

Historic lone

lone is located in the fertile lone Valley, which is believed to be named by Thomas Brown around 1849 after one of the heroines in Edward Bulwer Lytton's drama "The Last Days of Pompeii." During the days of the Gold Rush, the miners knew the town by the names of "Bedbug" and "Freezeout." Unlike other communities in Amador County, which were founded on gold mining, lone was a supply center, stage and rail stop, and agricultural hub.



The Town of lone continued to grow and prosper after its gold rush founding. The first school was built in 1853. The historic Methodist Church was organized in 1853 and the structure was completed in 1862. The first flour mill was built in 1855. The first brick building was built by Daniel Stewart in 1855 for his general merchandise store and is still owned and operated by the same family.

At the centennial of 1876, lone had a population of about 600 which included about 100 Chinese who lived in lone's Chinatown. The town included one public school, 4 churches, 4 general stores, one meat market, one laundry, one brewery, a restaurant, a millinery shop, an art gallery, six saloons, a drug store and barber shop, and many other business establishments. The centennial also celebrated the completion of the railroad to the town of lone. The centennial celebration was the beginning of what is now known as "lone Homecoming." This annual celebration has been held during the month of May almost every year since that first Centennial celebration in 1876 and is now held on the first weekend in May every year.

The City of lone was incorporated as a General Law City in 1953 and is now the largest city in Amador County.

lone has many interesting landmarks and historical points of interest

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The Preston School of Industry, known as The Castle, was built between 1890-1894 to serve as a school for juveniles referred by the courts. The Castle is open for tours seasonally; Haunted House in October; and other special events. Visit www.prestoncastle.com for much more information.

Dave Brubeck, the famous jazz pianist, lived in Lone and in 1998 scored a video tour of the castle called "A

Castle's Song", sold through KVIE to help fund the restoration efforts.

