

Amador County

The Amador County Courthouse in Jackson.
Part 1 of 2: Ione, Plymouth, Fiddletown, Amador
Gardens, Daffodil Hill.



Amador County

Amador County Data

Population: 35,100 (Rank: 46)

Land Area (square miles): 593 (Rank: 54)

Amador county has several distinctions that other counties don't have. It is the only county in the state named after a native Californian. Jose Maria Amador was a ranchero before the Gold Rush whose ranch covered the Amador Valley near Danville. He mined along a creek in this county in 1848 and 1849. Soon several places were given the name Amador. When the county was split from Calaveras in 1854 the citizens of Amador City petitioned the state for the county to be called Amador.

The other unique claim to fame is that it is the only Gold Rush county that has a non-Indian history before the discovery of gold. As early as 1843, John Sutter dispatched men—some with families— to stands of cedar and sugar pine on the ridge between today's Amador and Sutter Creeks. He called the place "Pine Woods." Sutter's men worked there sawing wood, producing charcoal, and manufacturing other items needed at Sutter's Fort.

Calaveras was one of the original 27 counties. People north of the Mokelumne River were unhappy with the arrangement and agitated for their own county. Amador County was born on June 14th, 1854.

Amador county encompasses mostly foothill country. The more mountainous eastern part of the county is in the El Dorado National Forest.

Cities: Jackson, Ione, Plymouth, Amador City, Sutter Creek. Towns: Volcano. Sights: Daffodil Hill, Chaw'se State Park, Moaning Caverns, Shanandoah Valley.

Introduction

California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

© 2012 by Larry Stevens
stevens.lawrence@comcast.net

Amador County



Ione

Ione's name comes from a Victorian novel. It is an improvement over its previous names – Bedbug and Freezeout. It got a post office in 1852 but didn't become a city until 1953. It has a population of 8,000.



Ione

(January 2004)



Ione

(January 2004)



Ione

(January 2004)



Ione

(January 2004)



Ione

(January 2004)



Ione

(April 2007)



Ione

(April 2007)



Ione

(April 2007)



Ione

This is another Indian group looking to establish a casino. (April 2007)



Ione





Ione

(April 2007)





Ione

(April 2007)



Preston School of Industry

lone is kown for the juvenile prison that overlooks the town. It is now abandoned. (April 2007)



Preston School of Industry

(April 2007)



Preston School of Industry

The superintendent's house at Preston. (April 2007)



Plymouth

(April 2007)



Plymouth



Plymouth



Plymouth



Plymouth



Plymouth



Plymouth



Plymouth



Plymouth



Plymouth

Plymouth's latest claim to fame is a gourmet restaurant called Taste. It is rated by Zigat as one of America's top restaurants. It is the #1 restaurant in the Sacramento area. (August 2003)



Plymouth

(August 2003)



Plymouth

(January 2004)



Amador Gardens

The gardens specialize in day lilies. (May 2000)



Amador Gardens

(May 2000)



Amador Gardens

(May 2000)



Amador Gardens

(May 2000)



Amador Gardens

(May 2000)



Fiddletown

Placer mining which requires water was the attraction here. When the streams dried up during the summer people said that the miners just “fiddled” around. For awhile it was called Oleta. (March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

The population today is 235. The community got a post office in 1853.
(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Fiddletown

A chinese herb shop. The town had a large Chinese population in the Gold Rush days.
(March 2009)



Fiddletown

(March 2009)



Daffodil Hill

Daffodil Hill is famous in these parts. The owners of a small farm continued to plant the flowers over and over until their small farm was covered with them. (March 2002)



Daffodil Hill



(March 2002)





Mokelumne River



Mokelumne River

