

LOUNT, GEORGE

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LOUNT, GEORGE, born at Holland Landing, Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada, March 19, 1826; son of Samuel and Philadelphia Lount, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania; married, (1) Annie McDonald at Prescott, A.T., February 18, 1872, but they were divorced at Prescott on July 9, 1873, (2) Linda H Vanzant at San Francisco, California, September 3, 1876, from whom he was divorced at Prescott on June 20, 1882; son, Glentworth, born in Prescott, 1879, and died there in 1882.

Moved with his widowed mother from Canada to Michigan, 1838; became a sailor at age 18 on the Great Lakes; went to sea in 1849, sailed around Cape Horn and arrived in San Francisco in February, 1850; resided at Port Orford, Oregon, 1851-57, where he met Jack Ralston who told him of finding gold near the Little Colorado River; started with a mining party for Arizona in 1858 which was attacked by Indians on the headwaters of the Mohave River; his brother was wounded which compelled their return to Los Angeles where his brother died.

Visited Captain Joseph R. Walker in San Francisco and helped to organize the prospecting party of 21 men which left California in the spring of 1861; they failed to find gold on the Little Colorado and went on to New Mexico and Colorado; was with the Walker Party prospecting in New Mexico and Arizona, 1862-63; after gold was discovered on the Hassayampa River, went on to San Francisco, California, but returned with 12 others known as the Lount Party, to rejoin the Walker Party at Lynx Creek on October 26, 1863.

Named in the Journal of the Walker Mining District as one of the 19 organizers of the Aqua Frio Mining Company which located claims of 200 feet for each of them on the "Black" lode on June 9 and on the "Blue" lode June 17, 1863, which was situated about 10 miles west of the Miller boys cabin on the Aziamp"; helped to organize the Quartz Mountain Mining District at a meeting

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held in his cabin on Granite Creek, December 27, 1863; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District, age 38, single, resident in Arizona 12 months, citizen by Act of Congress, occupation - Miner, property valued at \$200.

In partnership with C. Clark he brought the first saw mill to Prescott in 1865 which they operated just outside the town limits; listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Prescott, occupation - Carpenter; nominated by President Grant on April 12, 1870 as Receiver of public moneys at the U.S. Land Office in Prescott vice Oscar Buckalew, who did not qualify; served from August 10, 1870 to June 9, 1873; following his reappointment by President Hayes on May 14, 1878, the Prescott Enterprise stated that "he has secured the small office of Receiver of our Land Office a third time. George is worthy of the confidence reposed in him by the general Government."

The Prescott Arizona Miner of October 18, 1873, stated that he had been awarded a contract at \$7,500 to construct a building for the County Offices; the Miner of December 7, 1877, printed this article:

George Lount and J.J. Gosper have sent to Tiffin, Ohio, for a complete Sumner's well-boring and rock-drilling machine. The manufacturer's circular says a 12 to 16-inch well can be bored from 50 to 150 feet per day, with one horse, with one of these machines, and that a well 44 inches in diameter can be put down so rapidly as to astonish any one who has never seen the machine work.

They have also become sole agents for the Territory for a patent self-adjusting and perfect regulating wind mill, so that when their machinery arrives, they intend to take contracts for boring wells, and when water is reached, to sell the parties a wind mill with which to pump out water.

Assisted his brother, Samuel D. Lount, an inventor of ice-making machinery, to establish the first ice plant in Phoenix on the northeast corner of Washington and Pinal (4th) Streets which was first operated on

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June 18, 1879; the ice was delivered in a wheelbarrow and sold at six cents a pound; the Prescott Courier of July 20, 1888, stated that he "has two houses to move, T.G. Parker's carpenter shop and the Fragic Meat Market barn. George is the greatest house mover in Arizona."

Became a member of Aztlan Lodge No. 177 (1), F. & A.M., at Prescott in 1866 and was Master of the Lodge in 1875; had been ill for some time and went to San Francisco, California in hopes of benefitting his health; died there shortly afterwards on October 2, 1889, aged 63.

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