

218



HISTORY
OF

ARIZONA TERRITORY

WITH
ILLUSTRATIONS.

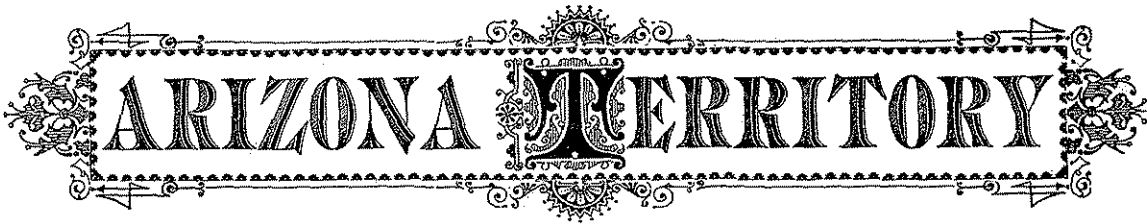
1884





HISTORY

OF



ARIZONA TERRITORY

SHOWING ITS

RESOURCES AND ADVANTAGES;

WITH

ILLUSTRATIONS

DESCRIPTIVE OF ITS

SCENERY, RESIDENCES, FARMS, MINES, MILLS,

Hotels, Business Houses, Schools, Churches, &c.

FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS.



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into the Colorado above the Grand Cañon and nearly opposite Kanab Wash, which is a stream seventy-five miles long, rising in Utah and running south to the Colorado.

SALT RIVER.

Salt River rises in the eastern part of the Territory, in the White Mountains, its head-waters being the White and Black Rivers. It has numerous large branches, coming in mostly from the north, draining the country far to the north, including the Tonto Basin, the Sierra Ancha, White, San Francisco and other mountains. Arivaypai is the principal southern tributary. On this stream is a deep cañon with wild scenery. Its course is west and southwest, and it unites with the Gila below Phoenix some twenty miles. This river was named, the Rio Salido by the early Spanish and Jesuit explorers, on account of its waters being highly impregnated with salt, which is easily noticed at low water. This is caused by a heavy salt formation, through which the river passes about one hundred miles above Phoenix. At low water it is a clear beautiful stream, having an average width of 200 feet for a distance of 100 miles above its junction with the Gila, and a depth of two feet or more. Its length is about two hundred miles and it flows through the largest body of agricultural land in the Territory after it leaves the cañon.

RIO VERDE RIVER.

The Verde River is one of the largest northern branches of Salt River, its upper branches rising at different points to the east, north, and northwest, from Prescott. It becomes a fine river of eighty feet in width about fifty miles northeast from Prescott, and thence runs a southerly course to its junction with Salt River, near Camp McDowell. Its whole course is about one hundred and fifty miles. It receives the waters from the San Francisco Mountains, and other timbered slopes. It drains all the southern half of Yavapai County.

The Tonto, Sipicue, Cherry, Aqua Fria, and other large creeks, are also tributaries of Salt River, coming in from the north. The main upper branches of Salt River, the White and Black Rivers, are both swift-running mountain streams, and rise in the White Mountains. They are well stocked with the real speckled mountain trout, affording rare sport to the fisherman.

THE LITTLE COLORADO.

The Little, or Colorado-Chiquito which was, by the Ives' exploring party, called Flax River, and by Spaniards *Rio de Lino*, rises in the northeastern declivities of the White Mountains, near the line between Arizona and New Mexico, runs in a northwesterly direction, and enters the main Colorado in northern Arizona, about fifty miles

south of the southern line of Utah, and near the head of the Grand Cañon. Lithodendron Creek is one of its tributaries, on the banks of which is the petrified forest. Leroux Creek, from the east, and Chevelons, from the west, are important mountain streams. The lower part of the Colorado-Chiquito runs through a cañon second only to that of the Grand Cañon of the main Colorado.

BILL WILLIAMS' FORK.

Bill Williams' Fork is an eastern branch of the Colorado, with which it unites at Aubrey, 235 miles above Yuma. Its different branches rise, some in the mountains 50 miles southwest from Prescott, some near Mount Hope, and some in the Hualapai Mountains in Mohave County. The north fork is called the Big Sandy, which has many small tributaries coming into it from every direction. The eastern branch is called Santa Maria. In its whole course it is not far from one hundred and fifty miles long, which is about the same as the Colorado-Chiquito. The Santa Maria is its main eastern branch, and the Sandy its main northern. These two streams unite some fifteen miles south of Greenwood, from which point the Bill Williams' Fork flows west to its junction with the Colorado.

SAN PEDRO RIVER.

The San Pedro rises near the line between Arizona and Sonora, and runs in a general northerly course a distance of over one hundred miles, and enters the Gila River at the foot of Gila Cañon, in Pinal County. It has a number of small tributaries, among them Arivaypai, which enters near its mouth, after passing through Grass Valley for five miles. On the western side is a tributary called Babacomari, rising in the Huachuca Mountains.

SANTA CRUZ RIVER.

The Santa Cruz River rises also near the Arizona and Sonora line, southeast from the Patagonia Mountains, making a long *détour* into Sonora to the southwest, thence to the north into Arizona, and finally sinking in the great plain or valley some twelve miles to the north from Tucson. The whole length of the Santa Cruz is not far from one hundred and fifty miles, to the point where its waters finally sink. It must have formerly run far to the northwest and perhaps entered the Gila River below Maricopa Wells, as its old bed is now distinguishable at different places. One fact connected with most of the mountain streams of Arizona, and which is applicable to most of the streams west of the Rocky Mountains, is this: The volume of water in the mountains is much greater than in the valleys and plains below.

All the rivers of Arizona will be described in an article on counties.