

BABCOCK, JASPER .

Arizona Census, 1864, San Francisco District, p. 159.

Babcock, Jasper. Age 42; single; born Conn.; in Ariz 2 months; miner

Angel, Myron. HISTORY OF NEVADA, Oakland, Thompson & West, 1881.

Hon. Jasper Babcock, Secretary of State, is a native of Ashford, Windham county, Connecticut, and was born April 6, 1821. His parents moved into the State of New York, and that became the field of his business operations up to 1852. He was a heavy railroad and canal and building contractor, the construction of fifteen miles of the New York Central Railroad being one among the numerous operations of his in this line.

In 1852 he moved to the Pacific Coast for the purpose of continuing his business in San Francisco, and for a time was very successful, many of the extensive grading contracts in that city in early days being operated by him, until he began to feel that fortune was very kind to him. But one day Henry Meiggs, who had caused the <sup>illegal</sup> issuance of large ~~xxx~~ amounts of City script, suddenly disappeared and that class of paper fell from eighty cents on the dollar to ten. Mr. Babcock had on hand and due him in that class of paper, over \$120,000 at the time, \$75,000 of which was pledged for borrowed money, and in a day he was bankrupt. But he paid every dollar of his debts and then went to work for a salary.

From that time forward his career has been rather a checkered one, divided between mining in California, Arizona and Nevada, speculating in real estate and operating water ditches.

## BABCOCK, JASPER.

In 1875 he came to Nevada to take charge of a mining enterprise on the Comstock, and since that time has been a resident of this State.

Before his first settlement in Virginia City, he had succeeded in ~~ben~~ mending his broken fortunes and in accumulating a competence; but it was swept away in a stock zephyr, and he was left, at between fifty and sixty years of age with only his reputation, his business qualifications, his energy and friends to start life again, to build from the bed-rock up.

He is now a widower with one son and three daughters living.

Mr. Babcock has not made politics a business or a study, but was elected to the Legislature in California in 1850, as a Douglas Democrat and, following the advice of his great leader, became from the first an uncompromising supporter of the Union movement, and naturally floated into the ranks of the Republican party.

In 1876, he was elected to the Legislature from Storey county, and Secretary of State of Nevada in 1878, for a term of four years, having for his deputy Mr. James G. Chesley, a very competent, genial gentleman.

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San Francisco Call, 3/26/86, 2-2.

San Jose, March 25, 1886. Jasper Babcock, well known in sporting circles, a pioneer of the Pacific Coast and one of the most energetic and enterprising of the early residence of California and Nevada, passed away in this city today at the age of 74. (Then follows biography taken from Hist. of Nevada)

In 1889 Mr. Babcock moved to San Jose and has since resided here. One daughter, Eleanor Barry, the accomplished actress, survives him.