



Resources for Researching California Land Grants California History Room

Searching the book catalog

Online at catalog.library.ca.gov

- Subject heading:
 - Land grants—California
 - Land titles--California
- Narrower subjects:
 - Names of ranches
 - Specific counties: e.g. Land grants—California—Alameda County

California Information File

Created at the California State Library, the California Information File is an index to many sources of California history, including newspaper articles, magazine articles, manuscript collections, and books, covering dates from the 1850's through present.

The original card file was closed in 1985, and the index has been continued as a database. The continuation of the file is online at www.library.ca.gov/calhist/databases.html.

- General subject headings for the card file (consult headings binders for exact terms):
 - Ranchos: Ranch Name
 - Land: Grants, Claims, Titles (by name)
 - Disenos
 - Rancho Name
- Search database by keywords

Vertical file

- Subjects—Ranches—California land grants

Map collection:

- *Diseños of California ranchos*. By Robert Becker. San Francisco: Book Club of California, 1964. Closed stacks: folio HD211 .C2 B4 In Library Use – Restrictions
- *Designs on the land*. By Robert H. Becker. San Francisco: Book Club of California, 1969. Closed stacks: folio G4361.G4 B4 1969 In Library Use – Restrictions
- *Mapa del Valle del Sacramento*. By John. Bidwell. San Francisco: Britton & Co., [1853]. Vault: Map collection; 912 C15 1844b In Library Use – Restrictions
- *California land claims: Map collection*. [1845?-1862?] Vault: folio 912.C15 In Library Use – Restrictions

Key Indexes and Lists

- *California ranchos: patented private land grants, listed by county*. Edited by Michael & Mary Burgess. San Bernardino: Borgo Press, 1988. Circulating: F860 .S565 1988
- *Ranchos of California, a list of Spanish concessions, 1775-1822, and Mexican grants, 1822-1846*. Robert Cowan. Fresno: Academy Library Guild, 1956. Circulating: 333 C874
- *Index by county to private land grant cases, U.S. District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of California*. [California?: s.n., 1939?]. Microfilm 2034 (1 reel, circulating)

Key General Documents

- *Reports of land cases determined in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California: June Term, 1853 to June Term, 1858, inclusive*. By Ogden Hoffman. Buffalo: Dennis & Co., 1966. Reference shelves: KFC808.A52 1966 H64
- *California Land Pamphlets*. Closed stacks: 333.C153 In Library Use – Restrictions
- *Record books of the Alcaldes of Santa Cruz, California, 1847-1850 & April term 1851*. Transcribed by Sara Bunnett, Marion Pokriots & W. Reynolds. Santa Cruz: Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County, 1992. Circulating: F868.S3 R3 1992
- *Libro donde se asientan los despachos de terrenos adjudicados en los años 1839 y 1840*. This book can be identified as the long lost Toma de Razon. Circulating: q333.L6
- *Private land-grant case files in the Circuit Court of the Northern District of California, 1852-1910*. U.S. Land Office, Sacramento, 1858-1908. Washington: National Archives, National Archives and Records Administration, 1978. Microfilm 2036 (28 reels, non-circulating)
- *[Various manuscript land grants and land claims records including depositions, certifications and logs of land claim petitions filed in the San Francisco U.S. Land Office from April 1852 through November 1854]*. Microfilm 2228 (1 reel, non-circulating)

Key References

- *Spanish and Mexican land grants in California*. By Rose Avina. [San Francisco: R and E Research Associates, 1973]. Reference shelves: HD211.C2 A93 1973
- *Land grants in Alta California*. Cris Perez. Rancho Cordova: Landmark Enterprises, 1996. Circulating: HD211.C2 P472 1996

Individual Grant Records

In some cases, we have primary, copies of primary and early secondary documents related to specific land grants that were accessioned either individually or as part of a larger collection, the following is a list of those materials by grant.

Aguas Frias

- *Aguas Frias, filed for records in County Recorder's office of Butte County, Sept. 10, 1860 ...* United States. General Land Office. Closed stacks: folio HD1186 U52 A6 In Library Use – Restrictions

Arroyo Chico and Rancho de Farwell

- *[Deeds to Arroyo Chico and Farwell grants, confirming land to John Bidwell.]* United States. General Land Office. [Washington, D. C. 1860, 1863] Vault: folio 333 U58 In Library Use – Restrictions
- *Plat of the Rancho Arroyo Chico.* A.W. Von Schmidt. [S.l.]: U.S. Surveyor General, 1859. Vault: Map collection: 912 B98 1859 In Library Use – Restrictions

Arroyo Seco

- *Papers relating to Arroyo Seco Spanish land grant.* [Sacramento, 1965, 18--] Non-circulating: F868 A4 P3
- *[Case no. 198, Barcelia Bernal, claimant of land in Santa Clara County, 1858, legal documents] [microform]; and [Case no. 199A, Case no. 444, Andres Pico, claimant of land called Rancho Arroyo Seco, 1859, legal documents].* United States. District Court (California: Northern District). [1858 and 1859]. Microfilm 2226 (1 reel, non-circulating)

Bolsa del Pajaro

- *Bolsa del Pajaro land grant, 1860 January 4, filed for records in Country Recorder's office, Santa Cruz County, April 16, 1860.* United States. General Land Office, 1860. Closed stacks: folio HD1186 U52R3 In Library Use – Restrictions

