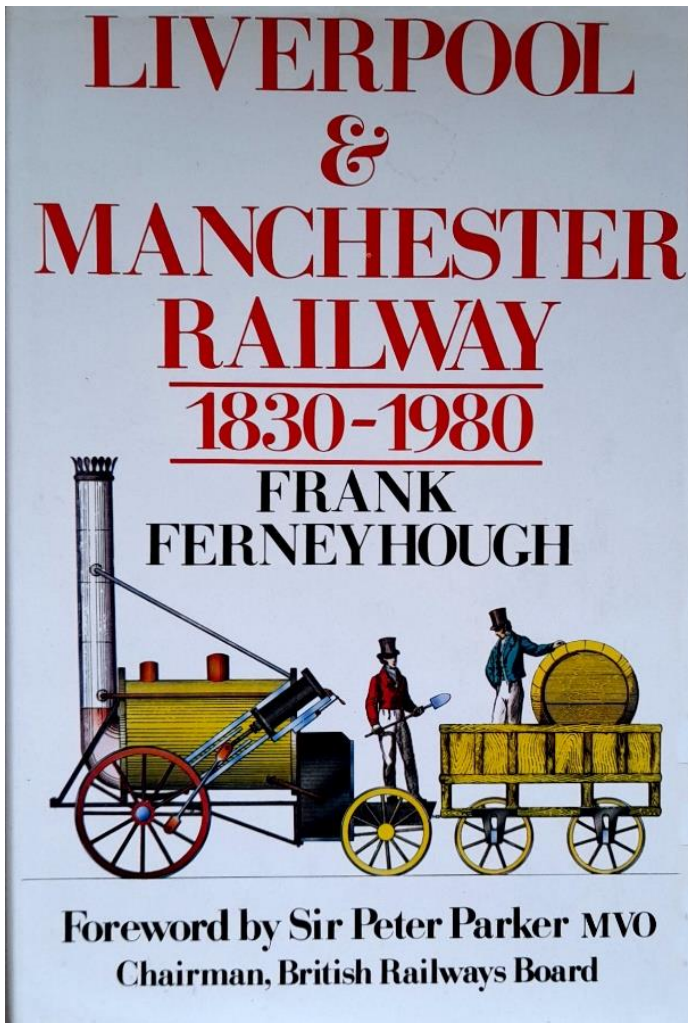


## Liverpool & Manchester Railway 1830 – 1980

By Frank Ferneyhough

Foreword by Sir Peter Parker

Hardback book of 180 pages with B&W photographs and line drawings first published in 1980.



The author has written six previous railway related books, and started his career in the booking office at Hanley Station, Stoke on Trent, progressing to Public Relations executive at British Railways Board.

This book covers the very start of the railways, from the early pioneers who could see the future for moving people and freight by a more efficient way than Horse and Wagon and Canals. The resistance to change was from the established contractors.

The trials were set up to establish which was best, stationary fixed site engines or mobile locomotives. The build up to and the trials at Rainhill are explained along with the difficulties. The specification was quite severe, to pull three times its own weight, max boiler pressure of 50 psi, be able to travel a minimum of 70 miles at 10 mph, and the rail gauge was specified at 4 feet 8.5 inches

Once the trials had established what could be done the plans to lay track from Liverpool to Manchester opened up problems, first in cutting the path through the Edgehill location, the famous Edgehill Cutting, which trains still negotiate today travelling in and out of Lime Street Station, the crossing of marshland and the building of bridges.

Building the first railway exposed many problems, most had never been experienced so led to the development of new technology, to ensure safety and management of multiple trains negotiating the same tracks safely, keeping bystanders off tracks, fencing in track to avoid stray animals, the list is vast.

Like many ventures, the financials can decide if something succeeds or fails, the railway forced other carriers to reduce their prices to compete, finally prior to having to invest significant funds to upgrade the track to cope with the heavier and faster locomotives, the railway were taken over by Gladstone's Act

A nice read for those wishing to find out the birth of our railways.

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Tony Ashgrove. November 2024