

Public lecture event returns to SCA Annual Meeting in San Diego

On the opening night of the SCA Annual Meeting, Thursday, March 8, 2018, we invite everyone to a free, public lecture at the at the Grand Hanalei Ballroom of the Crown Plaza Hotel. It will start at 7:00, following the no-host opening reception. Registration for the conference is not required for this event. There is no fee, but the hotel charges for parking. Various SCA committees will have information tables in the ballroom lobby.

Professor Keith H. Meldahl will present his research on the largest overland migration in America, which was sparked by the California gold rush. He visited important sites on the California Trail, and he describes how geography, the environment, and expectations affected the emigrants' experiences.

Dr. Meldahl is a professor at Mira Costa College where he teaches geology and oceanography. His book, *Hard Road West* (2007), uses historical and archaeological evidence, contemporary diaries, and insightful descriptions of the landscape to illustrate the hardships that people faced in the overland journey from Missouri to California.

The migrant experiences from the gold rush had profound effects in California. This public event is an opportunity to better understand some of the forces that have shaped our society today. And you will learn that this was an exciting, and treacherous, time.

