



# County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

## **SUPERVISOR FIELDING W. GIBSON**

Term: 1861 - 1863  
District: Not Applicable  
Date of Birth: 1809  
Death: 1892

Fielding W. Gibson served as county supervisor for two terms. He was elected in 1861 and re-elected again in 1862. Supervisors served one-year terms until 1862, when they started two-year terms.

Born in Natchez, Miss. in 1809, Gibson spent the early years of his life working on the farm in his hometown as well as in Louisiana. He also became a large dealer and speculator in real estate.

In 1851 he traveled from New Orleans, through Mexico to Mazatlan, and by steamer to San Francisco. From there Fielding ventured to the gold mines in Sacramento, where he made \$7,000 in six months.

The scarcity of cattle in Northern California motivated him to go back to Mexico where he purchased a herd of cattle, and attempted to drive them back to Northern California. The men he hired to help him on the cattle drive wound up stealing most of the stock. By the time he reached San Gabriel Valley, he had only 82 head of cattle left out of a herd of 550.

Gibson decided to settle in the San Gabriel Valley. He purchased a 250- acre ranch, and began farming and raising cattle. The property was located one-half mile west of El Monte.

In 1853 he married Betsy Aldrich.

Gibson died in 1892 at the age of 83. He was survived by his five children: Edward, Fielding, Bruce, Blanche and Gadi.

Sources: History of Los Angeles.