

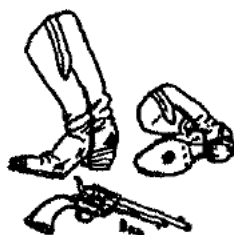
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Arizona's Names (X Marks the Place)

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Byrd Howell Granger

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GILA COUNTY pro.: /hiylə/

Gila County was formed on Feb. 8, 1881 from parts of Maricopa and Pinal counties. In 1889 it was extended eastward to the San Carlos River. The county seat was established at what was then called Globe City, now Globe (*q.v.*). The county was named for the Gila River, which constitutes its southern boundary. Elevation varies from 2123' at Roosevelt Dam to 7153' at Mount Ord. The San Carlos Indian Reservation covers half of Gila County. The principal industries of this beautiful region have always been and continue to be mining and agriculture, principally livestock.

GILA MONSTER

Maricopa

While Aubrey Drury was selecting names on the S.P.R.R. wagon tourist excursion on what is now the Apache Trail, he gave this name to a stone figure at the end of a butte thirty-three and a half miles from Mesa. It was approved on Nov. 7, 1917, but on Feb. 1, 1933, the USGS vacated the name. Ref.: 329

GILA MOUNTAINS

Yuma

T8S R21E

Elev. 3150'

The name used by Spanish missionaries for this range was San Albino Mountains, but for what reason is unknown. In 1854 Lt. N. Michler referred to them as the Sierra de la Gila. During the heyday of gold placering, they were called the Gila Mountains. On the 1881 Chain and Hardy map they are designated Gila Range. Their gradual exploration led to dividing the range in 1912 into a northern section called Sierra de San Albino and a southern area called Sierra de las Tinajas Altas (Lumholz, 1912). By 1914 there was no longer any disagreement about calling the entire range the Gila Mountains. In 1930 their western segment was mapped and referred to as Vopoki Ridge. Yuma residents sometimes call them the Fortune Range. Ref.: 58; 115, p. 4 (Huntington Library); 106, I, 104; 355, pp. 181-183; Lenon

GILA PUEBLO pro.: /hiylə pueblo/

Gila

T1S R15E

Elev. c. 4000'

Prior to 1930 Charles Healy explored in Six-shooter Canyon for Indian ruins and found the Gila Pueblo, site of a large pre-historic Indian village. He sold it to the Medallion Society c. 1930, which developed headquarters for the study of Indian ruins in the region. In 1956 the former Healy Terrace was headquarters for the Southwestern Monuments Park Service. Ref.: Woody; 5, p. 39

GILA RIVER pro.: /hiylə/

One of the great rivers of America, the Gila River enters Arizona about one hundred and thirteen miles from its New Mexico source (elevation 9993'). It slices for hundreds of miles across Arizona to its junction with the Colorado River (elevation 125'). Prior to the Gadsden Purchase the Gila River was the boundary between the United States and Mexico. Its location relative to the five counties it now crosses is as follows: (east to west): (1) Greenlee, T6S/R32E; (2) Gila, T4S/R16E; (3) Graham, T3S/R20E; (4) Maricopa, T5S/R10W; (5) Yuma, T6S/R11W.

The name *Gila* was not used in the New World until 1630, at that time being applied to a province of New Mexico as *Gila* or *Xila*. As for the meaning of the word, Mrs. Mary B. Aguirre said that there is a Spanish expression *de Gila*, which means "a steady going to or from a place," adding that the Gila always had water in it. The latter part of the statement no longer pertains, but at least as late as 1909 it was possible to canoe its entire length in Arizona, a feat performed by Stanley Sykes of Flagstaff. Dams since built along the river course do not completely control severe flooding, as evidenced by heavy floods in recent years.

