TRADITION OF THE PIMAS.

Why the "Great House" Near Casa Grande Still Rears Its Walls Alone.

Once Was From the South and Attacked from the North Compared to Destruction of the Village—A Special Message.

Written for the NEWS.

The crumbling buildings of the Pima Indians remind us of the ancient ruins known as the Casa Grande (great house) in Maricopa county, a few miles from the national station of that name. We given to one of Arizona's pioneers thirty years ago by an aged Indian who was sent to be with a Caucasian with. He was the chief keeper of Pima historical traditions and when he considered his story, he proceeded to measure to celebrate in a small handful of stones about a yard long, each covered with a motion could a flying away the cord that pointed to the proposed to be story, which never had ends. To all the details would be too long for a newspaper article, so I have gone into a summary of general outline of his story, which begins by a long long ago to the occupant of Mexico in the Spanish in 1540. I will say that in 1540 that date the Pimas had lived in peace and comfort, raising cattle and grain and from their farms receiving abundant harvests.

But one day a party of strangers appeared. They had marched forty days from the south and were footsoldiers. Being in sight of the Pimas, they purchased some cattle, and they also sight and bewildered half their men. They said a race of strange men had landed their coast, who were armed with bad spirit known (swords) and who made thunder and lightning to battle which killed men a long way off, (shooting a gun). They also were driving about four horses, which terrified away arrows and spears. Their people were anxious to come with them, and had been there by thousands, and unless they knew help, must be on the to depart. They urged the Pimas to go to their aid, to be protected by the white strangers, and help them regain their homes.

The Pima chief sent messengers in every direction and raised a great council. After some days' deliberation it was decided to send help to the people in the south (Mexico), and soon a large force volunteered for the expedition. While the strangers rested and recruited them given to the whole nation was busy engaged in gathering food for the army, also a great store of spears, bows and arrows, battle axes and war clubs.

The expedition set forth on foot, leaving behind, besides the old men, women and children, only a few men as a guard against any unfavorable changes. Those who remained at home took up upon a high hill, from which they watched their departing kinsmen until lost to the distance.

After some weeks' travel the army came in sight of a body of men drawn up as if to dispute their further passage, but the strangers with the army recognized them as countrymen and were invited to meet them. They were told it was unless to proceed any farther, the white men had slain or subdued all the people, being aided by strange and powerful gods, and no one could contend against them, and they themselves were endeavoring to escape to some distant region where they might live in peace.

After some days rest the army started homeward with heavy hearts sorrowing for their countrymen in the south, and being short of provisions, they had frequently to stop awhile to hunt and get supplies of roots and herbs. After several days more home of their homes they arrived near their home on the Gila, but were much surprised that no one came to meet them. At night they went down on the hill tops, but no answering signals greeted their ears. Most anxiously they redoubled their speed and reached their homes to find nothing but desolation and ruin. The bodies of their kindred—men, women and children—were everywhere, and every house was gone, was destroyed by fire. At length a few miserable souls came out of places where they had concealed themselves and with many lamentations told their story.

They said that not long after the army had gone a new strange Indians came from the north, which they took to be men, but in reality as spirits. Being in a peaceful condition of the Pimas, they met and speedily treated with a great force, killed all the men except a few who were slaves, and many of the women, plundered and burned the houses, and then returned northward, taking with them many women as captives.

The young boy and old men, who survived—the sons of which now are here, known as the Casa Grande—came to with closed lips of years and hours, which they intended to take over to a more quiet. The strange people were in peace