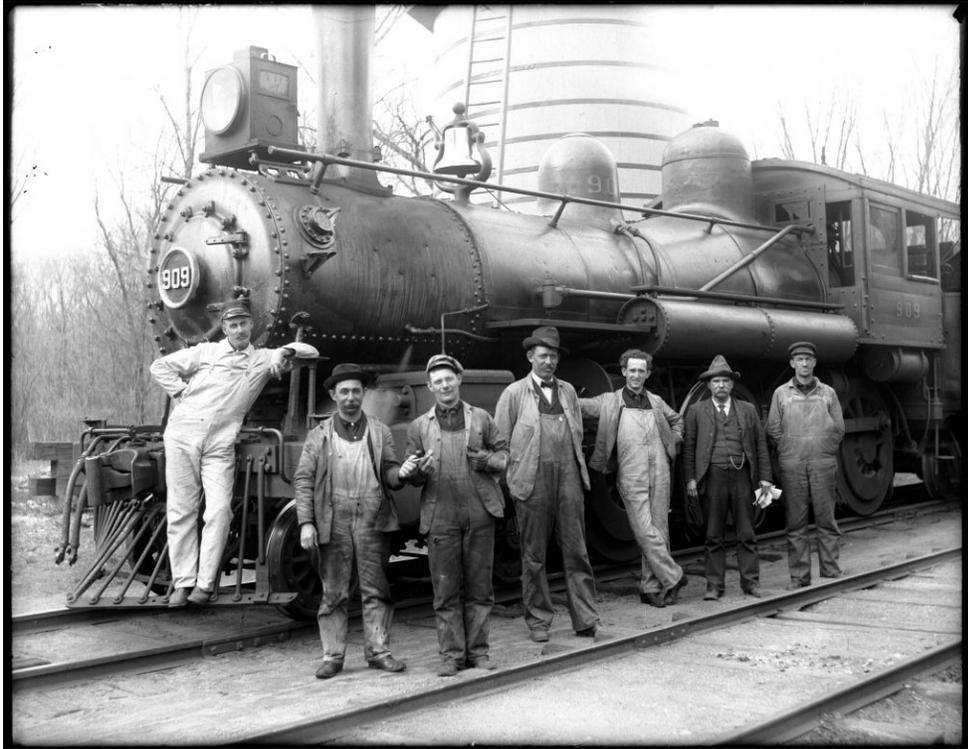


History of the Shepaug Railroad

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:30pm on Zoom

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of this program



Shepaug Railroad Crew in 1906. Left to right: Mr. Benedict, Tom Phillips, C. Straub, Robert Barnum, Mr. Kane, Lyman Bristol, Frank Stone. From the Collection of the Gunn Historical Museum.

Program Description:

The Shepaug, Litchfield, and Northern Railroad was a short independent railroad that was chartered as the Shepaug Valley Railroad in 1868. The Shepaug Railroad was the brainchild of Edwin McNeill who envisioned an industrial corridor that would catalyze development and provide direct access to the county's products. The line brought many local products to market, including ice from Bantam, granite from Roxbury, and milk from nearly every station, particularly Washington Depot, which the railroad transformed into a regional dairy center, as well as a country retreat for city-dwellers. The Shepaug Railroad ultimately operated as the Litchfield Division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad until being abandoned in 1948. Much of the line, which stretched from Hawleyville to Litchfield, remains in place as rail trails to this day, and the presentation will give hikers a new appreciation for the line that they traverse. **The Danbury Railway Museum is a sponsor for the program.**

About the Lecturer:



Col. Donald Woodworth, Jr. formerly of Oxford, has resided in O'Fallon, IL since 1986, where he served as an air transportation officer with the Military Airlift Command at nearby Scott Air Force Base and where he remained following his retirement to work as a transportation and logistics consultant for the Northrop Grumman Corporation. Upon graduation from UConn in 1965, Don was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the USAF and served in many locations in the United States and overseas. His career was book-ended by service in Vietnam and the First Gulf War but his most enjoyable tours of duty were spent in the United Kingdom. Don has a life-long interest in Connecticut railroads and has a special affection for the Shepaug.