

The Archeologists tell us that by A.D.1712 ^{some} ~~the~~ Navaho were living in the Canyons de Chelly and Del Muerto, those spectacular canyons on the western slope of the Chuska Mountains. And it is believed that many Navaho had moved west from their original Old Navaho Land during the preceeding centuries. Little proof has yet come to light of these semi-namadic people which gives more exact location of their habitat. Unquestionably ^{Knowledge} they moved about, as they have done within our historic ~~proplex~~ , seeking good grazing ranges and small areas to farm. Shortly after Antonio's death, at the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Spanish sent an expedition out to quell the raiding Navaho. They came to the rim of Canyon del Muerto and seeing Navaho people in a cave axross the canyon, they fired their small canon into the cave. It so happened that the men ^{from} of this cave were all out on a hunting expedition, with the result that only women and children were killed in this episode. So it was that ~~Massacre~~ Massacre Cave and Canyon del Muerto received their names. From that time the Navaho were, of course, at war with the Saphish. Less than twenty years later came the Mexican War and with it a greatly weakened government in the New Mexico Area. And once more Navaho raids were in the ascendancy. Then came the war between the United States and Mexico and on May 14th 1846, General Stephen W.Kearney entered Santa Fe proclaiming the ^{so} vereignty of the United States over all citizens, including the Indian Peoples, of this vast Southwestern area.

The Indians, ofcourse, understood little of such changes in government and knew little, if anything, of the United States

Government. At this time our forces were few. ~~in~~ even so, during the Mexican War, Colonel Doniphan made an expedition to Bear Springs, (now Fort Wingate) to make a treaty with the Navaho. This gesture was useless and ~~in~~ for the next three years five military expeditions were sent out ~~in~~ in an effort to stop the Navaho raids. All of these were of little avail in so vast a country. ~~Navaho~~ In ~~continued~~ 1851 Fort Defiance was established right in the heart of the most hostile area, The first civil agent to the Navaho was Captain Henry L. Dodge, frontiersman and soldier. but the garrison was small, the efforts to subdue the Navaho fruitless. This ineffectual ~~war~~ gorilla war continued for ten years, the Navaho and their southern Mescalero Apaches continually raiding the ~~Spanish~~ settlements and stock ranches along the Rio Grande. In 1861 the military forces from Fort Defiance were withdrawn to participate in the Civil War action along the Rio Grande. With all the attention of the ^{Federal} military forces united to throw back the Confederate Army from the Santa Fe region, the Nav^o were once more left to their own pursuits. In June of 1863 Brigadier General James Carleton signed a General Order which was an official declaration of War against the Navaho. General Carleton sent Lieut. Christopher (Kit) Carson with 1000 troops to the Navaho Country to subdue the Navaho.

in ~~that~~ part of the world for many preceeding centuries. The Athabaskans doubtless learned farming from their Pueblo neighbors, for the very first reference to them by the Spanish Conquistadores are the words of Father Geronimo Zarate-Salmeron, who wrote in 1626 "The Apache Indians de Navahu, who are very great farmers, for that is what the name 'Navahu' signifies, 'Great Planted Fields'----" Apparently none of the Spanish of Coronado's time encountered these Indians,- they may have been just a small group at that time, staying within a relatively small area. A great change came ~~between~~, however, when in the seventeenth Century they acquired both horses and sheep. This acquisition was to change the Navaho from farmers into roving stockmen. Nor did they discard their knowledge of farming for it ~~has~~ moved with them as they expanded their living area. They were never the closely knit community living people like their Pueblo neighbors. They became expert horsemen and whenever they wished to increase their stock ~~of animals~~ they boldly raided the Spanish settlements, driving off more animals and often taking women and children too from both the Spanish and Pueblo people. For more than two hundred years the Navaho from the west and the Comanche Indians from the east were the terror of the Pueblo and Spanish settlements along the Rio Grande in New Mexico. During the latter part of the eighteenth century the Spanish, through bribery, held the Navaho from the severe raids of the past. But with the death in about 1800 of the Navaho chief Antonio, who held his people in check, the old raids began more vigorously than ever.

NAVAHO! For two hundred and fifty years that name has filled the minds of white people with a variety of emotions;-fear, apprehension, responsibility, pity, disgust, admiration, respect! Who are these people to arouse such a complexity of thought in our minds? Where did they come from, what are they like, what do they do?

The known history of the Navaho is short indeed. Ethnologists tell us that in all probability the Athabaskan speaking people, of which the Navaho are the largest group, were the last migration to reach the North American Continent from Mongolia, crossing Beharing Straight. Just when this last migration took place has yet to be determined. Wandering gradually down the Rocky Mountain Region, these Athabaskans ~~group~~ established themselves in what now seem widely separated areas; in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Oklahoma. Unquestionably they were a migratory people for many centuries. Present historians believe that one group of these people came into the North Central part of our present state of New Mexico at some time between A.D. 800 and 1200. This region, lying west of the Chama river and north of the present town of Cuba, is known as "Old Navaho Land". This area includes part of the present day Jicarilla Apache reservation. The Apaches too, are Athabaskan and are considered "cousins of the Navaho. When these wanderers came into our Southwest they encountered the Pueblo Indian People who had been living in this part of the world for many preceeding centuries. Doubtless these Athabaskans learned to farm from their Pueblo neighbors for the first refer-

bring the up to date
Pine - San Juan River area.

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of the Navaho chief Antonio who had held them in check, the
old raids began more vigorously than ever. By this time, and
some time before, the Navaho had spread as far west as Canyon de
Chelly, for archaeology tells us that they were in the Canyon
in 1712. And again archaeologists have found the sites of
hundreds of Pueblo ruins ^{in this far western section of the xxxxxxxx} antedating the Navaho by many hundreds

of years. Shortly after Antonio's death, at the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Spanish sent an expedition out to quell the Navaho. They came to the rim of the Canyon de Chelly and its tributary Canyon del Muerto and seeing a group of Navaho People in a cave across the Canyon, they fired their small canon into the cave. It so happened that the men of this group were all ^{away on a} ~~out~~ ^{expedition} hunting and the result was that many women and children were massacred by the Spanish soldiers. It was from this episode that Massacre Cave and Canyon del Muerto derived their names. From that time the Navaho were, ofcourse, at war with the Spanish. Less than twenty years later came the Mexican war and a greatly weakened government in the New Mexico area. Then came the war between Mexico and the United States, and on May 14th 1846, General Stephen W. Kearney entered Santa Fe and proclaimed the sovereignty of the United States over ~~MaxxMaxi~~ the citizens, including the Indian Peoples, of this vast Southwestern area.

The Indians ofcourse knew little if anything about the government of the United States and for another twenty years raids and reprisals were frequent. During our civil war little thought was given to the far away Navaho

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