

Paul Babcock, Jr.

Birth: Aug. 18, 1841

Death: Sep. 6, 1903

Civil War Union Army Officer. He entered his Civil War service when he was mustered in as a Corporal in Company H, 2nd New Jersey Militia on May 1, 1861. The unit, a three-month enlistment regiment raised days after the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter, served first in the defenses of Washington, DC, then in reserve during the July 1861 First Bull Run Campaign. He was mustered out when his enlistment expired on July 31, 1861. He then enlisted in the 7th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, being mustered in as its Sergeant Major on September 10, 1861. He did not serve as the regiment's top enlisted man long, being promoted to 1st Lieutenant of Company B, on November 4, 1861, replacing the resigned Lieutenant William N. Fitzgerald. He served with Company B through the battles and campaigns of the spring and summer of 1862, as the 7th New Jersey saw combat at the Battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill and Second Bull Run. On July 24, 1862 Company D's Captain John J. Fritschy resigned, and a month later, August 28, 1862, Paul Babcock was promoted to Captain and transferred to lead the Company. He commanded the unit through the December 1862 Fredericksburg Campaign, the May 1862 Battle of Chancellorsville, and the July 1862 Battle of Gettysburg, where on the Second Day of the battle the 7th New Jersey was heavily engaged near Emmittsburg Road. On September 24, 1863 he resigned his New Jersey commission, and was appointed as a Captain in the United States Signal Corps. He was then named Chief Signal Officer for the Army of the Cumberland, a role he performed until his resignation. On March 13, 1865 he was brevetted Major, US Volunteers for his war service.