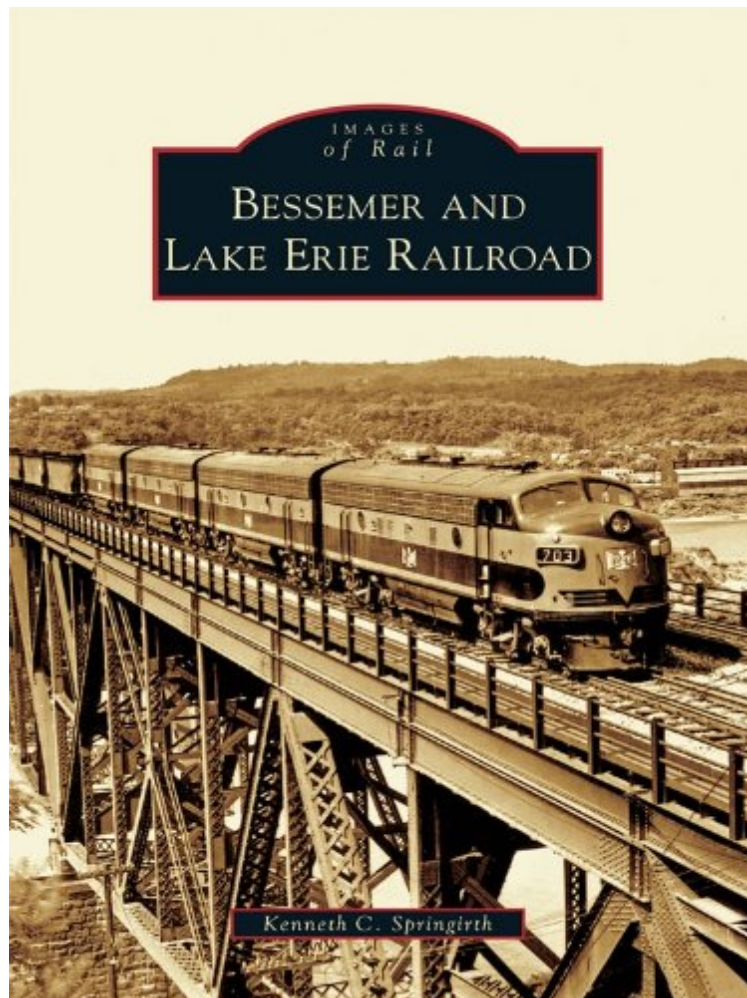


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## Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad (Images of Rail)

*Kenneth C. Springirth*

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**Kenneth C. Springirth : Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad (Images of Rail)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad (Images of Rail):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Decent but lackingBy D. FerrickI do not expect top notch from this book company and I didnt get it. I have other books from this publisher and the text and photos were better. I found several of the photographs in this edition to be of very low quality. Not a bad writing by the author.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice bookBy Robert KennedyRailfanned the BLE when I lived in Western PA. Found this to be a very good read.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Poor reproduction hampers an otherwise good book.By Keith L. JohnsonI found the book to have a good text as does all the books by Springirth. Unfortunately the pictures are poorly reproduced. They have way too much contrast. Some train engines are nothing more than black blobs. Even obviously modern day photographs suffer from this gross overexposure. I believe that the pictures were simply improperly processed. Although Images of Rail books tend to often be overexposed the books by Springirth are

worse than most. I can only guess that the author participates in the way the pictures are prepared for printing and something goes awry with him. A revised printing would be greatly appreciated as the pictures are actually very good were they properly reproduced.

Andrew Carnegie's vision of transporting iron ore from his boats on Lake Erie to his Pittsburgh steel mills was realized when he obtained ownership of a series of railroad companies in the region. In 1900, these companies became the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, which connected the Lake Erie ports of Erie, Pennsylvania, and Conneaut, Ohio, south to North Bessemer near Pittsburgh. Through vintage photographs, Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad highlights the railroad passenger excursions to Conneaut Lake Park and the steam and diesel locomotives used on the well-maintained line. The railroad continues to serve the steel industry today and in May 2004 was acquired by the Canadian National Railway.

Title: Portrait of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad's heavy duty trains and terminals  
Author: Staff Writer  
Publisher: O Scale Magazine  
Date: 2/8/2009  
The Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, by Kenneth C. Springirth, the latest addition to Arcadia Publishing's Images of Rail series, provides an unvarnished look at everyday, heavy-duty freight railroading leading to the Great Lakes. The Bessemer and Lake Erie ran north-south, in western Pennsylvania, between the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area and Erie, Pennsylvania and Conneaut, Ohio. The book covers the "big steam"; an diesel eras, after a brief look at the line's construction. Photo coverage extends up to the welded rail era as recently as 2006. Whereas the photographs in some books focus on the scenery, and deluxe passenger service, The Bessemer and Lake Erie focuses on the motive power and rolling stock needed to move heavy duty freight from mines to Great Lake. The freight trains were long and heavy, and the environment could be called "grimy industrial." Many of the best photographs in this book are waterfront scenes, including some wonderful photographs showing the Hulett automatic iron ore unloader that could grab 10 tons of ore from a ship and place it in a hopper car. The Hulett's were huge, and positively dwarfed the hoppers placed below them. Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, \$21.99, Arcadia Publishing. Available at local retailers, online bookstores, or through Arcadia Publishing at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com) or (888) 3132665. About the Author Kenneth C. Springirth, author of Greater Erie Trolleys, Johnstown Trolleys and Incline, Pittsburgh Streamlined Trolleys, Suburban Philadelphia Trolleys, East Broad Top Railroad, and Southeastern Pennsylvania Trolleys, has a vested interest in rail history, as his father was a trolley car motorman in Philadelphia and his grandfather was a motorman in Washington, D.C. A transportation historian, he has been documenting and chronicling the history of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad since 1965.