

BOBLETT, EDWARD ALEXANDER

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Born at _____ Bedford County Virginia on November 24, 1828.

Son of _____ and _____.

Married, Lois A. Whitcomb at _____, Colorado, on June 17, 1860; they had no children; Sharlet Mabryth Hall, (1870-1945), daughter of James Knox Polk and Adeline Susannah (Boblett) Hall, Arizona Territorial Historian (1909-12), was his niece.

Moved with his parents to Indiana when 2 years of age; the family afterwards resided in Minnesota, Kansas and Colorado; came to Arizona via New Mexico in 1864; a communication printed in the Prescott Journal Miner on September 26, 1903, stated:

Boblett and wife ran the first restaurant in Prescott, partly under canvass and partly under an old jagged juniper tree where the court house now stands, where meals of not very elaborate bill of fare were dispensed at \$1.00 each, and consisting principally of bacon, bread and venison, for in those days edibles were very scarce.

He joined a party to locate a farming colony in the Verde Valley early in January, 1865; settled on the point between the Verde and Clear Fork and brought his wife there from Prescott March 26, 1865; the settlers suffered serious losses of livestock and crops from depredations by the Apaches; in one encounter with the Indians, his father-in-law, Josiah H. Whitcomb, was slightly wounded in the hand by a bullet and after several other attacks they decided to seek a new location; listed at Prescott, Sheriff's census of Yavapai County, April, 1866; the following references to him were printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

October 19, 1867 - - Indians at Toll-gate -- The copper-skins are becoming unpleasantly familiar in the vicinity of the Tollgate on the Hardyville road. A few days since, Mr. Boblett, while out on the sienega about four miles from his house, saw three Indians armed with guns, who appeared to be hunting antelops or other game. As they were equally well armed with him, and three to one, he concluded to let them hunt; but finding a cloth containing a quantity of salt, which they had hung up in a juniper bush, he captured it and brought it home.

A day or two later a shot was heard near the Toll-gate which is believed to have been fired by an Indian. Mr. Whitcomb, Boblett's partner, says that there are two or three rancherias in that immediate vicinity and that if General Gregg will send out a party of troops that stomach for a fight, he will guarantee to find them one mess of Indians at least. The General has been duly informed of this matter.

April 18, 1868 - - Recently at the Toll-Gate on the Hardyville and Prescott wagon road, three Indians stole some harness, a clothes line, etc. from one of the settlers. They also went into the unoccupied house of Milton Hadley, threw some kegs out of the house and messed things generally. N. Thede, from whom we derive this information, informed us, also, that himself, Mr. Boblett and Mr. King intended to plant a great deal of corn. They had broken considerable land, and if the Indians will let them along, they expect to get along swimmingly and raise good crops.

September 26, 1868 - - Mr. E. A. Boblett of the Toll-Gate, on the Prescott and Hardyville road, has our thanks for a nice lot of potatoes grown by him this year. They were large and fully as good as the best potatoes grown in this vicinity.

October 3, 1868 - - Mr. and Mrs. Boblett and N. Thede have gone back to their ranches at the Toll-gate on the Hardyville road. The farmers out there raised, this year, excellent crops.

July 10, 1869 - - E. A. Boblett, Daniel O'Leary, N. P. Pierce and several military officers came to town from Camp Toll-gate to enjoy themselves upon the fourth.

September 11, 1869 - - Wednesday morning last, three families - - Mr. and Mrs. Whitcomb, Mr. and Mrs. Boblett, and Mr. and Mrs. Richards, pulled up stakes and sailed away in a "prairie schooner" for Puget Sound. We were sorry to see them leave, but such is life. Some people are never satisfied, and, like the wandering Jew, must keep tramping. All these families arrived in the Territory poor, and left in easy circumstances.

He and his wife made the journey overland and located in Blaine, Washington, on November 8, 1869; he was long an earnest worker in the Methodist church of that City and a member of International City Lodge No. 79, F. & A. M.; died at Blaine, Whitcomb County, Washington, August 17, 1903, aged 75; buried Blaine Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- McClintock, J.H. - Arizona, the Youngest State, Chicago, 1916, p. 187.
 Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 4, pp. 215-246.
 McFarland & Poole - Historical and Biographical Record of the Territory of Arizona, Chicago, 1896, pp. 413-428.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 19, 1867, 2:5; April 18, 3:1, September 26, 3:1, October 3, 1868, 3:1; July 10, 3:1, September 11, 1869, 3:2; October 31, 1868, 2:1
 The Journal-Miner, Prescott, September 26, 1903, 1:2 (obituary).
 The Prescott Courier, September 28, 1903, (death notice).
 The Blaine Journal, August 21, 1903, (obituary)