



The Union Pacific Railroad was the first transcontinental railway—"the greatest, most daring engineering effort the country had yet seen," historian David McCullough writes.

It all began on July 1, 1862, when President Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act, marking the start of the transcontinental rail way project and the founding of the Union Pacific Railroad. Since that rail line's completion, the Union Pacific has served as the lifeblood of the nation, shipping the natural resources and manufactured products that make modern life possible, moving people across our vast continent, and transporting our military men and women. It has survived multiple economic crises and overcome numerous natural disasters. Since the construction of the first transcontinental railroad, the Union Pacific has formed a key component of the country's economic success and become a mainstay of America's landscape.

The Union Pacific Railroad is America's sweetheart. From a child's first model train set to their wide-eyed witnessing of these mighty engines rolling across the prairie to adult collectors of photographs and memorabilia, nothings stirs our hearts like trains. As historian Maury Klein wrote, "Of the four major American rail systems today, the Union Pacific alone retains its original name and history. It remains a unique company that has left an indelible imprint on American history." It's also about the people who, to this day, carry this passion forward.

The Union Pacific Historical Society and the American Heritage Center share an important passion and goal—to preserve and share our nation's history. Like the Union Pacific Historical Society, the American Heritage Center strives to be a reliable source of accurate and in-depth material and information about the American West and its vital railroad history.

The American Heritage Center respectfully requests the support of the Union Pacific Historical Society and its members to acquire, organize, preserve, promote, and digitize the Union Pacific Historical Society collection as well as related collections at the American Heritage Center.

One good way to support such a purpose is by establishing a permanent source of funding—an endowment—and then to use the endowment's funds to support personnel and equipment needs.

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