

Rutland Historical Society

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1919 Diary of a Trip To the Gila National Forest

“The 1919 Diary of a Trip to the Gila National Forest” is a verbatim account of a trip on horseback, through New Mexico by Ella Bean Livingston, at the time an Army nurse in the Southwestern United States.

In company with three other nurses and a guide from Fort Bayard, founded in 1866 north of present day Santa Clara, the party travelled northwest to view the Gila Cliff dwellings built by Pueblo Indians in the 1220s. Miss Livingston describes each daily activity in great detail without providing much personal commentary of others on the trip.

The text is accompanied by a variety of photographs of mountainous terrain; cliff dwellings; photos of the women on the trip; and a basic map outlining the area of exploration. An interesting account worth reading if somewhat lacking in depth, as it was written as a personal diary, not necessarily for a wider audience.