Cañada de los Capitancillos

- *Map of the Cañada de los Capitancillos and adjacent hills & mountains, including the lands of New Almaden.* By Wm. J. Lewis and Vitus Wackenreuder. 1855 June. Map collection: Santa Clara County, 912 S231L 1855

Cañada de Pala

- Landon Fellom San Jose document transcriptions
Manuscript Collection; Box 3147, Folder 37

Laguna Seca

- Mexican and Spanish papers
Manuscript Collection; Box 310, Folder 2

Larkin's Children's Rancho

- *Expediente promovido por los hijos de Dn. Tomas O. Larkin.* Larkin, Thomas. Closed stacks: folio F864 .L32 L32 1860 In Library Use – Restrictions

Los Putos Rancho

- *Abstract of title to 100 acres of the Los Putos Rancho in Solano County.* By Owen Moran. 1879. Vault: F868.S66M669 1879 In Library Use – Restrictions

New Helvetia

- *Sutter grant maps*. [1850-1863]. Microfilm 2201 (1 reel, non-circulating)
- *[Land grants ... John A. Sutter]*. Mexico. Department of Upper California. [San Francisco: Office of the Surveyor General, of the United States, for California, 1869]. Vault: folio 333.M6 In Library Use – Restrictions
- *A Faithful translation of the papers respecting the grant made by Governor Alvarado to Mr. J. A. Sutter*. [Sacramento: Placer times, 1850] Non-circulating: 979.4 F174

Pulgas Rancho

- Joseph Libbey Folsom Collection, 1848-1859
Manuscript Collection; Box 200, Folder 18

Rancho de Berryessa

- *Map of the Cañada de los Capitancillos and adjacent hills & mountains, including the lands of New Almaden*. By Wm. J. Lewis and Vitus Wackenreuder. 1855 June. Map collection: Santa Clara County, 912 S231L 1855

Rancho Buena Ventura

- *Reading (Pearson B.) Collection 1843-1868*
Manuscript Collection; Box 288, Folders 1-3
- *Transcript of the proceedings in case no. 28 before the Board of United States Land Commissioners [1852] and no.3 before the United States District Court [1853] "Buenaventura."* United States. Commission for Ascertaining and Settling Private Land Claims in California. [San Francisco, 1853?]. Closed stacks: folio HD211.C2U48 In Library Use – Restrictions

Rancho de los Pilarcitos

- Vasquez (Jose T.) Papers 1839-1865
Manuscript Collection; Box 320, Folders 10-11, 47-48

Rancho Del Puerto

- *The Property of J. D. Patterson: map of the Rancho Del Puerto in the San Joaquin Valley*. [between 1887 and 1888] Map Collection: Stanislaus County, c912 S78 1887

Rancho Laguna de Tache

- *Opinion delivered by his honor Ogden Hoffman, U. S. District Judge, in the cases of José Y. Limantour, nos. 424 and 429*. District Court (California: Northern District). San Francisco, Frank Eastman, Printer, 1858. Non-circulating: HD211.C2 U5

Rancho Rio de los Americanos

- Catlin (Amos P.) Papers 1850-1900
Manuscript Collection; Box 149, Folder 11
- *Tablings of the Rancho Rio de los Americanos*. By T.J. Arnold. 1865. Closed stacks: folio HD266.C22S12 1865 In Library Use – Restrictions

- *Abstract of title and certificate of search of all that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the County of Sacramento, State of California.* By T. J. Arnold. [1890-95]. Closed stacks: folio q 333 S613 In Library Use – Restrictions
- *Rancho "Rio de los Americanos".* By A.P. Catlin. [San Francisco: B.F. Sterrett, 1862]. Microfilm 549, Reel 98, No. 1050. (1 reel, circulating)
- Joseph Libbey Folsom Collection, 1848-1859
Manuscript Collection; Box 200, Folder 4

Rancho de San Pablo

- *Complete search and abstract of the title to the Rancho de San Pablo, in Contra Costa County, Cal.* Wittenmeyer, L. C. San Francisco: M. D. Carr & Co., 1867. Closed stacks: HD266.C22 C76W58 1867 In Library Use – Restrictions

Ranchos San Pedro, Santa Margarita y Las Gallinas

- *Abstract of title to all those portions of the ranchos San Pedro, Santa Margarita y Las Gallinas situated in Marin County, state of California, described in the following deeds to William T. Coleman.* [California?]: Edward Bosqui & Co., [1880?]. Non-circulating: HD266.C22 M37A28 1880

San Miguel rancho

- *[Deed for the San Miguel rancho signed by President James Buchanan, Mar. 30, 1857, giving the land to José de Jesus Noé].* United States. General Land Office. [Washington, D.C., 1857]. Circulating: folio 333.U5

Santa Cruz Island,

- Mexican and Spanish papers
Manuscript Collection; Box 310, Folder 7

Other Archives with Useful Collections

- California State Archives--1020 O St, Sacramento, CA 95814--(916) 653-2246
- Bancroft Library-- University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-- (510) 642-6481

Useful Online Resources

- The Official Federal Land Records Site--<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>
- Online Archive of California-- <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>