

LEGEND OF THE APACHE TEARS

The cloudy dark stones are called “Apache Tears,”
So named by a legend passed down through the years:
Conquistadors pillaged and ravaged the lands
To bring into bondage the small native bands.
One group of Apaches, a cliff to their backs,
No longer could counter the Spanish attacks.
And so, on that ridge with their face to the sky,
Frustrated their white foe by choosing to die
And jumped, so as not to be captured as slaves.
The valley below made a grave for the braves.
The squaws of the warriors wept loud for their men,
The cries of their mourning were heard by the wind.
These stones are their tears that the breeze petrified:
Remembrances of the bold Indians who died.

— *David L. Hatton, 1965 (revised 12/31/1993)*