

## MODOC COUNTY

<i>Name</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Oath of Office</i>	<i>CAA President</i>	<i>Retired</i>	<i>Deceased</i>
<b>L.W. Harris</b>	5/18/1874				
<b>J.W. Howard</b>	1880				
<b>A.J. Meyers</b>	1887				
<b>A.A. Smith</b>	1891				
<b>W.A. ASquire@ Salisbury</b>	1895				
<b>H.O. Jopp</b>	1899				
<b>D.E. Mulkey</b>	1903				
<b>F.A. Smith</b>	1915				
<b>John Davis</b>	1927				6/1937
<b>T.A. Walls</b>	1937 ** 1939				
<b>Marjorie K. Hickerson</b>	1955				12/14/1983
<b>Harold Brundige</b>	1959				
<b>Franklin Lew</b>	10/15/1968 **	10/15/1968		12/1982	7/12/2006
<b>John E. Dederick</b>	6/8/1982	1/3/1983			
<b>James C. Hetherwick</b>	8/7/1989 **	8/7/1989		1990	4/6/2014
<b>Josephine Johnson</b>	6/5/1990	1/7/1991		2006	
<b>Cheryl Budmark</b>	1/1/2007	1/1/2007		2016	
<b>Kristen DePaul</b>	1/1/2017**	1/1/2017			

Modoc County was created on February 17, 1874 from the eastern section of Siskiyou County. It was first proposed to name this new county "Canby" for General Canby who lost his life in the Modoc Indian War. Later the name "Summit" was suggested, but there were many objections and it was finally named Modoc.

The best explanation of the word Modoc is that it is a corruption of two words: from the

Klamath Indian tongue, "Moa" meaning *southerner* and "Dock" representing *near*. Some authorities, however, credit General John Charles Fremont as coining the name in 1846 from having recently read a novel of which the central character was named "Maidac". Still another claims the name Modoc as a Shasta Indian word meaning "all distant", "stranger", or "hostile Indian". Hearing the Shasta Indians describe the northeastern tribe in the early days, white men applied the name Modoc to that Indian tribe.

Alturas, the first and only county seat of Modoc County, was originally called Dorris Bridge after the Dorris brothers who first located in the year 1870. It was renamed Alturas in 1874 - a Spanish name, which literally means "a valley on top of a mountain". \*

The first settlers came in 1864 locating in Surprise Valley. In 1870 - 1871, a few pioneers located on the Pit River (named from the pits dug by the Indians in trapping game). A few others came to the Goose Lake Valley; no general movement made for settlement until after the close of the Modoc War in 1873. The first commissioners met to organize the county on March 10, 1874; 7 judicial townships, 3 supervisor districts, 12 election precincts. Election was ordered for May 5, 1874, and held May 18, 1874, to elect the first county officers.

L.W. Harris= wife was the Matron of the County Hospital

W.A. "Squire" Salisbury came on horseback and was an early surveyor. He established the Salisbury Mill in 1880 (the mill later moved to Alturas). He had only one arm.

H.O. Jopp was a liveryman who came from Ohio. He was Supervisor of District 1 from 1875 - 1877 and 1882 - 1884.

John Davis died while in office. He was 73 years old; he died in his sleep. He was married with 2 sons and 1 daughter. He was often referred to as "Big John Davis". He came to Modoc in 1885. He was employed for years as a range rider and later engaged in the sheep business. He helped to organize the Modoc Wool Growers Association and was their secretary for 20 years. He served as Deputy Assessor for 6 years before being elected to the office of Assessor in 1928. He was instrumental with Congressman John Raker in the addition of approximately 350,000 acres of public domain around Tule and Clear Lakes to the Modoc Forest in 1920. He died within a few days of the death of County Clerk L.S. Smith.

T.A. Walls was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of John Davis. Nine men filed for the job. Two ballots were necessary for the appointment. Walls was the Bank of America manager for years. He was President (Mayor) of the City of Alturas in 1927.

Marjorie K. Hickerson later married the former Assessor of Sutter County Ernest R. Hauck.

I.W. Gibbins - October 8, 1928 - was the first Clerk and ex-officio Assessor of the City of Alturas upon incorporation.

John E. Dederick resigned from the position of Assessor to become the first County Administrative Officer for Modoc County.

\* H.M. Moreno, Moreno's Dictionary of Spanish-Named California Cities and Towns, (San Luis Obispo, CA, 1916)

\*\* Appointed