

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

Summerland, Theodore

NAME Summerland, Theodore (December 5, 1919)

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD (DATE)

CITY:

City Council

1891-92

1903-06

COUNTY:

STATE

Railroad Commission

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

**BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Insurance Broker  
State Official  
City Official

**PORTRAIT:**

**ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE:** None

**PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)**

The Los Angeles Public Library  
Local History Collection  
Biography

NAME Summerland, Theodore (Deceased Dec. 5, 1919)

Occupation Life Insurance Broker

Address

Birth (Date and Place) September 6, 1853

Carlisle, Pennsylvania

FATHER

Birth (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When

MOTHER

Birth (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Estelle Unger

Birth of Same (Date and Place) Wilkesbarre, Pa. July 7, 1887

If Deceased, When

When Married July 3, 1907 Los Angeles

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)





## SKETCH

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

Theodore Summerland was born in Carlisle Pennsylvania on September 6, 1853, where he resided until 1862.

Mr. Summerland's father had migrated to California in 1849 during the Gold Rush when he crossed the plains with team and wagon and lived for a time in Marysville where he established a general merchandise store. In 1862 his family joined him. The family resided in Marysville several years, later removing to Santa Clara.

Theodore Summerland was educated in the public schools of Marysville and Santa Clara. After completing his secondary education he entered the life insurance business in which field he was very successful.

In addition to his professional activities Mr. Summerland was interested in civic life. Representing the 8th. Ward he served in the City Council from 1889 to 1892. In 1903 he was elected to the Council from the 4th Ward where he served until 1906. During his last two years in office he was President of the Council. He also served as a member of the State Railroad Commission just before the body was reorganized by Governor Hiram Johnson.

Because of ill health Mr. Summerland curtailed his civic activities in 1907 but continued his financial support of worthy philanthropies until the date of his death, December 5, 1919, in Los Angeles.

## **ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:**

Mr. Summerland was a prominent member of the Elks Order and was one of the founders and the first exalted ruler of Los Angeles Lodge #99.

As one of the leaders in the campaign to raise a large fund for the building of the New Elks Club Mr. Summerland took a prominent part in the affairs of the organization and as a tribute to his memory upon his death he was laid to rest with the impressive services of his Elks Lodge.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

**BOOKS:** L.A. from the Mountains to the Sea  
By John Steven McGroarty Vol 111 p 810

L.A. City Vital Statistics -Death Records

**NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:**

**PERSONAL INTERVIEW:** None

**INTERVIEWED BY:**

**DATE OF INTERVIEW**

Written By: Florence H. Goddard  
July 26, 1937