

On March 8, 1848, the builder of the world's first roller coaster was born. LaMarcus Thompson, who is often called the "Father of the Gravity Ride," created the first gravity-powered roller coaster in the U.S. at Coney Island, New York. LaMarcus was a natural mechanic. At the age of 12, he designed a butter churn and an oxcart. His roller coaster paved the way for future rides such as Space Mountain at Disney World.