

History of Safford

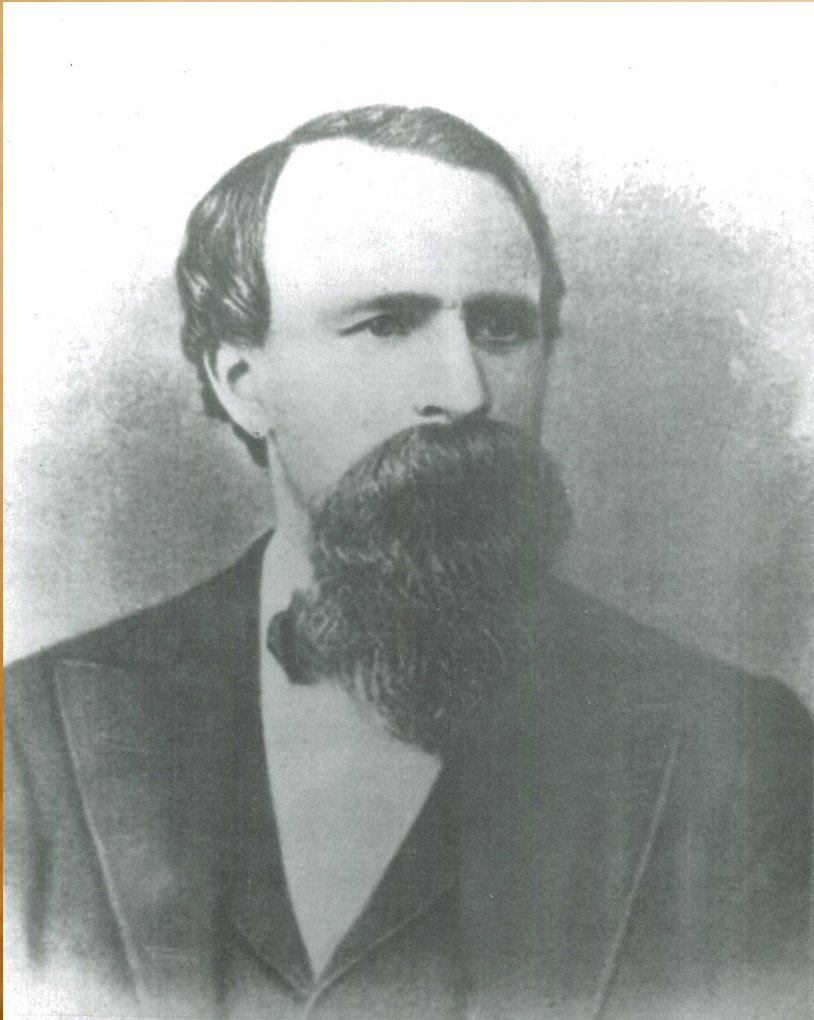
A Few Facts About the Establishment of the City of Safford

History of Safford by Edward D. Tuttle (written in 1898):

*About the winter of 1873 a small party of hardy prisoners who had been for a number of years making an effort to develop water at Gila Bend, below Phoenix, and having their dams and canals washed away by the high water and crops dried in the consequence, concluded to try anew in the valley of the Pueblo Viejo, as the this whole valley was then known. They made their first camp on the bank of the river near here, on the land now owned by the Chiricahua Cattle Company. Having been joined by a few others they laid out the present townsite under the townsite laws of the United States, and put up a few rude buildings as a commencement of a town and named it after the then **Governor, A.P.K. Safford** (pictured below), who about that time made a visit to this valley, and who always took a lively interest in its development.*

Edward Fish, a one-time Thatcher merchant, who became a noted historian, in his Fish's Manuscript says:

In January 1874 he (J.E. Bailey) came to Safford where he was active in supplying the military posts. In 1882 he located on the San Simon. A few years ago he moved to Yuma but soon after returned to the Gila Valley. A few had located here a little prior to this. Among those that came in about this time and soon after were John C. Glasby, Hiriun Kennedy, Dan Hughes, John Conley, W.A. Holmes, John Earl, C.M. Ritter, Alfred Frye, J.S. Davis, W.C. Gardenhire, W.H. Kirkland, James Williamson, Jenkin Lewis, John Clark, E.D. Tuttle and Anthony Wade. C.M. Ritter located the townsite on January 4, 1875. (This date would be incorrect).



Arizona Citizen - November 21, 1874:

At Pueblo Viejo, J.E. Bailey and Jose Montoya were elected justices of the peace, and Francisco Grijalva and N. Burle constables.

Arizona Citizen - December 11, 1875:

Pueblo Viejo is attracting considerable attention of late arrivals in Arizona, and the people of that section properly esteem the value of it. This week, several men have gone out there and with them Mr. Ritter who is employed to survey the new townsite into lots.

Arizona Citizen - January 8, 1876:

Mr. Ritter returned from the Upper Gila last Monday where he had been to survey the town of Safford into lots and blocks. He has a map of the survey completed in good style.

The City of Safford was incorporated in 1901.