & Ohio's old #32, by Ted Laws.



The G. L. Carter Chapter of the NRHS runs various activities during the year. The two most important and popular of these are the excursions we run in the Spring and the Fall that are open to the general public.

The Spring excursion is usually to the Three Rivers Rambler Railway in Knoxville as well as a lunch cruise aboard the Star of Knoxville on the Tennessee River.

The Fall excursion is usually in October to take advantage of the Fall Foliage and to have one last train trip before winter sets in.

So as you can see, our Chapter sponsors public trips throughout the year as well as other functions that are for members only. We are situated inside the Johnson City Railroad Experience, 207 N. Boone St, Johnson City, TN 37604.

To help us to preserve the legacy that is here in the Johnson City area, fill out the Membership Form and either see one of the staff at the Johnson City Railroad Experience, or mail it to our mailing address which is on the back of this brochure.

As a member of the G. L. Carter Chapter, you will receive a copy of our newsletter - The Coal Road - every month via e-mail and we encourage you to come to a meeting and meet our members, who we are and what we do.

The G. L. Carter Chapter of the NRHS meets on the third Monday that follows the first Tuesday of the month. Our meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the Johnson City Railroad Experience.

Alllllll Aboooooaaard!



**G.L. Carter Chapter - C242**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**National Railway Historical Society**

P.O. Box 31074, St. Louis, MO 63131-0074



First Name

Last Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email Address

Phone Number

Family Members (Living at same address)

Date

**In order to be a member of the G.L. Carter Chapter of the NRHS, you must be a member of the National Organization.**  
 Annual Dues for the NRHS is as follows. Regular Member \$50.00 (for the primary member) and \$7.00 (for each additional family member).

Student Memberships are available for \$16.00 (ages 13-24)

You can join online at NRHS.com, scanning the QR Code, or by sending your check along with this application to the address above.



**George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society**

207 N. Boone Street., Suite 2000, Johnson City, TN 37604

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

First Name

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Street Address

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Email Address

Phone Number

Family Members (Living at same address)

In order to be a member of the George L. Carter Chapter of the NRHS, you must be a member of the National Organization.  
 Currently the cost is \$10.00 per year for the primary member and \$5.00 for each additional family member.

You can send your check to the address above or bring it with you to the museum.