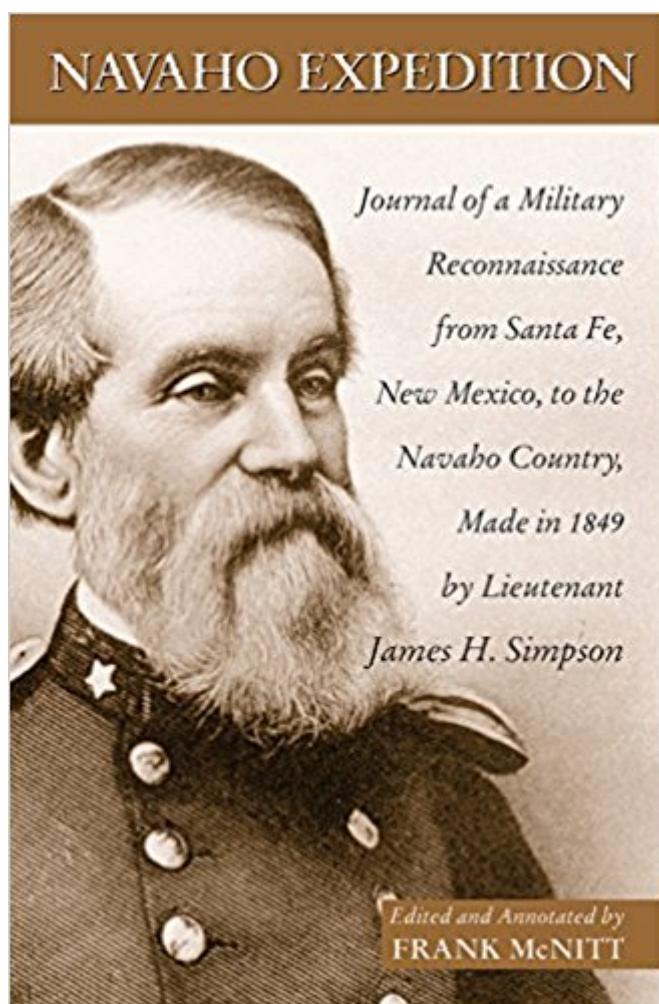


The book was found

Navajo Expedition: Journal Of A Military Reconnaissance From Santa Fe, New Mexico, To The Navaho Country, Made In 1849



Synopsis

In 1849, the Corps of Topographical Engineers commissioned Lieutenant James H. Simpson to undertake the first survey of Navajo country in present-day New Mexico. Accompanying Simpson was a military force commanded by Colonel John M. Washington, sent to negotiate peace with the Navajo. A keen observer, Simpson kept a journal that provided valuable information on the party's interactions with Indians and also about the land's features, including important pueblo ruins at Chaco Canyon and Canyon de Chelly. His careful observations informed subsequent military expeditions, emigrant trains, the selection of Indian reservations, and the charting of a transcontinental railroad. Editor Frank McNitt discusses the expedition's lasting importance to the development of the West, and his research is enriched by illustrations and maps by artists Richard and Edward Kern. Military historian Durwood Ball contributes a new foreword.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Frank McNitt makes the coin of the past ring true. He has given us the New Mexico-Arizona world as it looked on the eve of an era during which U.S. traders and government people were to become a daily factor in Navajo and Pueblo life.

James H. Simpson, a first lieutenant during the 1849 survey, was promoted to a brigadier general and named chief engineer of the Interior Department. Frank McNitt was a leading authority on southwestern history.

This book was referenced in the "War of a Thousand Deserts" an account of the Comanche-Mexican war that just proceeded the US-Mexican war. It has much interesting information but for the general reader of Southwest or Native American histories it may not be that vital. It does describe the American's views on the Navajo "problem" as the US and the US Army took over control of the former Mexican provenances after the US-Mexican war.

This book is an historically important description of a place and time..it is exceptionally well annotated. I regularly hike..wander..the regions Simpson describes and reading this book I can see them. This is not a western potboiler, it is solid material for people who are fascinated by the time and in love with these places. Much of Simpsons writing could serve as locally accurate archeological exploration direction. A person interested in geology (not me, sadly) would better appreciate Simpsons professional geological information...that was on of his primary military assignments after all. Simpson is first a sort of military scientist, but he regularly expresses awe.

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