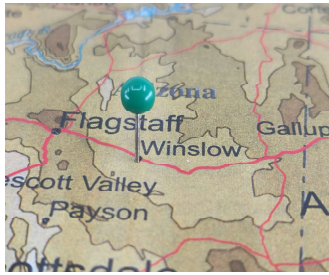


The Irish in Arizona: Government Officials & Entrepreneurs

Government Officials:

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 ended the war between Mexico and the United States. Under the treaty, Mexico ceded a large portion of land to the United States. A significant portion of what is now Arizona and all of the current state of New Mexico were organized into the New Mexico Territory in 1850. In 1853, the southern section of Arizona was acquired in the Gadsden purchase. In 1863, despite the small population, political and financial interests from what is now Arizona convinced the United States Congress to separate Arizona into its own territory. A new territory would need governance at both the local and federal level. Many Irish immigrants in the new territory, and soon-to-be state, rose to the occasion.

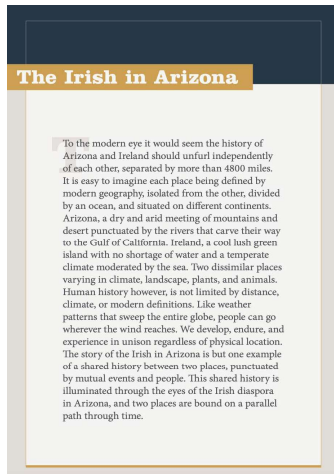


Entrepreneurs:

In the decades following the Civil War, the population of the Territory of Arizona grew. Pre-Civil War, the Arizona Territory's population was estimated to be 6,482. By the 1890s, the population had grown to approximately 88,243. More people led to more opportunities for those with the entrepreneurial spirit. During this busy time of relocation, Irish immigrants built businesses throughout what would eventually become the State of Arizona.

The most accessible avenues of self-employment in the Arizona Territory revolved around mining precious metals and the necessities of the miners. Miners worked their own claims in search of riches, while businesses like boarding houses, restaurants, and supply stores sprung up around the boomtowns. Many boomtown business owners would pick up and start anew wherever the next hot town sprung up. Some business owners managed to have more permanent success.

Learn More in our Irish in Arizona Exhibit!



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