



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR MANUEL DOMINGUEZ

Term: 1857 - 1858
District: Not Applicable
Date of Birth: Jan. 26, 1803
Death: Oct. 11, 1882

Manuel Dominguez served one term as county supervisor. He was elected in 1857.

Dominguez was born Jan. 26, 1803 in San Diego. His father, Don Cristobal Dominguez, was an officer for the Spanish government. Dominguez learned to read and write under the tutelage of one of his father's officers. During his boyhood and early youth, Southern California was divided into a few large ranchos, the proprietors of each being the head of a great patriarchal establishment, including hundreds of workers, tenants and servants.

The Dominguez family was one of these powerful families, having been given Rancho de San Pedro from the King of Spain, which became known as Rancho Dominguez. The ranch covered about 30 square miles, with a thousand head of cattle.

In 1828 Manuel Dominguez was elected as a member of the Spanish ruling party, the Ayuntamiento, for the City of Los Angeles, and a year later was elected a delegate to nominate representatives to the Mexican Congress. In 1832 he was elected first mayor and judge for the City of Los Angeles, and in 1833-34 was territory representative for Los Angeles County at Monterey. In 1839 he was elected second mayor for the City of Los Angeles. In May 1843 he was chosen representative for the District of California, and in the same year was chosen captain of one of two military companies formed for the defense of the country.

In 1849, after California came under the American rule following the Spanish-American War, he was elected as a delegate to the constitutional convention which met at Monterey and formed the first constitution of the State of California.

In 1857 Dominguez was elected county supervisor for Los Angeles County, but retired from public life the following year to run his growing businesses.

In 1860 Rancho Dominguez was divided up among Dominguez, his brother and nephews. Dominguez's portion was comprised of more than 25,000 acres, including Rattlesnake Island in San Pedro Bay. On his immense property he lived out his life.

On Oct. 11, 1882, Dominguez died. He was 78, and was survived by his wife of 55 years, Maria, and six daughters.