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MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY
300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

NAME Molony, Richard (deceased April 20, 1938)

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY:

City Council.....1879-1880

Fire Commission....1908-1910

COUNTY:

STATE:

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Blacksmith and wheelwright business
Business man
City official
Carriage manufacturer

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE: 1 attached

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

Richard Molony's interests in politics began as a very young man and continues to this date. He clearly recalls the agitated days of the Civil War when California was racked by pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions,

According to Mr. Molony, Dennis Carney was a political boss of Los Angeles when he began his carriage business here in 1871, Mayor Spence was the best mayor the city ever had, and that his own days on the council were very quiet.

In 1875 when the first local organization of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded Mr. Molony was a founder member and served as treasurer.

Father Clement, beloved and prominent civic figure, is the son of Mr. Molony by his first wife Ellen.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

See other page

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

PERSONAL INTERVIEW:

INTERVIEWED BY: Luella Sawyer

DATE OF INTERVIEW: December 11, 1934

**REWRITTEN BY: Clare Wallace
December 1, 1936**

The Los Angeles Public Library

Local History Collection

Biography

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NAME Molony, Richard (deceased April 20, 1938)

Occupation Retired business man, wagon and carriage manufacturer

Address 306 S. Virgil Avenue, Los Angeles

Birth (Date and Place) February 25, 1839, Syracuse, N. Y.

FATHER Michael Molony

Birth (Date and Place) Ireland

If Deceased, When 1858

MOTHER Joanna Murphy

Birth (Date and Place) County Limerick, Ireland

If Deceased, When 189-'s

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM 1st Ellen Mulcahey
2nd Katherine Fennessy
3rd Katherine Collins

Birth of Same (Date and Place) 1 Ireland
1 1875 2 Ireland

If Deceased, When 2 1893 3 Ireland
3 1923

When Married 1 1867
2 1878 3 1897

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

By first wife Mary Cunningham By second wife Dr. William R.

Mark (deceased, 1920) Margaret

Nellie Frances

Father Clement-see Joanna

biography, McGroarty's

From the Mountains to

the Sea, vol 11, p 146

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

(In the case of printed matter, please give date and publisher; of periodical publica-
tions 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.)

Newmark's Sixty Years in Southern California,
p 239

Workman's City That Grew, p 126

Historical Sketch of Los Angeles County, p 87

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.)

Multiple horizontal lines for handwritten entries.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Common schools, Dubuque, Iowa

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Knights of Columbus

Ancient Order of Hibernians

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Roman Catholic

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Progressive Democrat

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1872

SKETCH

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

~~Richard Molony was born February 25, 1839, in Syracuse, New York. When a child he was taken by his father, via Erie Canal and horse and wagon, to Dubuque, Iowa, where he assisted on the farm and went to public school.~~

~~Upon attaining his majority he cast his first vote for Stephen A. Douglas, against Abraham Lincoln, and shortly afterward, during the Civil War in 1862, moved to San Francisco, traveling via Panama.~~

~~There Mr. Molony engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages until 1872 when he removed to Los Angeles and resumed the same business. Establishing his shop on Aliso street with excellent equipment for vehicle construction he turned out some of the finest carriage work of the early days. of the city, according to chroniclers of the times, He built and delivered to the city of Los Angeles the first patrol wagon for the Police Department.~~

~~Mr. Molony participated in the early political activities of the city, with the Democratic party.~~

~~Under Mayor Toberman in 1879 he was elected to the City Council, from the 2nd ward, and served two years. While in the Council he served on the following committees: Police, Land, Fire and Water, and Finance.~~

~~He was appointed to the Housing Commission in 1906, but resigned immediately without service.~~

~~In December of 1908 Mr. Molony was appointed to the Fire Commission and served during 1909 and 1910. His name on a tablet of the Whittier Boulevard fire station in the 2900 block, commemorates his commissionership during the construction of the building.~~

~~continued~~

SKETCH: Molony, Richard

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In 1899 when he was sixty years old, he retired from active business. Today, at 97, years, Mr. Molony remains still active and attends to a considerable amount of his personal business interests himself. He resides in Los Angeles.

HOBBIES: Democratic Conventions

Richard Molony, L. A. Pioneer, Dies at 99

Richard Molony, pioneer settler who served as city councilman and fire commissioner in the early days of Los Angeles, but who took his greatest pride in his workmanship as a wagon maker, died today at the age of 99 years.

Death came for him at 7 o'clock this morning at his home at 306 South Virgil avenue. He was injured several weeks ago when he fell in his home and broke his hip. But relatives said his heart finally wore out.

He celebrated his ninety-ninth birthday last Feb. 25. At that time the city council adopted a resolution praising him as an outstanding citizen and crediting him with the honor of having built the first patrol wagon for the police department and the first hook-and-ladder outfit for the fire department.

L. A. DUSTY PUEBLO

Los Angeles was a dusty pueblo of 5000 souls when Mr. Molony first came here in 1872 and swung a blacksmith's hammer in his father's wagon shop in Aliso street and soon became the city's foremost builder of fashionable carriages.

One of the memorable jobs done by Mr. Molony, and of which he was especially proud, was the construction of a leather spring coach

of elaborate design. It was ordered by John Bradbury, scion of one of the most prominent Los Angeles families, to take his bride, Lucy Banning, then the toast of the city, on a trip to the Bradbury mines in Mexico.

Mr. Molony also was credited with being the eldest member and first secretary of the Los Angeles chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

IN L. A. 66 YEARS AGO

Born in Syracuse, N. Y., Mr. Molony came to California in 1862, settling first in Bloomfield, Sonoma county. He came to Los Angeles 66 years ago and retired from active business in 1899.

Despite his prosperous wagon business, he found time to serve as a member of the City Council from 1879 to 1880, and in 1908 Mayor Alexander appointed him to the fire commission, where he served for two terms.

Mr. Molony leaves two sons and four daughters, all them prominent in the professional and social



RICHARD MOLONY

L. A. Pioneer, 99, Taken by Death

life of the city; 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

His sons are Dr. William R. Molony sr., prominent physician, and Rev. Clement Molony, pastor of St. Agnes' Catholic church.

His daughters are Mrs. Mary M. Cunningham, and the Misses Johanna, Frances and Margaret Molony.

Funeral services, tentatively set for next Friday, are in charge of the Cunningham & O'Connor mortuary.

Hollywood Citizen

Thursday, April 21, 1938

RICHARD MOLONY

Rosary for Richard Molony, 99, former fire commissioner, city councilman and builder of Los Angeles' first fire wagon and patrol wagon, who died yesterday at his home, 306 S. Virgil Ave., will be recited today at 8 p.m. at the residence. Requiem mass will be sung tomorrow at 10 a.m. at St. Agnes Church.

A native of Syracuse, N. Y., Mr. Molony came to Los Angeles 68 years ago. He is survived by two sons, four daughters, 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Richard Molony, Carriage Builder, Honored at 98

Friends were dropping in today to greet Richard Molony, pioneer Los Angeles builder of carriages and fire wagons of horse-drawn days on the occasion of his ninety-eighth birthday. Mr. Molony lives with three of his daughters, Misses Margaret, Frances and Johanna, at 306 South Virgil avenue.

He came here more than 60 years ago and took a big part in the life of the city, but when the automobile came, he retired from the carriage business and went into real estate.

His sons, living here, include Rev. Clement Molony of St. Agnes' church and Dr. William R. Molony. A daughter is Mrs. Mary M. Cunningham and his grandson is Vincent Cunningham of Cunningham & O'Connor funeral directors.

