


Please fill this blank with data for an outline of your biography, and return by mail at your early convenience to Chas. F. Lummis, Librarian, Public Library, Los Angeles, California.

For the LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY'S DEPARTMENT OF
"Western History-Material."

This data is not for a book, but to file for reference as part of local history. These archives are to include biographies and portraits of all prominent citizens, living and dead.

Your photograph should be filed also.

 The Palace Studio, 351 So. Broadway, will make a portrait of you for these files, free of charge.

Doc. - 18619, 1922

Name in full Robert MacLay Widney CT 2
Chief Occupation Attorney at Law
Date of beginning it 1865
Address 305 S. Grand Ave. Los Angeles Cal.
Place of Birth near Piquet Miami Co. Ohio
Date of Birth December 23rd 1838
Parents { Father Wilson Widney
Mother (maiden name in full) Abigail MacLay
Dates of your Father's Birth (and death) 1809 - 1852
Dates of your Mother's Birth (and death) 1811 - 1880
Names of her Parents Robert MacLay - Abigail Erwin
Important Ancestors, Paternal or Maternal _____
Married or unmarried Yes
If Married, to whom (full name) Mrs Mary Barnes
Date of Marriage Nov 11th 1868 Place San Francisco Cal.
Education (when and where) in detail. Give name, place and dates of public and private schools, academies, colleges, business and technical schools attended, with degrees conferred (if any), and dates of graduations (if a graduate).
Graduated 1863. University of the Pacific Santa Clara Cal. Degree A. B. 1865. S.S.D. 1878. Professor of Higher Mathematics and Natural Sciences 1864-5 in University of the Pacific

(OVER)

Military, Political and Civic Record *Appointed Judge of the 17th Judicial District Court of California in and for the Counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Dec 29th 1871 by Governor Newton Booth. Admitted as Attorney and Counsellor at Law of the Supreme Court of the United States January 29th 1877. thereby entitled to practice in all the Courts of the United States, and of the various States.*

When did you come to California or the Southwest—From where?

Arrived in California Sept 1857. Overland Emigrant Train— from hunting and trapping on the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains from 1848 to 1857. left Ohio Sept 1855
Learned and Technical Societies, Titles, Decorations, Etc.

*State Delegate to the Commercial Congress at Kansas City Mo 1890— address
State Delegate to the Worlds Congress of Bankers and Financiers at the Worlds Exposition Chicago Ill 1893. address— Delegate from State Bankers.*

Association of Cal. to National Bankers Association at Saratoga N.Y. 1890— also to same in San Francisco.
Social, Political, and other important Clubs and Associations (member of)

Drew and personally secured the passage by Congress of "An Act Relating to Indemnity School Selections in the State of California" Approved March 3 1877 U.S. Statutes Vol p

Religious Denomination *Non Denominational*

Politics *First American— Second— Republican*

School of Practice (if a physician)

OFFICER OR DIRECTOR OF THE FOLLOWING CORPORATIONS, OR

MEMBER OF FOLLOWING FIRMS:

Organized and was President of

Name of Corporations or Firms

Office or Position Occupied by You

Spring & C. St. Ry. L. A. City 1874

Sos Angeles Chamber of Commerce Aug 11-1873.

Board of Directors of University
of Southern California

Sos Angeles Electric Lighting Co.

Hesperian Land & Water Co.

Markey Rancho Land & Water Co.

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL RECORD

Please furnish here sufficient data to enable the editor to do complete justice to your business or professional record. The facts should be put down in chronological order, beginning with your first occupation. All important business changes and removals, and all firms, business associations and enterprises with which you have been connected should be noted, giving exact dates whenever possible.

The address before the Commercial Congress at Kansas City is published in the volume of Reports of the same.

The address before the World's Congress of Bankers and Financiers at Chicago is published in volume entitled "World's Congress of Bankers and Financiers World's Columbian Exposition 1893 p198-245.

Incorporated and constructed the first street Ry in Sos Angeles City in 1874 under franchise from City & self. Incorporated and organized the first Chamber of Commerce in Sos Angeles Aug 11th 1873. Drew and prepared the original plans and specifications for the construction of the Breakwater from Rattlesnail Island to Leadmans Island in 1872 and secured the legislative joint resolution of March 13, 1870. Cal. Statutes 1869-1870 p921, requesting Congress to build the same. Original book now in my possession.

(OVER)

BOOKS

Author of the following Published Books, and name and address of present publishers. Please give complete list of titles, arranged in order of date of publication. If any book is out of print, or privately published, please so state. A printed list of books would assist the editor in securing accuracy. Enter books only here.

