

# Signs of Napa Valley's Rancho Era

During the Mexican Rancho era, before this land passed to U.S. possession in 1848, the Mexican government granted prominent citizens and soldiers huge tracts of land, often larger than 11,000 acres, for residences, cattle ranching and future development. This land

grant system shaped the settlement patterns and land ownership we see today.

The names these Californios gave their vast estates were sometimes Spanish, sometimes derivations of local Native American words. Napa, Trancas, Carneros, Tulocay, Caymus... The cattle ranches are gone, but you'll find that the original rancho names are still used here and there in Napa Valley.

Check the Napa Valley Vine Trail Mobile App for juicy histories of these ranchos!

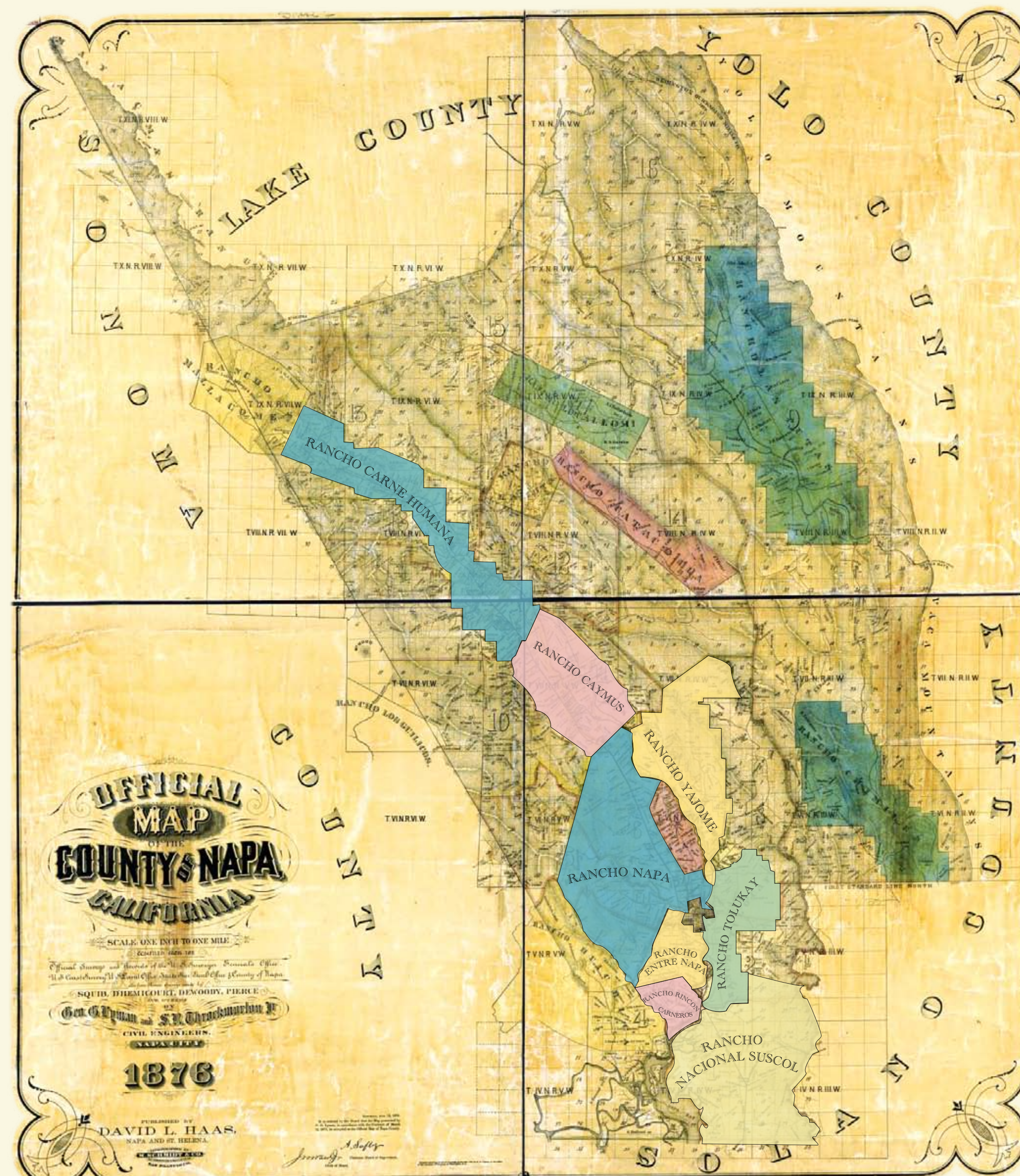
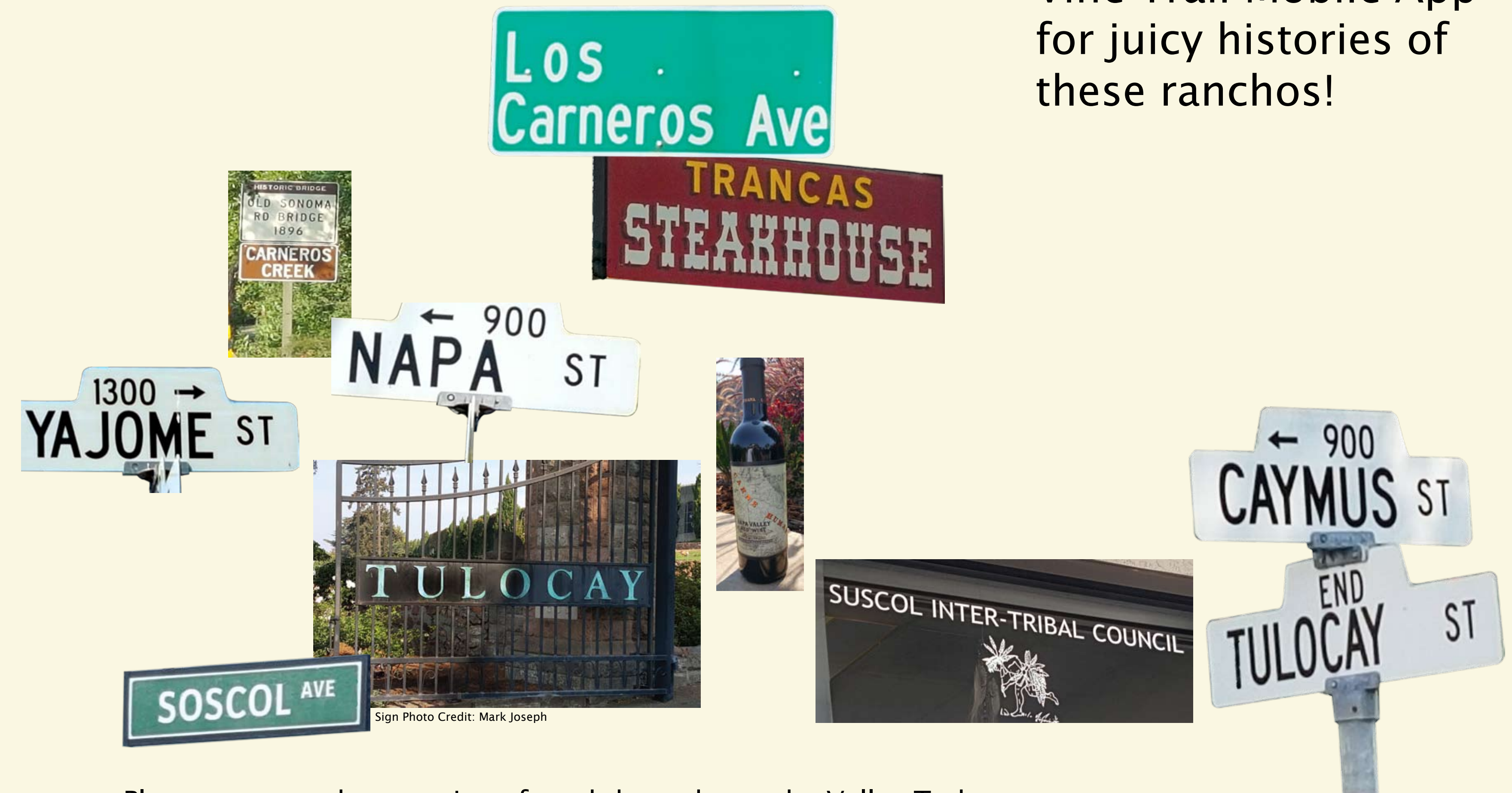


Photo Courtesy of Library of Congress.  
1876 Napa County map with ranchos highlighted.



Place names and street signs found throughout the Valley Today.

Interpretive Design & Layout: EricaFielderStudio.com

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