

ROBERT BEAUMONT

The Railway King

A biography of

GEORGE HUDSON

railway pioneer and fraudster

'...a passionate yet meticulously researched work of genuine scholarship'

ANDREW ROBERTS



Railway King A Biography Of George Hudson

Alfred James Peacock



Railway King A Biography Of George Hudson:

The Railway King Robert Beaumont,2016-11-10 George Hudson the eponymous Railway King started his career with a stroke of luck inheriting 27 000 a fortune in 1827 from a distant relative He invested successfully in the North Midland Railway then formed his own Midland Railway raising 5 million and bribing MPs along the way But from his glory in 1845 he fell into disgrace admitting corruption and selling land he did not own He was eventually imprisoned in York Castle and died a broken man in 1871 His story provides an excellent insight into nineteenth century politics and industrial progress full of moral dilemmas and a testimony to the growth of the railways in Britain a timely subject **The Railway King** Robert

Beaumont,2002-01-01 George Hudson the eponymous Railway King started his career with a stroke of luck inheriting 27 000 a fortune in 1827 from a distant relative He invested successfully in the North Midland Railway then formed his own Midland Railway raising 5 million and bribing MP s along the way But from his glory in 1845 he fell into disgrace admitting corruption and selling land he did not own He was eventually imprisoned in York Castle and died a broken man in 1871

George Hudson A. J. Peacock,Georges Hudson (Eisenbahnmagnat, Grossbritannien),1989 *George Hudson* Alfred James Peacock,1986-06-01 [George Hudson: The Railway King](#) Matthew Wells,2024-09-30 George Hudson was the greatest British railway entrepreneur of the 19th century In 1848 he controlled over 1 000 miles of railway and when it came to railway promotion it seemed he could do no wrong However in early 1849 it came to light that some of his business methods had been less than ethical and he was forced to relinquish the chairmanship of each of his companies His fall from grace was spectacular and his detractors of whom there were many were quick to denounce him as a fraudster a charlatan and a crook Even today when the name George Hudson is mentioned these same insults are often levelled at him This new biography takes a fresh look at Hudson s extraordinary life from his humble beginnings as a farmer s boy to becoming Lord Mayor of York before catching the railway bug He was MP for Sunderland between 1845 and 1859 After his fall from grace Hudson endured a 20 year court battle with the York and North Midland Railway subsequently the North Eastern Railway for outstanding debts Hudson made many mistakes in creating his railway empire but did he deserve all the vitriol that still accompanies his reputation In seeking to answer this question Matthew Wells looks at the evidence including what was said about Hudson during his lifetime and what Hudson himself had to say about the actions he took **George Hudson** Brian J.

Bailey,1995 **George Hudson, 1800-1871** Alfred James Peacock,1988 *George Hudson* Tony Arnold,Sean McCartney,2004 The Robert Maxwell of the nineteenth century Victorian England s greatest capitalist Brought down by a shareholder s question The building of the railways in Britain in the nineteenth century was the greatest ever industrial undertaking in the world to that time Financed by private enterprise rather than the state the schemes to build new lines were characterised both by their ambition and by their need for huge amounts of capital The most ambitious of all of the individual entrepreneurs and for long the most successful was George Hudson the Railway King whose establishment of York

as the hub of an ever growing network of lines brought him huge wealth and great fame Already a wealthy businessman and Lord Mayor of York before the advent of the railways Hudson seized the opportunity they presented with both hands He became an MP lived in style and entertained lavishly While his early lines were profitable later ones were not Ever more deeply committed at a time when accounting standards were lax he hid inconvenient figures until brought down by a question at a shareholders meeting in 1849 Disgraced he fled to the Continent his name synonymous with fraudulent capitalism at its most brazen This new biography is the fullest examination to date of an extraordinary and complex man and his career

The World's First Railway System Mark Casson, 2009-09-10 The British railway network was a monument to Victorian private enterprise Its masterpieces of civil engineering were emulated around the world But its performance was controversial praised for promoting a high density of lines it was also criticised for wasteful duplication of routes This is the first history of the British railway system written from a modern economic perspective It uses counterfactual analysis to construct an alternative network to represent the most efficient alternative rail network that could have been constructed given what was known at the time the first time this has been done It reveals how weaknesses in regulation and defects in government policy resulted in enormous inefficiency in the Victorian system that Britain lives with today British railway companies developed into powerful regional monopolies which then contested each other's territories When denied access to existing lines in rival territories they built duplicate lines instead Plans for an integrated national system sponsored by William Gladstone were blocked by Members of Parliament because of a perceived conflict with the local interests they represented Each town wanted more railways than its neighbours and so too many lines were built The costs of these surplus lines led ultimately to higher fares and freight charges which impaired the performance of the economy The book will be the definitive source of reference for those interested in the economic history of the British railway system It makes use of a major new historical source deposited railway plans integrates transport and local history through its regional analysis of the railway system and provides a comprehensive classified bibliography

