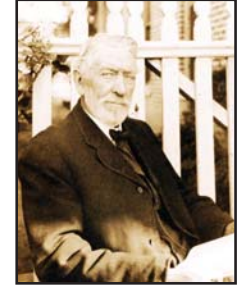




## County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



### SUPERVISOR RICHARD EGAN

Term: 1880 - 1882  
District: Fourth  
Date of Birth: 1842  
Death: Feb. 6, 1923

Richard Egan served one term as county supervisor, beginning March 1, 1880.

Born in County Waterford, Ireland, in 1842, Egan came to the United States when he was about 10 years old and lived with an uncle on Long Island. He attended public schools, caught the spirit of the New World, and at age 23 sailed around Cape Horn to San Francisco. He remained there for a year and a half, moved back East for a short time, and in 1866 went to Europe.

On his return to California, Egan partnered with a colleague he had met in Paris and the two bought land in San Juan Capistrano at \$1.25 per acre. At the mission they founded a settlement of more than 2,200 Mexicans and Indians, only three of whom could speak English.

Egan owned 600 acres, and built a brick house on part of the state highway that ran through San Juan Capistrano. He planted several walnut groves, rented out his land, and the tenants gave him one-fourth of the produce and one-half of the walnuts as payment.

Egan was a landowner, farmer, justice of the peace, telegrapher, notary, surveyor, agent for nearby landowners, keeper of rainfall records and dispenser of charity to the needy. He became a director of the Santa Fe Railroad and right-of-way agent for the route to San Diego. By common consent, Egan was San Juan Capistrano's alcalde in the Spanish tradition -- mayor, judge and chief dignitary.

His public spirit, leadership abilities and business experience did not go unnoticed. Egan was chosen to serve as a county supervisor for Los Angeles in 1880.

In 1889 he helped adjust the new boundary line when Orange County was created, and served as arbitrator to settle disputes following the withdrawal of the Orange County district from Los Angeles County. He was also credited with spearheading the construction of the highway system in Orange County. In 1896 Egan supervised the repair of the Mission San Juan Capistrano, financed by the Landmarks Club of Los Angeles.

Egan was a member of the Southern California Historical Society, and kept valuable records and acquired many relics; but in 1898 his house was burned and nearly all of his collections were destroyed. He eventually did rebuild another collection of antiquities representing the period before the Mexican War.

Egan died Feb. 6, 1923.