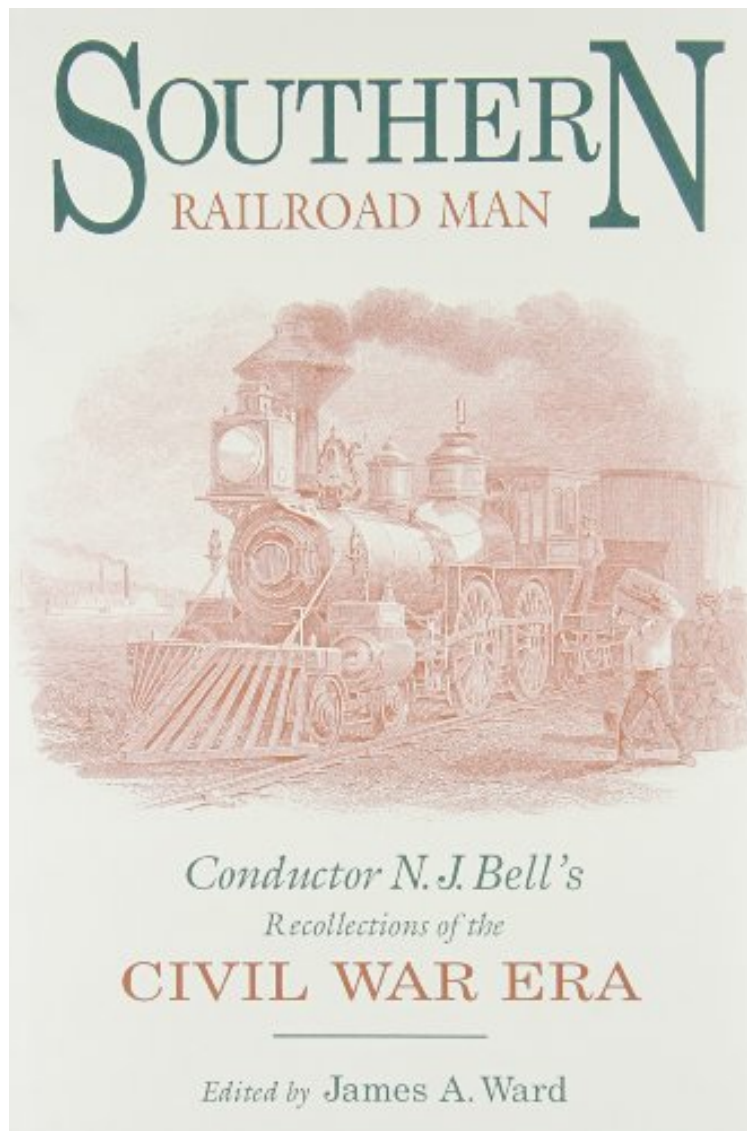


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## Southern Railroad Man: Conductor N. J. Bell's Recollections of the Civil War Era (Railroads in America)

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**From Brand: Northern Illinois University Press : Southern Railroad Man: Conductor N. J. Bell's Recollections of the Civil War Era (Railroads in America)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Southern Railroad Man: Conductor N. J. Bell's Recollections of the Civil War Era (Railroads in America):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating First-Hand NarrativeBy EJaneThis is a fascinating and touching first-hand account of the struggles of an honest hard-working railroad man through the upheavals of the War and its aftermath. Despite his difficulties in an era without strong unions, he touchingly pays tribute to the capitalists who took the risks to build the railroads and give him work.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nimrod J. Bell is the brother of my ancestor...By Melinda in Texas"Southern Railroad Man: Conductor N. J. Bell's Recollections" is such a joy to read. Many of my forebearers were railroad men. Nimrod J. Bell tells it "like it was" in the early days of railroading in the South. It was not easy, had no extra financial benefits such as insurance and retirement benefits. Whenever he was injured, he could not work and earned no money. But he obviously loved the railroads - he discovered his first engine as a teenager when visiting Atlanta, which was quite a walk from another county. He and some other relatives served the Confederacy by transporting troops and supplies. This obscure work was discovered by a professor at a university and was published by him.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Day to day railroading during the Civil WarBy CBR76I work as a conductor for a freight line and became interested in the history of railroading beyond the stuff written by historians and train buffs about the Robber Barons and the building of the Trans-Continental Railroad. Bell worked for the early southern railroads when men were made of steel and the boxcars were made of wood. A Pulitzer prize winner it is not, but well worth the read if you want to know how they did it way back then.

Nimrod J. Bell worked as a conductor for several southern railroads in their formative period, from 1857 to 1894. After his career was cut short by an accident, he wrote his memoirs detailing his first glimpses of some of the earliest trains in the South and his thirty-eight years as a conductor. Published in Atlanta in 1896, his book offers a firsthand account of working conditions on the railroads, operational procedures, wartime railroading, and passenger travel during Reconstruction.