Quest for Flight: John J. Montgomery and the Dawn of Aviation in the West

Dr. Gary B. Fogel
San Diego State University

Tuesday, October 14, 2014. 4:15-5:15 pm
Building 300, Room 300

Dr. Fogel will present a lecture on the life of John J. Montgomery, his early efforts in aeronautics and other sciences. Starting from his formative years in northern California to his first experiments with gliders in the 1880s near San Diego, the lecture includes rare photos and drawings that help bring the story alive. In 1905, Montgomery’s success with a public demonstration of gliding flight at Santa Clara College in the Bay area was not only the first high-altitude flight by man in the world, but led to Montgomery’s patent of the Aeroplane at precisely the same time that the Wright Brothers were patenting theirs. Montgomery’s many challenges in science and life will be reviewed, culminating in his experiments in 1911 with a radically new glider design with all of the control systems in the wing and none in the tail. Dr. Fogel will conclude with some thoughts on Montgomery’s place in aviation history following significant time and effort researching the material for Quest for Flight together with his co-author Craig Harwood.

Refreshments available at 4pm. Seminar begins at 4:15 pm.
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