

**RESOURCES OF THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS: WITH DESCRIPTION
OF
COUNTIES, RAILROADS, MINES,
AND THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK**

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Resources of the State of Arkansas: With Description of Counties, Railroads, Mines, and the City of Little Rock by James P. Henry

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JAMES P. HENRY

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XX Arkansas

RESOURCES

OF THE STATE OF

ARKANSAS,

WITH

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTIES,

RAILROADS. MINES.

AND THE

CITY OF LITTLE ROCK,

THE COMMERCIAL, MANUFACTURING, POLITICAL AND
RAILROAD CENTER OF THE STATE.

SECOND EDITION.

BY JAMES P. HENRY.

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DEDICATION.

TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND CITY OF LITTLE ROCK.

Of Arkansas little has been written, and little is known outside its borders. The State of Arkansas—the least known but most inviting to immigrants, because presenting a climate the most lovely in the Union, a soil the most reproductive in all the fruits of the earth; mineral resources second to none in richness and extent; timber, the most useful in all the mechanical arts, and farms, of one hundred and sixty acres, to be had simply for the asking—a State containing all the elements of an empire within itself, the City of Little Rock, “the future great city of the southwest,” located on the world’s highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, on the national highway from the north to the south; in the center of a State that can furnish happy homes for 5,000,000 of people; on the chief river of Arkansas, surrounded by a country the most lovely of Uncle Sam’s domain; located on a hill, receiving the full benefit of the health-inspiring breezes; the city of railroads, and the city that is destined to outstrip all her rivals, this work, devoted to the advancement and development of the material resources of Arkansas, is dedicated by the

AUTHOR.

TO THE PUBLIC.

I have endeavored to be strictly impartial as relates to different localities in Arkansas, and have written as if addressing an intimate friend who was entirely ignorant concerning the subjects discussed. It is designed to furnish a hand-book which will be worth all it costs to any person interested in the southwest.

This book is the outgrowth of experience in relation to the matters of which it treats, and the reader is requested to bear in mind that it is not written by a professional author. It is hoped that upon this ground its many defects will be more leniently regarded.

I gladly record my gratitude to the numberless friends who have rendered valuable service in furnishing material for this work. Without these kind offices on the part of my friends and those who desire to see the State correctly described, it would have been impossible to sell the work for the small sum at which it is offered.

This book points out various means whereby more extended information can be obtained in regard to any particular locality, and the author will also answer all letters addressed to him at Little Rock, with stamps inclosed. J. P. H.

EXPLANATORY.

Post masters and citizens generally, throughout the State, are daily receiving numerous letters of inquiry about Arkansas; its soil, minerals, manufactories and climate, its healthfulness, progress and resources generally. These are interspersed with questions about rail roads, rail way, government, homestead and pre-emption lands, for farming, fruit growing and stock raising, and for all kinds of pursuits, requiring little or more considerable capital; and the chances for engaging in industrial avocations in a peaceable, moral and law abiding way, among peaceable and law revering people. This pamphlet is issued for the purpose of aiding to answer such inquiries, and to encourage the development of the resources of Arkansas, the prosperity and material advancement of the State, and that its manifold resources, inducements and advantages to immigrants, may be made known to the outside world, who know comparatively little about this State. And will furnish under separate and distinct heads, information to the world, on the climate, soil, minerals, products, etc., of Arkansas, which cannot fail to be of immense advantage to persons looking for new homes with a view of bettering their condition in life. And also, will be the means of adding greatly to the wealth and population of the State; a State that henceforth must increase in population and wealth equal to any of the States in the Mississippi valley, by reason of her favorable situation between the warm latitude of the south and the icy plains of the north, a State, the most inviting to immigrants, because offering the greatest inducements.

J. P. H.

HISTORICAL FACTS OF ARKANSAS.

The Commissioner of the United States Land Office, says :

“West of the Mississippi river, in the State of Arkansas, lies an extremely fertile, well watered country, occasionally mountainous, and at other times level; being one of the most productive regions on the continent for the culture of cotton, corn and tobacco. The products of Arkansas are classed with those of agriculture, manufactures, the forest and the mines; of the first, the variety is great, embracing the hardy growth of the northern, in the western, and the tropical plants and fruits of the south, in the eastern and southern sections. The principal of these are wheat, rye, oats, sweet and Irish potatoes, maize, peas, beans, butter, cheese, wool, slaughtered animals, honey, bees-wax, tobacco, cotton, hay and garden products of great number and value.”

Governor Conway, in his annual message to the Legislature of 1858, says :

“If we had labor enough to cultivate all the cotton lands in the State, Arkansas alone, could supply, annually, the market of the world, with as much cotton as has ever been raised any year, in all of the cotton growing States of the Union.” This is equally true to day.

PRESS COMMENTS.

The immense tide of immigration now setting toward Arkansas is best shown by the comments of the southwestern and other journals of recent dates.

The *New York World*, in an editorial (January 15, 1870), says: "The tide of emigration from the seaboard states of the south to Arkansas is rapidly augmenting. The fertile areas of the southwest hold out irresistible inducements to the farmers and laborers of the less fertile States, whom the war has impoverished, and whose old systems of industry have been broken up. Between three and four thousand of these emigrants, with their household goods, farming implements, and cattle, passed through Memphis during the month of October. The territory which they are to occupy is practically without limit, the soil generally of unexampled fertility, and the climate mild and healthful. Even as far north as the northern boundary of Arkansas, snow falls but rarely, and the winter months have the temperature of September in our latitude. Everything indicates the rapid establishment in the far southwest, of a thrifty, industrious population, and the bringing under cultivation of immense areas of the most fertile territory on the continent."

The *New York Tribune* says: "There seems to be a steady stream of emigration flowing to Arkansas, which will soon be largely augmented by the inviting influences of her free schools, well planned railroad system, and economically administered state government."