

GROOM, ROBERT WILLIAM

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GROOM, ROBERT WILLIAM, born in Clark County, Kentucky, August 28, 1824; son of Joseph and Nancy Groom; never married; moved with his parents to Clay County, Missouri, when 3 years of age and there attended the country schools; went to Kentucky in 1843 for further schooling and was Deputy County Surveyor of Trigg County, 1845-48; listed, U. S. Census, June, 1850, with his parents at Liberty, Missouri.

Went to California via Salt Lake City in the fall of 1850 and engaged in mining at Houghton, American River, Nevada City, South Yuba and Frenchman's Bar, 1851-52; went by sea from San Francisco to San Pedro and became interested in a trading post west of Los Angeles on the road to Yuma; obtained a contract from the Surveyor General on October 9, 1856 to survey certain townships west of the San Bernardino Meridian; was County Surveyor of San Diego County, 1856-59 and again in 1861-62; Representative from San Diego County in the 9th and 11th California Legislatures, 1858 and 1860.

First came to Arizona at La Pas in 1862 and later that year went via the Bill Williams River and San Francisco Mountain to Zuni and Albuquerque, N.M.; A.F. Banta stated that he was arrested at Santa Fe as a Confederate spy and held with ball and chain at Fort Union, N.M., until released on receipt of a letter from Senator James A. McDougal of California certifying to his loyalty.

Employed at Fort Craig, N.M., on July 2, 1863, at \$90.00 per month as Guide to the new gold mines discovered in northern Arizona by the Walker Party; left Albuquerque, N.M., with J. H. Clerk, Surveyor General of New Mexico, and a military escort commanded by Captain N. J. Pishon; climbed the San Francisco Mountain to observe the lay of the land; arrived and made camp on Granite Creek at the present site of Prescott, Arizona in July, 1863; served as Army Guide until September 30, 1863.

✓ The Journal of the Pioneer and Walker Mining Districts shows that on August 24, 1863, he joined with Captain Joe Walker and six others in locating the "Groom Lode situated between Granite Creek and Walker's in Groom Creek"; other mining locations

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that he made that year were the Turkey Creek Lode, with John Laughlin and Valentine Guyerick in October and 200 feet on the Gross lode in November; In February, 1864, he located 200 feet on the Forest Rose quartz lode and 200 feet on the Motto lode.

Listed Territorial Census, April 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County) age 39, single, resident in Arizona 7 months, occupation - Miner; surveyed and plotted the Town of Prescott, A.T., and was then appointed Commissioner on May 20, 1864; to supervise the sale of town lots; elected from Groomdale, 3d District, a member of the 1st Territorial Council, 1864, and re-elected from Yavapai County to the 2d Territorial Council, 1865; surveyed and plotted the town of Wickenburg, 1868; listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Prescott, occupation - Miner; the Prescott Enterprise of January 5, 1878, stated that:

Bob Groom, one of the "male parents" of this part of Arizona is rustivating at Prescott, but his-heart is in the-Humbug mining district.

His name appears on the Great Register of Maricopa County as a voter at Wickenburg in 1882 and in 1888 he was operating the King Solomon mines 12 miles west of there; at the time of his death he owned mining properties in southern Yavapai and northern Maricopa Counties appraised at \$34,500.

Died at Wickenburg, Maricopa County, A.T., January 21, 1899, aged 74; buried _____ Cemetery _____; Groom Peak on the southern end of the Walopai Mountains in Mohave County and Groom Creek in Yavapai County were named for him.

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