



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR CHARLES E. PATTERSON

Term: 1903 - 1909
District: Fifth
Date of Birth: Dec. 15, 1849
Death: Unknown

Charles E. Patterson served as county supervisor for two terms. On June 9, 1902, he was appointed to replace James Hanley, pursuant to Superior Court Judgment: Patterson vs. Hanley 35864.

Patterson was born Dec. 15, 1849, in Monroe, N.Y. When he was 7, his father died. Patterson grew up in his hometown and attended the public schools.

In 1864, at age 15, Patterson enlisted in the Civil War, volunteering as an engineer in Company D, First New York Volunteer Engineer Corps. He served for six months in the engineering corps under General Grant in the army of the Potomac. In the battle of Petersburg he was wounded in the knee, and at Appomattox and Farmville he also received slight injuries. He was honorably discharged from the army soon thereafter, and returned home.

In 1881, at age 22, Patterson moved to Ohio and became a machinist and engineer. For the next five years he traveled in different states, working as a journeyman machinist. He spent six months as a member of the Texas Rangers.

In 1884 he came to California, and for three years traveled through the northern part of the state. In June 1887, Patterson moved to Burbank, bought 40 acres of land and began growing walnuts and alfalfa. Having his own pumping plant, he mastered the problem of irrigation, and the value of his property increased greatly.

Patterson was a staunch Republican and he took pride in his civic duties. He was a delegate for his party at many county conventions, was a school board trustee for 12 years, a postmaster in Burbank and a county supervisor.

Patterson and his wife, Mary, had three children: Pearl, Julia and Forrest.

Source: Historical and Biographical Record of Southern California.