

## OLD GLORY GOLD MINE

The mine that was to become the Old Glory Mine went through several owners and name changes before it became the Old Glory Mine. The Derre-Townsend Syndicate of Arivaca first identified the mine location in 1875. However, the Syndicate was occupied with the development of other properties and did not commence working the claim. When no development had occurred for a year, the claims were forfeited in accordance with the Mining Act of 1872. In the late 1870s, a Frenchman named Amedec Blane claimed the property under the names Bullion, Confidence and Emma.

In 1883, Blane sold the claims to a group of Boston Investors who renamed the claims “Esperanza” which is Spanish for “hope”. By 1884, the Esperanza Company was well established. A dam had been constructed to supply water for the operation and a 10 stamp mill, a rock breaker, five grinding and amalgamating pans, three settlers and four concentrators were installed to process the ore. The mill was powered by a steam powered Brown engine. A dormitory, boarding house and an office were also built on a narrow ledge above the mill to support the operation. In July 1884, the Arizona Citizen reported that the mill was crushing 50 tons of ore every 24 hours. Also, the operation had grown enough that Esperanza Camp qualified to have a Post Office and Hiram Blaisdell was appointed the first postmaster of Esperanza Mining Camp. The operation had a couple of successful years but eventually the high cost of operating the system resulted in the owners deciding in 1886 to cut their losses, abandon the operation and move the equipment to a mine in the Yuma area.

In 1887, the mine was re-activated as the Diana Mine and then abandoned again. In 1889, a Frenchman named Pierre Peyron reopened the mine as the La Francia. He explored the diggings in a different direction and found good ore in great quantities. Peyron processed the ore for four years using three burro powered arrastas and then in 1894 decided to sell his interest in the mine to the Old Glory Mining and Milling Company of Los Angeles.

On 11 April 1894, the Old Glory Mine was recorded with Captain George Mullins, a retired US Army officer, as the manager. Processing equipment (two Griffin mills and six concentrators) was installed and several support buildings were constructed. A survey report prepared by the Arizona Geological Survey indicated that there was a thirty stamp mill, an adobe office building, a frame building for mill men, an assay building, two blacksmith shops, four cottages and a combination store and boarding house. . A double-track steel rail inclined tram with self-dumping ore cars was installed to carry the ore from the mine at the top of the hill down to the mill. A 2-mile road was also built to connect the Old Glory to the railroad at Calabasas to expedite the transportation of freight and mail. This road over the mountains was built by 100 men in just over two months. A Post Office with the postmark of “Oldglory” (one word) was established on 15 January 1895. The postmark was changed to “Old Glory” in 1909.

Mining operations progressed and at peak activity the operation was processing 35 to 40 tons of ore a day. This was significantly less than the 100 tons per day that was

originally forecast for the mine and this didn't please the stockholders. At some point in 1895, they refused to provide additional funding. As a result, Captain Mullins resigned and mining operations were stopped. This led to a long series of court cases where the mine was periodically operated by a series of receivers. In 1899, the litigation was finally settled and the Old Glory was sold at a Sheriff's Auction to Albert Steinfeld. This began a whole new series of owners.

Under Steinfeld, the mine was mostly inactive due to a lack of financial backing and in 1902, the Old Glory was sold to Zeckendorf Properties who operated for a time with a new 20 stamp mill. In 1903, the mine was sold to B. Bogan who began operating with a 30 stamp mill. In July 1904, the Old Glory was sold to the Gold Mining Assurance Company and by 1905 they were operating a 30 stamp mill with the combination of an amalgamating, concentrating and cyaniding recovery process. After 1905, the owners of the Old Glory changed several times more with only intermittent operations until 1912 when the owners abandoned the operation. The estimated total production value of the Old Glory through 1913 is \$500,000. The Old Glory Post Office closed in 1915 and the mine went through another series of owners with only nominal results. The last interest in Old Glory occurred in 1942 when the claims were leased to the Apache International Mining Company of Tucson. They ran some tests and decided not to restart operations and the site has continuously deteriorated since then.

Summary prepared by T. Johnson from *The Story of the Old Glory Gold Mine* by Bob and Al Ring. For the complete article, go to the following web site. If the link doesn't work, copy the url and past it to your browser.

<http://www.ringbrothershistory.com/Oro%20Blanco%20PDFs/Old%20Glory%20Story%20compressed.pdf>

