

**HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF LAS VEGAS,  
NEW MEXICO**

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Historical sketch of Las Vegas, New Mexico by H. T. Wilson

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## PREFACE.

It would be impossible to present a complete detailed account of the history of Las Vegas in a volume of this size and cost. Great pains, untiring industry and perseverance were taken to obtain the facts and data in this book, which, from the sources at hand being mostly the remembrance of old pioneers, many of whom spoke a language foreign to the writer, was a task of no small undertaking. The idea has been to present Las Vegas and surrounding country "as it was and is" without bombast or exaggeration, and allay as much as possible the many misrepresentations which have gone abroad from too hasty and reckless writers.

Every country has its advantages and disadvantages, which can be best ascertained by personal investigation, and one contemplating immigration to any country should not fail to make it before taking the final step. As nothing has ever been placed in print concerning the early history of Las Vegas, but little is known of it by most of the present inhabitants, and I take pride and pleasure in presenting this book to my many friends and patrons.

*Very Truly Yours,*

H. T. WILSON.





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MIGUEL ROMERO.

*Came to this Section of New Mexico in 1833.*

# CHAPTER I.

## THE PAST.

### Settlement of Las Vegas.—Historical Accounts.—Growth to Date.

Las Vegas has not the antiquity that is generally supposed, or its present looks would easily lead one to believe. As late as 1830, it was the hunting grounds of the noble (?) red man, and parties of trappers and hunters frequently



FIRST HOUSE, BUILT BY MIGUEL ROMERO, IN 1830.

*In 2252 feet, and about 8 feet high. Still standing, and situated about half way between Upper and Lower Las Vegas.*

came through here in their chase after buffalo, antelope, other game, fish, and furs.

In the early part of 1833 a Mexican named Miguel Romero came here from the southern part of the Territory, settled on a piece of land, and built a little, low, flat mud house (see illustration) on it, about midway between what are now called Upper and Lower Las Vegas, about a mile and a half from either. He commenced at once to clear the land,—a light job—on the meadow he had located,