

**GEORGE
STEPHENSON: HIS
LIFE AND CAREER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649518982

George Stephenson: His Life and Career by F. L. Clarke

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

F. L. CLARKE

**GEORGE
STEPHENSON: HIS
LIFE AND CAREER**



FRONTISPIECE.

GEORGE STEPHENSON.

GEORGE STEPHENSON:

His Life and Career.

BY

F. L. CLARKE,

Author of "The Life of Raleigh," "The Life of Tynedale," etc., etc.



LONDON:

W. SWAN SONNENSCHN & CO.

1884.

1881. e. 1.



PREFACE.

THE name of GEORGE STEPHENSON is so well known in connection with railways and locomotives, that but very few words are needed to explain the scope of this little book, which aims at giving, in a smaller compass, that which Mr. Smiles has so admirably given in his interesting and exhaustive "Life of George Stephenson." Technicalities have been avoided as far as possible, or explained, so that younger readers may read and enjoy the details of the life-struggles and the success of this noble advocate and example of the virtues of perseverance.

One of the many advantages that biography possesses over narrative-fiction, lies in its *reality*. The men and the women whose careers are so constantly brought before us were really flesh and blood like ourselves—they played their part in the world's drama, they had their faults, their enemies, their friends, their successes just as we have, or may have, and we can

feel that what man has done, man may do again. When the boy or girl reads an interesting book, one of the first questions is, "Is it *true*? Did it really all *happen*?" and their enthusiasm is much damped when informed that such and such a hero—the very good boy, and the exceedingly amiable girl—had no real existence: their virtues and their faults, their trials and sorrows, through which they pass so triumphantly, were all imaginary, though they *might possibly* be true. "Oh," is the comment, "they are only people in books. We can't be like people in books, you know;" and so the wise lesson often passes unheeded.

Not such can be said of George Stephenson. The trials and difficulties of his early life can hardly happen in these more favoured days of general education, but the example of his watchful patience, his unvarying industry, and the thorough kindness of his whole nature can hardly be thrown away upon any reader. He is not a "character in a book;" he is a real living person—the results of his thoughtful youth and manhood have greatly tended to England's prosperity. The energy which he threw into whatever he undertook has roused and ani-

mated the energies of thousands of others to whom the perfection of the locomotive has been the very means of their existence.

Wherever we see him, whether taking care of little children, scaring birds, or by the pit-engine fire studying his scanty lessons, we see the same thoroughness, the unflagging industry—sometimes called genius—which characterized him in his manhood's prime, when before the eyes of a critical public he produced the complete locomotive engine, which had been the object of desire of so many before him. To him it was given to perfect this wondrous piece of mechanism, and he knew and acknowledged with all humility that he was not the originator—he but ended the long line of men whose "heroic industry" led up to one of the greatest triumphs of mechanical science. "It is due," said his son at a meeting of engineers at Newcastle, "not to one man, but to the efforts of a nation of mechanical engineers."

F. L. C.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. NORTHUMBRIA AND HER PEOPLE . . .	9
II. GEORGE STEPHENSON'S BIRTH-PLACE AND EARLY DAYS	16
III. GEORGE WISHES TO BE A MAN	24
IV. HE FINDS A TREASURE AND PUTS DOWN A BULLY	32
V. EARLY ORIGINATORS OF STEAM LOCOMOTION	38
VI. GREAT IMPROVEMENT OF THE PUMPING MACHINE.	46
VII. GEORGE IS PROMOTED TO BE ENGINE-WRIGHT	55
VIII. ROBERT STEPHENSON'S EDUCATION AND TRAINING	63
IX. CHILDHOOD OF THE LOCOMOTIVE . . .	72
X. THE "GEORDY" AND THE "DAVY" LAMP .	80
XI. THE SAFETY LAMP CONTROVERSY . . .	90
XII. THE FIRST LOCOMOTIVE USED AT HETTON .	97
XIII. FORMATION OF STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY.	106
XIV. SURVEYS OF THE LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY.	113
XV. THE LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY	122
XVI. THE TRIAL OF THE "ROCKET"	131