

Appendix D

A description of Sonoita Valley, from the Arizonian (Tubac), published May 12, 1859, probably written by editor Edward Cross.

Sonoita Valley

On the road to Calbazas ranche, from Tubac, when about one mile from the former place, the traveler will notice a wide opening in the range of hills upon his left hand, and a slightly marked road extending in an easterly direction. This is the entrance to the Sonoita Valley, or, rather, canon, which contains some of the best farms in Arizona. The total length of Sonoita valley is about eleven miles, its breadth from fifty feet to half a mile, the sides precipitous, and very rough. The road winds along the bed of the stream most of the way, between tall cliffs occasionally, where the passage is very narrow. The Sonoita, a clear, rippling brook, runs through the valley, like all streams in this country, intermittant, and before it reaches the Santa Cruz, toward which it runs so briskly, dives into the sand and disappears. Now and then the valley widens a little, leaving a small interval, which can be irrigated, and here are the farms, hemmed in by the adjacent hills, which roll away into

formidable mountain ranges. There are seven farms on the Sonoita, besides one or two little spaces, where there are houses inhabited by the laborers. In all, there is probably six or seven hundred acres of arable land capable of regular irrigation, in the whole valley. First comes Findlay's ranche, the largest of the lot, containing nearly two hundred acres. Here a grist mill is being erected, which will be great benefit to the country. Next, Pennington's, and then Marshall's. Mr. Marshall has about one hundred and sixty acres of land capable of easy and highly profitable cultivation. It is well situated, and bears some fine timber for this country. We next come to Woolworth's ranche, which is very productive, and well watered. Mr. W. raised last year, among other crops, barley to the amount of five thousand dollars. Ward's and Ake's farms are abundantly supplied with water, and produce good crops. At this time, the barley, which is seen on all the ranches, as a preliminary to the corn crop, although late, looks well. A greater part of it will find market at Fort Buchanan, to be used as fodder for the troop horses. The road along the Sonoita valley is at present in a very bad condition. If it is to be a public highway, and it ought to be, the inhabitants would profit to expend some labor in repairing the bad places, cutting away trees, and filling up dangerous holes. It is a romantic ride along the banks and channel of the little stream, which is a treasure beyond price

to farmers of the neighborhood. "Sonoita," in Spanish, signifies clover, and there was never a more correct appellation, for the narrow valley is matted with a luxuriant growth of clover, which, when short and green, is much relished by the cattle. For a wonder there are few fish in this stream—diminutive specimens of the mullet tribe, such as are called "dace," or shiners in the States. They are liable, how ever, to be made of "small fry" in a double sense whenever the water dries up. The Sonoita is one of the chief agricultural districts of the country, and there is a prospect of its product this year being very large in proportion to the land cultivated.