



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR SAMUEL BRADFORD CASWELL

Term: 1872-1874

District: First

Date of Birth: Jan. 3, 1828

Death: Feb. 3, 1898

Samuel Bradford Caswell served as county supervisor for one term, beginning in 1872.

Caswell was born in Taunton, Mass. on Jan. 3, 1828. His ancestors were English and included some of the earliest immigrants who helped settle the Plymouth Colony in 1630.

In 1849, at age 21, Caswell moved to Wareham, Mass., and married Mary Bradford Gibbs. For the next six years, he learned the merchandising business as an apprentice.

Caswell and his family moved West to California in 1855, and soon thereafter headed to Nevada County, where he devoted his attention to mining. He was one of the first to pioneer the use of hydraulic washing into the mining process.

In 1864 he sold his mining business. Caswell traveled back East for a year, then moved back West to Los Angeles in June 1865. He started up a merchandising business with a partner, John F. Ellis, and did a booming business for the next 10 years.

In 1872, Caswell's reputation in business led to his election as county supervisor for a two-year term. From 1875 to 1878 he was clerk of the Los Angeles City Council, and also served a term as a council member. He later was an auditor for the City Water Company.

Caswell died Feb. 3, 1898 of heart failure. He was 70, and was survived by his wife and son, William.

Source: Los Angeles County Records; Los Angeles Times, Feb. 4, 1898.