



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR JOHN M. GRIFFITH

Term: 1874
District: 1
Date of Birth: Not Available
Date of Death: Oct. 16, 1907

John M. Griffith came to Los Angeles in 1861. Following his arrival he formed a business partnership with his brother-in-law, John J. Tomlinson, which dealt with passenger and freight carriage. He later purchased the Institute and Orphan Asylum located on Alameda and Macy streets and used the site for a lumber yard. Some time later, the site was sold to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. For a number of years, Griffith was a leading transportation agent and lumber merchant.

Griffith was considered a very generous man. During the 1896 Christmas season, he generously filled the stocking of Los Angeles with the immensely important gift of Griffith Park. Both Griffith Avenue and Griffith Park are named after him.

Griffith was one of the participants that met at the office of the Daily Herald on Aug. 2, 1897 to consider an organization of an "Old Settlers Society." On Aug. 10 the committee members, who consisted of several other prominent citizens, selected the societal name of "Los Angeles County Pioneers of Southern California" and decided that eligibility should be limited to those who had resided in Los Angeles County for 25 years.

Sources: Newmark, Harris, Sixty Years in Southern California, 1853-1913.