

Theodore Judah Timeline From 1854 to 1864

Chuck Spinks, P.E.

1854 - 1855

- 1854
- May 4, 1854, Judah arrives in SF; started design and survey of Sacramento Valley Railroad.
- May 30, 1854, Judah submitted preliminary survey to SVRR Directors.
- September 16, 1854, Judah publishes map showing alternative routes for the Sacramento Valley Railroad from Sacramento to the crossing of the American River at Negro Bar.
- September, 1854, Judah publishes map showing the location of the Sacramento Valley Railroad with proposed extensions.
- Contract with Robinson, Seymour & Co. signed November 24, 1854.
- 1855
- SVRR grading started February, 1855.
- (June 28, 1855, Panama Rail Road opens across Isthmus)
- First SVRR rail laid August 9, 1855. On August 10 C.K. Garrison elected Pres.
- August 1855 Judah lost American Party nomination for California Surveyor General.

1856

- 1856 January -
- 1856 February
- On February 7 Judah publishes engineers report for the San Francisco & Sacramento Railroad.
- SVRR construction completed February 22, 1856
- Judah “would take off for days” exploring the mountains (Anna Judah).
- 1856 March
- Judah Departs San Francisco for D.C. March 5, 1856, one day after his 30th birthday. Arrive in NYC March 28.
- 34th Congress, 1st Session December 3, 1856 to August 18, 1856, 2nd Session August 21, 1856 to August 30, 1856
- 1856 April -
- 1856 May -

1856 June	-
1856 July	-
1856 August	-
1856 September	-
1856 October	-
1856 November	-
1856 December	34 th Congress, December 1, 1856 to March 4, 1857.

1857

1857 January	T.D. Judah, Civil Engineer, publishes in D.C a pamphlet " A Practical Plan for Building the Pacific Railroad " on January 1, 1857.
1857 February	-
1857 March	-
1857 April	California Central incorporated April 21, 1857.
1857 May	-
1857 June	-
1857 July	-
1857 August	-
1857 September	(Financial Panic of 1857, "Buchanan Panic", worst lasts through 1858)
1857 October	-
1857 November	-
1857 December	35 th Congress, 1 st Session, December 7, 1857 to June 14, 1858

1858

1858 January	-
1858 February	-
1858 March	Judah arrives San Francisco March 31, 1858.
1858 April	Judah surveys California Eastern Extension RR from Lincoln to Auburn.

Judah purchases 480 acres on **Eastern Extension** for new town to be called **Centralia**.

1858 May	-
1858 June	Judah surveys Auburn Branch Railroad in June and July.
1858 July	-
1858 August	On August 13 Judah completes engineers report for Auburn Branch Railroad.
1858 September	-
1858 October	-
1858 November	-
1858 December	-

1859

1859 January	-
1859 February	-
1859 March	-
1859 April	April 5, 1859, the California Legislature approves Pacific Railroad Convention to be held in San Francisco in September. Judah in mountains looking for potential wagon road and railroad alignments April to August.
1859 May	Judah in mountains looking for potential wagon road and railroad alignments April to August.
1859 June	Judah in mountains looking for potential wagon road and railroad alignments April to August. (July 1, 1859 <i>Nevada Journal</i> (Nevada City) publishes article on Ott's Assay results of ore from Washoe District in Utah Territory)
1859 July	Judah conducts survey for American River Railroad. Judah in mountains looking for potential wagon road and railroad alignments April to August.
1859 August	Judah in mountains looking for potential wagon road and railroad alignments April to August.

August 1, 1859, Letter from **C.L. Wilson** to Judah discussing construction of **California Eastern Extension**.

August 17, 1859, **Eastern Extension Railroad** Articles of Incorporation filed.

1859 September **Railroad Convention** held in San Francisco September 20.

1859 October October 11, 1859, Judah appointed as accredited agent of Convention to present plan for a Railroad Bill to Congress.

Judah orders 52 lb. rail for **Eastern Extension Railroad**.

Judah Departs San Francisco October 20, 1859; arrives NYC Nov. 10; arrives D.C. Dec. 3.

36th Congress, 1st Session October 5, 1859 to June 26, 1860

Theodore and Anna create **Pacific Railroad Museum** in Old Vice President's Room.

S.S. Montague arrives in California in Fall of 1859 and works for the California Central R.R.

1859 November -

1859 December Judah and several Senators meet with president **James Buchanan** on December 6, 1859.

1860

1860 January -

1860 February -

1860 March -

1860 April -

1860 May (**S.G. Elliott**, civil engineer, prepares Map of Central California showing proposed railroads. On May 25 provides report to Sacramento, Placer & Nevada Railroad on railroads survey from Nevada to Auburn.)

