



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR RALPH EMERSON

Term: 1858-59
District: Not Applicable
Date of Birth: Unknown
Death: Unknown

Ralph Emerson served two terms as county supervisor. He was appointed to his first term on Jan. 11, 1858, after the resignation Francis Mellus. In 1859 Emerson ran for re-election and won another one-year term in office.

In the 1840s, Emerson opened a general merchandise store in downtown Los Angeles near the corner of Alameda and Aliso Streets. He sold everything from furniture and household furnishings to lumber, horse carriages and wine casks.

His reputation for honesty, good prices and customer service led to a booming business. His success did not go unnoticed. Emerson became more involved in civic affairs, which led to his appointment as county supervisor.

Sources: Los Angeles County Records, Los Angeles Star, Jan. 30, 1858.