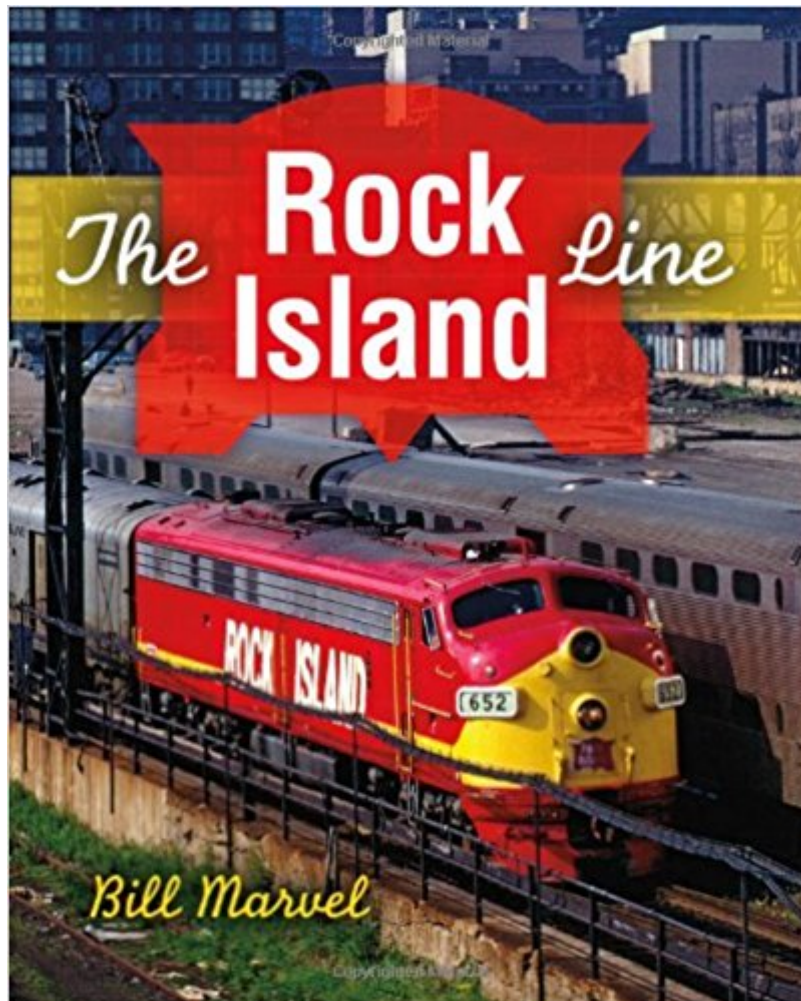


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# The Rock Island Line (Railroads Past And Present)



## Synopsis

This richly illustrated volume tells the story of a legendary railroad whose tracks spanned the Midwest, serving farms and small-town America for more than 140 years. One of the earliest railroads to build westward from Chicago, it was the first to span the Mississippi, advancing the frontier, bringing settlers into the West, and hauling their crops to market. Rock Island's celebrated Rocket passenger trains also set a standard for speed and service, with suburban runs as familiar to Windy City commuters as the Loop. For most of its existence, the Rock battled competitors much larger and richer than itself and when it finally succumbed, the result was one of the largest business bankruptcies ever. Today, as its engines and stock travel the busy main lines operated by other carriers, the Rock Island Line lives on in the hearts of those whom it employed and served.

## Book Information

Series: Railroads Past and Present

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Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.8 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,089,356 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #207 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Trains](#) #440 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Railroads](#) #695 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Railroads](#)

## Customer Reviews

I grew up in Rock Island during the 50-60s. I had hoped to see more photos and stories about the Rock Island Depot . I remember as a youth watching people board the trains with conductors putting out step platforms for loading and unloading and porters loading bags and freight on pull carts. I did enjoy the history of its origins and how Lincoln was involved in the railroads early years. Bill Marvel is a good journalist and covered the factual aspects of the demise of the company well , but I recall his humor in newspaper articles he wrote and didnt see much of that in his book. Glad I bought it

would suggest it to others who grew up in the railroad era.

My husband is fascinated with old railroad lines. We live just about 5 miles north of the Rock Island line. When I saw the book I knew he had to have it for Christmas. He loves it and has spent some enjoyable time reading through the book. I highly recommend for railroad buffs.

My uncle worked on the Rock Island Road all his life. He has most of the books on this railroad. I purchase this book for him as a gift. When I phoned him asked his honest opinion what he thought of the book as I might wish to buy a copy in the future. Uncle told me both pleased with both the illustrations and what was printed about the railroad. My uncle would recommend this book to any one who was in the railroad profession or has a historical fascination with the Rock Island Railroads story.

I have watch a lot of dvd's about Rock Island operations, particularly in Chicagoland near the end so it was interesting to read the entire story of the railroad. I once lived near the ex-Rock Island lines in Arkansas, but never knew the true history of this fascinating road.

This was a very good book. It was well written and the author held my interest very well. The pictures were outstanding and so absorbed was I that I read the whole book in 2 evenings

This is a general history of the Rock Island, from its inception to its demise; I was hoping for more information on the last 30-40 years of its existence.

Great book on the rock island railroad. I liked how the book was divided up into sections and each started at the beginning and went to the end of the Rock Island.

Wonderful book for those who wondered about the song "Rock Island Line". It may lead one to explore all mid west rails.

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