

2021

Soulé Live Steam Festival  
Friday & Saturday

**Nov. 5 & 6, 2021**

9 am to 4 pm

Mississippi Industrial  
Heritage Museum

Historic Soulé Steam Works

1808 4th Street - Downtown

Meridian, Mississippi

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## America's Last Operating Steam Engine Factory Host Soulé Festival

Meridian, MS - - - The 18th Annual Soulé Live Steam Festival in Meridian, Mississippi promises a look back at how America's Industrial Revolution changed our economy and lives forever. Inventors, industrialists and workers produced a wide variety of items and the railroads shipped them across the country. The standard of living was improved across the United States. This event is hosted at historic Soulé Steam Feed Works, America's last intact steam engine factory. Always held on the first Saturday of November, the 2021 Festival falls on Friday and Saturday, November 5-6, 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/children. Students/children can attend can enjoy FREE admission on FRIDAY.

The Soulé factory complex will come to life at this event. Here visitors can see the manufacturing process from raw material to finished product. Early 20th century equipment still remains in place and operates during the Festival. The 1907 machine shop is still powered by a 106'-long, belt-driven drive shaft to operate historic equipment. As you walk through the foundry—a state-of-the-art industrial building when it was built in 1917—you'll find the Paxson Cupola Iron Furnace, which was fired by coke and produced tons of molten iron weekly. The Pattern Shop, located on the second floor of the foundry, will have operating antique woodworking equipment.

The Museum's large collection of steam engines will operate using "live steam." What is "live steam"? Live steam uses steam pressure to operate the engines instead of compressed air or mechanical motors to simulate their operation. There are very few places in America that features so much active industrial history in one spot. Detailed model steam engines will be operating, and a wide variety of informative demonstrations will be provided by entertaining industrial craftsmen volunteers throughout the day. More than 100 volunteers and steam-enthusiasts work to make this Museum and event possible.

The Soulé Museum again welcomes the Carousel Organ Association of America's Fall Rally. Come hear the "Happiest Music On Earth" during the weekend. This rally is FREE and held outdoors in the Food Court located on 4th Street.

After a four-year absence, Railfest will return to the Railway Express Building. It will feature model railroading and railroad memorabilia. Meridian Rails Historical Society is hosting this event, which continues to be a perfect match with the Live Steam Festival.

Other attractions include Earth's Bounty Farmer's Market held on Saturday morning in case you are interested in homegrown seasonal vegetables and homemade food items. The Vintage Wheels Car Club, joined by the English Motoring Club and Mercedes-Benz Club, will host the Soulé Vintage Car Show on Saturday during the event (weather permitting).

The Soulé Company closed in 2002 and was purchased by local businessman Jim McRae who desired to preserve this important part of Meridian's history. The founders of the Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum believe that preserving and interpreting America's industrial heritage is essential. Today, only three (out of five total) similar sites have been preserved and are open to the public.

The Soulé Steam Feed Works historic factory site tells the story of early 20th century invention, industry and workers like no other place in America.

For more information is available at 601-693-9905, [soulelivesteam@comcast.net](mailto:soulelivesteam@comcast.net) or [www.soulelivesteam.com](http://www.soulelivesteam.com) .