



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR JOHN J. MORTON

Term: 1876 - 1879
District: Second
Date of Birth: March 13, 1839
Death: Unknown

John J. Morton served as county supervisor for two terms. He assumed office on Feb. 3, 1877, and was re-elected in 1878. Morton was replaced by W.F. Cooper in March 1880 mid-way through his second term.

Morton was born March 13, 1839, in Michigan, where he grew up and attended local schools. In 1859, at the age of 20, Morton moved with his family to Stockton, Calif., where they began farming.

In 1867 Morton and his father, along with three other pioneers, headed south to Los Angeles County and founded the city of Compton, named after Griffith Dickson Compton, one of the founding fathers.

Morton bought 150 acres of land and built a lucrative business in general farming, dairying and raising cattle. Morton is credited with playing a key role in the growth and prosperity of Compton. He served as justice of the peace, school trustee and road overseer, and county supervisor.

He was a staunch Republican, and was one of the first Republicans to be elected to any office in the county. He was a member of the Masonic Temple, Anchor Lodge No. 273, Al Malaikah Temple, Pioneers of Southern California and the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Morton was married and had 10 children – Jasper; Anna; Eva; John; Jerry; Katie and Willie, twins; Lydia; Richard; and Asa.

Source: A History of California.