The Museum of Sonoma County building once served as the Santa Rosa Post Office. It was built in 1910 at the corner of 5th and A Streets, and was moved to its present site in 1979. Today, the Museum presents many changing exhibitions during the year.
Ancestors of today's Native Americans came to this area more than 5,000 years ago. They were highly skilled in the art of basket weaving, using colored feathers, natural vegetable dyes, and shells to decorate their work. Headbands of Flicker feather quills were made for some ceremonial dances.
The British buccaneer Sir Francis Drake sailed into the waters off our coast in 1579. He was the first European to land on our shores. Drake was trying to find a northern route to England but failed.
Redwood trees turned to stone line the paths of the Petrified Forest in northeastern Sonoma County. The violent eruption of an ancient volcano felled the forest giants millions of years ago.
The last of California’s twenty-one missions, the Mission San Francisco de Solano, was founded by Father Jose Altimira in Sonoma in 1823. It was the only one established under Mexican rule.
The Sonoma City Hall was constructed with four identical sides so that all the business people had the same view of their civic center. The structure of basalt stone was built in 1906 in the Plaza.
The Russians came to this coast in 1831, established a farm at Bodega, and then moved north to build Fort Ross. They were fur hunters, in search of sea otter pelts. Today, Fort Ross is a California State Park.
Cloverdale in the north county celebrates its citrus harvest in February of each year with a citrus fair. The oranges of local farmers fill the pavillion of the fair with their perfume while visitors sample the products.
The California Bear Flag was first raised in the plaza of Pueblo de Sonoma in 1846. California had been an independent republic for just a few days when a United States Navy officer from the Presidio at Monterey claimed it for the United States. He removed the Bear Flag and replaced it with the American Flag.
This carriage house is part of the Luther Burbank Museum in Santa Rosa. The young "Plant Wizard" created the Shasta Daisy, the Santa Rosa Plum and more than 250 vegetables & fruits that we commonly eat now.
Petaluma was renowned as the egg basket of the world when it shipped eggs and chickens to world-wide markets. It even had a pharmacy devoted to products just for chickens!
Early settler and former fur trapper Cyrus Alexander established this school on his ranch in 1868 for local children. Captain Henry Fitch hired Alexander to manage his Sotoyome Rancho for him when they met each other in San Diego.
The Church of One Tree was built in 1875 as a Baptist Church. It was constructed entirely from one tree, a giant redwood 275 feet high, 18 feet in diameter, and 3,000 years old. It housed the Robert Ripley Museum from 1971 to the 1990s.
In 1911 Frederick Wiseman carried two letters from Petaluma to Santa Rosa in this early airplane. This historic flight took two days, but paved the way for today's air mail system.
The Korbel Brothers built their brick winery on the Russian River in 1886. Frank Korbel had the Norman tower designed as an exact replica of a prison in Europe where he was held for awhile in his youth.