



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR WILLIAM M. STOCKTON

Term: 1857
District: Not Applicable
Date of Birth: Unknown
Death: Unknown

William M. Stockton served as county supervisor for one term. He was elected to office in 1857.

Stockton is considered an early pioneer of California, part of one of the first parties to cross Death Valley in 1849 and 1850 enroute to Northern California in search of gold.

In the mid 1850s, after striking gold, Stockton moved to Los Angeles, and was one of the early founders of the city. His involvement in civic affairs led to election to the County Board of Supervisors.

After retiring from public life, Stockton continued his mining operations. In 1883 he made claims to some mines in Nevada. On his return trip to Los Angeles, Stockton came upon relics from a failed journey of early pioneers who died in Death Valley 30 years earlier while on their quest for gold. The party made their fateful trip at about the same time that Stockton had completed his. He brought back an ox chain which, although dropped in the sand in 1850, was as bright and fresh as if it had just come from the blacksmith shop. Stockton presented it to the Society of California Pioneers in honor of those who died.

Stockton was a resident of San Gabriel.

Source: Los Angeles Times, July 4, 1883.