



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR WALLACE WOODWORTH

Term: 1868 - 1871
District: Not Applicable
Date of Birth: July 28, 1832
Death: Sept. 13, 1882

Wallace Woodworth served as county supervisor for one term. He was elected to office in 1868 to a two-year term. On Sept. 1, 1869, elections were held for the County's newly divided four district supervisorial seats. Woodworth was not re-elected, but all the incumbents remained in office through 1871.

Woodworth was born July 28, 1832, in Johnstown, Ohio, where he grew up and attended public schools.

In 1853, when he was 21, Woodworth moved to Los Angeles County and became manager of his uncle's ranch. Woodworth got involved in the cattle business, making money buying and selling on a large scale.

In 1858 he left the ranch and formed a partnership with W. H. Perry. The firm of Perry & Woodworth made and sold cabinets and furniture on Main Street. In 1867 the firm organized a natural gas company, and established the first working gas jet lines in Los Angeles.

Woodworth's business success and prominence in political circles led to his election to the county supervisorial seat. After leaving County service, Woodworth later became a member and president of the Los Angeles City Council.

In 1872 his company diversified into the lumber and milling business. Woodworth amassed a large fortune, and was considered one the wealthiest men and landowners in the County.

During this time, Woodworth continued his involvement in politics. He was a staunch Democrat, and in 1880 was a delegate to the county convention in Los Angeles, the state convention in San Francisco, and the national convention in Cincinnati.

In the last few years of his life, Woodworth took up farming and specialized in the growing of grapes, oranges and olives.

His credits included membership in the Masonic Temple, donating to the local orphanages and being considered one of the early pioneer businessmen of Los Angeles.

On Sept. 13, 1882, Wilson died. He was 50, and was survived by his wife, Carrie, and two daughters: Hazel and Juanita.