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CITY OFFICIALS

NAME Wolfskill, Joseph W.

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY:

City Council

1883-84

COUNTY:

STATE

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

Strong advocate of the Los Angeles Aqueduct and
Owens river project

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Pioneer horticulturist, nurseryman,
rancher and cattleman
Business man
City official

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE: none

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

See other page

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: none

INTERVIEWED BY:

DATE OF INTERVIEW

Written by: Clare Wallace
December 9, 1956

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Wolfskill, Joseph W.

Occupation Rancher and stockman

Address _____

Birth (Date and Place) September 14, 1844, Los Angeles, California

FATHER William Wolfskill

Birth (Date and Place) March 20, 1789, Richmond, Ky.

If Deceased, When October 3, 1866, Los Angeles Calif.

MOTHER Magdalena Lugo

Birth (Date and Place) Santa Barbara, California

If Deceased, When 1862

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Ellen de Pedrorena

Birth of Same (Date and Place) San Diego, California

If Deceased, When _____

When Married San Francisco, California

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters) _____

Among the ten children are:

Joseph W. Jr.

William F.

David

John

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.)

Father, William Wolfskill, pioneer viticulturist and orchardist was a trapper and hunter over the plains and deserts of the Southwest. He established a freight pack-train between the San Joaquin Valley and New Mexico before coming to Los Angeles in 1831. Referred to as the father of the orange industry he planted and developed the first citrus orchards and made the first commercial shipments of oranges west of the Rockies. The first school in Los Angeles was established by him in his own home at 4th and Alameda streets, in charge of his son-in-law, H.B. Barrows.

Mother was a native Californian, and the daughter of Don Jose Ygnacio and Dona Rafaela Romero Lugo.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Private school in his own home

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Roman Catholic

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE Birth

SKETCH

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

Joseph W. Wolfskill, who cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1865, was born September 14, 1844, in Los Angeles. The town at that time was still Mexican, and Mr. Wolfskill was the third generation to be born in California. He received his education in the private school established by his father in the family home at Fourth and Alameda streets, and attended by the children of other pioneers.

As a young man Mr. Wolfskill associated with his father in the latter's stock raising and horticultural enterprises. He introduced scientific methods into the culture of oranges and extended the original Wolfskill grove until it was made to yield the first, and for some time, the largest commercial crops in the Southland.

The old Wolfskill orchards stood where the Southern Pacific Depot now is, and over lands in the vicinity of Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Hill streets.

Mr. Wolfskill was elected to the City Council from the second ward, and served during 1883 and 1884. He served on the following councilmanic committees: Zanjias, Lands, Water Supply, Finance and the Board of Health.

Subsequent to this he devoted his energies to his various business enterprises of ranching, cattle husbandry, and walnut and fruit orchards. Mr. Wolfskill maintained homes in Riverside, Redondo, and Los Angeles.