

It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.

Robert E. Lee Brown (1865-1902)

From: An Obituary in the New York Times, Published October 20, 1902.

DEATH OF R. E. L. BROWN.

*Mining Engineer of Wide Reputation—
His Profitable Venture in the
Transvaal.*

Robert E. Lee Brown, whose death in Arizona of hasty consumption was announced yesterday, was a familiar figure in New York hotels, until sickness seized him about three months ago. Mr. Brown made his home at the Hoffman House. He was a very genial companion, and by reason of his many visits to all parts of the world, coupled with his keen observance, was a most entertaining conversationalist. He was accredited one of the best-equipped mining engineers in the world.

He accumulated an immense fortune in mining enterprises, and one of his assets is a judgment for more than \$2,000,000 against the former Transvaal Government, which it is expected Great Britain will liquidate. Mr. Brown prospected some lands opened to settlers by the then President, and having faith in their value, took the entire lot, with some friends. When Kruger learned of their fabulous value he recalled his decree. Mr. Brown began proceedings and obtained a verdict for more than, \$2,000,000, a circumstance that is alleged-to have so annoyed Kruger that he caused the removal of the Judge who had decided in Brown's favor.



Figure 1. Robert E. Lee Brown grave marker in the Pioneer and Military Memorial Park in Phoenix, AZ. (Photo from Arizonagravestones.com)

Mr. Brown was a native of Pennsylvania, but spent little time in that State. For years he was in California, Idaho, British Columbia, and other mining countries. While in the Far West he gained the sobriquet of "Barbarian" because he issued a paper with that title defending the policy of mine owners and denouncing the unions. His life was often threatened, and he had many narrow escapes. Mr. Brown's fatal illness resulted from a severe cold

contracted in London early last Spring.