

Francis Pliny Fisk Temple

Father of Temple City's Founder



The youngest of 10 children, Francis Pliny Fisk (FPF) Temple was born on February 13, 1822 in Reading, Massachusetts. Traveling around Cape Horn, FPF Temple arrived in Los Angeles in 1841 to join his brother Jonathan, who had become a leading businessman in Pueblo de Los Angeles. He worked for his brother as a clerk. He married Antonio Margarita Workman, the daughter of William Workman, and their marriage produced 12 children. His father-in-law gave him a share of Rancho La Merced located east of Los Angeles. On this land, he planted a vineyard, 30 acres of fruit trees, became involved in real estate, and bred and sold cattle.

In 1850, FPF Temple was elected as Los Angeles Treasurer, then served on the

first Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors two years later.

In 1868, he and his father-in-law, William Workman formed the banking house of Hellman, Temple & Co. Within 3 years, Hellman left the business and Workman and Temple continued as the Temple & Workman Bank in downtown Los Angeles. In 1875, when every bank in the state closed their doors, the Temple & Workman Bank went bankrupt due to mismanagement. Temple never recovered from this disaster.

FPF Temple died on April 27, 1880 at age 58. He was survived by his wife and 7 of his children.