



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR JOSEPH W. VENABLE

Term: 1887 - 1888
District: Fourth
Date of Birth: 1831
Death: Unknown

Joseph W. Venable served as county supervisor for one term. He was elected in November 1886 and assumed office on Jan. 3, 1887.

Venable was born in Shelby County, Ky. in 1831. When he was 16, Venable enlisted in the Mexican-American War, where he served three months. In 1848 Venable was discharged and he headed for Northern California in search of gold. He used the money he earned in the gold mines to buy a farm and study law. While in Contra Costa County he served as justice of the peace and associate justice.

In 1869, when he was 38, Venable and his family moved to Los Angeles County and settled on a 50-acre farm near Downey. His land holdings eventually grew to more than 200 acres of farmland.

Venable was a staunch Democrat and he became involved in public affairs. He served in the Assembly in 1871, was assessor for Los Angeles County from 1872-1874, and county supervisor from 1887-1888.

His credits included membership in the Masonic Temple, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Venable's first wife, Angelina, died in 1860. They had a daughter, Elizabeth Louisa. He and his second wife, Ann Elizabeth, had 13 children: Samuel Pierce, Caroline, Nellie, Mattie, John A., Villa Marsh, Joseph W., Charlie Bush, Mary H., Lulu Eubanks, Aggie, Andrew and George.

Source: History of Los Angeles County.