LIST OF BOOKS:

Full Title of Books	Year First Published	Name and Address of Present Publisher
<i>Bank Creation</i>	1898	
<i>Address on Finances</i>	1893	
Also various publications in pamphlet form from 1890 to 1895 on the Banking and Financial System in the United States, and a proposed Constitutional Amendment, being Joint Resolution No. 122, House of Representatives 2 Session 52 d. Congress. See Report 2614 part 2. Also Senate Bill 2949 House Bill 8311, 52 ^d Congress 1st Session. The various Banking Associations passed resolutions asking the action of Congress on this legislation.		

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Has Your Biography been published? *Sketches*

Where and when? *1892. Bancroft Chronicle of the Builders vol 2 p 318-330 Also in "Illustrated History of Los Angeles Co 1889" p 162-167. Also in "Ten Pictures from the Garden of the World" published 1884 p 162 to 166.*

Any inventions? *yes*

Important works in music or art?

Names of Children and Dates of Birth

Mary Helen Widney Sept 13. 1869

Robert Johnston Widney Dec 12 1871

Martha Frances Widney June 17. 1874

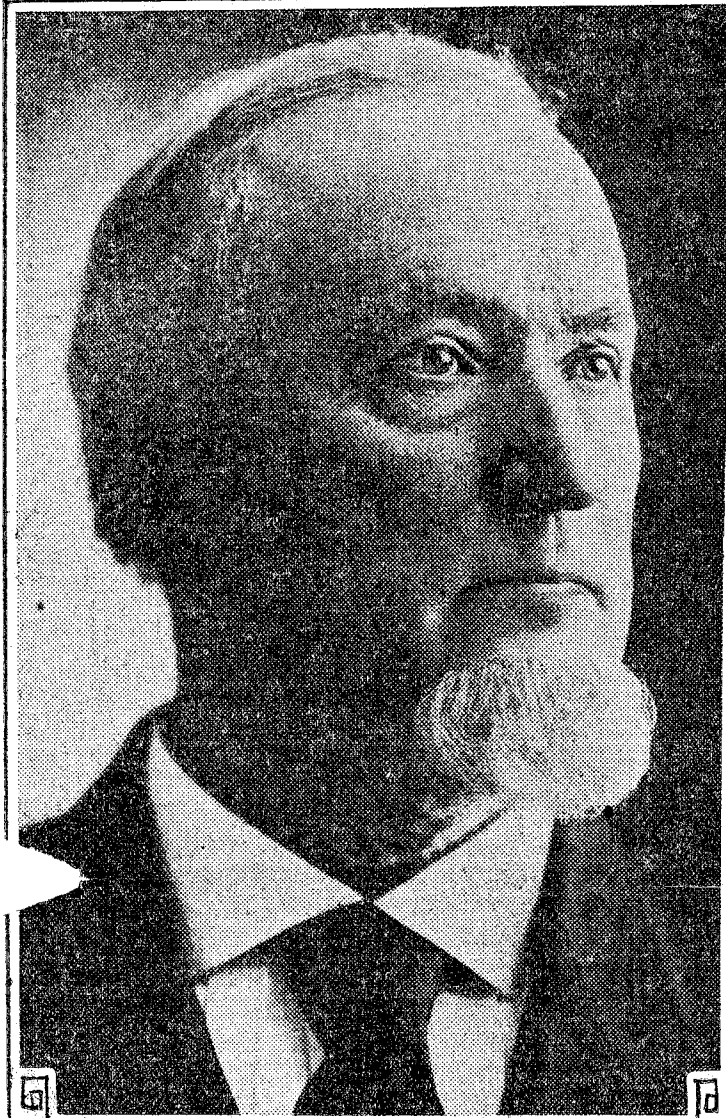
Joseph Wilson Widney Mar 25. 1879 2 1884

Arthur Barnes Widney Jan 16. 1884

Seen in "The Biographical History with Pictorial Portraits of the Great West" p 576-601

