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NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW

VOL. X

JANUARY, 1935

No. 1



PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW

Editor

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THEODOSIUS MEYER, O. F. M.

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CONTENTS

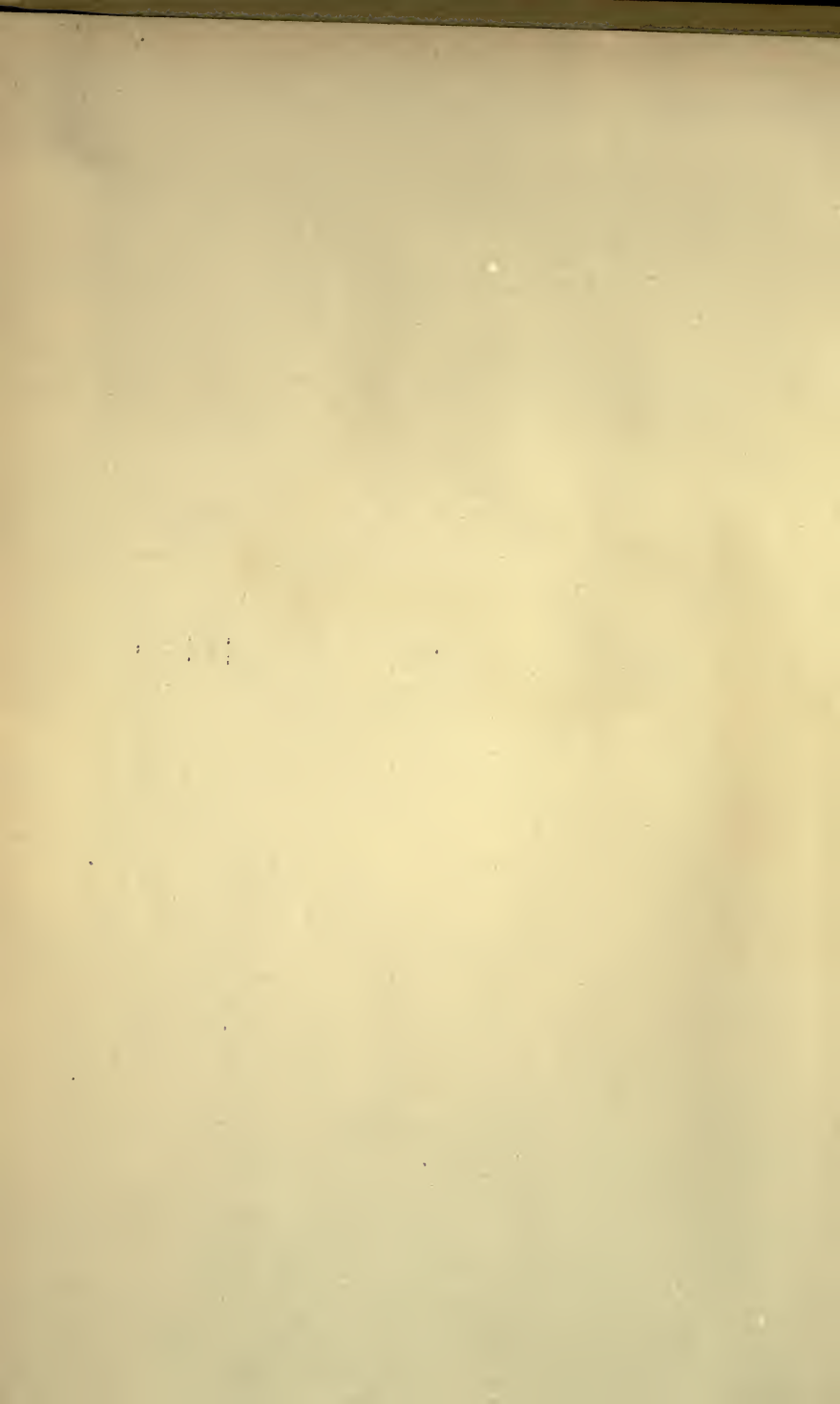
NUMBER 1—January, 1935

	<i>Page</i>
Bourke on the Southwest, VI . . . Lansing B. Bloom	1
Pueblo Names in the Oñate Documents . F. W. Hodge	36
Albuquerque and Galisteo . . . Lansing B. Bloom	48
Dedication of the Kearny Monument, Dr. H. C. Gossard	51
Book Reviews:	
C. W. Hackett. <i>Picardo's Treatise on the Limits of Louisiana and Texas.</i> L. B. B.	54
V. A. Robles. <i>Saltillo en la historia y en la leyenda</i>	
John E. Englekirk	57
F. Gillmor and W. Wetherill. <i>Traders to the Navajos.</i> Erna Fergusson	60
M. G. Boyer. <i>Arizona in Literature.</i> P. A. F. W.	62
B. C. Grant. <i>When Old Trails Were New: the Story of Taos.</i> Giorgio Belloli	65
R. Calvin, Ph.D. <i>Sky Determines.</i> T. M. Pearce .	66
A. C. Wilgus. <i>Modern Hispanic America.</i> L. B. B.	68

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NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL
REVIEW



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CONTENTS

NUMBER 1—JANUARY, 1935

	<i>Page</i>
Bourke on the Southwest, VI L. B. Bloom	1
Pueblo Names in the Oñate Documents . F. W. Hodge	36
Albuquerque and Galisteo, 1706 L. B. Bloom	48
The Kearny Monument, Las Vegas . H. C. Gossard	51
