The farmers of Centerville looked forward to the building of a railroad through the area, especially since the farmers had a serious problem transporting their produce to the market. The story of the railroad rate control was a political issue that lasted years and because of the high rates, most of the farmers were unable to get full use of the railroad. This issue was not settled until Robert M. LaFollette, Sr. became Governor of the state.

Construction of the railroad was completed in the summer of 1873. The railroad line construction was begun at both ends and joined at Cleveland. A celebration was held and everyone received a silk hat to commemorate the event. The first train to travel on the new tracks was a circus train.