

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY
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Strohm, Thomas

CITY OFFICIALS

NAME Strohm, Thomas (deceased March 22, 1929)

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD (DATE)

CITY:

City Council, 7th Ward Dec. 1892 - Dec. 1894
Chief Engineer, Fire Department, Oct. 3, 1887 -
Jan. 4, 1888, Feb. 1889-Jan. 1891
COUNTY: April 1900 - Jan. 3, 1905

STATE

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

Germania Turn-Verein activities for over forty years

Republican party politics

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Business man
Fraternal official
Machinist
Gymnastic instructor
Manufacturer
City official

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE: none

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

Portrait Index

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Strohm, Thomas (deceased March 22, 1929)

Occupation Business man

Address _____

Birth (Date and Place) November 5, 1846, Ulm, Wurtemberg, Germany

FATHER Mathew Strohm

Birth (Date and Place) 1808, Wurtemberg, Germany

If Deceased, When July 2, 1860

MOTHER Anna Barbara Jauch

Birth (Date and Place) Wurtemberg, Germany

If Deceased, When 1879, Cincinnati, Ohio

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Emily Schubnell

Birth of Same (Date and Place) Oregon

If Deceased, When December 24, 1917

When Married Los Angeles

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Louis Robert

Walter Thomas

Benjamin Clarence

Anna Barbara: Mrs. George O'Donnell

TITLES OF BOOKS, ARTICLES, MUSIC, OR OTHER CREATIVE WORK

(In the case of printed matter, please give date and publisher; of periodical publications also name of magazine and date.)

REVIEWS, CRITICISMS, AND OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

(Please note printed matter concerning yourself or your work. We would appreciate any such material you may send, clippings, reviews, portrait.)

Guinn, Historical and Biographical Record of
Southern California, p 1057 (CT.)

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, mercants, etc.)

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EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Public schools, Cincinnati, Ohio

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Knights Templar; Mason; Ancient Order of the United Workman; B. P. O. E. Germania Turn-Verein

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Protestant

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1872; Los Angeles, March 1876

SKETCH

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

Thomas Strohm was born November 5, 1846, near
Ulm, Wurtemberg, Germany. His parents immigrated
to America in 1852 crossing the Atlantic Ocean in
a sailing vessel from Havre to New Orleans, and
from there continued sailing up the Mississippi
and Ohio Rivers to Cincinnati, Ohio.

The elder Strohm who was a master mason and
contractor established his family in that city
and entered business.

Thomas Strohm was reared in Cincinnati and
educated in its public schools. At nineteen years
of age he was apprenticed to learn the trade of
machinist, in the meantime instructing in gymnastics.

In 1868 Mr. Strohm moved to Kansas City, Mis-
souri, and was employed as a machinist on the rail-
roads of that state, continuing throughout these
years as a professor of gymnastics.

He came to California in 1872 and spent about
four years in the vicinity of San Francisco as a
machinist in various railroad shops, and for a
short period machinist in the United States Mint
of San Francisco. After removing to Los Angeles
and spending two years in the shops of Wilmington
he settled in Los Angeles and there entered busi-
ness.

As proprietor of a grocery business with a
store at First and Vine streets, he spent about
seven years and then entered into the manufacture
of ice and soda water. In this business he was
to pass the remainder of his career.

From the beginning of his residency in the
Southland Mr. Strohm entered prominently into the
civic life of the community. He was a leader in
affairs concerning the Germania Turn-Verein around

continued

which centered much of the civic, social and recreational, and municipal activity of pioneer Los Angeles.

In fraternal affairs he was also prominent, being a charter member and official for many years of the Knights Templar. At the time of his death he was the oldest Knight Templar in Los Angeles. His funeral was conducted by this brotherhood.

In politics Mr. Strohm was committeeman and otherwise active many years in Republican party affairs. At one time he was deputy sheriff under Sheriff William Hammel, and deputy U.S. Marshal under Al Sittel, present U.S. Marshal.

Beginning from about 1876 he was intermittently connected with the Los Angeles Fire Department for about thirty years. He is credited with fine service in helping form the old volunteer fire-fighting units into a trained and drilled paid force. In the years he was actively interested in the Fire Department he served as Chief Engineer at three different periods.

Mr. Strohm also served as City Councilman from the 7th ward, being elected in December of 1892 and serving by reelection to December, 1894.

As the years passed the ice manufacturing part of his business was superseded by the Head Excelsior Water Bottling Company, later the Shasta Water Company. This old pioneer business to which Mr. Strohm devoted fifty-three years and which is now carried on by his sons, was formerly located at 323 Towne Avenue.

After a brief illness Mr. Strohm died March 22, 1929, at the home of his daughter in Los Angeles.

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

Probate Records
Los Angeles City Vital Statistics

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

Los Angeles Times

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: none

INTERVIEWED BY:

DATE OF INTERVIEW

Written by: Clare Wallace
December 30, 1937