

# BASHFORD, COLES

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BASHFORD, COLES, born near Cold Spring, Putnam County, New York, January 24, 1816; son of William and Phebe Bashford; married, Frances Adams Foreman, daughter of David Foreman, at \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_ 18\_\_\_\_; children, William C., Edward L., Belle, Elizabeth F. (Mrs. G. A. Sprecher), Margaret B. (Mrs. Robert H. Burmister), Helen B. (Mrs. William E. Smith) and Lillian E. (Mrs. A. W. Kirkland).

Moved with his parents from Cold Spring to Lyons, New York, in 1822; educated at Wesleyan Seminary, now Genesee College, Lima, New York; studied law and began practice at Lyons, N.Y., in October, 1842; District Attorney of Wayne County from 1847 to 1850 when he resigned to become attorney for a land and lumber company, in Wisconsin in which his father-in-law was interested and moved with his family to Oakosh; elected from Winnebago County as a Whig to the Wisconsin State Senate and served two terms in 1853 and 1855.

Nominated for Governor of Wisconsin in September, 1855, but William A. Barstow, the Democratic candidate, was declared elected; the Supreme Court of Wisconsin awarded him the office as the result of a Quo Warranto proceeding instituted by the Attorney General; served as the first Republican Governor of that State from March 25, 1856 to January 15, 1858; it was afterwards charged that while he was Governor he received from the La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad Company, bonds of the face value of \$50,000 for his assistance in the passage of a land grant act by the Wisconsin Legislature; he declined renomination for the Governorship and successfully resumed his legal practice.

BASHFORD, COLES

- 2 -

Was in Washington, D.C., on legal business during the winter of 1862-63 when he decided to locate in the newly created Territory of Arizona; accompanied the Territorial officials to Fort Whipple and on February 1, 1864, was appointed by Governor Goodwin as Attorney General of the Territory; was in Tucson when the Territorial Census was taken in April, and in May became the first lawyer to be admitted to the bar in Arizona; elected on July 18, 1864, from Tucson to serve 2 years as a member of the Territorial Council and was chosen as its President at the session which began on September 26; attended the session of the 2d Territorial Council at Prescott in 1865.

He was re-appointed Attorney General on December 1, 1865, and served until December 1, 1866; during the 4th Legislature in 1867 a report was filed complaining that he should not have been allowed to serve at the same time, both as Attorney General and as a member of the Legislature; with reference to his service in that office the Tucson Arizona Citizen of January 8, 1876, stated:

The power and duties of the Attorney General at that time, there being no District Attorneys, extended to all criminal cases in all of the Territory, to all cases in which the Territory or its officers were a party, or any of the Counties of the Territory, or the officers thereof; and he was also the legal adviser of all Territorial officers, and of the Legislative Assembly.

In what may be called the dangerous days, when the whole Territory was alive with hostile Indians, Governor Bashford traveled with a degree of fearlessness that often surprised the most resolute pioneers. In 1864-5-6, he visited

repeatedly the various Counties, never missing a term of Court, always traveling on horseback, and generally alone, armed with revolver, knife and shot-gun, and ready for any emergency.

In an Act of Congress approved July 27, 1866, he was named as one of the incorporators of the Atlantic and Pacific (now Santa Fe) Railroad Company; elected, September 5, 1866, as Delegate to Congress from Arizona receiving 1,009 votes to 518 for Charles D. Poston and 168 for Samuel Adams; served in the 40th Congress from March 4, 1867, to March 3, 1869; on May 29, 1868, he addressed the House in favor of an appropriation to irrigate lands on the Colorado Indian Reservation and on June 19 in support of a bill to provide money to carry newspapers and other printed matter through the mails for the benefit of pioneers in the West; on January 19, 1869, he concluded his remarks in opposition to a bill "to preserve the purity of elections in the several organized Territories" by saying:

Now, it seems to me, after you have given us the organic law of the Territories, which is our Constitution, it is quite as well to let us alone to govern ourselves.

At the close of his service in the House of Representatives he was appointed by President Grant as Secretary of the Territory of Arizona and assumed office on April 8, 1869; listed in the 1870 Census at Tucson as a Lawyer, property valued at \$25,000; an Act of the 6th Territorial Legislature approved February 18, 1871, authorized him, as Secretary of the Territory, to compile in one

BASHFORD, COLES

- 4 -

volume all the laws of the Territory, including the Howell Code and the session laws from 1864 to 1871, and to publish 500 volumes at a cost of not more than \$3,500; the work was finished that year and he received \$1,000 for his services; he was reappointed by President Grant, Secretary of the Territory in 1873, and served until he resigned in January, 1876.

He disposed of his property interests in Wisconsin and brought his family to Tucson late in 1873; moved to Prescott in 1877, where he built a fine home and was associated in business with his brother Levi.

Died at Prescott, A.T., April 25, 1878, aged 62; buried, Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, California, his estate consisted of real estate appraised at \$17,000 and personal property, cash, notes and mortgages valued at \$85,000.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- The Arizonian, Tucson, May 29, 1869, 2:1 and November 12, 1870, 3:2.
- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, March 9, 1872, 1:1; October 25, 1873, 2:2; January 8, 1876, 2:1, April 26, 1878 (death notice).
- The Arizona Star, Tucson, May 2, 2:1 (obituary) and June 6, 1878, 2:4.
- The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, January 22, 1876, 1:2 (reprint from the Tucson Citizen of January 8, 1876).
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## ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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- The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, January 22, 1:2, and April 15, 1876, 2:5; April 27, 1878, 2:5 (death notice).
- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, February 25, 1871, 3:2; November 9, 1872, 1:3; March 29, 1873, 2:2