

LURTY, MOORE K.

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LURTY, MOORE K.

Born at _____, Kentucky, _____, 18____ (about 1821) .

Son of _____ and _____, both of whom were natives of
Virginia.

Married _____ at _____ on _____, 18____.

Children, _____.

Arrived in California in 1850 and settled in Calaveras County;
came to Arizona in 1865; the Prescott Arizona Miner of October 24, 1868,
referred to the Lurty ranch on Lynx Creek and stated on August 7, 1869,
that :

Thursday last, we received a call from our old
friend M. K. Lerty, of Woolsey Valley, Upper Agua Frio,
and learned from him that the crops in the valley were
exceedingly fine.

The settlers recently held a meeting at the house
of Mr. Lerty, and in accordance with our suggestion,
resolved to call their beautiful and productive valley
after King S. Woolsey, therefore, the valley, from its
commencement at Lerty's ranch, to the head of the canyon
of the Agua Frio, will hereafter be known as "Woolsey
Valley."

Listed, U.S. Census, 1870, at Prescott, A.T., occupation - Farmer;
the following appeared in the Tucson Arizona Citizen of April 20, 1872:

The Miner of April 6 has in detail the substance
of what follows:

In the last week of March the Indians attacked a
number of men at different times within three miles
of the post in Verde Valley. Philip Winkler was shot
in the neck by three pieces of lead, but will recover
from the wounds. M. K. Lurty was shot at by the
savages, but escaped unhurt. On their way from Verde
to Prescott, a party saw much Indian sign. The Apaches
stole a horse and robbed a cabin of everything portable,
on Upper Lynx creek.

Listed, U.S. Census, 1880, at Babocomari Valley, Pima County, A.T.,
age 59, occupation - Farmer; elected in November, 1880, from Pima County

to the lower house of the 11th Arizona Territorial Legislature; in reporting his arrival in Prescott, the Arizona Miner said:

Hon. M. K. Lurty, the old "war horse", one of the first settlers in Yavapai County, and now of Pima, member-elect to the House, arrived this morning. His numerous friends are glad to meet him looking hale and hearty as when he last visited Prescott, 5 years ago. Mr. Lurty, in the early days had much to do with the opening up of this section of the Territory, and still retains kindly feeling for its every welfare.

The Prescott Arizona Democrat also mentioned his arrival:

Hon. M. K. Lurty and Hon. Thomas Dunbar, members of the next House from Pima County, arrived at the Capitol this morning. Mr. Lurty is an old resident of this County, and his many friends were glad to see him looking so well and hearty. He has a fine ranch on the Babocomari, and we are glad to learn is prospering. Mr. Dunbar is a resident of Tres Alamos, where he has a mercantile establishment and is also extensively engaged in stock raising. We bid the gentlemen welcome to Prescott.

In a series of biographical sketches of the legislators the Phoenix Herald of January 28, 1881, made reference to him as follows:

M. K. Lurty was born in Kentucky and is 60 years old. Follows mining and farming as a business. In 1865 he came to Arizona, settling in Yavapai County, where he lived 10 years. Established the Pruen ranch in the Agua Fria in 1870, afterwards living on the Verde.

He went East afterwards and on his return settled in Southern Arizona, establishing, in 1875, the Babocomari ranch, now on the stage road from Harshaw to Tombstone. Since he has lived here he has suffered much from Indian depredations, and now is liable, by a Spanish grant, to lose these possessions for which he has fought so hard.

The Phoenix Herald on July 2, 1885, made the following announcement of his death:

M. K. Lurty, formerly a resident of Yavapai County, but for several years past, a citizen of Cochise, died recently on his Babocomari ranch. Mr. Lurty was a member of the Eleventh Legislature from Pima County, and was one of the oldest pioneers in the Territory.

A death notice in the Prescott Courier of July 3, 1885, reads:

M. K. Lurty, a pioneer Arizonian, died at his home in Cochise County, on the 25th. Deceased was well known and much esteemed in Yavapai County. He served one term in the Legislature. Hope he had a free pass to heaven.

Died at his home on the Babocomari Ranch, Cochise County, A. T., June 25, 1885, aged 64; buried there.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Kelly, G.H. - Legislative History, Arizona, 1926, p. 89.
 The Great Register of Cochise County, 1880-84.
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 24, 1868, 3:1; December 31, 1880, 3:3; July 28, 1883, 2:6.
 The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, April 20, 1872, 1:5.
 The Arizona Democrat, Prescott, December 31, 1880, 8:1.
 The Phoenix Herald, January 28, 1881, 1:3 and July 2, 1885, 1:1 (death notice).
 The Prescott Courier, July 28, 1883, 2:6 and July 3, 1885, 2:1 (death notice).
 The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, July 4, 1885, 2:3, (death notice reprinted from the Tombstone Record-Epitaph).
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, March 21, 1868, 3:4 and March 25, 1868, 3:2; September 11, 1869, 3:2; January 29, 1870, 3:1; February 18, 1871, 3:1 and May 27, 1871, 3:1; April 6, 1872, 2:1.