Autobiography, Sensation, and the Commodification of Identity in Victorian Narrative Sean Grass, 2019-10-31 An exploration of the commodification of autobiography 1820-1860 in relation to shifting fictional representations of identity

A Historical Dictionary of Railways in the British Isles David Wragg, 2009-04-21 Railways played a key role in Britain's social economic and industrial history These companies have long since gone but all over the country relics remain to remind us of that pioneering age David Wragg's Historical Dictionary of Railways in the British Isles is a comprehensive single volume reference guide to the old railway companies and their heritage He provides brief histories of the companies and their many sided activities and he gives biographies of the men who created the rail network He covers what is now the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland as well as the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man His book is essential reading and reference for enthusiasts of every region and period of railway history

George Hudson Timothy J. Owston, 2000 The Dictionary of National Biography, Founded in

1882 by George Smith ,1922 Old and New London: a Narrative of Its History, Its People and Its Places George Walter Thornbury,1873 *The History of Gambling in England* John Ashton,1898 Difference between Gaming and Gambling Universality and Antiquity of Gambling Isis and Osiris Games and Dice of the Egyptians China and India The Jews Among the Greeks and Romans Among Mahometans Early Dicing Dicing in England in the 13th and 14th Centuries In the 17th Century Celebrated Gamblers Bouchier Swiss Anecdote Dicing in the 18th Century Gaming is derived from the Saxon word Gamen meaning joy pleasure sports or gaming and is so interpreted by Bailey in his Dictionary of 1736 whilst Johnson gives Gamble to play extravagantly for money and this distinction is to be borne in mind in the perusal of this book although the older term was in use until the invention of the later as we see in Cotton s Compleat Gamester 1674 in which he gives the following excellent definition of the word Gaming is an enchanting witchery gotten between Idleness and Avarice an itching disease that makes some scratch the head whilst others as if they were bitten by a Tarantula are laughing themselves to death or lastly it is a paralytical distemper which seizing the arm the man cannot chuse but shake his elbow *Encyclopedia of Life Writing* Margaretta Jolly,2013-12-04 First published in 2001 This is the first substantial reference work in English on the various forms that constitute life writing As this term suggests the Encyclopedia explores not only autobiography and biography proper but also letters diaries memoirs family histories case histories and other ways in which individual lives have been recorded and structured It includes entries on genres and subgenres national and regional traditions from around the world and important auto biographical writers as well as articles on related areas such as oral history anthropology testimonies and the representation of life stories in non verbal art forms The Great Eastern Railway, The Early History, 1811-1862 Charles Phillips,2025-08-05 This book is the first of two which covers the history of the Great Eastern Railway and its predecessors from the first proposal for a railway in the eastern counties in 1811 for a railway from Islington to Wallasea Island and Mucking to its absorption into the London and North Eastern Railway under the 1923 Grouping of Railways This volume covers the period from 1811 up to the formation of the Great Eastern Railway in 1862 The history is the first history of the GER since Cecil J Allen s history of the railway which was first published in 1955 and which has long been out of print The book makes use of both previously published works on the GER and its predecessors but also contemporary documents such as the Directors reports to shareholders of the Eastern Counties Railway timetables reports in local and national newspapers as well as extracts from selected peoples diaries Some of which were not easily available to Allen when he wrote his history of the GER Incorporating these other sources means the book sheds new light on the Railway s history The book is intended for anyone who is either interested in railways and particularly the Great Eastern Railway and the railways of the east of England but also for anyone who is interested in general in the history of that part of England *A History of Financial Speculation* Ralph Hale Mottram,1929 **George Stephenson** Hunter Davies,2004-07-22 Much is known about the achievements of George Stephenson and of his infamous creation the Rocket yet little is known of the man himself This

volume is a profile of the self taught and often testy Geordie whose Victorian invention is now the backbone of every nation on the planet *The History of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1793-1896)*. Robert Spence Watson, 1897

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