**Additional Material:** GVHC Library File 49

See following pages for pictures of the Old Glory Mine

## EARLY PICTURES OF THE OLD GLORY MINE

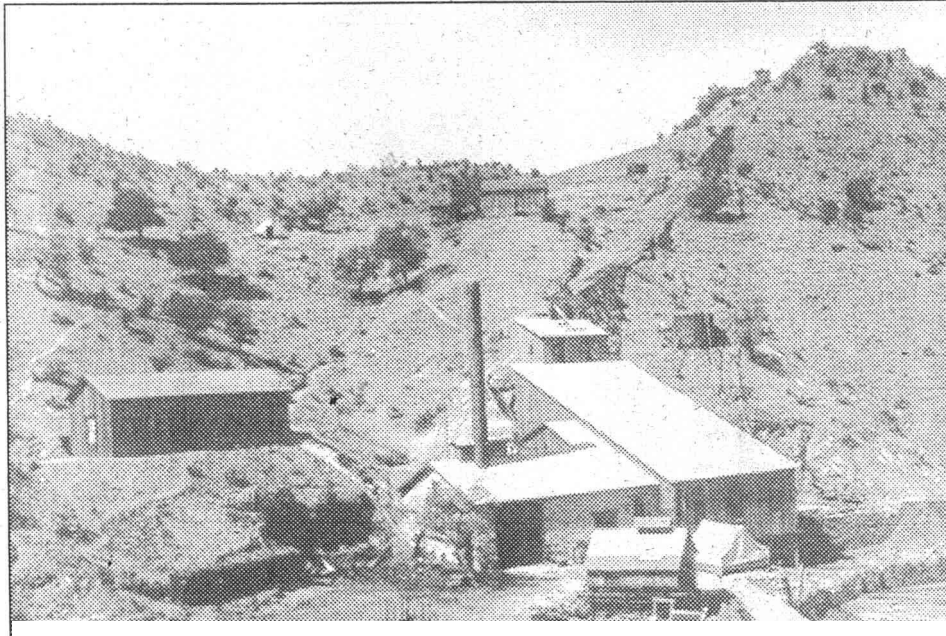


Photo of the Old Glory Mine about 1895  
Arizona Historical Society Photo B89317

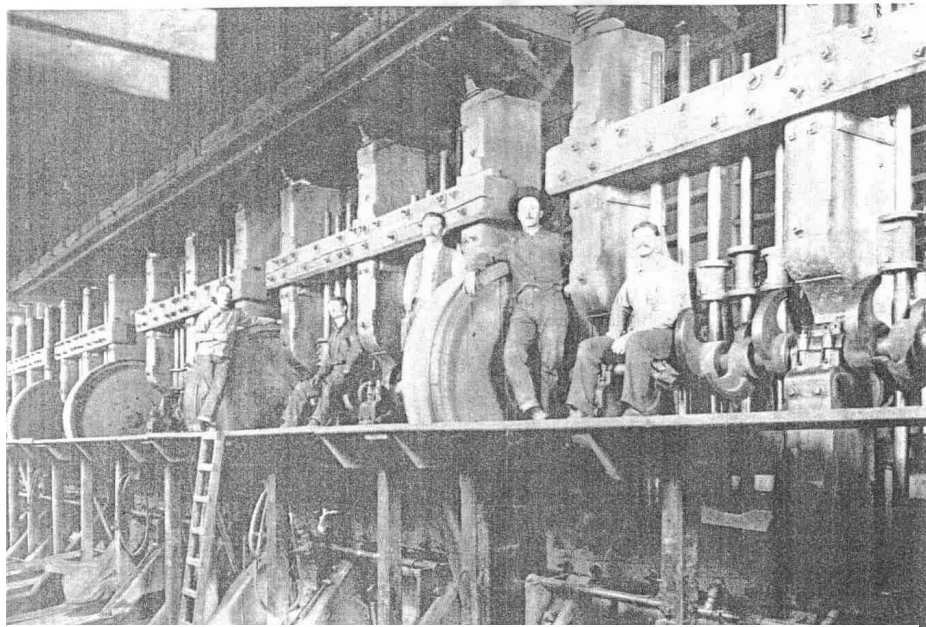
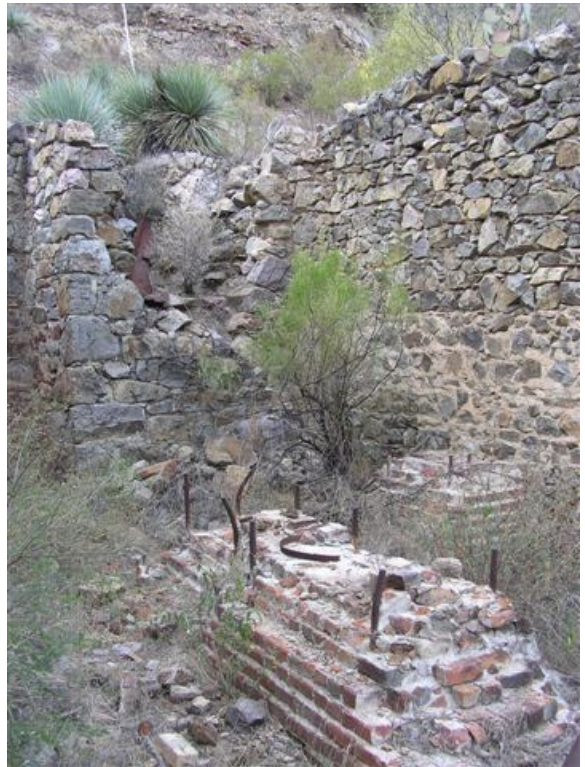


Photo of the Old Glory Stamp Mill about 1895

## RECENT PICTURES OF THE OLD GLORY MINE



Ruins of the Power Plant  
Photo by T. Johnson



Power Plant Equipment Platform  
Photo by T. Johnson



Power Plant Ruins from Above  
Photo by T. Johnson



RECENT PICTURES OF THE OLD GLORY MINE



Cam Shaft from the Stamp Mill  
Photo by T. Johnson



Cam Shaft from the Stamp Mill  
Photo by T. Johnson