1860 June (**D.W. Strong** leads party of locals into the mountains to look for a wagon road route that would include Dutch Flat. On June 26, 1860, **D.W. Strong** publishes solicitation with list of contributors paying for a survey of a wagon road over Donner Pass)

(**Strong** writes a letter to **S.S. Montague** soliciting his help in surveying wagon road over Sierras)

1860 July Judah returns to SF July 12, 1860.

(July 19, 1860, **S.G. Elliott**, civil engineer, starts survey for wagon road from Dutch Flat over Lake Pass)

July 25, 1860, Judah sends report of his trip to the Executive Committee of the **Pacific Railroad Convention**.

July 26, 1860, *Sacramento Daily Union* article, Judah confident “in being able to find practicable line from the terminus of the **Eastern Extension** to Grass Valley and Nevada” (Nevada City).

1860 August

August 14, 1860, *Sacramento Daily Union* article, C.L. Wilson hires “T.D. Judah & Co.” to construct **Eastern Extension** from Lincoln to Gold Hill.

Judah in mountains conducting reconnaissance “barometrical” surveys for three routes over mountains: Henness Pass, Dutch Flat route, Georgetown Pass.

1860 September

Judah in mountains conducting reconnaissance surveys for three routes over mountains: Henness Pass, Dutch Flat route, Georgetown Pass.

1860 October

Judah in mountains conducting reconnaissance surveys for three routes over mountains: Henness Pass, Dutch Flat route, Georgetown Pass.

Nevada Journal article October 5, 1860: “Mr. Judah is on his way over the mountain to inform himself relative to the practicability of the passes to the East of us for railroad purposes” ... “Mr. Judah is acting as agent of the **Sacramento Valley Railroad** and is offering liberal inducements” for freight wagons connecting to Folsom.

1860 November

On November 1, 1860, Judah publishes a detailed pamphlet, and on November 10 he publishes a short prospectus with information from the pamphlet for potential investors in the new railroad. It includes description of Lake Pass route.

(November 6, 1860, **Abraham Lincoln** elected President)

(November 7, 1860, **S.G. Elliott** publishes report of Lake Pass wagon road survey in *Dutch Flat Enquirer*)

November 9, 1860, *Nevada Journal*; Judah, in company with **Charles Marsh**, investigates Henness Pass route.

Sacramento Daily Union article November 9, 1860, reports Judah in Mountains surveying for wagon road route on the “Dutch Flat Divide route”, the *Union* referenced the Dutch Flat Enquirer that a survey had been made of the route by S.G. Elliott, Placer County Surveyor, “but if (the survey report was) published, it has escaped our attention.”

(November 14, 1860 *Sacramento Daily Union* publishes **S.G. Elliott’s** report)

Judah’s Fall 1860 surveys confirm that Dutch Flat Route is the best route over the Sierra for a railroad.

Judah sends a copy of the prospectus to **Strong** on November 14, 1860.

1860 December

December 6, 1860, Placerville Democrat; "Mr. Judah, the engineer, has recently made examinations of the Georgetown, Lake and Henness Passes".

December 1860 Judah, **Charles Marsh** and **Daniel Strong** form **Central Pacific Railroad Company** (no supporting documents exist).

Judah in San Francisco trying to interest investors in Pacific Railroad shares.

Sacramento Daily Union article December 22, 1860; three routes have "been brought prominently before the public within the past two years – the Honey Lake (Beckwourth Pass), the route through Truckee Pass and the one through Johnson's." A reconnaissance of the Truckee route was made by "T.D. Judah, a practical railroad engineer...made a profile of the line, and published a pamphlet report".

1861

1861 January

Judah's **St. Charles Hotel** meeting in Sacramento to solicit contributions for new Pacific Railroad. **James Bailey** introduces Judah to local merchants.

Sacramento Daily Union article January 4, 1861; the "Pacific Railroad Bill passed the House and will doubtless pass Senate...Since Judah's report was published, \$11,000 more in stock has been subscribed, leaving only \$56,000 more to be taken (\$115,000 total)."

James Bailey introduces Judah to Leland Stanford.

Charley Crocker takes office as member of California Legislature January 7, 1861.

Leland Stanford departs for Washington DC on January 19.

1861 February

February 8, 1861 Confederate States of America proclaimed.

1861 March

Judah starts survey of potential routes March 4, 1861.

(March 4, Abraham Lincoln Inaugurated)

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1861 April

Judah in mountains surveying potential routes.

On April 8, 1861, Hopkins invites Pacific Railroad shareholders to meeting to be held in Sacramento on April 30, 1861.

(Civil War starts April 12, 1861)

On April 30, 1861 the CPRR shareholders met in Sacramento, adopt Articles of Association, and elect Board of Directors and Board of Commissioners.

