



## County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



### SUPERVISOR OSCAR MACY

Term: 1885 - 1889  
District: Second  
Date of Birth: July 28, 1829  
Death: Nov. 1, 1910

Oscar Macy served as county supervisor for one term. He was elected in November 1884 and assumed office on Jan. 3, 1885.

Macy was born in Indiana on July 28, 1829. In 1851, at age 21, the family moved to Los Angeles via ox and wagon along with 50 other families. During the nine-month trip across the plains, the caravan was attacked by Indians several times, but there were no casualties.

Soon after his arrival, Macy headed to Northern California with his brother-in-law in search of gold. After a year of disappointment, Macy moved to Sacramento, where he worked as a printer for a local newspaper.

In 1853 he returned to Los Angeles and worked for his father clerking at the old Bella Union Hotel. He later got a job as a printer for the trade paper "Southern Vineyard" and later on the Los Angeles Star newspaper.

In 1857 Macy opened the first public bath house, having built a water wheel with small cans attached to the paddles to dip water up from the Alameda River as a means for supplying his tank.

He was one of the prominent early members of the Republican Party in Southern California. In 1861 Macy was appointed deputy collector of customs at San Pedro. He later served as city treasurer, and in 1871 became a member of the Los Angeles City Council. During his term in office, "Macy" street was named in his honor, not so much because of his membership on the City Council but because his parents' old family home had been for many years the only house on that unnamed thoroughfare west of Alameda. He and his family are considered one of the early pioneers of Los Angeles. He was a member of the Pioneer's Society.

After leaving the City Council, Macy split his time shepherding, working at the Los Angeles Star, and serving as the Los Angeles County jailer. In 1884 he was elected to the Board of Supervisors. During his term as supervisor, the old County Jail was built. The jail was later demolished to make way for what is now the location of the Hall of Records. He returned to the editorship of the Los Angeles Star in 1889 and remained active in the newspaper world until June 1903, when he retired because of failing health.

On Nov. 1, 1910, Macy died. He was 81, and was survived by his four children: Oscar, Jr., Irene, Alice and Stella.