

# LOS ANGELES CITY OFFICIALS FROM 1850 TO THE PRESENT

## INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles history project was initiated by the Works Project Administration in the 1930's during the Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It sought to identify and record the terms of office of individuals who, over the years, served in the government of the City of Los Angeles. It includes all elected officials who held the offices of Mayor, City Attorney, City Controller and members of the City Council; and all appointed commissioners who served on the various municipal boards. The City Clerk at the time, Robert Dominguez, secured the assistance of librarians from the City's Library Department and directed them to use the Common and City Council Minute Books to develop the project.

Work on the project was interrupted briefly in 1939 when Mayor Fletcher Bowron (1938-1953) came to its rescue and assigned it to the staff of the Municipal Reference Library, a division of the Library Department. At that time there was no City Archives. Data compiled by the project for the years 1850-1965 was published in four volumes including an index, but work on the project was inexplicably halted.

Hynda L. Rudd, the City's Records Management Officer and first Archivist, now retired, was approached by the late noted historian Dr. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr who urged her to revive the project and update it through the year 2010. With the support of the Los Angeles City Historical Society, Ms. Rudd obtained a grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation to support the work, which included consolidating the data in the published four books with the updated information in this computer-based program. Future updates will be the responsibility of the Records Management Division of the City Clerk.

A tutorial is available to assist the researcher. The database includes organization charts which show the changes in the structure of the city's government since 1850. Previous publications have focused on various aspects of Los Angeles municipal government, including in depth studies of the evolution and maturation of specific functions. This project identifies the movers and shakers who participated in the overall government of the city since 1850. This information will be updated periodically by the Records Management Division of the City Clerk. The main body of this database consists of a chronological record, term by term, of all city officials (elected and appointed), numbering more than 40,000 individuals, who have served the city since its incorporation in 1850. There are seven indexes which enable the researcher to focus more precisely on the area of interest.

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