

## Who We Are...

Established in 1996, The **USGenWeb Project** is a loosely-organized group of volunteers that work diligently to provide free online genealogical and historical information for every U.S. state and county. The national site provides links to state site, which in turn provide gateways to the various counties. The national project also sponsors several special projects.

The **CAGenWeb Project** was loaded onto the Internet for the first time on July 16, 1996, when The USGenWeb Project organizers expanded by creating individual projects for every state in the U.S. Each county is headed by a coordinator, or coordinators, whose primary goal is to provide free a website for genealogical and historical research within his/her county.

The USGenWeb Project and all if it affiliates are non-commercial, non-profit and fully-committed to providing everyone with free genealogical and historical data. We hope that our collaborative efforts will be helpful to your research.

If you are interested in coordinating an available California county site, please contact our State Coordinator through our website.



Visit us on the web!  
[www.cagenweb.com](http://www.cagenweb.com)

State Coordinator  
Elizabeth E. Bullard

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Gold was discovered in California on January 24, 1848 at Sutter's Mill. By late-1848 and early-1849, people were flocking to the area. All told, gold brought some 300,000 people to California from the rest of the United States and from abroad. California was the 31st state to enter the Union. It did so on September 9, 1850. Of California's current 58 counties, 27 are original. Today, California's population is nearing 38 million.



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# The CAGenWeb Project

Free  
Online Genealogy  
in  
California

[cagenweb.com](http://cagenweb.com)



A BRANCH OF THE  
**USGenWeb**  
PROJECT

## Friendly, Knowledgeable Coordinators

The CAGenProject comprises a team of coordinators that manage websites for each of California's counties.

California is a big state and its county coordinators are big on California genealogy and history! Our coordinators share a love of genealogy and California history, a knack for gathering information and a desire to assist others in the quest for information about their ancestry.

Feel free to visit all of our 58 county websites to see for yourself all of the great information and data that The CAGenWeb Project volunteers have gathered for you.

You may access each of the county sites by visiting our state site at [www.cagenweb.com](http://www.cagenweb.com).

We are certain that you will find much to interest you and to assist you with your research, no matter when in California's proud history your ancestors called it home. From the state's original inhabitants, to its earliest settlers, to the gold seekers from around the world who caused California to become the great state that it is, The CAGenWeb Project proudly celebrates the rich heritage of the 31<sup>st</sup> state.

Elizabeth E. Bullard

Elizabeth E. Bullard  
State Coordinator  
The CAGenWeb Project

## Some Interesting Facts about California

Have you found some obscure reference to a county called Branciforte, Klamath, Oro or Pautah? What are those islands on the map between Santa Barbara County and San Diego County? What is California's nickname? Read on...

### California's Counties



California's land area includes several islands, the most noticeable being the cluster of islands off the coasts of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. These islands, known as the Channel Islands, are mostly uninhabited or sparsely populated – the exception being Santa Catalina Island in Los Angeles County.

Other islands, natural and man-made, are found near San Francisco, Humboldt Bay, the Greater Los Angeles area, Newport Bay, Suisun Bay, along the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and in several lakes.

California's state animal is the California grizzly bear. The last one was killed in Tulare County in 1922.

California's state bird is the California quail. The state flower is the California poppy.



California's state nickname is "The Golden State", which traces back to the discovery of gold in 1848 and the fields of golden poppies throughout the state.

California's state colors are known as Yale Blue and Golden Yellow, though neither color is used in the state's official flag.

California's state motto is "Eureka", which has appeared on the state seal since 1849 and means "I have found it."

- Colusa County** was known originally as *Colusi*.
- El Dorado County** was known originally as *Coloma*.
- Contra Costa County** was known originally as *Mt. Diablo*.
- Santa Clara County** was known originally as *San Jose*.
- Santa Cruz County** was known originally as Branciforte.
- Shasta County** was known originally as *Redding*.
- Solano County** was known originally as *Benicia*.
- Tuolumne County** was known originally as *Oro*.
- Yolo County** was known first as *Fremont*, then as *Yola*.

Defunct **Klamath County** was created in 1851 from the northern half of Trinity County. In 1857, part of its territory went to Del Norte County and the remainder of the territory was divided between Humboldt and Siskiyou Counties in 1874.

**Pautah County** was created in 1852 in territory which the State of California assumed would be ceded to it from Utah Territory. When the cession never occurred, the county was abolished.