

# ALAMEDA COUNTY

Occupies a central position from north to south, and lies close to the western boundary of the State, being some twelve miles only from the Pacific Ocean at its nearest approach. It extends along the Bay of San Francisco from its northern to its southern extremity, a distance of nearly fifty miles. For this reason it is frequently called a bay county. The northern part of the county is narrow until the middle is reached, where it extends out into the foot-hills and across the Contra Costa Range to the Valley of the San Joaquin. It is bounded on the north by Contra Costa County, east by Contra Costa and San Joaquin, south by Santa Clara County and San Francisco Bay, and west by San Francisco Bay; containing an area of about 800 square miles.

The surface is very beautifully diversified, consisting of plain, valley, hill, mountain and all that varied formation which is necessary for the blending into one form all this wonderful natural scenery.

This county is abundantly supplied with water. Many living springs are found among the foot-hills and mountains, which, combining, form the many sparkling streams that cross the different parts of the valleys, and, finally, empty into the bay.

The towns, of which a complete list will be given, are rapidly growing from small settlements into places of manufacturing and commercial interests. Several of them already numbering inhabitants by thousands, where, but a few years ago, they were counted by tens.

To mention and describe them separately would be but a repetition of merits.

The number following the name indicates the distance from Oakland.

Alameda, 2 S.; Altamont, 39 E.; Alvarado, 16 S.E.; Berkeley, 5 N.; Centerville, 21 S.E.; Dublin, 29 S.E.; Decota, 18 S.E.; Haywards, 14 S.E.; Livermore, 41 S.E.; Midway, 49 S.E.; Mt. Eden, 20 S.E.; Mission San Jose, 29 S.E.; Niles, 22 S.E.; Newark, 20 S.; Pleasanton, 31 S.E.; San Leandro, 9 S.E.; San Lorenzo, 11 S.E.; Sunol, 30 S.E.; Union City, 17 S.E.; Washington Corners, 25 S.E.

This is one of the first counties in the State, as regards the number and general intelligence of its people, the quality and extreme fertility of its soil, and general improvements throughout its territory. Here are found such home comforts and adornments as are to be seen only where intelligence and financial prosperity are combined. The magnificence and usual good taste of the many palatial residences of her honored citizens are unsurpassed, whilst the variety and beauty of natural and cultivated trees and flowers are not excelled anywhere in the world.

It is indeed the home of many of the merchant princes of the metropolis, as well as of her own prosperous business men.

The people are engaged in all the known methods of accumulating wealth. Farming, manufacturing, merchandizing, shipping, horticulture, fruit-growing, stock-raising, mining, fine arts, professional employments, etc., etc.

The farmers produce great crops of wheat, barley, corn, oats, hay, potatoes, etc., and raise sheep of the best thorough-bred fleece-growers, as well as those that make the choicest mutton.

Manufacturing embraces shops and machinery for the building of all kinds of agricultural implements of the most approved patterns; all classes of vehicles, from the farm wagon to the finest carriage or barouche; earthenware for every desirable purpose; furniture of the most substantial and superb designs; builders' materials in every shape and form; brooms, cordage, artificial stone, etc. The salt manufactories are rather extensive, extending along