

Ventura County. Organized in 1872.

Bounded north by San Luis Obispo and Kern, east by Los Angeles, south and southwest by the Pacific Ocean, and west by the Ocean and Santa Barbara, and includes the islands of Anacapa and San Nicholas. Area, 1,380 square miles. Assessed valuation of property for 1874, \$2,911,065. County seat, San Buenaventura. Principal towns, Hueneme, North Santa Paula and Satcoy. Resources, agricultural and mineral. The county was formed by Act of the Legislature of 1871-2 out of the eastern portion of Santa Barbara. Kincron creek, and a line running north from its source being the western boundary. The surface is much broken and mountains in the northeastern part rise to the height of between 5000 and 6,000 feet, the Sierras, San Rafael, Santa Inez, San Monica and Santa Susana being the principal ranges, and the Buenaventura and Santa Clara the principal rivers. The hilly country is well covered with nutritious grasses, and vast numbers of sheep and cattle graze throughout the county. The Santa Clara River, which rises in the Soledad Pass, in Los Angeles County, runs in a broad and fertile valley through Ventura, where is one of the best agricultural regions of the State. The climate is mild and generally pleasant, snow and frosts being seldom seen unless in the highest mountains. Fruit of every variety is grown from the most hardy varieties of the northern temperate zone to the most delicate of the tropical border. The county is undoubtedly rich in minerals, the section having long been distinguished for its asphaltum and sulphur, both in apparently inexhaustible quantities. Gold is found in small quantities, the mines of Santa Feliciana being the first ever worked on the Pacific Coast. Placer and quartz veins are known, but the interest is not fully developed. Discoveries of cinabar have been made, also of gypsum, potters' clay, and other minerals. Great expectations have been entertained of obtaining flowing wells of petroleum, and progress with encouraging prospects has been made in mining and boring for it, and although much oil is obtained, no wells like those of the Pennsylvania oil region have been struck. Although no deep bay or river mouth forming a harbor exists on the coast, there are numerous accessible and safe landings, and wharves have been built extending directly into the ocean, which are undisturbed by storms. At Point Hueneme and at San Buenaventura are the principal landings, and at both places the steamers of the various companies touch regularly, and a large commerce is carried on. The coast line of stages, carrying daily mail and express, passes through the principal towns, and the telegraph also offers ready communication.

Officers: Milton Wason, County Judge; John T. Stow, Clerk, Recorder and Auditor; Ben T. Williams, District Attorney; John R. Stone, Sheriff and Tax Collector; Evan A. Edwards, Treasurer; John Z. Barnett, Assessor; Edward T. Hare, Surveyor; C. L. Bard, Coroner and Public Administrator; F. S. S. Buckman, Superintendent Public Schools.

Viejas, San Diego Co, P O, 32 miles e of San Diego

Clendenin William S, postmaster and general merchandise
Rick J E, honey dealer
Tannabill John, blacksmith

Vina, Tehama Co, P O 21 miles s e of Red Bluff,

is on the California and Oregon Railroad, on the east side of the Sacramento River, in the midst of a fertile and growing region, and is the shipping point for large quantities of grain.

Bronck A G, hotel, and blacksmith
Dicus Samuel C, postmaster, and agent Wells, Fargo & Co
Dicus & McLerran, general merchandise
Hildebrand A, liquor saloon

Vine Hill, Santa Cruz Co, on the San Jose Road, 8 miles e from Santa Cruz

Fisk C G, proprietor Magnetic Spring House

Virginia, Placer Co, P O address Lincoln, 8 miles w of Auburn

Aldrich George D, general merchandise

Virginia Mills, Butte Co, P O address, Bidwell's Bar, 9 miles n e of Oroville

Johnson David, hotel

Virginia Ranch, Yuba Co, P O address, Oregon House, 23 miles n e of Marysville

Clark L B, wine manufacturer

Visalia, Tulare Co, P O and County seat,

is an incorporated city of 2,000 inhabitants, 223 miles south of Sacramento, and is one of the oldest and most prominent towns in the San Joaquin Valley. The site is in the midst of a broad and fertile plain, with Tulare Lake 20 miles to the westward, and the foothills of the Sierra as many to the eastward, the entire valley at this point being about 70 miles in width. The section was formerly known as the "Four Creek Country," which from its beauty and fertility attracted a large population at an early day, and long before the advent of the iron horse. The San Joaquin Valley branch of the Central Pacific Railroad lies westward of the town, about 11 miles distant, and from the town of Tulare a branch runs to Visalia, thus giving direct railroad communication. Stages connect it with the surrounding towns, thus giving centrality and drawing a large business. The town is well built, having good public buildings, prosperous and well attended schools, a theatre, four churches, Masonic and Odd Fellows' Temple, three first-class hotels, a flouring mill, planing and saw mill, and many fine business houses and private residences. Gas works supply all the demands made upon them for illuminating purposes, and water of excellent quality is obtained by boring from ten to fifteen feet, or is supplied by Mill Creek, a rapid stream running through the town. Groves of evergreen and deciduous oaks cover the plains, giving a pleasant feature to the scenery. A few miles south the oaks give way, and the wide open prairie stretches for miles around, now principally occupied for grazing, but susceptible of cultivation. From the Sierra runs the Kaweah, a large stream, which upon entering the valley divides into several branches forming numerous islands comprising an extensive delta as it approaches Tulare Lake, and enclosing in its many arms the region of Visalia. By this abundant water supply an extensive scope of country can be irrigated where necessary, and as nearly all of this broad expanse of valley is exceedingly fertile, its future prosperity is beyond a doubt. Two newspapers, the *Times*, and *Delta*, are published weekly.

Asay J L, dentist, Church
Asher J, liquor saloon, Main
Ashton & Thomson, blacksmiths, Court
Atwell A B, physician, Bridge
Atwell A J, attorney at law, Centre
Bacigalupi & Neil, liquor saloon, cor Church and Centre
Baer B, tinsmith, and gasfitter, Main
BAKER M, druggist, and chemist, cor Main and Church
BAKER & BRADLEY, physicians, cor Main and Church
BANK OF VISALIA, R E Hyde, president, J W Crowley, cashier
Belz Andrew, blacksmith, Church
Benz George, beer saloon
Bernard F, boots and shoes, Main
Beyer A, contractor and builder
BIGLE H, proprietor Exchange Hotel, cor Main and Garden
BISHOP & CO, druggists, and manufacturing chemists, Main
Blain W H, butcher, Main
Bogle J A, physician, and druggist, cor Main and Church
Bosco —, physician, cor Court and Willow
Bradley N O, attorney at law
Braverman M, watch maker and jeweler, Main
Brown A A, fruits, vegetables, and varieties
BROWN & DAGGETT, attorneys at law, cor Court and Oak
Cantreas Gregorio, liquor saloon
CANTY J M, livery stable, Main
Clark John, attorney at law, Court House
Cohn H & Co, dry and fancy goods, watches, jewelry, etc, cor Court and Main
CONYERS B L, drugs and medicines, Main
Creighton Thomas, civil engineer and surveyor
CROSS W W, attorney at law, Centre
Darling O, agent Eagle Flour Mills
Davenport M G, physician
DELTA PUBLISHING CO, proprietors Visalia Delta, Main
Dillon George, livery and feed stable, cor Center and Garden
Dinlays S, barber, Main
DOUGLASS & CO, general merchandise, agricultural implements, and agents Grover & Baker Sowing Machine, Main
Eitel G, proprietor Farmers' Home, Main

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