



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR J. H. MOESSER

Term: 1883 - 1885
District: Seven
Date of Birth: Feb. 21, 1835
Death: Unknown

J. H. Moesser served as county supervisor for one term. He assumed office on Jan. 8, 1883. On Sept. 6, 1882, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion to divide the County into seven districts. Moesser's new district consisted of the precincts of Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Orange, Santa Ana, Silverado, San Juan Capistrano, Tustin and Yorba. On Aug. 5, 1884, the county was divided into five supervisorial districts, in accordance with Section 16 of the County government bill. Moesser's district was absorbed into the Fifth District, which included the precincts of Anaheim, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Newport, Norwalk, Orange, Santa Ana, San Juan Capistrano, Silverado and Westminster.

Moesser was born in Pittsburg, Pa., on Feb. 21, 1835. At an early age, the family made several moves, first to Ohio, then to Missouri, and finally to Nauvoo, Ill.

In July 1846, at the age of 11, Moesser left home and headed West with some pioneers for what is now Salt Lake City, Utah. During the next 12 years, he studied the Mormon religion and became a frontiersman and acclaimed Indian hunter. Moesser was in the United States service, fighting Indians, and in return he received land as compensation.

In 1859 he headed for California with a wagon train of ox teams. He settled in San Bernardino County and began farming. During the next 12 years, he traveled back and forth between California and Utah 11 times.

In 1873 he bought farm land near Newport, known as the Gospel Swamp, and later moved to the city of Santa Ana. He became involved in real estate and he and his partner were the first to sell land by the square foot.

Moesser was a staunch Republican and was instrumental in helping to establish the new county seat. He was elected county supervisor for his efforts, and served as clerk of the school board at Newport for 13 years.

Credits included membership in the Ancient Order of United Workman, Santa Ana Lodge, No. 82 and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Santa Ana Lodge, No. 236.

Moesser and his wife, Lucy, had eight children: Henry, Lucy, Cynthia, George, Frederick, Ulysses, James and Clyde.

Source: History of Orange County.