

# The Rise of Utah's Railroads

## 1869 - 1920



Union Pacific trestle construction on the eastern face of the Promontory mountains.



South Pacific Train on the Lucin Cutoff built across the Great Salt Lake, 1905.



Western Pacific trip to Wendover, 1909.

The joining of the rails at Promontory on May 10, 1869 marked not only the first transcontinental rail line in America, but also the dawn of Utah's rail age. Railroad development within the state surged ahead, working in synergy with the rise of Utah's mining industry. In 1904, the route over Promontory was abandoned when the Lucin Cutoff opened. By 1920, Utah boasted 1,966 miles of rail.



The Central Pacific Railroad was a rail route built eastwards from the West Coast between California and Utah in the 1860s. This was the western part of the first transcontinental railroad in North America.



Union Pacific was the first major railroad company to build within Utah's borders, connecting with the Central Pacific tracks at Promontory in 1869.



The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railway completed its line between Colorado and Salt Lake City in 1883. By 1909, the Western Pacific Railway completed construction between Salt Lake City and Oakland, California.



The Southern Pacific came into Utah by leasing the original line of the Central Pacific, west of the Great Salt Lake. This company built the Lucin Cutoff trestle across the Great Salt Lake.

