

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

300 CITY HALL

R 92  
H 428  
VF

CITY OFFICIALS

**NAME** Hazard, Henry Thomas (deceased August 7, 1921)

**PUBLIC OFFICES HELD**

**(DATE)**

**CITY:**

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| City Attorney | Dec. 11, 1880 - Dec. 9, 1882 |
| Mayor         | Feb. 25, 1889 - Dec. 5, 1892 |

**COUNTY:**

**STATE**

Assembly (between 1882 and 1888)

**FEDERAL:**

**CIVIC ACTIVITIES:**

**BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Drover  
Farm laborer  
Business man  
Lawyer  
Realtor  
City and state official

**PORTRAIT:**

**ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE:** none

**PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)**

Portrait Index  
Willard, The Free Harbor Contest, p. 57

## ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

The Hazards were plain country folk, almost back woods, accustomed to hard work. All of the Hazard children, especially the boys, were workers and well known in Los Angeles in the 1850's-80's as handymen, farmers, laborers, mule drivers, clerks, etc.

Henry early determined to become a lawyer. His jobs tended always toward that end. While he was maturing transportation for both freight and passenger was by horse or mule drawn vehicle so Henry became a drover because it was a well paid profession. He was an expert mule skinner while still an adolescent.

Later in life when he was quite wealthy, and retaining his enthusiasm for horse flesh kept a string of fine race horses, he would frequently entertain friends with anecdotes of the days when he "wrangled Missouri canaries with a twenty-foot whip."

After Indians had murdered the last driver of the Arizona stagecoach Henry took over the job, making his first trip alone on top with one plucky passenger inside.

To complete his education and take his degree at Michigan he put his money in a poke and rode horseback from here to the university. In 1868 when he hung out his shingle the population of Los Angeles was 5000 persons. Practically the only kind of case for a young lawyer was criminal, and Henry became a good criminal lawyer, it is said. He still drove mule teams in order to live, as there was more of that kind of work to be secured than legal cases.

Clients when they came had little or no money for fees; one such paid young Hazard his fee in land—a large section in what is now the center of Hollywood.

continued

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

**BOOKS:**

See other page

**NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:**

Los Angeles Times

**PERSONAL INTERVIEW:** none

**INTERVIEWED BY:**

**DATE OF INTERVIEW**

Written by: Clare Wallace

Aug. 3, 1938

Hazard, Henry Thomas

Mr. Hazard was one of the upbuilders of the city, as many of his pioneer ventures were the "first" of that kind in Southern California. He was an astute business man and seemed to possess a flair for being in the midst of whatever public activity was current.

At the time of the Chinese Massacre in 1871 he lay in a barber chair being shaved when the mob formed. Just as he was, with his face covered with lather and in barber shop dishabille, he mounted a barrel in the middle of the street and remonstrated with the crowd attempting to stop it. This ability in extemporaneous speaking was well known by the public.

---

The Los Angeles Public Library

R 92  
H 428  
VF

Local History Collection

Biography

NAME Hazard, Henry Thomas (deceased Aug. 7, 1921)

Occupation Lawyer

Address

Birth (Date and Place) July 31, 1844, Evanston, Illinois

FATHER Ariel M. Hazard

Birth (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When California

MOTHER

Birth (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When California

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Carrie Geller

Birth of Same (Date and Place) 1855, Marysville, Calif.

If Deceased, When April 5, 1914, Los Angeles, Calif.

When Married 1873, San Gabriel, Calif.

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

none

# TITLES OF BOOKS, ARTICLES, MUSIC, OR OTHER CREATIVE WORK

(In the case of printed matter, please give date and publisher; of periodical publications also name of magazine and date.)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# REVIEWS, CRITICISMS, AND OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

(Please note printed matter concerning yourself or your work. We would appreciate any such material you may send, clippings, reviews, portrait.)