1861 May Judah in mountains surveying potential routes.

1861 June Judah in mountains surveying potential routes.

June 9-13, letters from Theodore to **Anna** in Sacramento about surveying in the mountains near Illinoistown and Dutch Flat.

Stanford nominated Governor on June 19, 1861.

Central Pacific Rail Road of California incorporated on June 28, 1861.

1861 July Judah in mountains surveying potential routes.

Sacramento Daily Union article July 13, 1860; "T.D. Judah, with a party, is surveying and locating a line over the Sierra Nevada, by way of Dutch Flat and the little Truckee Pass."

1861 August *Sacramento Daily Union* article August 7, 1861; "The first railroad survey ever made with instruments across the Sierra Nevada, has just been completed by T.D. Judah, for the Central Pacific Railroad Company of California...Stakes were struck every hundred feet, the necessary maps, figures, etc. were taken..."

August 9, 1861, Nevada Journal report that Judah has returned from surveying routes over mountains.

1861 September **Stanford elected Governor** September 4, 1861.

1861 October Judah's first Chief Engineer's Report published October 1, 1861.

Judah Departs San Francisco for D.C. October 11, 1861; He is accompanied by CPRR Director **James Bailey**; Arrives NYC Nov. 3.

Tour of new Dutch Flat route by new CPRR shareholders October 19, 1861.

October 24, 1861; Transcontinental Telegraph completed between St. Joseph, MO and Sacramento, CA by Western Union.

California Central completed Folsom to Lincoln October 31, 1861.

L.M. Clement arrives in California Fall of 1861

1861 November	Dutch Flat Donner Lake Wagon Road (DFDLWR) incorporated November 27, 1861, with C. Crocker as President.
1861 December	37 th Congress, 2 nd Session, December 2, 1861 to July 17, 1862. in D.C Judah appointed Secretary of Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads and Clerk of the House Main Committee on Railroads. December 10, 1861 letter from S.S. Montague to D.W. Strong responding to Strong's request that Montague conduct a survey for a wagon road over Donner Pass. Huntington arrives in NYC Dec. 24.

1862

1862 January	Stanford inaugurated Governor January 10, 1862.
1862 February	S.S. Montague hired by CPRR.
1862 March	Huntington departs NYC for Calif. March 11; arrives SF April 6.
1862 April	L.M. Clement hired by CPRR sometime in 1862 (?).
1862 May	-
1862 June	-
1862 July	July 1, 1862, Pacific Railroad Act passes; Judah sends telegram "We have drawn the elephant..." July 10, 1862, the stockholders of the Central Pacific RR meet in Sacramento and Re-elect same Directors from 1861.
1862 August	Judah Arrives San Francisco August 17, 1862.
1862 September	September 7, 1862, <i>Nevada Morning Transcript</i> ; Sargent, Judah, Huntington and Marsh leave on reconnaissance of mountains and Nevada Territory. September 16, 1862, <i>Nevada Morning Transcript</i> ; Sargent returns, leaving Judah, Marsh, and Huntington to explore the Middle Feather River Canyon .
1862 October	Judah's second Chief Engineer's Report published October 22, 1862.

1862 November	November 1, 1862 Pacific Railroad Act formally approved and signed by CPRR Directors. November 8, 1862, <i>Nevada Morning Transcript</i> ; "T.D. Judah. Esq., with a corps of a dozen men, has commenced the survey of the Pacific Railroad at Sacramento."
1862 December	-

1863

1863 January	CPRR Groundbreaking Ceremony January 8, 1863.
1863 February	-
1863 March	-
1863 April	-
1863 May	CPRR Directors vote to share equally cost of railroad; Judah doesn't have funds to participate.
1863 June	Judah's last Chief Engineer's Report published June 1, 1863;
1863 July	Board of Directors Meeting July 14.
1863 August	-
1863 September	James Bailey retires from CPRR Board and returns to Utica, New York.
1863 October	Judah Leaves SF for New York October 3, 1863. October 26.1863, first CPRR rails laid.
1863 November	Judah dies in NYC November 2, 1863. Montague becomes Acting Chief Engineer.
1863 December	-

1864

1864 January	Edwin Crocker joins CPRR Board of Directors as the Attorney and General Agent.
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First **Chinese** hired by C. Crocker & Co. to work on Dutch Flat and Donner Lake Wagon Road; **Hung Wah** headman, Ah Toy foreman, with crew of 23.

1864 February

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1864 March

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1864 April

CPRR begins regular passenger service to Junction (Roseville) April 25, 1864.

1864 May

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1864 June

CPRR begins regular passenger service to Newcastle June 3, 1864.

DFDLWR opens from railhead in Newcastle June 14, 1864.