Reviews:	
Hackett, <i>Pichardo's Treatise on</i> <i>Texas</i> , I-II	
L. B. B.	54
Alessio Robles, <i>Saltillo en la leyenda</i> , J. E.	
Englekirk	57
Gillmor and Wetherill, <i>Traders to the Navajos</i> .	
Erna Fergusson	60
Boyer, <i>Arizona in Literature</i> . P. A. F. W. . . .	62
Grant, <i>When Old Trails Were New</i> <i>Taos</i>	
Giorgio Belloli	65
Calvin, <i>Sky Determines</i> . T. M. Pearce	66
Wilgus, <i>Modern Hispanic America</i> . L. B. B. . . .	68

NUMBER 2—APRIL, 1935

Civil Government and Society in New Mexico in the 17th Century F. V. Scholes	71
Notes on the Lineage of Diego de Vargas	
J. M. Espinosa	112
Forts Robidoux and Kit Carson in Northeastern Utah	
A. B. Reagan	121
Col. Buell's Expedition into Mexico in 1880	
M. L. Crimmins	133
Old Roads and New Highways in the Southwest	
Maud D. Sullivan	143
Eugene Manlove Rhodes, 1869-1934 L. B. Bloom	150

A Blossom of Barren Lands (poem)	Eugene M. Rhodes	151
The Governors of New Mexico	L. B. Bloom	152
Reviews:		
Lesser, <i>The Pawnee Ghost Dance Hand Game</i> , D.		
D. Brand		158
Gambrell, <i>Mirabeau B. Lamar</i>	<i>Crusader</i>	
F. M. Kercheville		163
Faunce, <i>Desert Wife</i> and		
Reichard, <i>Spider Woman</i> , A. Esther Wilkie . . .		165
Wyllys, <i>Pioneer Padre: the life of . . Kino</i> . L. B. B.		167
Noél & Torre Revello, <i>Estudios y documentos para</i> <i>la historia del arte colonial</i> , vol. I, L. B. B. . . .		169
Notes and Comments:		
The Diego de Vargas Notes.		
Governor Pile and the Archives.		
The Military Escort of 1834.		
Possible Origin of "Luminarios."		
Paul A. F. Walter.		

