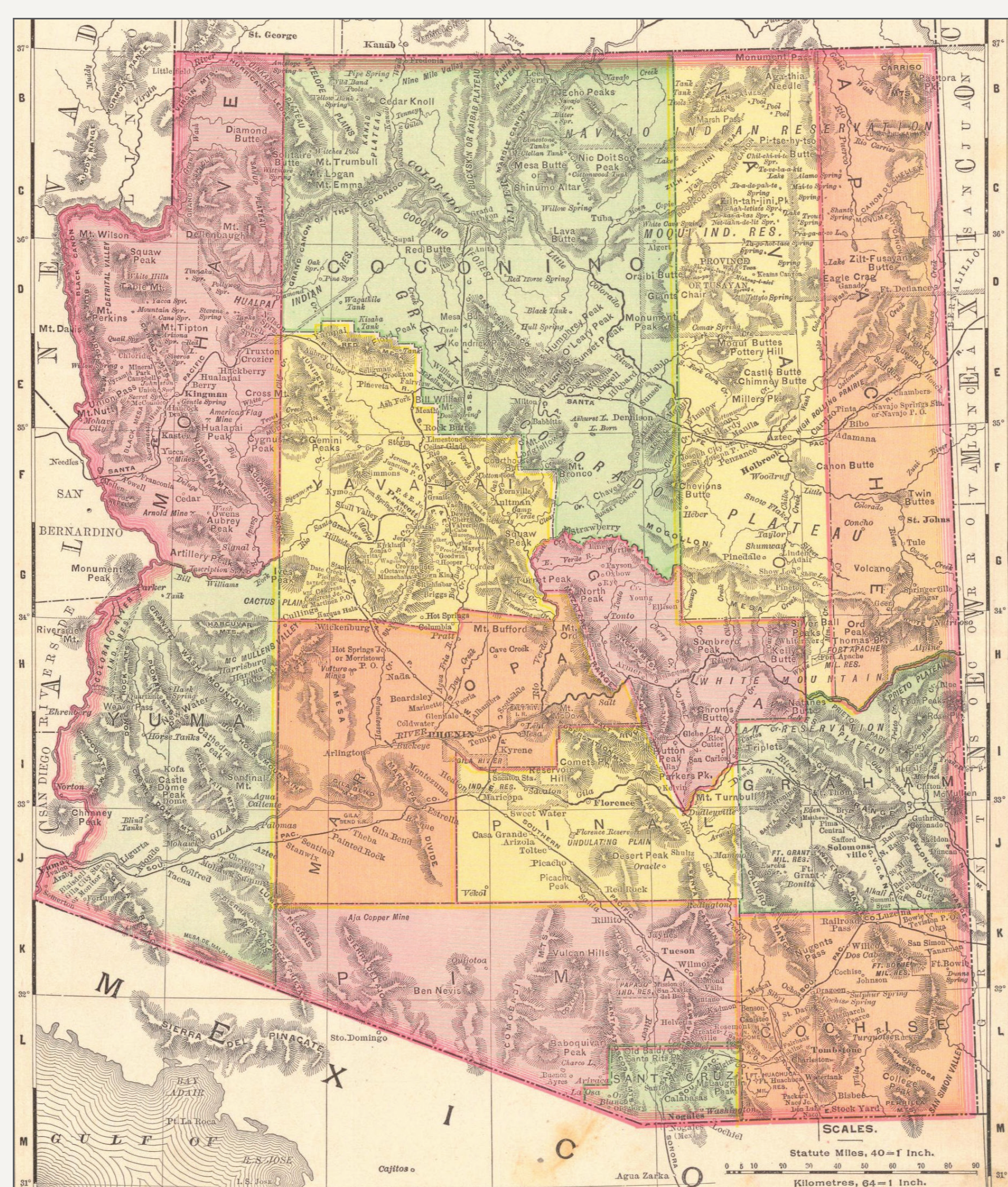


# Government Officials



Arizona Territory Map, 1898

The post-Civil War era was a period in the United States where a significant number of soldiers were born in Ireland. An 1880 census of Fort Apache, Arizona, showed 18% of the fort's population were Irish-born individuals. Since Arizona was a territory, as opposed to a state, the United States military were an essential part of the governance and security of its citizens.

POPULATION OF ARIZONA: 1870 TO 1920.				
CENSUS YEAR.	Population.	INCREASE OVER PRECEDING CENSUS.		Per cent of increase for the United States.
		Number.	Per cent.	
1920 .....	834,102	129,806	68.0	14.9
1910 .....	294,354	81,423	65.2	21.0
1900 .....	122,931	54,658	59.3	20.7
1890 .....	68,243	47,803	118.2	25.5
1880 .....	40,440	30,782	318.7	30.1
1870 .....	9,658			

1920 United States Census

Jeremiah 'Jerry' Ryan was born in County Tipperary and became a sheriff in Gila County, Arizona, in the late 1880s. Ryan came into office by finishing out his deceased predecessor's term. He found financial success through prospecting and cattle ranching in Globe.

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.



Courthouse in Tucson, 1898

Cornelius O'Keefe was born in Ireland. He arrived in the U.S. in 1875 and had made his way to Arizona by 1880. After a number of successful ventures in the West, he became the Collector of the Port of Nogales along the border with Mexico. Both presidents Roosevelt and Taft appointed O'Keefe to his position in 1908 and 1912. His name became etched into Arizona history when his right to hold federal office was challenged because his father was not a United States citizen. In 1912, O'Keefe won the case and continued on with his appointed duties.

James R. Dunseath from Belfast first immigrated with his family to Canada as a child. He earned his law degree in Detroit, and after a trip to Morenci in 1902, he moved to Arizona. He was admitted to practice law in Arizona and had a specialty in land and mining. After serving in various District Courts, Dunseath was appointed U.S. Commissioner of Tucson in 1912. He ran for Congress in 1920 and lost to Carl Hayden.

William P. Mahoney Sr. was born in County Mayo. He worked mines in the Arizona Territory between 1910 and 1912 where he became a successful union organizer in Mohave County. In 1914, he was elected to the new Arizona House of Representatives and in 1916 he was elected to the Arizona Senate. Between 1918 and 1926, Mahoney served as Sheriff of Mohave County and in 1936 he was appointed to the State Board of Public Welfare and served until 1952.



Arizona Cattle Ranch

