

## ***Small Historic Towns across America.***

As presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the fall and winter of 2014.

You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: [www.fpeusa.org](http://www.fpeusa.org)

### **Brief history of Rosamond California:**

Rosamond was started as one of the first California railway towns. Back in the 1870s when it was a new town, mining and cattle ranching were its major industries. Its original name was Sand Creek but the name was changed to Rosamond after a railway man's daughter.

During the 1890s, gold was discovered and miners quickly populated the area hoping to strike it rich. After mining popularity died down Rosamond became an aviation town. Rosamond is now the home of Edwards Air Force Base which still tests planes for the military.

Around 1908, the massive Los Angeles Aqueduct Project took all of Rosamond's water from its only huge lake. In consequence, Rosamond was forced to dig wells for its water and it soon became a sandy desert town. Even though Rosamond is not as big as it once was, it is still a wonderful little town. The picture shows Soledad Mountain, north of Rosamond, which is still an active mine owned by the Golden Queen Mining Company.

### **Location from the closest major U.S airport:**

Rosamond is located about 90 miles north of the major Los Angeles area airports on interstate 14. It is about 11 miles north of Lancaster and 13 miles south of Mojave. Though there are no major U.S. airports in either of these two cities, the people living in Rosamond are accustomed to hearing sonic booms as military planes are tested in the skies overhead.



### **The U.S. president living when Rosamond was started:**

Rosamond, California was started when president Ulysses S. Grant was in office. During this time, America was still undergoing Reconstruction following The War of Northern Aggression, and people were interested in getting away and starting over.

Southern Pacific Railway had a depot in Rosamond. It was a stop along the railroad's new Los Angeles to San Francisco line. At that time the town was chiefly a cattle town. When gold was discovered in the 1890s, mining became Rosamond's main industry.

### **Oldest business In Rosamond:**

By 1885 Rosamond had grown to the point of needing a post office. With David Bayles as postmaster, Rosamond was once known as "Bayles Station" or "Baylesville." The post office served around 100 residents at that time.

### **Town Government:**

Rosamond is an unincorporated town in Kern County. The county seat is in Bakersfield, about 75 miles to the Northwest. The Kern County Mayor is the top executive official in the area. The mayor has five senators which each serve four year terms while the mayor himself serves a two year term.

The 18,000 plus citizens of Rosamond do elect board members of The Rosamond Community Services District. This is a public utility which handles water, sewer, parks and recreation, street lighting and removal of graffiti. My uncle, Olaf Landsgaard, is a recently elected member of the board of directors.

### **Historic and tourist attractions in Rosamond:**

One of the main tourist attractions in Rosamond is the feline breeding compound. Here, as shown by its name, most kinds of wild cats are bred and sent out to zoos and the wild. If you wish to know more about "the cat house" you can visit their website at - <http://www.cathouse-fcc.org/>



There is one mine in Rosamond known as Gem Hill. You can bring your own pick and shovel, and if you find any valuables, they are yours. For more information visit <http://www.highdesertinsider.com/html/gemhill.htm>

Are you a racing fan? Located in Rosamond is the Willow Springs International Raceway. Here racing fans from all over the world come to the races. If you are interested, here is their website: <http://www.willowspringsraceway.com/>

### **Edwards Air Force Base:**

Even though there is not a major US airport in Rosamond, it is the home of Edwards Air Force base. The base has played a significant role in the development of almost every aircraft to enter the Air Force inventory since World War II. It has tested almost all aircraft since the 1950s and it has been the site of many aviation breakthroughs. Many aviation firsts have happened there. A few of these occurrences include Chuck Yeager's flight which broke the sound barrier in the Bell X-1, test flights of the North American X-15, the first landings of the Space Shuttle, and the 1986 around-the-world flight of the Rutan Voyager. The base is located right next to Rogers Dry Lake which acts as a natural runway. This large landing area, combined with excellent year-round weather, makes the base perfect for flight testing.

**Where to stay if you visit Rosamond:**

If you wish to visit Rosamond you will need somewhere to stay. The four motels in town do not have their own websites. They are still the same old motor inns you would have expected to see in small rural towns in the 1950s. Most visitors stay in nearby Lancaster. Many familiar and major hotel chains have facilities there. Motel rooms in Rosamond can be booked through this website:

<http://www.booking.com>

**Why I would want to visit Rosamond C.A.**

I would want to take a trip to Rosamond to visit my family. My father grew up in Rosamond, the youngest of eleven children. Since most of his family stayed there, most of my relatives are area residents. My family members own businesses and property there. One uncle owns Karl's Hardware, another owns the Century 21 AVICO real estate office, and a third is an attorney in Rosamond. This Picture shows some of the property my family owns.

**Links you may wish to visit:**

<http://www.cathouse-fcc.org/> (The Cat House)

<http://www.rosamondca.us/> (All The info about Rosamond)

<http://www.booking.com> (list of all the motels in Rosamond)