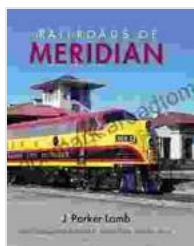


# Railroads of Meridian: A Journey Through Time

Meridian, Mississippi, has a rich and storied railroad history that has shaped its identity and played a pivotal role in its growth and development. From its humble beginnings as a small settlement on the banks of the Chickasawhay River to its emergence as a major railroad hub known as the "Queen City," the railroads of Meridian have left an enduring legacy on the city and the surrounding region.



## Railroads of Meridian (Railroads Past and Present)

by J. Parker Lamb

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 21887 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 201 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## The Early Years: The Mobile and Ohio Railroad

The railroad era in Meridian began in 1854 with the arrival of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad (M&O). The M&O was a major north-south railroad that connected Mobile, Alabama, with Cairo, Illinois, and it played a crucial role in the transportation of goods and people throughout the region. The

construction of the M&O line through Meridian opened up the city to new markets and opportunities.



### **The Civil War: A Time of Destruction and Rebuilding**

The Civil War brought both destruction and opportunity to the railroads of Meridian. The city was a strategic railroad hub for the Confederacy, and it was the site of several major battles. The Union Army occupied Meridian in 1864 and destroyed much of the railroad infrastructure. However, after the war, the railroads were quickly rebuilt, and Meridian emerged as a major railroad center once again.

### **The Golden Age of Railroads: The Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries**

The late 19th and early 20th centuries were the golden age of railroads in the United States, and Meridian was no exception. The city became a major hub for the Southern Railway, the Illinois Central Railroad, and the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad. Meridian Union Station, built in 1897, was a grand testament to the importance of railroads to the city. It was one of the largest and most modern railroad stations in the South, and it served as a major passenger and freight terminal.



A historic photograph of Meridian Union Station, a grand testament to the importance of railroads to the city.

### **The Decline of Railroads: The Mid-20th Century**

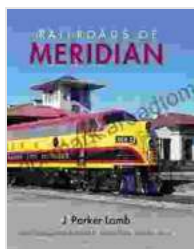
The mid-20th century saw a decline in the importance of railroads in the United States. The rise of the automobile and the airplane led to a

decrease in passenger rail travel, and the trucking industry began to take over the transportation of freight. As a result, many railroads, including those in Meridian, experienced a decline in business.

## Railroads of Meridian Today

While the railroads of Meridian are not as dominant as they once were, they continue to play an important role in the city's economy. The Kansas City Southern Railway operates a major rail yard in Meridian, and the city is also home to several short-line railroads. In addition, Meridian Union Station has been restored and is now a museum and event space.

The railroads of Meridian have played a vital role in the city's history and development. From the early days of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad to the golden age of railroads in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the railroads have shaped Meridian's identity and economy. While the importance of railroads has declined in recent decades, they continue to play a role in the city's transportation network. Through preservation efforts and the continued use of rail lines, the legacy of the railroads of Meridian will continue to be celebrated for generations to come.



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