



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR WILLIAM THOMAS MARTIN

Term: 1887 - 1891
District: First
Date of Birth: Oct. 8, 1844
Death: April 23, 1936

William Thomas "Tooch" Martin served as county supervisor for one term. He was elected in November 1886 and assumed office on Jan. 7, 1887.

Martin was born October 8, 1844, near Clarksville, Texas. In October 1853, when Martin was 9, the family moved to California via wagon train. Instead of heading north to the goldmines as so many did, the family settled in El Monte and began farming. Martin grew up working on the family farm and attended public schools.

At age 19 he received a teaching credential and taught grammar school in El Monte for two years. He fell in love with one of his students and married her in 1865. Martin left teaching and went back to farming as well as bee-keeping.

In 1869 he moved to the San Dimas/Claremont area. Martin secured 160 acres of government land and continued his farming and bee-keeping pursuits for the next 15 years. In 1884 he sold his farm and moved to Pomona, where he built a home and lived with one of his sons. He is regarded as one of the early pioneers of Pomona.

Martin was a Democrat who played an active role in civic affairs. In 1886 this involvement led to his election to the Board of Supervisors. During his term as county supervisor, the old brownstone courthouse at Broadway and Temple Streets was built. Martin also served as a deputy sheriff and justice of the peace in Pomona for a combined total of 13 years. In 1906 he returned to raising bees.

His credits included membership in the Masonic Lodge, the Knights of Pythias Lodge, and the Knights of Labor Lodge.

On April 23, 1936, Martin died. He was 91, and was survived by four children: Thomas, Robert, Carrie and Maggie.

Source: The Historical Society of Southern California, The History of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles Times, April 24, 1936.