

LaMarcus Edna Thompson.



father of the
rollercoaster.

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- 2 the invention
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a machine
- 4 legacy




biography.



Born on March 8, 1848


Jersey, Licking County, Ohio


 He had a brother named Olvid


 He built mechanical toys in his childhood

 Completed high school in 1866


 Briefly attended Hillsdale College

 Became a skilled carpenter


 Moved to Elkhart, Indiana in 1873 where he operated a grocery store


 Opened a factory for manufacturing seamless hosiery, with profits of over 250,000 USD per year

 Had health complications, moved to Arizona

 Invented the **switch-back railway**, which would eventually become the **Thompson Scenic Railway**

 First patented in 1884

 + 30 patents in the following three years

 In 1895 he incorporated as L. A. Thompson Scenic Railway Corporation.













 **Died on May 8, 1919**



the invention.

the invention.

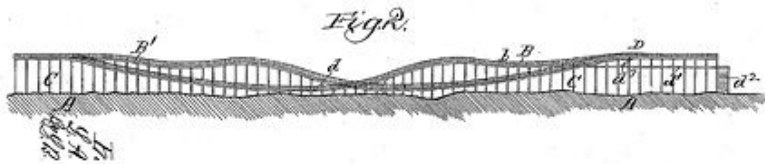
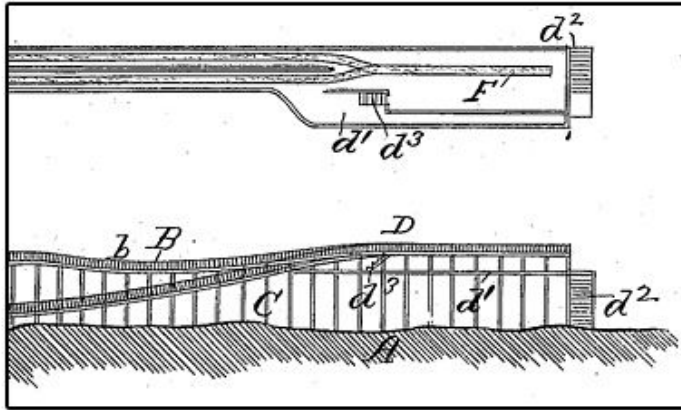
Was LaMarcus Thompson truly the inventor of the Roller Coaster? Yes, but **not really!**

-  Flying Mountains :
 -  Lumber sleds over iced-covered hills (80km/hr)
 -  1784 - St.Petersburg ride with grooved tracks
 -  Taken to Paris in 1804 : Russian Mountains
 -  Small wheels added - “First Wheeled Coaster”
 -  1817 Russian Mountains of Belleville added locking wheels, continuous track and cables bringing cars up the hill
 -  **Mauch Chunk Switchback Railway** was an 18 mile, mostly downhill course that featured a 2300 ft long, 665 ft high drop at the end.
 -  Thompson traveled to Pennsylvania and received inspiration to build the first authentic American Roller Coaster in 1884.
 -  He became the “Father of the Gravity Ride”
 -  Switchback Railway: 183m, 9km/h
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-  Thompson built 50 more Switchbacks in the US and Europe.
 -  In 1887 he built the Scenic Railway in Atlantic City. It had artificial elaborate artificial scenery. This is indicated to be the precursor to the Space Mountain in Disneyland.

