Acknowledgments

In telling the story of how the area around Promontory Summit developed in relation to the railroad, I not only traveled to the Golden Spike National Historic Site numerous times, but also conducted historical research in archives and through interviews. Both were very pleasant experiences. Promontory Summit and its environs are fascinating but so, too, are the individuals and groups who care about its history. Many kind people helped me in this endeavor to tell Promontory’s story, and I would be remiss if I did not thank them here. First and foremost is Robert (Bob) Spude, of the National Park Service, who sought out my services for this project. Bob knew me in my role as a historical resources consultant and professor at the University of Texas at Arlington. However, he also knew about my love of railroad history and my love for the Great Basin, the subject of two of my recent books. More to the point, though, he provided me a weeklong introduction to the site in July 2005, after which he sent box after box of files to our university so that I could begin work on the project. Bob introduced me to the enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and helpful staff at the Golden Spike National Historic Site at Promontory Summit. Superintendent Maggie Johnson, who passed away before this book could be published, was a joy to work with and will be missed by all. My contacts at the visitors’ center, including acting superintendent Tammy Benson, lead park ranger Valerie Steffen, historical archaeologist Melissa Cobern, and archaeologist Bret Guisto, kindly shared information and helped me make numerous local contacts who I later interviewed. These included Delone Glover of Brigham City, and Merlin and Doris Larsen, whose ranch lies along the east slope of the Promontory Mountains. Bob Spude also introduced me to Michael Polk and his able staff of archaeologists and historians at Sagebrush Consultants in Ogden, Utah. They proved to be extremely helpful as I consulted Promontory
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