

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

NAME Workman, Elijah H. (deceased July 17, 1906)

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY: Board of Education 1879-1880
City Council, May 1866-May 1867, Dec. 1869-Dec. 1870
City Council, 3rd Ward, 1871-1872, 1874-1875
Board of Equalization 1869-1870

COUNTY:

STATE

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Harness and saddlery business

Merchant

Pioneer agriculturist

City official

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE: None

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

Elijah H. Workman was of the pioneer type of public figure: he wore boots to his dying day and lacked the more formal education of our own times. With the conscientious fulfillment of his public duties he combined the pioneer spirit of enterprise and development.

Shortly after the Civil War he recrossed the plains to Booneville, Missouri, to marry his childhood sweetheart, and brought back seeds for trees and plants which he propagated in his own yard.

In 1870 while a member of the committee for the establishment of a public park, first known as Central, then as Los Angeles or Sixth Street Park, and now as Pershing Square, he planted seedlings from his own garden and nursed them with water hauled in barrels from his own property.

These elms and maples are now among the largest trees in the square. The old rubber trees still growing in the Plaza were planted and irrigated by Mr. Workman in the same manner. He was a pioneer agriculturist. His home which stood where Eleventh and Main streets now join, stood in an area embracing Tenth to Eleventh and from Hill to Main Streets, all of which was planted with orange trees and flowers.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS: See other page

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: None

INTERVIEWED BY:

DATE OF INTERVIEW

WRITTEN BY: Clare Wallace
July 14, 1937

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Workman, Elijah H. (deceased July 17, 1906)

Occupation Merchant

Address

Birth (Date and Place) October 20, 1835, Missouri

FATHER David Workman

Birth (Date and Place) Clifton-Penrith, England

If Deceased, When 1854, near Puente, California

MOTHER Nancy Hook

Birth (Date and Place) Virginia

If Deceased, When January 30, 1887, Los Angeles

1st Julia C. Benedict

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM 2nd Gilla Maria Corum

3rd Anna K. Webb

Birth of Same (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When 1st. October 15, 1870

3rd. August 7, 1905

When Married 1st. Missouri

2nd. March 12, 1872, Los Angeles 3rd June 26, 1884

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters) L. A.

Gilleta M.

Laura: Mrs. Conrad Krebs

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.)

- Workman, The City That Grew
- Graves, My Seventy Years in California
- Newmark, Sixty Years in Southern California
- Spalding, History and Reminiscences of Los Angeles City and County, vol 1
- Warner, Hayes, Widney, Historical Sketch of Los Angeles County

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 was brother of William H. Workman who was mayor and prominent in civic and official life of Los Angeles.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Protestant

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Democrat

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1854

SKETCH

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

Elijah H. Workman was born October 20, 1835, in Missouri. At nineteen years of age he crossed the plains with his parents and brothers and settled in Los Angeles.

Here he became one of the pioneer merchants and civic figures. With his brother, William H. Workman, he conducted a harness and saddlery manufacturing shop on Main Street for many years. Workman Brothers also dealt in hides which were then a recognized medium of exchange throughout the Southwest.

Entering politics Mr. Workman was first elected to the City Council in 1866. During the following fifteen years he was active in the political and official life of the city, serving four different terms in the Council, and one on the Board of Education.

In the years succeeding his official life Mr. Workman continued civic and municipal activities until retirement. He died July 17, 1906, at his home in Los Angeles.