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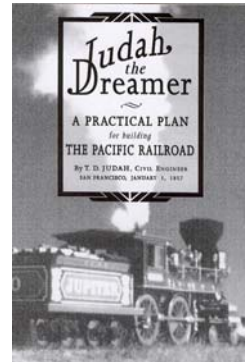
## Press Release

# Judah the Dreamer

## A Practical Plan for Building the Pacific Railroad

They called him “Crazy Judah,” the young engineer with a dream of extending a railroad across the continent. To Theodore Judah, however, it wasn’t a dream; the construction of a transcontinental railroad was both possible and practical.

In the mid-nineteenth century, our nation was increasingly divided over issues that ultimately led to the Civil War. With talk of secession by southern states, linking the new state of California to the larger Union was more important than ever. A transcontinental railroad would speed movement of people and materials and dramatically reduce the time, danger, and discomfort of travel to California and the western territories. But for most, the idea of a Pacific railroad seemed sheer folly because of the enormity of the project and the impassibility of the Sierra Nevada. Judah felt otherwise.



Originally published in 1857, this book lays out Judah’s grand plan for carrying out “...the most magnificent project ever conceived.” This visionary young engineer’s passion and sense of purpose, his vision for the future, are readily apparent as you read these pages. Unfortunately Judah died of yellow fever in 1863, six years before the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

Deemed “bold, startling and impracticable” by others, Judah’s plan for building a Pacific Railroad ultimately became a blueprint for an event that went down in history as one of America’s most magnificent construction projects.

### *Judah the Dreamer: A Practical Plan for Building the Pacific Railroad*

by T. D. Judah

ISBN 1-58369-073-5 / 32 pages / 6 x 9 / \$4.95

Available from your bookseller or from Western National Parks Association at 888-569-7762 or from our web store at [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)

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