



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR WILLIAM M. OSBORN

Term: 1883 - 1885
District: Third
Date of Birth: Oct. 30, 1835
Death: Not Available

William M. Osborn served as county supervisor for one term. He was elected in November 1882 and assumed office on Jan. 8, 1883.

Osborn was born Oct. 30, 1835, in New York. At an early age, his parents moved to Illinois, where he grew up and attended public schools.

In 1855, at age 20, Osborn moved to Northern California in search of gold. He worked in the goldmines for three years, and then headed south to Los Angeles, where he became involved in the freight shipping business. He eventually opened his own shop, shipping freight throughout the country.

In 1877, after close to 20 years in the shipping business, Osborn sold his company and began manufacturing and selling harnesses and saddles. He established his factory in an old adobe building in downtown on Main Street between Second and Third Streets. Osborn's business thrived, thanks in large part to his former business contacts in the shipping world. He was able to secure many lucrative contracts for the manufacturing of heavy truck harnesses for most of the freight companies.

In 1882 Osborn's reputation in business and involvement civic affairs led to his election to the Board of Supervisors. He also held the office of county road commissioner and was a member of the Los Angeles City Council.

Osborn and his wife, Rosetta, had two children: Rosetta and George.

Source: The History of Los Angeles County.