



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR GEORGE ALEXANDER

Term: 1901 -1909
District: Second District
Date of Birth: September 21, 1839
Death: August 2, 1923

George Alexander was elected county supervisor in 1901 and re-elected to a second term in 1905.

Alexander was born on September 21, 1839, near Glasgow, Scotland. When he was 11, his parents immigrated to America, settling first in Chicago. Five years later the family moved to Tama County, Iowa and became one of the first farming pioneers in that area.

Young Alexander's opportunities for education were few. While in Chicago, he attended public schools and helped earn money for the family by selling newspapers; later he assisted on the farm in Iowa; then in his early manhood fought in the Civil War.

In 1862 he married Annie Yeiser, and they eventually had three children, two of whom survived - Frank and Lydia. Four months after the marriage, Alexander enlisted with the Iowa volunteers, and served with General Grant's campaign around Vicksburg and under General Bank's command in the Red River Campaign. When his regiment was transferred to the East under General Sheridan's command, he served throughout the Shenandoah Valley campaign, witnessing Sheridan's famous ride from Winchester to Cedar Creek.

After the war Alexander settled in Belle Plaine, Iowa and took a job learning the grain business with the Twogood Brothers, earning \$40 per month. In the early 1870s he started his own grain and feed business and built additional warehouses in Toledo and Dysart, Iowa. During this time he became prominently connected with the politics of the Republican Party, and held a number of important and responsible positions.

In 1887 Alexander moved to Los Angeles and expanded his grain business. He built a feed mill and ran it for about two years, then entered public service.

In 1892 he was appointed deputy street superintendent under E.H. Hutchinson, superintendent of streets. Two years later he was also named deputy county recorder under E.C. Hodgman. Alexander performed both jobs simultaneously until 1901, when he was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and served until January of 1909.

On March 26, 1909 Los Angeles held a recall election against Mayor Arthur G. Harper. This recall provision was incorporated into the charter in 1903. At the age of 70, Alexander was the candidate nominated by the citizens to oppose Harper, and was elected by a slender majority. After serving a nine-month term, he was re-elected at the regular December election and served as mayor to June 1913.

After retirement from public office, Alexander led a quiet life with his family in Los Angeles, where he died on August 2, 1923.

Source:

Los Angeles County Records; Historical and Biographical Record of Southern California; California Historical Quarterly.