



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR ROBERT HENRY MAYES

Term: 1868 - 1871
District: Not Applicable
Date of Birth: Unknown
Death: Unknown

Robert Henry Mayes served as county supervisor for one term. He was elected to office in 1868 to a two-year term. On Sept. 1, 1869, elections were held for the County's newly divided four district supervisorial seats. Mayes was not re-elected, but all the incumbents remained in office through 1871.

Mayes was born and raised in Hopkinsville, Ky. As he grew older his great ambition was move to California and establish his own ranch. Mayes' ancestors had always loved the land and had owned plantations in Virginia and Kentucky.

In 1851, Mayes left his parents' home and joined a wagon train bound for California. He arrived in the Golden State in the spring of 1852 and settled in El Monte, then called Lexington.

With the subdivision of Rancho Santa Gertrudes in 1864, Mayes purchased property on what is now Florence Avenue between Sanford Bridge Road and Lakewood Boulevard in Downey. He built a ranch house between Downey Avenue and Paramount Boulevard.

A little community called Gallatin was developing in this area. Mayes took a leadership role in the building of the first church and school house in Gallatin. His civic involvement in the educational and religious growth of the community did not go unnoticed. In 1868 Mayes was elected to the Board of Supervisors.

His credits included being a charter member and elder of the Downey Christian Church and an active Free Mason.

Upon the death of Mayes and his wife, the vast estate was divided among the heirs, and most of the land was sold.

Source: Los Angeles County Historical Society Vol. IV; History of Downey, The Life Story of a Pioneer Community.