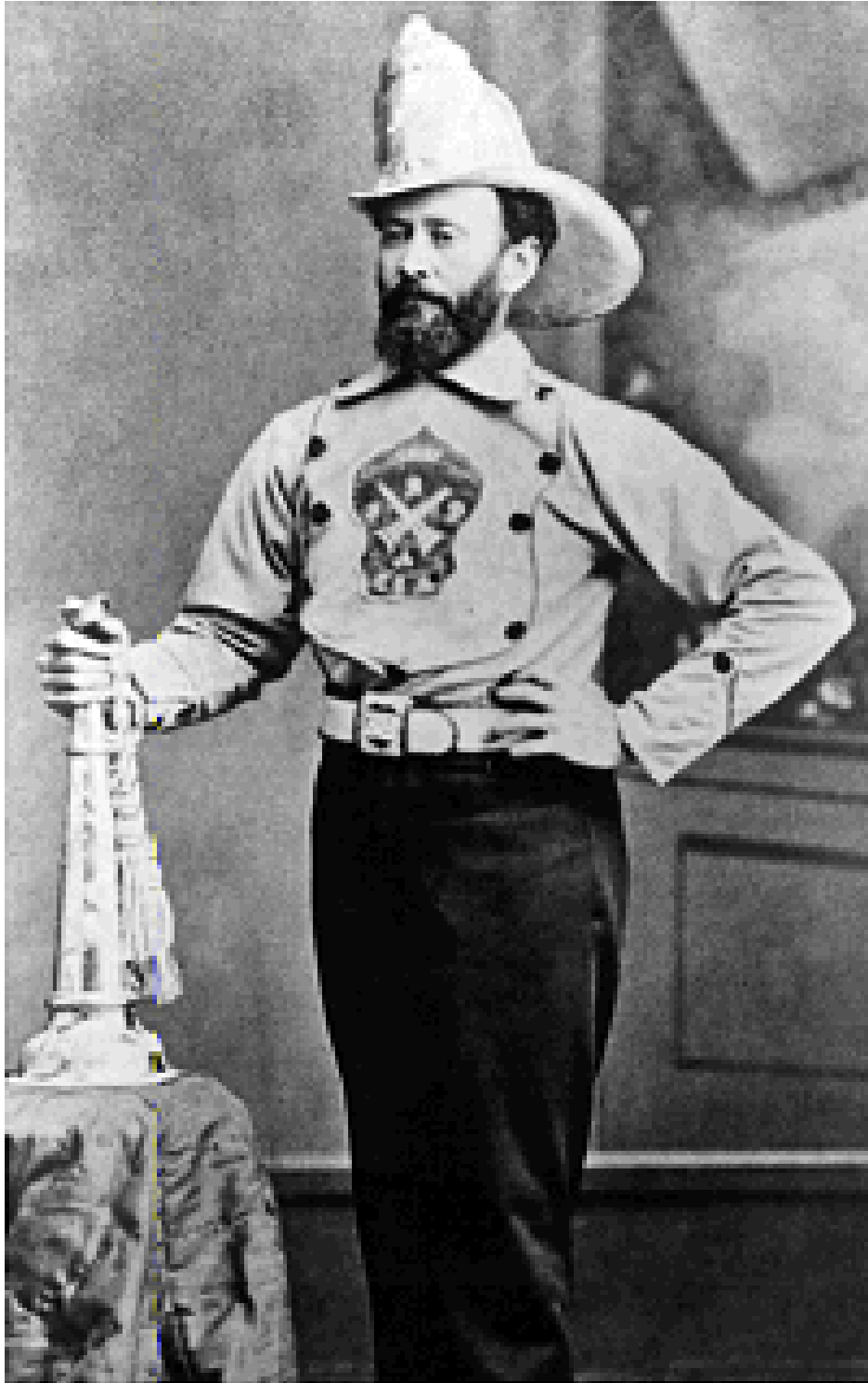


Charles E. Miles



Chief Engineer Charles E. Miles served as the first Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles Volunteer Fire Department 1873 to 1875, and June 20, 1876 to March 1880.

A civil engineer by profession, he had ties with the Los Angeles Water Company in its early days. Starting out as a member, afterwards captain of the "Thirty-Eights," Miles became chief of the Los Angeles fire department. He was the first and only paid employee of the volunteer company and a major influence in the development of the Department. His accomplishments, which are appreciated by members to this day, include the passage of an 1898 bond issue providing \$150,000 for the purchase of sites; the construction of 12 municipally-owned fire stations; plans for a Firemen's pension system; and greater efficiency with the fire alarm system.

As a fireman, Charles E. Miles was of the order of the superlative. "Charley," as he was known all over Southern California by his friends, who were in truth legion, came to Los Angeles from Baltimore and was a type of the Maryland good fellow--none better. No one who knew him in his bright, halcyon days would ever have dreamed that he would have such a sad ending. He was a civil engineer by profession, and was connected with the Los Angeles Water Company in its early days. Starting out as a member, afterwards captain of the "Thirty-Eights," Miles became chief of the Los Angeles fire department.

Unfortunately for him he entered politics, a role in which he was surprisingly popular. He had every qualification for politics but one, he could not for the life of him say no.