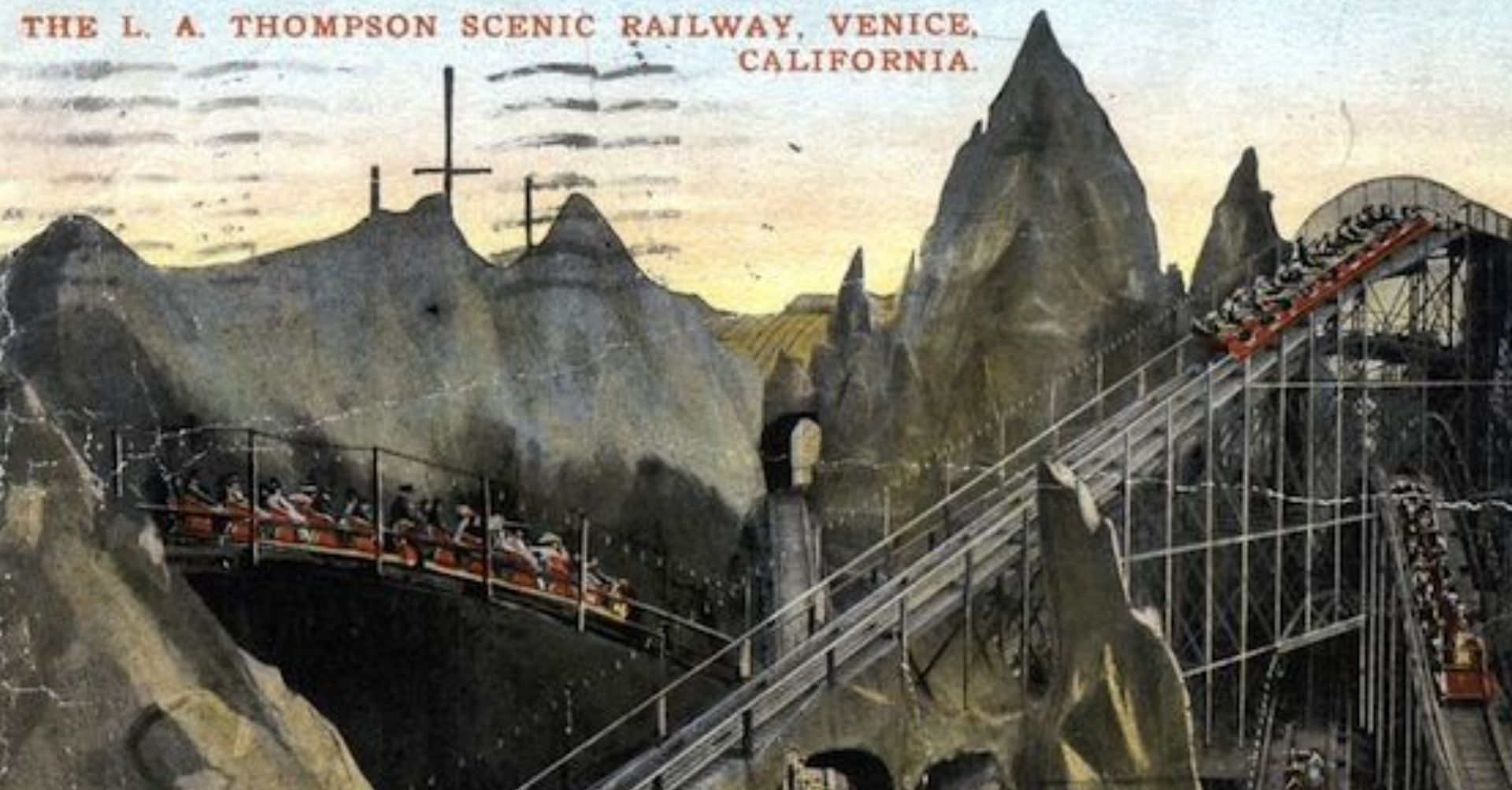
the invention.

LA MARCUS A. THOMPSON, OF SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

ROLLER COASTING STRUCTURE.



THE L. A. THOMPSON SCENIC RAILWAY, VENICE,
CALIFORNIA.

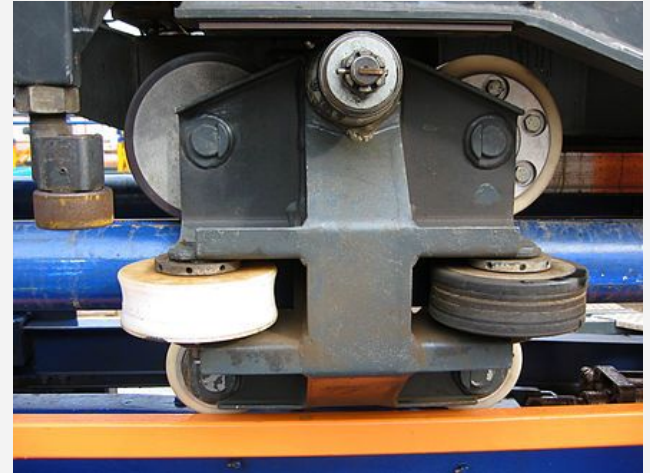






legacy.

- 🎢 **John A. Miller** worked for Thompson since 1891
 - 🎢 Miller patented over 100 key roller coaster components
 - 🎢 Father of the modern high-speed roller coaster
- 🎢 **Notable:** Miller invented a device that prevented the cars from rolling backwards - Safety Chain Dog
 - Also the Miller Under Friction Wheel (aka Upstop wheel)



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<http://proxy.library.nyu.edu/login?qurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2F1-thompson-dead%2Fdocview%2F100293834%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12768>.