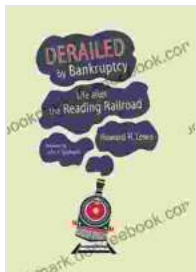


# Life After The Reading Railroad: Railroads Past And Present

The Reading Railroad was once one of the largest and most important railroads in the United States. It played a vital role in the development of the country's economy and transportation system. However, the Reading Railroad's fortunes declined in the late 20th century, and it eventually went bankrupt in 1971. Today, the Reading Railroad is just a memory, but its legacy lives on in the many towns and cities that it once served.



## Derailed by Bankruptcy: Life after the Reading Railroad (Railroads Past and Present) by Carol Ann Martin

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 716 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 153 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## The Early Years

The Reading Railroad was founded in 1833 as the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company. The company's original purpose was to transport coal from the anthracite fields of Pennsylvania to the city of Philadelphia. The Reading Railroad quickly became one of the most

successful railroads in the country. By the 1850s, it was operating over 1,000 miles of track and transporting millions of tons of coal each year.

The Reading Railroad continued to expand throughout the 19th century. In 1896, it merged with the Central Railroad of New Jersey to form the Reading Company. The Reading Company was one of the largest railroad companies in the United States, with over 4,000 miles of track. The Reading Company also owned and operated a number of other businesses, including coal mines, steel mills, and shipyards.

### **The Decline of the Reading Railroad**

The Reading Railroad's fortunes began to decline in the late 19th century. The rise of the automobile and the trucking industry led to a decrease in demand for rail transportation. The Reading Railroad also faced increasing competition from other railroads, such as the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central Railroad.

The Reading Railroad tried to adapt to the changing times. In the 1950s, it began to dieselize its locomotives and invested in new equipment. However, these efforts were not enough to stop the decline of the Reading Railroad. In 1971, the Reading Company filed for bankruptcy. The Reading Railroad was sold off to other railroads, and the Reading Company was dissolved.

### **The Legacy of the Reading Railroad**

The Reading Railroad is gone, but its legacy lives on in the many towns and cities that it once served. The Reading Railroad helped to build these communities and played a vital role in their economic development. Today,

many of these communities are still home to abandoned Reading Railroad stations and other reminders of the railroad's past.

The Reading Railroad is also remembered for its role in American history. The railroad played a key role in the transportation of troops and supplies during the Civil War. The Reading Railroad also played a role in the development of the American labor movement. In 1877, the Reading Railroad was the site of a major strike by railroad workers. The strike was eventually defeated, but it helped to raise awareness of the plight of railroad workers and led to the passage of laws to protect their rights.

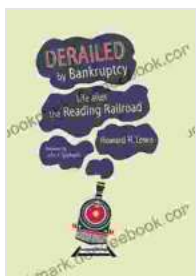
The Reading Railroad is a reminder of the important role that railroads have played in American history. The Reading Railroad helped to build the country and played a vital role in its economic development. Today, the Reading Railroad is gone, but its legacy lives on in the many towns and cities that it once served.

## **The Future of Railroads**

The future of railroads in the United States is uncertain. The rise of the automobile and the trucking industry has led to a decrease in demand for rail transportation. However, railroads still play an important role in the transportation of goods and people. Railroads are also more environmentally friendly than other forms of transportation, such as trucks and airplanes.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in investing in railroads. The government has invested in high-speed rail projects, and private companies are investing in new freight railroads. These investments are a sign that railroads may have a bright future in the United States.

Railroads are a vital part of the American transportation system. They play an important role in the transportation of goods and people, and they are more environmentally friendly than other forms of transportation. The Reading Railroad is a reminder of the important role that railroads have played in American history. The future of railroads in the United States is uncertain, but there is reason to believe that railroads will continue to play an important role in the country's transportation system for many years to come.



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