

# MERIDIAN'S RAILROAD HERITAGE

Meridian—city of fun, city of the future, city of the past—mixed with a unique heritage of Southern tradition and modern values.

Her history begins in 1831, one year after the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek removed the Choctaw Indians from Eastern Mississippi. Richard McLemore of Virginia settles the area in which Meridian would grow. He offered free land, drawing more population, and when the railroads linked the area in 1855, Meridian's future was guaranteed.

During the early 1860's, Meridian was a small community of 15 families. Growth was spurred by geographical location recognized by the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. During the Civil War years, the town was the site of a Confederate arsenal,

military hospital, prisoner of war stockade, and headquarters for a number of state officials. The railroad made Meridian the ideal location for those uses.

In February 1864, Confederate General Polk was forced to withdraw from Meridian by the advancing Federal troops of General Sherman. Sherman's troops, numbering 10,000, destroyed the railroad lines and much of the area. Despite this destruction, rail lines were repaired in 26 working days, and the city continued to grow!

The railroad provided the life-giving and life-sustaining vein of commerce and economic growth for Meridian. In 1885, Meridian was the junction of five railroads, with three others considering coming to the city. The Union Station was constructed in 1905-1906 to accommodate the growth brought by the railway.

Today, Union Station has been restored to its former grandeur as a center of economic development for Meridian. The Union Station symbolizes the city's triumph over adversity brought by war and the personal drive of hundreds of railroad workers throughout our past. You can help with the ongoing improvement effort of this unique Meridian historic landmark by becoming a member of the Union Station Patrons Club. Your membership gives you an opportunity to be a part of Meridian's rich history, through an engraved brick paver or historic street lamp plaque. Plus, Club members receive certificates and other railroading collectibles.

Don't miss your chance to join this special group of people who believe in the need to preserve our unique railroading heritage. Join the Union Station Patrons Club and become part of Meridian's history!

## UNION STATION PATRONS CLUB

*Choose one of the following membership levels and become a member of the Union Station Patrons Club:*

### HISTORIC STREET LAMP PATRONS

**SUPERINTENDENT LEVEL**     **\$2,500**     Recognition plaque on historic street lamp base, certificate of membership, railroading collectibles and print of locomotive.

**TRAINMASTER LEVEL**     **\$2,000**     Recognition plaque on historic street lamp base, certificate of membership and railroad collectibles.

### BRICK PAVER PATRONS

**CONDUCTOR LEVEL**     **\$60.00**     Brick paver with 3 lines of engraving, certificate of membership, railroad collectibles and print of locomotive.

**ENGINEER LEVEL**     **\$50.00**     Brick paver with 3 lines of engraving, certificate of membership and railroad collectibles.

**BRAKEMAN LEVEL**     **\$40.00**     Brick paver with 3 lines of engraving and a certificate of membership.

**Yes!**

I want to join the Union Station Patrons Club and show my support for preserving Meridian's unique railroading heritage. I have completed the requested information on the back of this form and mailed it along with my payment to the Union Station Patrons Club, P.O. Box 1430, Meridian, MS 39302.

# UNION STATION PATRONS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

## STEP 1:

Choose your level of membership:

- SUPERINTENDENT / \$2500.00
- TRAINMASTER / \$2000.00
- CONDUCTOR / \$60.00
- ENGINEER / \$50.00
- BRAKEMAN / \$40.00

## STEP 2:

How would you like your recognition plaque or brick paver inscribed?

PLEASE PRINT, Maximum of 18 spaces per line including blank spaces and punctuation. We reserve the right to refuse engraving of questionable taste.

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First Line: All levels receive one line of engraving.

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Second Line: Superintendent, Trainmaster, Conductor, Engineer and Brakeman receive a second line of text.

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Third Line: Superintendent, Trainmaster, Conductor and Engineer receive a third line.

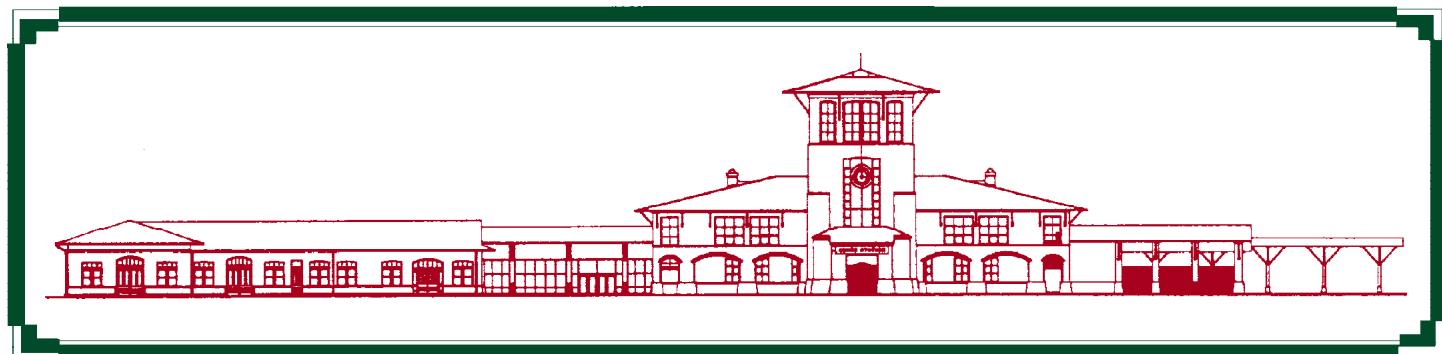
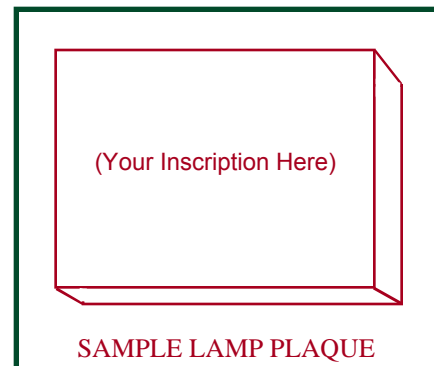
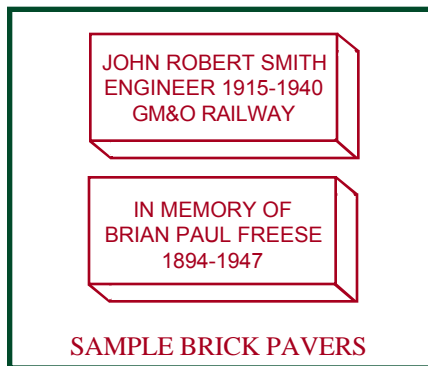
## STEP 3:

Method of payment :     Check             Money Order

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



*A Special Invitation To Join The*  
**UNION STATION PATRONS CLUB**