

## Joseph W. Babcock ( - 27 Apr 1909)

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*The Evening Star, April 4, 1909, p. 1*

### **Joseph W. Babcock Very Ill Recovery of Former Representative is Doubtful Mrs. Babcock Also in a Serious Condition Son Charles Summoned From Chicago**

Joseph W. Babcock of Wisconsin, formerly chairman of the House committee on the District of Columbia and of the republican congressional committee and for many years a representative in Congress, is critically ill at his home for the past few weeks. Up to four or five days ago, however, his condition was thought to be improving. Then he had a relapse, and while his physicians will not admit that they have lost hope, they do not express themselves as sanguine of Mr. Babcock's recovery. Mrs. Babcock is also critically ill, having been in a semi-conscious condition since last Tuesday.

Long-distance telephone communication was had yesterday with Mr. Babcock's son, Charles, in Chicago, and with Harry Barney, formerly clerk of the House District committee, now president of a bank in the district formerly represented by Mr. Babcock and in which the latter is interested. Both are expected in Washington by tomorrow evening.

*The Evening Star, May 4, 1909, p. 2*

### **Leaves \$10,000 To His Cook Will of Former Representative Babcock Balance of Estate Goes to Widow and Children, Adopted Children and Nieces**

The will of Joseph W. Babcock, former representative from Wisconsin, has been filed for probate. It is dated May 25, 1907, and is accompanied by a codicil of Marh 18, 1909. His adopted daughter, Amelia B. Reed of Sparta, Wis., is given only \$1 of his estate.

The codicil makes only one bequest, that of \$10,000 to Mrs. Annie VanderLas, whose residence or relationship is not mentioned.

The will, in addition to the \$1 given to the adopted daughter, contains the specific bequests of \$5,000 to his niece, Mary M. Merrill of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and \$5,000 to his first wife's niece, Mary F. Barney of Necedah, Wis.

The widow, Mrs. Kate Woodman Babcock, is given absolutely the contents of the home in this city and the horses and carriages. The furniture in the residence in Necedah, Wis., is given to the son, Charles E. Babcock.

The remaining estate is to be divided into three parts, one-third for the widow absolutely, one-third for the son, Charles E. Babcock, and the remaining third for the American Security and Trust Company in trust to pay the net income to an adopted son, George W. Babcock, during his minority. When he attains the age of twenty-one he is to receive the principal of his share.

The American Security and Trust Company is named as executor.

Mrs. Annie Vander Las, mentioned in the codicil of the will, is the Babcock family's cook. She came with them more than twenty years ago, when she was fifteen years old and has been with them ever since. Her husband, an appointee of Speaker Henderson, was a messenger in the office of the register of wills, but died about three and a half years ago, a victim of the brief smallpox epidemic at that time. Some months after his death a little girl was born to Mrs. Vander Las. The child was named Catherine,

after Mrs. Babcock, and it was for the education of this little girl, who is a favorite of Mrs. Babcock, that the money was left. Mr. Babcock's last visit outside of his home was with Mrs. Babcock when they went to a lawyer's office about a month ago and added the codicil leaving to their cook, \$10,000.