- 
- ~~Illustrated History of Los Angeles County, p 747~~

---

  - ~~Willard, The Free Harbor Contest, p 57~~

---

  - ~~Newmark, Sixty Years in Southern California~~

---

  - ~~Workman, City That Grew~~

---

  - ~~Warner, Hayes, Widney, Historical Sketch of Los Angeles County~~

---

  - ~~McGroarty, Los Angeles From the Mountains to the Sea, vol 1~~

---

  - ~~Spalding, History and Reminiscences of Los Angeles City and County, vol 1~~

---

  - ~~Wilson, History of Los Angeles County, p 179~~

---

  - ~~Los Angeles Probate and Vital Statistics Records~~
-

# ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

Subject's parents were covered wagon pioneers who arrived in Southern California in 1853.

His wife was the daughter of Dr. William Geller, another pioneer of the same era.

## EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Public school, Visalia, California, 1860-61; private law study; San Jose College, 1863-64; University of Michigan law class, 1868

## CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Los Angeles County Pioneer Society;  
Los Angeles County Law Association

## RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1853



## SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

Henry T. Hazard was born July 31, 1844, in Evanston, Illinois. When he was about eight years old his parents set out for the far west, with their family of eight children.

Traveling in oxen drawn prairie schooners they went first to Missouri then some time later took the Salt Lake trail to the Mormon settlement in San Bernardino, California. Henry was almost ten when the family ended their wanderings in 1853 and settled on land a few miles west of Los Angeles.

The elder Hazard was in moderate circumstances so the children had to shift for themselves. Henry drove mule freighting teams between Los Angeles and San Pedro when he was thirteen years old, as education for all of the children was haphazard.

The farm upon which the Hazards settled turned out to be government land, which necessitated them moving. They then settled in Tulare County. In 1860-61 the younger children, including Henry attended county schools of this vicinity. When he returned to Los Angeles Henry engaged in farming and commenced the study of law in the offices of General Volney E. Howard.

In 1863-64 he attended San Jose College, San Jose, California, then once more returned to Los Angeles to earn money. With the funds earned by driving the Arizona and other stage coaches, he completed his education at the University of Michigan, graduating with the law class of 1868. The year previous he had been admitted to the Michigan bar and upon his return to California was admitted to practice before the California bar.

Early in his professional career Mr. Hazard acquired a reputation as a criminal lawyer but at the time of the first boom in lands, beginning about 1878, he switched from general practice to land and title cases, and made such matters his exclusive interest. At the time of his death many years later he was the oldest patent and land title attorney on the Pacific Coast.

continued

Like most professional men of early-day Los Angeles Mr. Hazard engaged in business and promotional activities in addition to his profession. He was a pioneer investor in many phases of business and acquired a large fortune. With a partner he built Hazard's Pavilion in the Eighties. At the time as the largest auditorium in Southern California it centered artistic, dramatic, literary, and social activities of the city for many years. It was displaced by the Philharmonic Auditorium in 1905.

From his early youth Mr. Hazard was prominent in civic affairs, and as a mature man was a leader in public life. In 1873 he was a member of the first (volunteer) organized fire company. He is on record as having decided opinions on most of the public questions of the day. He favored state division during that agitation fifty or sixty years ago, and was an outstanding figure in the harbor contest. As a member of the executive committee he made various trips to the national capitol to lobby for a free harbor at San Pedro.

After serving as City Attorney 1880-1882, Mr. Hazard was elected for two terms in the State Assembly, following which he was elected mayor of Los Angeles.

As City Attorney he brought the memorable suits against certain railroads which ended in the city receiving back public lands illegally held by the roads. Lincoln Park is situated on part of this land.

He was an aggressive mayor. Included in his platform was the assurance of better politics, and good playgrounds and parks. In office he accomplished much along these lines, particularly with the parks, as his interest in playgrounds and parks was of many years standing. He was officially responsible for the planting of thousands of eucalypti in Elysian Park.

continued

Mayor Hazard was the first official who put through the law regarding deposit of public funds by the City Treasurer which obtains today. Before his incumbency public funds either were or were not deposited, and otherwise handled at the discretion of the treasurer.

E. L. Doheny and his partner first found oil within the city boundaries during Hazard's term.

Mr. Hazard never retired from his professional career. In the latter part of his life he was associated with Herman Miller as Hazard and Miller, patent attorneys. Likewise he remained interested in civic life, where he was one of the familiar and popular figures, always ready with a public address or anecdote for the formal or informal occasion.

He died at his mansion, August 7, 1921, in Los Angeles.

---