NUMBER 3—JULY, 1935

The Spanish Military Chapels in Santa Fé and the Reredos of Our Lady of Light	A. von Wuthenau	175
The First Decade of the Inquisition in New Mexico F. V. Scholes		195
A Trade-Invoice of 1638	L. B. Bloom	242

NUMBER 4—OCTOBER, 1935

Oñate a Marauder?	G. P. Hammond	249
Bourke on the Southwest, VII	L. B. Bloom	271
Kit Carson, Catholic	Father Claudius Antony	323

Reviews:

Richardson & Rister, <i>The Greater Southwest</i> P. A. F. W.		337
--	--	-----

 Thomas, *After Coronado: Spanish Exploration*

CONTENTS

vii

Otero, *My Life on the Frontier, 1864-1882*

P. A. F. W. 340

Notes:

The Frederick Webb Hodge Anniversary Publica-

tion Fund 346

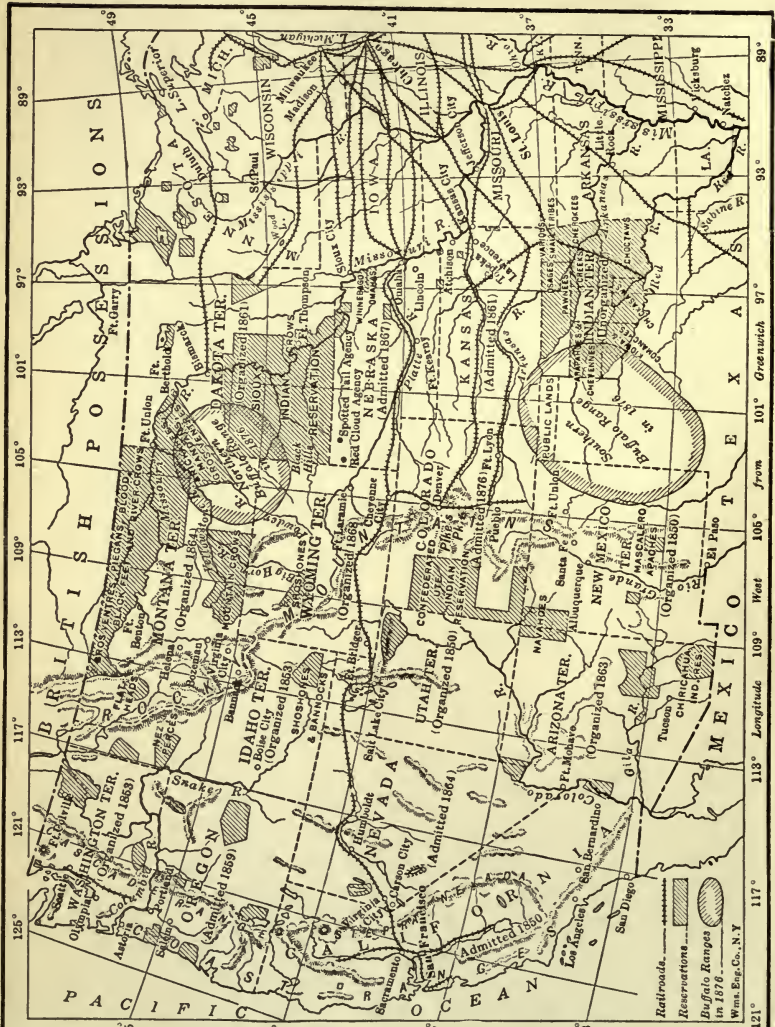
Errata

Index

ILLUSTRATIONS

The Great West in 1876, map	<i>-facing</i>
Gen'l Crook's Trail from Camp Apache to Moqui Villages, 1874	"
The Founding of Albuquerque, facsimile of ms. (1706)	" 4
Diego de Vargas Coat of Arms	" 7
Eugene Manlove Rhodes	" 15
"The Yucca blooms above its thorn,"	" 15
Carved Stone Reredos at Santa Fé as It is Today	" 17
Urrutia's Map of Santa Fé (c. 1768)	" 18
Stone Panel, Our Lady of Light	<i>between</i> 182-18
Frontispiece from Cofradía Constitution, 1766	" 182-18
Title-Page of the Cofradía Constitution	<i>-facing</i> 18
The Reredos in the Old Cathedral	" 19
Kit Carson's Baptismal Record	" 32
Carson's Marriage Record	" 32
Burial Record of Carson and His Wife	" 32





