

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

300 CITY HALL

R 92
M 177
V F

CITY OFFICIALS

NAME Macy, Oscar (deceased November 1, 1910)

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD (DATE)

CITY:

City Council	1872-1873
City Treasurer	1886-1888

COUNTY:

County Jailer	1858
County Supervisor	1859-1861

STATE

FEDERAL:

Deputy Collector of U.S. Customs at San Pedro	1861-65
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CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE:

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

Oscar Macy was a member of the Los Angeles City Council at the time Macy Street was opened through to the river. The street was named for him not so much because he was a member of the City Council as because the old Macy home had been for many years the only house on the unnamed street west of Alameda.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

The City That Grew - By Boyle Workman
Los Angeles From the Mountains to the Sea - McGro-
History of California, Los Angeles and arty
Environs vol II, Guinn J. M.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

Los Angeles Times

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: none

INTERVIEWED BY:

DATE OF INTERVIEW

Written by: Florence H. Goddard
December 29, 1937

SERVICES FRIDAY FOR

IRENE MACY WHITNEY

Noted 4/27/38.

Funeral services will be held next Friday at 11 a. m. for Mrs. Irene Macy Whitney, 59, of 1440½ Echo Park avenue, member of the pioneer Macy family and for 25 years on the staff of the United States Internal Revenue office in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Whitney died yesterday in the California Hospital after being ill for several months following a fall.

She was born in Los Angeles, in the family home on Macy street, which gained its name from her father, the late Oscar Macy, once a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Her grandfather, Dr. Obed Macy, came to Los Angeles in 1850 and was closely identified with the early upbuilding of the city.

Her grandfather on her mother's side was Alexander Bell, an early Los Angeles merchant. She was a niece of the late Mrs. Lucinda Macy Foy, and a cousin of Miss Mary E. Foy, well known as a civic leader.

Surviving are her brother, Oscar Macy, civil engineer, and two sisters, Miss Estelle and Miss Alice Macy.

Funeral services will be held at Pierce Brothers chapel, with interment in Rosedale Cemetery.

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

R 92
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NAME Macy, Oscar (deceased November 1, 1910)

Occupation _____

Address _____

Birth (Date and Place) July 28, 1829, Maria Creek,

Knox County, Indiana

FATHER Dr. Obed Macy

Birth (Date and Place) _____

If Deceased, When _____

MOTHER Lucinda Polk

Birth (Date and Place) _____

If Deceased, When August 3, 1872

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Margaret Elizabeth Bell

Birth of Same (Date and Place) _____

If Deceased, When _____

When Married August 24, 1873, Los Angeles

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Oscar

Estelle

Alice

Irene: Mrs. Whitney

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

Lined area for handwritten entries under the 'ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST' section.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Tutored by father, Dr. Obed Macy

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Lined area for handwritten entries under the 'CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.' section.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Methodist

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1852

SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

Oscar Macy was born July 28, 1829 in Indiana where he resided until 1851. He was educated under the tutelage of his father, Dr. Obed Macy.

Like all the pioneers of the early 50's Mr. Macy crossed the plains via the ox-team route. He was accompanied by his father, mother, several relatives and more than fifty families. More than nine months were consumed in the trip. Although attacked by Indians several times en route the party managed to arrive in Los Angeles without casualties. Very soon after his arrival Oscar Macy went north to Condemned Bar, where he and his brother-in-law, David W. Chessman, worked a gold mine. This undertaking proved unsuccessful so Mr. Macy went to Sacramento where he worked on the old Alta California as a printer. In 1853 he returned to Los Angeles first clerking for his father at the old Bella Union Hotel, then working at his trade on the trade paper "Southern Vineyard" and later on the "Los Angeles Star.

In 1857 Mr. Macy built and 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 Zanja as a medium for supplying his tank. He served as Los Angeles County Jailer during 1858 but resigned this post to become a Los Angeles County Supervisor in 1859. During his term as Supervisor the old County Jail, which was afterwards razed to make way for the Hall of Records, was built. The structure at this time was an architectural triumph and was known throughout the east as a model institution.

In recognition of his services to the Republican party he was appointed Deputy Collector of Customs at San Pedro by General John T. Miller, Collector of the Port of San Francisco where he served from March 1861 to December 1865.

continued

Elected to the City Council from the first ward on December 4, 1871 he served one term. After leaving the City Council Mr. Macy acquired a half interest in a sheep herd of ten thousand sheep on Catalina Island. These sheep ran wild requiring very little care, and only semi-yearly visits were made to look after the shearing, packing and shipping of the wool. Mr. Macy was employed on the Los Angeles Star, a semi-weekly newspaper printed half in Spanish and half in English. He left the Star on December 12, 1886 when he was elected City Treasurer and served in this capacity until December 1888. He returned to the editorship of the Los Angeles Star in 1888 and remained active in the newspaper world until June 1903 when he retired because of failing health. He died at his home in Los Angeles on November 1, 1910.