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NAPA COUNTY

THIS County is bounded on the north by Lake and Yolo Counties, on the east by Yolo and Solano, on the south by Solano, and on the west by Sonoma. It is irregular in shape, the greatest length from north to south being about 50 miles, and the width from east to west being about 26 miles; total area about 828 square miles.

In its topographical characteristics, Napa presents a succession of ranges and valleys which give it a semi mountainous character. Its western boundary line is one continuous line of mountains and hills lying between it and Sonoma County while the eastern boundary line separating the county from Yolo and Solano is for the most part an elevated range, many peaks of which attain an altitude of 3,000 feet. Between these two ranges and separated by intervening ranges, are found the fertile valleys which have made Napa famous. Commencing on the western border and extending almost through the county is found the Napa Valley, 35 miles in length by an average width of two and a half. East of this, and in about the order named, are found the smaller valleys of Conn, Wooden, Chiles, Pope, Capella, and Berryessa, which together with that portion of the Soscol Valley lying in the extreme southern part comprises all of the really fertile land in the county suitable for agriculture. These valleys formerly raised immense crops, but the exhaustive system of tilling pursued has impaired their productiveness to some extent. It is, however, in its wine interest that Napa stands pre-eminent, between two and three million gallons being the annual product. In the first development of this interest some preference was given to the valleys in the planting of vines, and although the largest crops are still gathered from the valleys, yet it is found that the grapes from the hill lands make the best quality of wine.

The amount of lands now in vines in the county will probably not exceed eight square miles, while it is estimated that there are fully 250 square miles in the county adapted to their culture. The county has therefore great hopes in the future from this interest.