



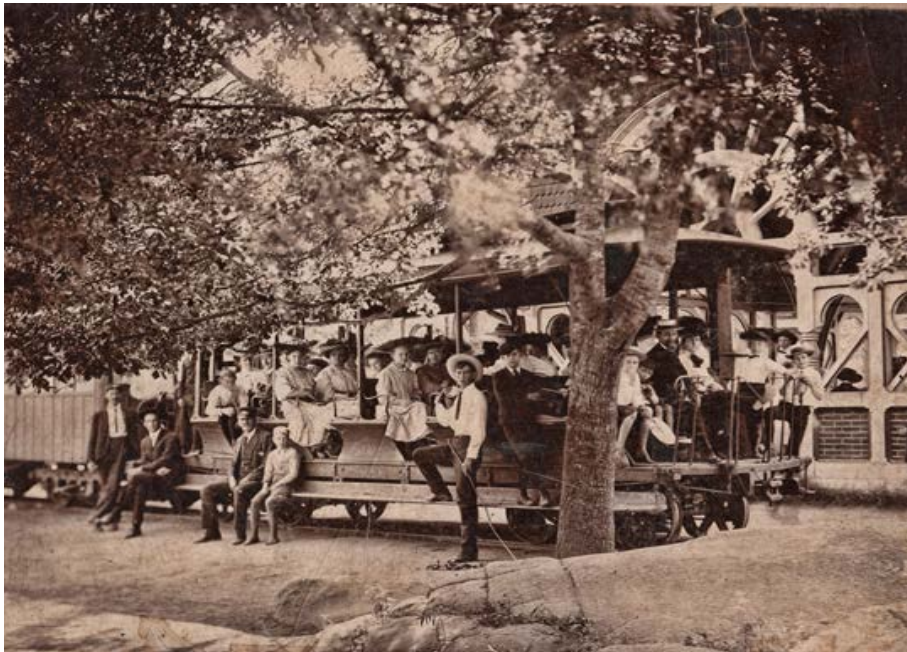
Bowden Lithia Springs Short Line Railroad



1887 Little Anna Railroad Lithia Spring GA

This 2.5-mile Austell-to-Lithia Springs line opened in 1885 as a private enterprise, according to Poor 1895 Manual of the Railroads. It was chartered as a common carrier in March 1887. In 1897 the 3-ft gauge railroad was owned by the proprietor of the Sweet Water Park Hotel, and was operated as a private road for hotel guests.

In the 1894 edition of The Official Railway List, the railroad reported operating two and a half miles of line with 1 locomotive, 2 passenger cars, and 1 freight or miscellaneous car. The president was reported as E. W. Marsh of Atlanta, the vice president as S. S. Marsh of the same city, the general manager as Jas. A. Watson of Lithia Springs, and the general passenger, ticket, and freight agent as J. E. Howland of Lithia Springs. The line was abandoned in 1913.



1888 Guests Ride Little Anna Train Lithia Spring GA

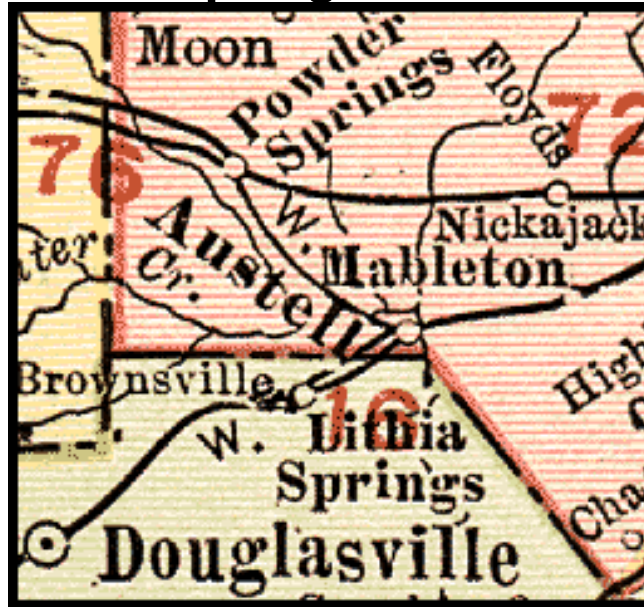
During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, numerous resort hotels were constructed at mineral springs and other places thought to be conducive to good health. By investing in good rail connections, hotels could attract enough customers to support hundreds of rooms, even where patronage was seasonal. Examples in Georgia included Indian Springs with its [Flovilla & Indian Springs Railroad](#), and Tallapoosa with its [Tallapoosa Street Railway](#) carrying passengers to that town's Lithia Springs Hotel.



From: *Official Guide of the Railways*, 1906.



Bowden Lithia Springs Short Line Railroad



The Bowden Lithia is shown between Austell and Lithia Springs as no. 16. Other railroads indicated are no. 72, the [Seaboard](#), and no. 76, the [Southern](#), which split into two branches at Austell. (From: *New Business Atlas Map of Georgia*, Rand, McNally & Co., 1907).

Sweet Water Park Hotel. (From: *The Southland; an exposition of the present resources and development of the South.* Online at [Internet Archive](#).)





1887 Sweet Water Hotel Resort Lithia Spring GA



1888 Lithia Spring GA

Bowden Lithia spring in use around 1888. (This image and the one above it are from S. W. McCallie, A Preliminary Report on the Mineral Springs of Georgia, Geological Survey of Georgia, 1913.) The original Bowden Lithia spring



1887 Congress of Physicians Lithia Spring GA

In October 1887, the Congress of Physicians held their annual conference at the site of Lithia Springs, Georgia. Historical records show that prestigious doctors of the day prescribed Lithia Spring Water as a general health tonic. It is a historic fact that many doctors of the period used natural remedies to address health issues.



1888 Giant Frog Rock a tourist attraction Lithia Spring GA

