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JAMES K. BROWN- (archive.org)

James K. Brown, pioneer in California and in Arizona, early settler in Tucson and for over thirty-seven years one of the greatest individual forces in the development of the cattle-raising, farming and mining industries in Pima county, is now closely identified with various corporate and business interests in this section, where he figures as one of the most progressive and valued citizens. He was born and reared in Ohio, but when a young man decided to seek a fortune in the west and accordingly, with characteristic confidence and courage, sailed from New York, taking the Panama route to San Francisco and passing through the Golden Gate on March 29, 1869, after a journey of twenty-two days. He engaged in farming in the San Joaquin valley at a place then called Empire City, in what is now Stanislaus county, and he was very successful in that occupation.

In the spring of 1877 Mr. Brown and his companions started overland with teams for Tucson, Arizona. They were joined by two more men in the course of their journey and the party numbered nine upon its arrival in Tucson. After locating there Mr. Brown turned his attention to cattle-raising and dry farming, buying the Sahuarito ranch in the Santa Cruz valley, south of Tucson, and adding to his holdings until he owned four thousand acres. An interesting history is attached to this ranch, which was the first established on the line of the river in Pima county between Tucson and Tubac. As far back as 1854 it was operated as a cattle ranch by its first owner, Mr. Columbus, who sold it to Mr. Rice a few years afterward. It then came into the possession of A. C. Benedict, who sold it to the subject of this review in 1877. As a ranch it never passed out of the hands of American owners, being sold by Mr. Brown to George H. Holmes in 1911. However, it is now owned by the Valley Farm Company and is being subdivided. Upon this historic property Mrs. W. C. Greene, the widow of the noted copper king of Arizona, was born, her father being the third owner, A. C. Benedict. James K. Brown owned and operated this ranch for many years, developing it into a productive and profitable enterprise and becoming one of the largest raisers of high grade cattle in his part of the state. During the period of his ownership he gave the right of way through the property to the Tucson & Nogales Railroad and the station at this point was named, Sahuarito. In 1911 Mr. Brown bought three hundred and twenty acres of land and his son, J. K., Jr., located one hundred and sixty acres, while John located three hundred and twenty. At the present time Mr. Brown does not give his attention to agricultural pursuits but engages in mining, in which he has been interested since 1879, when he located a copper mine at Santa Rita, in the Rosemont district, which he named the Narragansett. This is now being worked by W. R. Ramsdell and is proving a very productive mine. In 1885 Mr. Brown became proprietor of another valuable mine located on the west side of the valley and to this he gave the name of Olive in honor of his wife. Until 1896 he made his home upon his ranch but at that time was obliged to move to Camp Olive on account of Indian troubles and lived there one year, returning to the ranch in 1897. At present, however, he is a resident of Tucson. He has prospered in his mining operations and now controls valuable properties and is numbered among the great factors in the mining development of the state.

Mr. Brown was married in Ohio, November 6, 1879, to Miss Olive Stephenson, a native of Iowa and a daughter of John A. and Clarissa (Birge) Stephenson, who removed from Iowa to Ohio. Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Clara B. is now the wife of Mulford Winsor and has three children, Eleanor, Margaret and Mulford, Jr. The other children of Mr. and Mrs. Brown are James K., Jr., Harriet E., John S. and Margaret B. Mrs. Brown is a lady of refinement and culture and is held in the highest esteem by all who know her. She came to the west from Ohio and was one of the first white women to locate near Tucson. At that time the Indians were often troublesome and many were the hardships and privations to be endured. She is an exceptionally splendid story teller and relates many interesting incidents of the early life on the frontier.

Mr. Brown is one of the leaders in the local republican organization and was elected sheriff of Pima county in the fall of 1890, serving for two years, during which time he faithfully performed the duties which fell to his lot, guarding the interests of the people he served fearlessly and conscientiously. He is prominent and widely known in Arizona, where he was one of the earliest pioneers. He believes in and acknowledges the rights and privileges of others while laboring in his own interests, and in his business career has never been known to advance his own prosperity by trespassing upon the rights of others.

He is a typical man of the west — alert and enterprising, with marked fertility of resource — and he has left the impress of his forceful personality upon Arizona's growth and development.

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