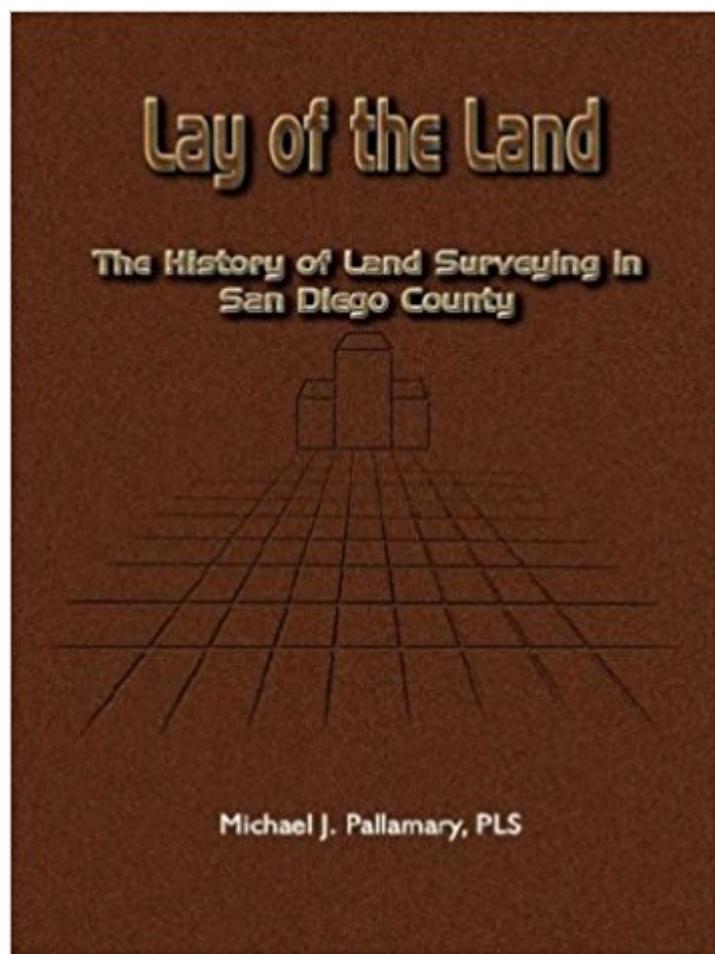


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# Lay Of The Land: The History Of Land Surveying In San Diego County



## Synopsis

The Lay of the Land presents an informative history about the development of San Diego. The story begins with the liberation of Texas and continues with the subsequent war with Mexico. Mr. Pallamary's book follows General Stephen Kearny and his corps of surveyors as they mapped and marched their way westward to California. The controversial actions of The Great Pathfinder John Charles Frémont are also covered as are early encounters between military Surveyors and Native Americans. The book also covers the challenges involved with locating the International Boundary Line between the United States and Mexico as specified by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Mr. Pallamary also provides informative insight into the creation of the government townships and section lines that govern the location of land throughout Southern California. Additional subjects contained in this informative manuscript include the impact of the land squatter movement on San Diego, the influence of the contentious No Fence Law upon land settlement, the establishment of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, and determination of the county boundary lines. The Lay of the Land also examines the confusing land grant process and the obstacles involved with validating these claims before the United States Land Commission. Another important subject covered by Mr. Pallamary is the expansion of the transcontinental railroad and its impact upon San Diego. A number of the county's most important engineering projects are also explored including the relocation of the San Diego River, the transformation of False Bay into Mission Bay, and the development of San Diego Harbor. Considerable coverage is provided on the subjects of land fraud, water boundaries, corrupt government Surveyors and the Great Land Boom of 1887. Mr. Pallamary also documents the influence of many of the county's more influential Land Surveyors including George Derby, Andrew Gray, Colonel John Coffee Hays, Cave Couts, Charles Poole, Jame

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## Customer Reviews

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haven't read the book yet but attended a lecture by the author and if his writing is as good as his presentation it should be a good read.

The sightings on a surveyor's transit are far more powerful than those found on a soldier's rifle; the professional Land Surveyor has conquered more land than the world's finest militia. The Lay of the Land presents an informative history about the development of San Diego. The story begins with the

liberation of Texas and continues with the subsequent war with Mexico. The book follows General Stephen Kearny and his corps of surveyors as they mapped and marched their way westward to California. I also cover the controversial actions of The Great Pathfinder, John Charles Frémont along with early encounters between military Surveyors and Native Americans. The book also covers the challenges involved with locating the International Boundary Line between the United States and Mexico as specified by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. I also discuss the creation of the government townships and section lines that govern the location of land throughout Southern California. Additional subjects include the impact of the land squatter movement on San Diego, the influence of the contentious No-Fence Law upon land settlement, the establishment of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, and determination of the county boundary lines. The Lay of the Land also examines the confusing land grant process and the obstacles involved with validating these claims before the United States Land Commission. Another important subject I covered is the expansion of the transcontinental railroad and its impact upon San Diego. A number of the county's most important engineering projects are also explored, including the relocation of the San Diego River, the transformation of False Bay into Mission Bay and the development of San Diego Harbor. Considerable coverage is provided on the subjects of land fraud, water boundaries, corrupt government Surveyors, and the Great Land Boom of 1887. The Lay of the Land is a must for Professional Land Surveyors, Civil Engineers, Title Officers, Land Planners, Land Use Attorneys and anyone interested in the development of California. This book represents the culmination of nineteen years of research conducted across the State of California. I trust my own commentary is helpful to the reviewer. I also hope my awarding of five stars is supported by subsequent reviews. Michael J. Pallamary, PLS November, 2003

Reading this book I learned a lot about how San Diego county has changed. The fact that land and the exact measurement of it date back to Egypt where the floods made surveying necessary and records part of the local life. The Spanish had already taken the land from the native American when the USA Army corp of engineers got here, but their maps weren't really very good. In my time here I have seen groves of Lemon trees give way to groves of houses and water become more scarce by the year. Books like this remind us that government has contributed to the degradation of the environment by making accurate development maps possible in surveys. The way I put this is: we got a paradise and made it into a parking lot. And here we see how it was done historically...

Aside from an authoritative account of The historical basis for San Diego county's present land

boundaries and surveys, Lay of the Land gives you an in-depth look at the real, often neglected history of what really happened with the settlement of the Southwestern United States. If you are a history buff who wants to go beyond the typical biased veneer that you get in many college courses, Lay of the Land will give you the facts about what really happened.

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