Schlesinger: Political & Social Growth of the U. S. (1934)
 (courtesy of the author and Macmillan Company)

THE GREAT WEST IN 1876

NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW

VOL. X

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No. 1

BOURKE ON THE SOUTHWEST, VI

Edited by LANSING B. BLOOM

CHAPTER IX

ARIZONA NOTES, 1873-74

FOR THE next two years Lieutenant Bourke remained in the Department of Arizona as "acting engineer officer" and as aide-de-camp to General Crook.¹ The records extant for this period are rather meager: a single volume of notes; two newspaper articles which were published, one in San Francisco and the other in Boston; and a few casual details.

In spite of the fact that Crook had the Indian situation in Arizona well in hand after his winter campaign, it would be a mistake to think that scouting and fighting abruptly stopped in March, 1873.² Fights with renegades averaged two a month during the next two years; there was a six-weeks' scout from San Carlos—again in the dead of winter, and a two-months' scout in the Bill Williams mountains in the spring of 1874.³

What part Bourke had in these operations is not known, but it is clear that he trailed over most of Arizona and at least once he was across in Sonora:

1. Compare with chronological record given in *NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW*, VIII, 5-7.

2. See the list of engagements, in *NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW*, IX, 165-167.

3. Heitman, *Historical Register*, II, 438-441. On August 19, 1874, occurred the fight at Adobe Walls, Texas.

[Oct. 4, 1874] Today is the feast of Saint Francis which I spent, with so much interest and amusement, last year, at Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico.

No details of that visit are found, but years later Bourke wrote up for a newspaper friend in Boston what he says "is a true story of the hanging of four murderers in Tucson, Arizona, early in September, 1873." He may have witnessed this incident on his way to Sonora. One of the victims named Williss had been in jail for a year; the others had Spanish names, and the story of their crime and expiation reads like a dime-novel. It was published in *Boston* (a sample of Bourke's humor perhaps) with the black-type heading: "A Tucson Tragedy: a True Tale of Terror: Knights of the Green Cloth, and the Pawnbroker's Last Pledge." *

The single notebook of 1874 begins September 22 with a brief diary of a march from Camp Verde to San Carlos. Under date of September 25 he writes:

Passed old Camp Reno on our R[ight] today, also two little streams flowing into Tonto Ck. from W. Passed a number of old Aztec ruins today. Examined one and found it to be the remains of a temple "teocalli." An outer wall of rock had enclosed a house, having a court-yard, in center of which could still be discerned a three-terraced teocalli, with foundation of an altar (?) on top. An entrance through the house discovered signs of an attempt at making arches . . .

After arriving at San Carlos, he recorded:

Indians had a big dance tonight . . . The condition of affairs on the San Carlos we found astonishing and gratifying. Indians present numbered 875. All living in villages with regular streets, *houses* of brush 12' high, bunks elevated two feet above the ground. Every morning at 7 o'clock their villages are policed with the greatest care and every Sunday an inspection is made to see that no

garbage has been allowed to accumulate around their quarters, and that beds and blankets are clean. Indians are *detailed* each morning to work in fields, to make adobes and other employments for which they make good laborers. Average 100 adobes daily to the hand. Are very happy and seem well fed. Scarcely any sickness. Under best of discipline. Governed with firmness and justice. Are very well behaved. Not at all insolent. Always uncover the head when saluting a stranger. Credit for all this is due to Maj. Randall, Babcock, and Ward, also Lt. London.⁵ Indian Agent Clum just arrived and has quietly adopted all the military rules of management. Seems a good man.⁶

Indians had a dance last night in honor of arrival of Gen'l Crook, with whom they held a long conference today. Santos, Juan-clishé, and El Cal being the speakers. Said they were now thoroughly whipped and under General C's orders. What he said, they would do &c &c &c. Would work like white people and hoped they would have plenty of work, so they could get money to buy blankets. Wanted to live there always and if any Indians came there from other Reserves without passes, would make them go to the guard-house or would kill them as they had the other bad ones. Thought the bad ones were all dead now, at least all among them were. (Found all at S. C. [San Carlos] pleasant, affable gentlemen.)

