

runs through the center of the county, and is navigable during the greater part of the year. The Merced is a large stream, and the Mariposa, Cowchilla, and several others, flow from the Sierra Nevada to the San Joaquin, or sink in the valley. The San Joaquin Valley Branch of the Central Pacific Railroad runs through the center of that portion of the county lying east of the San Joaquin river, affording safe, cheap, and rapid transportation of the products of the county to San Francisco. On the west side is the San Joaquin and King's river canal, for irrigation and navigation, supplying a large tract of country with water for irrigation, and when completed will open navigation by light boats from Antioch to the head of Tulare lake, a distance of 250 miles. This canal now takes water from the San Joaquin river in Fresno county, and its lower terminus is in Merced county, at Kreyenhagen's, 40 miles from its head and 100 from Antioch. Its width on top is 68 feet, and on the bottom 32, with a depth of 6 feet. On the east side of the San Joaquin the Farmers' Canal Co. tap the Merced river 4 miles above Snelling, with a canal capable of carrying one hundred thousand inches of water, the work upon which is progressing satisfactorily and it is expected to be completed in 1876. When finished it will afford irrigation for about two-thirds of the valley land between the Merced and Mariposa creek, including Bear Creek valley and to the banks of the San Joaquin. Of this canal 12 miles are completed, between the Merced and Bear creek, at a cost of \$20,000, being 50 feet wide on the bottom, 80 on top, and 3 feet deep, with a fall of one foot to the mile, giving a current of two feet per second. When completed, this, with its branches, will have a length of 60 miles, and is expected to irrigate 300,000 acres. The farming interest is chiefly devoted to wheat, though wool, cotton, tobacco, cattle, hogs, and fruit, attract much attention. Merced has the honor of the first experiments in raising cotton, Col. J. M. Strong having successfully demonstrated the adaptability of the country to its culture, and it is claimed to be a most profitable crop. After the experiments of Col. Strong, during the last 4 years, quite a number have engaged in the production, and some 750 acres were planted in 1874, producing about 250 or 300 pounds of cleaned cotton per acre. The census of 1870 showed a population of 2,500, but at present it is estimated at about 8,000.

Officers: James W. Robertson, County Judge; James E. Hicks, Clerk, Recorder and Auditor; D. M. McKenny, District Attorney; A. J. Meany, Sheriff and Tax Collector; George Turner, Treasurer; H. F. Blackwell, Assessor; George H. Ferrin, Surveyor; A. G. Rucker, Coroner and Public Administrator; E. F. Fowler, Superintendent Public Schools.

**Merced Falls, Merced Co, P O 29 miles n of Merced**

Chauvin E, general merchandise  
Meagher Timothy, liquor saloon  
Murray C, hotel  
Nelson William, postmaster  
Nelson & Son, flour manufacturers  
Pillano & Barrolt, hotel

**Mercuryville, Sonoma Co, P O**

Whitton W H, postmaster

**Meridian, Sutter Co, P O 16 miles w of Yuba City**

Blanks Joseph, liquor saloon  
Burgett H, blacksmith  
Davis J R, general merchandise  
Davis, Smith & Co, general merchandise  
Fouts John F, postmaster, general merchandise and lumber  
Morino George, blacksmith

**Merrillville, Lassen Co, P O**

Folsom O, postmaster

**Merrimack, Calaveras Co, P O address, San**

Andreas, 4 miles w of San Andreas  
Machavilla G B, general merchandise

**Merritt's Station, Yolo Co, P O address,**

Woodland, 2 miles s of Woodland  
Gross F, liquor saloon  
Merritt, H B, blacksmith and warehouse

**Mesilla Valley, Butte Co. (see Pentz)**

**Michigan Bar, Sacramento Co, P O 28**

miles s e of Sacramento  
Addington A M, potter  
Conran John, capitalist and real estate  
Davidson K, physician  
Fitzgibbons M, butcher  
Heath G W, wood dealer  
Queros Ignacio, cattle dealer  
Reeves J O, boot and shoe maker  
Stimpson S F, physician  
Savin E G, blacksmith  
WEST CHARLES H, postmaster and agent Wells, Fargo & Co  
West C H & Co, general merchandise

**Michigan Bluff, Placer Co, P O 30 miles**

n e of Auburn  
Campbell —, blacksmith  
Dooley & Taylor, butchers  
Ellson John, liquor saloon  
Ellsworth Fred B, boot maker  
Freitag Carl F, postmaster and general merchandise  
Meyers Frank, liquor saloon  
Morgan John, liquor saloon  
Powell P, hotel  
Polifke E, general merchandise and livery stable  
Spaulding O G, tinsmith  
WILLEY WALTER, banker, agent Wells, Fargo & Co, and general merchandise  
Wissinger James, liquor saloon

**Middle Bar, Amador Co, P O address, Jack-**

son  
McKinney A, general merchandise

**Middletown, El Dorado Co, P O address,**

Placerville, 1 1/2 miles n w of Placerville  
Craddock, J C, hotel

**Middletown, Lake Co, P O 40 miles s e of**

Lakeport  
Asher S, general merchandise and jewelry  
Barnes W A, butcher  
Bronson & Kellogg, blacksmiths and wagon makers  
Cassidy E, hotel  
English Charles, butcher  
Ford E, liquor saloon  
Ivanovich J, physician  
Lobree D & Co, general merchandise  
Lobree David, postmaster and agent Wells, Fargo & Co

**Sacry George W, dry goods**

Soper T C, notary public and conveyancer  
White G H, liquor saloon  
Williams L J Mrs, varieties  
Young C M, livery stable

**Middletown, Shasta Co, P O address, Shas-**

ta, 4 miles s of Shasta  
Hickey Michael, liquor saloon

**Midway, Alameda Co, P O 40 miles n e of**

Oakland  
Fabian Philip, postmaster and agent Wells, Fargo & Co

**Milbrae, San Mateo Co, P O address, San**

Mateo, 11 miles n w of Redwood City  
Anderson Frederick, blacksmith  
GARNOT H, general merchandise  
GREEN A F, dairy  
Kinnear James, hotel  
LOZIER ALBERT, hotel  
Peckham B A, agent Wells, Fargo & Co

**Milford, Lassen Co, P O 25 miles s e of**

Susanville  
Crill Louis M, postmaster  
Fairchild T H, lumber manufacturer,  
McClellan C B, general merchandise  
Steinberger J M, flour manufacturer  
True T, blacksmith  
Washburne & Fitch, hotel  
Whiting L P, nurseryman

**Miller, Mendocino Co, P O. (See Bridge-**

port Landing)  
Kimball John S, postmaster

ETNA INSURANCE COMPANY, of Hartford, lost over \$3,000,000 in the Chicago Fire, and paid in full, dollar for dollar.