



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR JAMES B. WINSTON

Term: 1868 - 1871
District: Not Applicable
Date of Birth: May 26, 1820
Death: Sept. 9, 1884

James B. Winston served as county supervisor for one term. He was elected to office in 1868 to a two-year term. On Sept. 1, 1869, elections were held for the County's newly divided four district supervisorial seats. Winston was not re-elected, but all the incumbents remained in office through 1871.

Winston was born in Culpepper County, Va., on May 26, 1820, where he grew up and attended public schools. He went on to college and in 1839 received his M.D. degree from the University of Virginia. For the next 10 years, he practiced first in Virginia, then later in Kentucky.

In 1849 Winston moved to Los Angeles and made a career change to the hotel business. He partnered with Alpheus P. Hodges and together they took over and managed the old, historic Bella Union Hotel under the name of Winston and Hodges. It was during their ownership that extensive improvements were made and a second story and balcony were added.

Winston also became a prominent figure in civic affairs, and was a member of a voluntary vigilance committee known as the Rangers, which was organized to assist in fighting crime; as well as the party planning committee, which arranged for all of the town's dances.

Winston's community involvement led to several public services jobs, including city councilman (1861-1862, 1863-1864); member of the board of health (1862-1863); county supervisor, and as health officer (1879-1883).

On Sept. 9, 1884, Winston died. He was 64, and was survived by his wife, Margarita, daughter of California pioneer Juan Bandini and maternal great-granddaughter of Jose Dario Arguello, governor of California (1814-1815).

Three years after his death, the Los Angeles City Council passed an ordinance changing the name of Ogier Lane, on which his residence had been located, to Winston Street.

Source: The Historical Society of Southern California.