Various names have been applied to this river, some descriptive of the importance of the river to those along its banks, others pertaining to the nature of the water, and still others reflecting the efforts of missionaries to convert Indians to Christianity. For instance, Pima Indians simply referred to the stream as *Akee-mull* (= "the river"). At its juncture with the Colorado River where the water is very alkaline, Yuma Indians call the mouth of the river *hōmkwīlāvāvā* (= "flowing water that is salt"). Another Yuma name is *Hah-quah-sa eel* (= "running salty water"), in use c. 1930. Its first non-Indian name was *Brazo de Miraflores*, applied to it in 1540 when Capt. Fernando Alarcon named it, according to the memoirs of Castillo. Encountering the same river closer to its source in 1604, Juan de

Oñate named it the Rio del Nombre de Jesus (= "river of the name of Jesus"). Oñate's party explored to its junction with the Colorado River. For generations thereafter, no white man seems to have seen this river. In 1697 Fr. Eusebio Kino with Lt. Cristobal Martin Bernal followed the course of the San Pedro River to its juncture with what Kino called the Gila, the first time that name was recorded. In 1701 Kino called it Rio Grande de Hyla. However, in 1701 he also named its upper reaches the Rio de los Santos Apostoles (= "river of the sainted Apostles"), because he had already suggested naming its four principal tributaries after the four major Apostles and the name applied to their joining in forming the larger stream. The name Rio de los Santos Apostoles was still in use on a map made by Capt. Clark and sent to President Thomas Jefferson on April 7, 1805. Others, noting that Indians crossed this river in wicker baskets, called it the Rio de las Balsas (= "river of the rafts"). The list of names for this river is still not complete, however, for Benavides called it Apache de Xila, as did Sansom. The latter used this name at the hearing of the Inquisitor, although prior to that time he referred to it as the Rio del Coral (= "red river"). Fr. Francisco Garcés in 1775 applied still another name, Rio Jaquesila. The name *Gila* has been rendered as follows: Chila; Hila; Helah; Helay; Hyla. Salvatierra called it Rio de Grande. Ref.: 15, pp. 163 (Note 41), 348, 349, 355; 256, p. 85 (Note 51); 146 p. 12; 45, p. 422; 77, pp. 541, 544, 136 (Note 48); 279, pp. 65, 66; 89, pp. 80, 82; 5, p. 29; 46, p. 275; 43, I, 127, 171, 194-195; AHS, Mary B. Aguirre File; 203, p. 3; 329; McClintock, Letter (Jan. 17, 1930)

GILA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

Pima/Maricopa T3-1S R4-1E Elev. c. 1200'
 On Feb. 28, 1859 a reservation was established for Pima and Maricopa Indians living near the Gila River. Land was added from time to time until a slight reduction in acreage was made on July 19, 1915, so that today the acreage is 37,200. The reservation is bisected by the Gila River. See Gila River Ref.: 167, II, 374; "Annual Report of the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs (1954-1956)", pp. 4-5

GILA RIVER WATERFOWL AREA

Maricopa T2S R5W
 This ninety-two hundred and sixteen acre tract includes Robbins Butte and the Arlington area. Ref.: 9, p. 1

GILA VALLEY

Graham T2S R19E
 It is also sometimes referred to as Safford Valley. Ref.: 329

GILBERT

Maricopa T1S R6E Elev. 1235'
 Robert Gilbert donated land to the Arizona Eastern R.R. for a station at this point. P.O. est. July 22, 1912, D. H. Butler, p.m. Ref.: 329, Steele File; 242

GILBERT

Yavapai T9N R3W Elev. 4370'
 The post office for the King Solomon Mine was named for its postmaster. P.O. est. Aug. 21, 1899, William J. Gilbert, p.m.; disc. Oct. 31, 1903 Ref.: 242; 18a; 320, p. 173

GILLESPIE DAM

Maricopa T2S R5W Elev. c. 600'
 Constructed of brush, earth and rocks, the Peoria Dam flooded away in 1900. Another was built in 1906 by owners of the Enterprise Ranch, who wished to divert Gila River waters into the Enterprise Canal (constructed in 1886). In 1921 Frank A. Gillespie of Oklahoma built a concrete dam here and thereafter development of agriculture was rapid. Today the Gillespie holdings cover thousands of acres. In 1956 H. C. McMullen, who had an option to buy the land for eight million dollars, suggested naming the new community Arizona City. P.O. est. Aug. 24, 1925, Edward F. Holland, p.m.; disc. Nov. 2, 1925 Ref.: 5, p. 463; 279, p. 70; *Arizona Star* (Jan. 26, 1956), p. 3; 242