



Tweetsie Railroad Timeline

- 1790s A large vein of magnetite, the highest grade of iron ore found in the country at that time, is discovered near Cranberry, North Carolina.
- 1820 Cranberry Forge constructed to process ore into iron bars.
- 1866 East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad chartered to run from Johnson City, Tennessee, to Cranberry Iron Works for transportation of iron and iron ore.
- 1881 Fourteen miles of track completed from Johnson City to Hampton, Tennessee.
- 1882 Rail line officially open from Johnson City, Tennessee, to Cranberry, North Carolina.
- 1885 Cloudland Resort (160 room hotel) built on the rail line at Roan Mountain. The North Carolina-Tennessee state line ran through the ballroom.
- 1911 Rail line extended to Pineola, North Carolina, to serve hotel and large sawmill.
- 1917 Engine Number 12 built by Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at a cost of \$14,000.
- 1919 Rail line extended to Boone, North Carolina; farmers shipped out cabbage and potatoes.
- 1940 Flood washes out major parts of the Linville River line, forcing the company to abandon service to the mountains rather than rebuild.
- 1950 Last train runs the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina line.
- 1952 Locomotive Number 12 purchased and moved to Harrisonburg, Virginia.
- 1956 Grover C. Robbins, Jr. brings Tweetsie home to Blowing Rock, North Carolina.
- 1957 On July 4, Tweetsie makes its first run on a one-mile track carrying passengers to a picnic area, then backs up to the station.