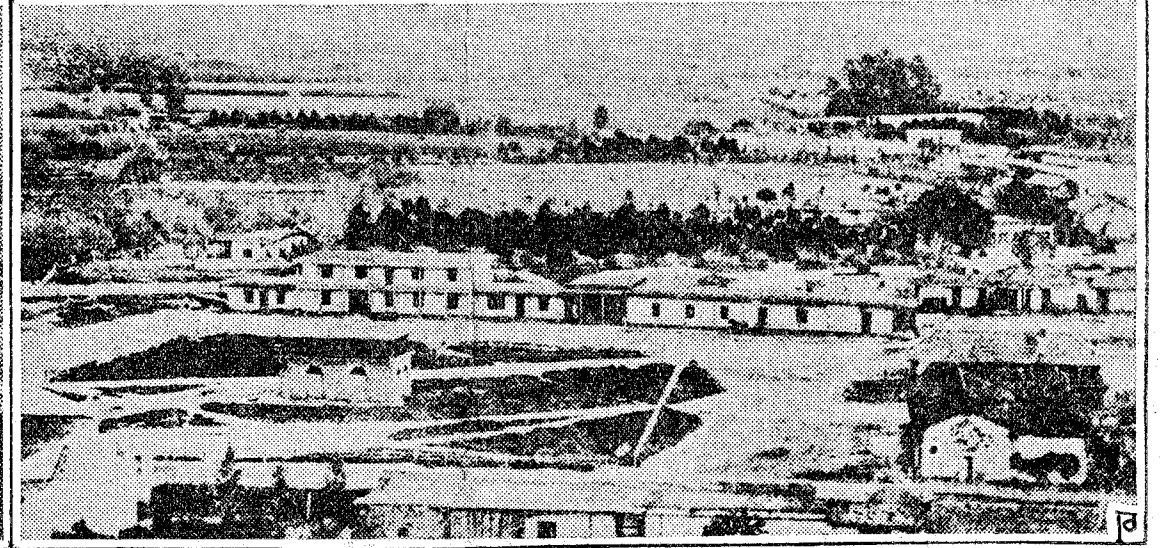
Published in Chicago 1874.

He Builted Well! L. A. COUNTY LEADS U. S. AGRICULTURE



Judge Widney was born Dec. 23, 1838, in Ohio, when it lay on the western frontier of the United States. When he was 16 years old, the new west called to him and he started overland. He lived a life of high adventure and danger on

the plains and in the Rockies, finally reaching California in 1857, riding in a covered wagon drawn by oxen. He stopped in Santa Clara county and got his first job, cutting wood at "four bits" per cord.



The boy saved his money for an education and became one of the first students at the University of the Pacific in Monterey. After graduation, he became a teacher, then a mining engineer. Later, he took up law and was admitted to the

bar in 1865. He and his bride came to Los Angeles in 1868, when it was a pueblo of 2500 sleeping in the sun. This photo, looking across the plaza, shows Los Angeles of that year. The Widneys built a house at First and Broadway.

LOS ANGELES



Judge Robert M. Widney, Los Angeles pioneer, is mourned today as one of the greatest builders of a great city. At top is a portrait of Judge Widney, who was 90 years old when called by death. The lower photos show Judge Widney and his wife, Helen Barnes Widney, about the time of their marriage in 1868. In that year they

LOS ANGELES WIDNEY DEATH

DRINKER

Judge Widney, 91, Saw City Grow From 2500, Long a Civic Leader

Judge Robert Maclay Widney, pioneer barrister and jurist of Los Angeles and also closely identified with the city's physical and spiritual growth, died today, aged 91, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Harry W. Watson, at 4439 Victorio Park.

He lived continuously in Los Angeles since 1858. In those sixty-one years he saw the city grow from 2500 people to its present size. He helped to found the University of Southern California and saw its enrollment rise from fifty students to 17,000.

He was one of the first subdividers and town developers. He laid out San Fernando City, and most of the territory thereabouts was formerly his and called the "Maclay rancho."

Judge Widney is survived by two daughters—Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Boyle Workman—a son, Arthur B. Widney, and a brother, Joseph P. Widney. Funeral services had not yet been arranged this afternoon.

STARTED WEST AT 16

Judge Widney was born in a frontier home in Miami County, Ohio, in 1838. At 16, with a rifle and knapsack, he started west alone and became a hunter and trapper. After many adventures he reached Santa Clara and entered the University of the Pacific at Monterey as a charter student.

After graduation he became professor of law at the University of the Pacific and later at the University of California. He was a member of the California bar.

That year he married Miss Mary H. a fellow graduate. The journey to Los Angeles was made in the ship "The Eagle."

In 1861 he was appointed judge of the Seventeenth Judicial District. He was a leader. A year later, in working for the subsidy, which enabled the Southern Pacific Railroad to reach Los Angeles. In 1873 he led in organizing the first Chamber of Commerce.

That same year Judge Widney was granted the first street car franchise Los Angeles ever had. It was for a horse car line which ran from Sixth and Pearl (now Figueroa) to Hill, to Fourth, to First (now Broadway), to First, to Spring. The fare was 10 cents.

VISIONED EDUCATIONAL NEED

In 1879, when Los Angeles had 11,000 people, Judge Widney was one of a group of men who first saw the need of better educational facilities. The others were Dr. J. P. Widney, his brother, Dr. J. Spence, A. M. Hough, G. D. Compton and Dr. M. M. Bovard.

These men got together, raised a small amount of money and brought into existence the first building of the University of Southern California. Just half a hundred boys were accommodated in its first classes.

Although he engaged in many large real estate operations, Judge Widney never relinquished his practice of law. He specialized in land title cases, and had two or three in preparation at the time of his death. His office was in the Spreckles Building.