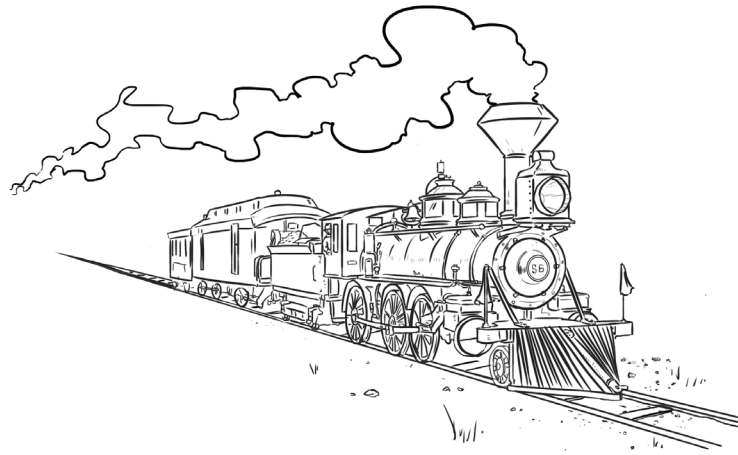


Adventures on the American Frontier

Men on Iron Horses

Part Six

General Dodge and Charlie Crocker
Meet in the Middle



A Royal Fireworks Production

Royal Fireworks Press
Unionville, New York



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This book features QR codes that link to audio of the book being narrated so that readers can follow along.

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By the time Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States in late 1860, the Pony Express didn't have to go all the way to the West Coast to deliver the message, for new telegraph lines were reaching east from California. A telegraph was much faster than a rider on a pony.

The Pony Express riders carried one other important message before the telegraph wires took over their work. That message, in April of 1861, was that the first shots had been fired in the Civil War.



Across the country, men were trying to build more railroads, but the war put a stop to it. The iron horse became more important than ever, but for a few years it had to become a war horse.

Both armies, the North and the South, tried to control the railroads that were near the fighting. They did everything they could think of to try to take control of the railroads for their side—or at least to stop the other side from using them.

“Burn the bridges!” some said. “That



will stop the trains, and the soldiers and goods won't get through."

Others said, "Why don't we stop the trains by shooting the engineer and the fireman? Then the line will be ours."

Each trip the trains made was a little harder than the one before. Bullets came whizzing in at the engineer and the fireman as they tried to do their work.

"We'll fix that," said the railroad owners. "We'll give the iron horse a coat of boiler iron to stop the bullets."

Soon there was a great clanging and banging going on in the railroad shops. When the iron horse came out, it was dressed for war. It worked hard for both sides until at last there came the day when the war was over and the states were united once more. The iron horse could take off its wartime coat and continue on with its westward run.

Days after the war ended, however, tragedy struck. President Lincoln was assassinated.

It was April, 1865. General Grenville M.



Dodge stood, hat in hand, near the railroad station in the town of Springfield, Illinois. He, with hundreds of other people, heard the sad tolling of the bell of the iron horse that was bringing Abraham Lincoln's body home.

