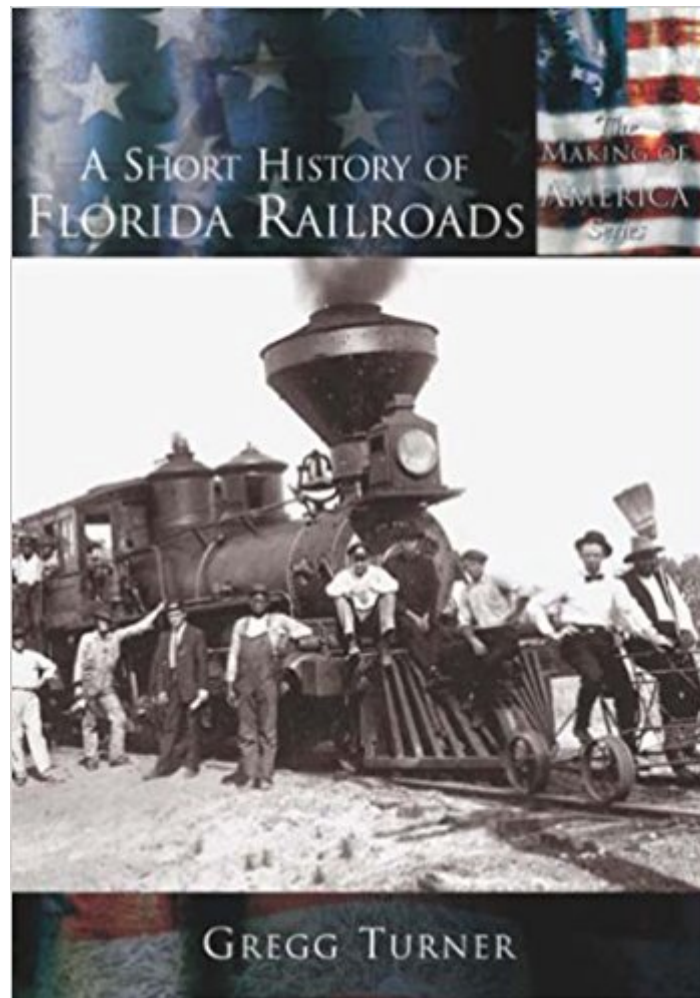




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A Short History Of Florida Railroads (FL) (Making Of America)



Synopsis

Florida's railroad heritage began in the 1830s amidst Native American upheaval and territorial colonization. Surpassing waterways as the primary mode of transport, the "Iron Horse" linked practically every town and city, carried tourists and locals, and ably conveyed the wealth of Florida's mines, factories, forests, groves, and farms. Nearly 175 years later, railroads still remain a dependable source of transport within the Sunshine State.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author Gregg Turner, a former director of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society and lifelong train enthusiast, has written several books and numerous articles on railroad history. His engaging illustrated narrative, accompanied by rich historic photographs, recounts Florida's railway past from inception to modern times.

I purchased this book for research relating to the writing of my own novel which will deal in part with Florida Railroad travel during the early 1900's. I was not disappointed. Mr. Turner, a former director of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, obviously spent a considerable amount of time researching Florida's railroad past and the key role the iron rails played in the history of the State. His research has allowed me to more accurately depict travel by train in the early 1900's. If you are a "Train Buff", your library will not be complete until you add "A Short History of Florida Railroads" to your book shelf.

This is informative and apparently well researched reading, if a bit dry, for one who wants to know the ins and outs of the subject matter. I read it as background for an historical novel I'm writing and wished there had been a well-indexed summary so I wouldn't have had to wade through the entire book.

My husband loves this books.

OK.

Even though Florida has had many railroads both large and small that were unique and interesting in their own rights, it was never a hotbed of railroading action like the states in the northeast or out west. As a result, finding books dedicated to Florida railroading is a bit of a chore. Being 1) from Florida and 2) a rail fan, this book immediately caught my attention. Mr. Turner's objective for this book was to give a short but inclusive history of the railroads of Florida from their earliest beginnings in the 1800s to today. He succeeded admirably. His chapters cover everything from the aborted attempts by state lawmakers and businessmen to get railroads going to the state of modern railroads at the dawn of the 21st century. In between, he covers the successes and failures of the shortlines like The Atlanta & St. Andrews Bay and Lake Wimico along with the big guns like Florida East Coast and Seaboard. Key players like Flagler and Chipley are followed as well, lending a personal aspect to the history. Many pictures accompany each chapter, each clearly reproduced and offering a fine window into their respective era. Rounding out the book is a detailed bibliography that provides a wealth of reading material should the reader want to dive deeper into Florida's railroad history. About the only thing I can fault Mr. Turner on is a slight lack of structure to the book. At times the chapters follow a chronological flow while at others they follow a geographic flow. Overall, a fine book that details a part of railroad history passed over by the larger publishers. A worthy addition to any railroad library.

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