

Henry Goode Blasdel

Nevada's First Governor

Nevada Governor **Henry Goode Blasdel**, a devout Methodist and temperance advocate, was born on January 20, 1825, in Dearborn County, Indiana. From age 17 he began to study law, married and entered the produce shipping business. By age 21 he was captain of his own Mississippi River steamboat.

Like many of his generation who emigrated west he was an individual with many skills, strong of principle and flexible of disposition.

Neglected for some time by history, the Governor's fame and reputation live on in the sliver that he acquired for the family home that is now the property of the Society of California Pioneers. Blasdel came west in 1852. He made a fortune in grain speculation, and then lost it all in the financial panic of 1860.

He became superintendent of Hale & Norcross Mine. He refused to work his men on the Sabbath, causing him to resign his post. Eventually, he became a mine owner, regained his fortune, and began to purchase silverware from dealers in Virginia City (Frederick), Sacramento (Tucker) and San Francisco (Vanderslice, Shreve).

Upon return from a trip to Indiana, Henry Goode Blasdel was surprised to learn he had been nominated as the Republican gubernatorial candidate for the new and hastily formed State of Nevada. He won the election and used the state's silver-rich wealth to help support the Union in the final years of the Civil War. He made peace with the Shoshone Indians, accompanied by an aide, a translator and a few officials.

Visitors to the Governor's residence in Carson City recall that alcohol was never used – a departure from the hard-drinking mindset of the state's early residents – and earned Henry Goode Blasdel the reputation of being the “Chocolate and Tea Governor.”

Henry Goode Blasdel is a descendant of Ralph Blaisdell through his father, Jacob Blasdel (6.229).

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