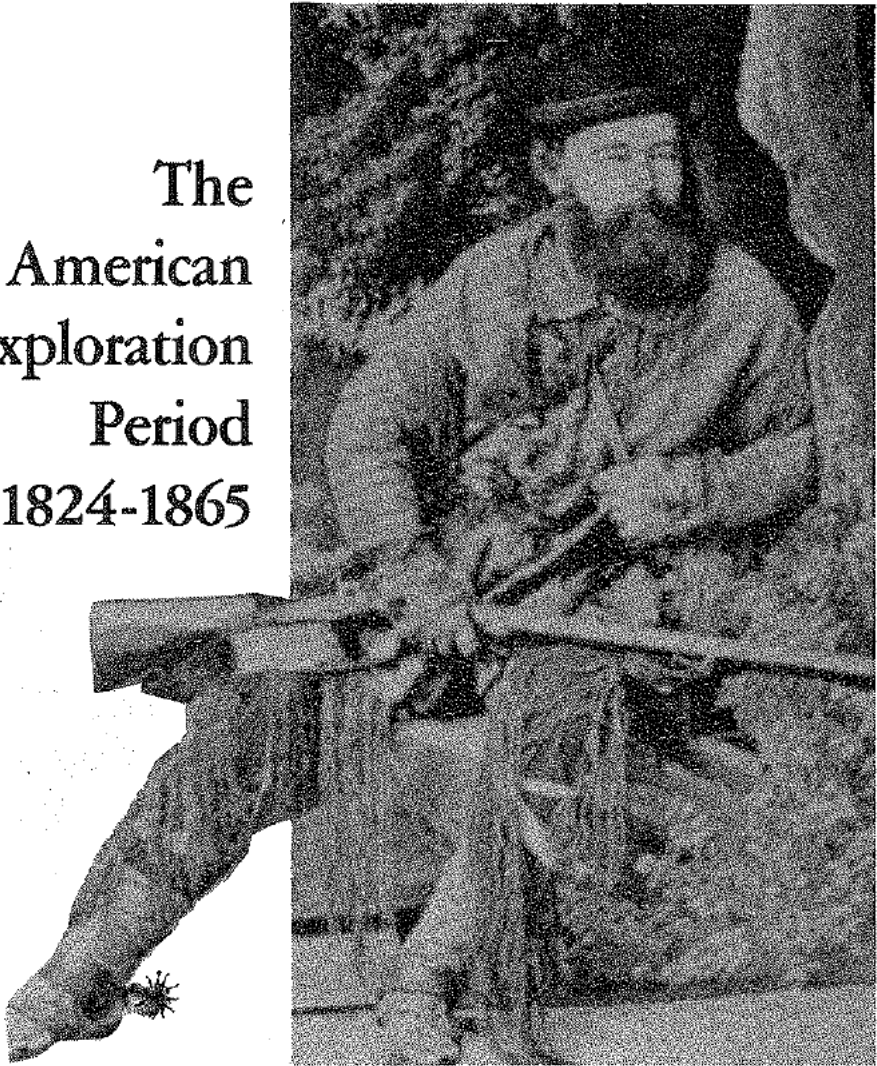


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# MAN AND WILDLIFE IN ARIZONA:

The  
American  
Exploration  
Period  
1824-1865



by Goode P. Davis, Jr.  
Edited by Neil B. Carmony & David E. Brown

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Woolsey's second expedition, in March, was described by a participant, Henry Clifton, in a two-part report in the *Arizona Miner*, published as a semi-monthly in Prescott. One hundred miners left Woolsey's ranch on the Agua Fria and struck off in three parties to raid Apache rancherias. Clifton's contingent headed east, then south. The volunteers found a stream emptying into the Agua Fria which they called Ash Creek, because of "the abundance of fine ash timber that grew on its banks." Clifton went on: "The creek at this place is some ten feet in width and crossed by innumerable beaver dams, making it quite deep. We caught some very fine fish, of the same species as are found in the ... Colorado and Gila" (Woody 1962:165).

In June a third expedition headed east across the Verde River and into Tonto Basin. On June 14 a party that included a chronicler named F. A. Cook was working its way down Tonto Creek when it came to the Salt River. Cook reported:

*We made a willow drag and caught about 200 fish. The largest ones looked verry much like Cod but had no teeth, and would weigh from 10 to 20 lbs. This kind of fishing was new to many of us but was verry fine sport for we had to go into the river and in some places it was up to our necks but the weather is verry hot and the waters warm* (Reeve 1949:102).

The irregulars moved up the Salt River a few miles and camped at "Grapevine Springs." In his diary entry for June 21, Cook states:

*Made 4 or 5 hauls with our willow drag & caught about fifty fish all suckers, but verry sweet. I think the best I ever tasted. Perhaps it is because we have no meat for we have nothing but flour & coffee* (Reeve 1949:104).

The next day Cook commented:

*For the past five or six days about half our living has been fish. Our only trouble is that we have not got lines strong enoug[h] for the large fish which weigh from 10 lbs. to 40 lbs., neither can we*