



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR SIDNEY ALLCUT BUTLER

Term: 1911-1914
District: 3rd District
Date of Birth: March 10, 1847
Death: June 1916

Sidney Allcut Butler assumed office as county supervisor for the 3rd District on January 3, 1911 and was elected for two terms.

Born on March 10, 1847, in Milwaukee, Wis., he was the son of T. D. and Mary Jane (Allcut) Butler.

Butler attended public schools in Milwaukee up to the middle of the Civil War. In 1863 he enlisted in a Wisconsin regiment and was one of the youngest men to fight in the war, taking part in numerous battles. In 1865 he was discharged and returned to school.

In the fall of 1866, he quit school and went to work as an assistant agent for the American Express Company in La Crosse, Wis. At the end of two years, he resigned and took a job in railroad construction with Cameron and Company. After a short time he was promoted to superintendent of construction for the firm. He remained in that job for one year. In 1869 Butler resigned to take a job as assistant agent for the Memphis and Arkansas River Packet Company in Memphis, Tenn. On December 24, 1869, he married Kitty Keller and they had two children, Sidney T. and Edward J. Butler.

Butler returned to La Crosse in 1871, where he resumed his career in railroad construction work with the firm of Rossiter and Company. In 1874 he took a job with J. C. Easton, owner of a chain of banks in the Northwest, to learn the banking business. For the next two years Butler was in charge of the Easton Bank at Wells, Minn. He rejoined the Cameron Company in 1876 as an agent in Chicago and was again busy in railroad construction. He left the Cameron Company a short time later and went to work for the Santa Fe Railroad building company. His most notable work was the building of the Santa Fe Railroad's branch through the Grand Canyon of the Arkansas River, sometimes called The Royal Gorge. He assisted in building the Santa Fe road between Las Vegas and Lamy, N.M.

In 1879 he moved to Kansas City, Mo., where he became clerk/general agent for the Pacific Express Company. Soon thereafter Pacific and United States Express Companies consolidated and he was made general agent for both companies. In 1886 he resigned and moved to Los Angeles, assisting in building a railroad to Flagstaff, Ariz.

In 1889 he was made agent of the Wells Fargo Company of Los Angeles, and worked there until 1904, when he was transferred to San Francisco. In 1905 he was made assistant superintendent for the Northwest region, and later named the office manager.

In 1907 Butler retired. He returned to Los Angeles and became the "father of the "good roads movement" there. He organized the Los Angeles County Roads Association. He was also instrumental in getting the Port of San Pedro incorporated as part of the city of Los Angeles.

He went abroad in 1909, and while in Europe received many communications asking him to run for the 3rd District Supervisorial seat. He did so and was elected on the Republican ticket in 1911 and again in 1913. Butler resigned from office on March 9, 1914 and was replaced by Frank E. Woodley on March 16. During his time as supervisor, Butler continued to push for his public works projects and through his efforts the County today enjoys its network of roadways. He was a director of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and was first chairman of the Lincoln - Roosevelt Republican League.

Butler died in June 1916.

Sources:

Los Angeles Times, June 6, 1916
Who's Who in the Pacific Southwest
Press Reference Library, West Ed., 1913