From here the command proceeded north to Camp Apache, arriving September 30:

Found at post Majors Randall and Babcock, Capts. Montgomery, Reilly, Lieuts. Rice, Dodge, and Pratt.

A general count of the Indians took place today; over 1760 are present on the Reserve. A mild form of calenture prevails among this tribe

5. Maj. George M. Randall had been placed in command at Camp Apache in the spring of 1873.

6. John P. Clum was commissioned agent by the Department of the Interior in February, 1874, and arrived at San Carlos in August. See NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW, III, 7.

during the present season. Indians all seem orderly and well-disciplined. Post in fine order. Scenery is beautiful. Maj. Babcock relieved from the Department today. News received by courier of our Indians from Camp Verde, under guide Zeiber, having killed 13 renegades. Three of our Indians killed in the fight. . . .

The Apaches . . . seem to put a high estimate on the telegraph line, without, of course, understanding its mode of operation. Last fall, while Pitone, Alchisay, and Uclenny were in Prescott, I sent a telegram from them to their friends on the Reserve, having it carried by courier from Tucson to this place [Camp Apache]. Greatly to their surprise, a party of their friends met them on the mountains outside of the post, anxious to see what truth there was in the mysterious message so quickly conveyed. . . . Lieut. and Mrs. Rice leave here next week for Omaha via Santa Fe and Denver. Ogilby's and Worth's companies of the 8th Inf. may be with us tomorrow, in which case the General and myself will depart for Prescott by Tuesday, Randall's Company leaving on same day. . . .

Two Apaches are confined in guard-house for attempting to cut off their wives' noses—the punishment among this tribe for conjugal infidelity. Major Randall is determined to put an end to this and other cruel and inhuman customs of the Apache nation.

Many sincere friends of these Indians regret that the philanthropy supposed to actuate those intrusted with their charge is not superior to the mercenary influences of trade. The shrewdness and discernment of the savage are known to be great; for every departure from an established rule, their curiosity demands an explanation. Noticing that every seventh day, the store at the military post was closed, they learned the day was "Domingo" or Sunday and an opportunity was improved of informing them this cessation from business was in obedience to the Almighty's commands and in His honor. But while such an interpreta-

tion was of itself comprehensible enough, a collateral circumstances threw a shade of suspicion upon the integrity of the translation. The establishment at the Indian Agency under the supervision and control of the Agent himself, was and is still kept open for business every day without distinction, to the no small wonder of the aborigines incapable of appreciating the religious conversation of men whose actions assure the world filthy lucre alone is the object of their coming to Arizona. . . .

Gen'l Crook held a long conference with the Indians today. They asked for another agent, saying Mr. Roberts was a liar while Major Randall always spoke truth. We're glad to see Gen'l Crook and sorry to have Maj'r Randall leave. Hoped Major Ogilby would prove as good a commander.

Been busy all day laying in supplies for our trip to the Moqui pueblos and the Grand Cañon of the Colorado.

Oct. 7th, 1874 (Wednesday). Left camp Apache at 9 A. M., accompanied by three Indian guides, "Mickey Free," Santos, and Huero . . . [At] 5 miles met 2 Co's of 8th Inf. under Lieut. Craig. . . . [At] 18 miles came to forks of road, right hand branch, N.N.E. to New Mexico . . . Mickey Free says tomorrow we shall camp on Shevelon's Fork, called by the Apaches Sin Lin; on Friday the Colorado Chiquito will be reached, and on Sunday the Moqui village of Oraybe . . .

Oct. 8th. . . . At Cooley's ranch, established last year, found good, comfortable adobe houses, and outbuildings and corrals of pine fencing. Crop this year consisted of 90,000 lbs. barley. Stock numbered between 230 and 250 head . . .

The party continued its march northward, Lieutenant Bourke as usual making his careful fieldnotes, accompanied by detail maps of the route followed. The chief interest in his record lies in the fact that it was his first visit to the Hopi pueblos and in his ethnological observations. A few years later he was to make a more extended study of this