

# CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

## RESEARCH GUIDES

PORTUGUESE AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA



### [VISIT US](#)

*California History Section*

*900 N Street Room 200*

*9:30-4 Monday-Friday*

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Are you researching your Portuguese American ancestry? Are you curious about the Portuguese contribution to California's fishing and dairying industries? Maybe you're writing a paper on Portuguese American industry on California. Regardless of your interests, you can explore the extensive history of Portuguese Americans in California via the [California History Section's](#) rich collections!

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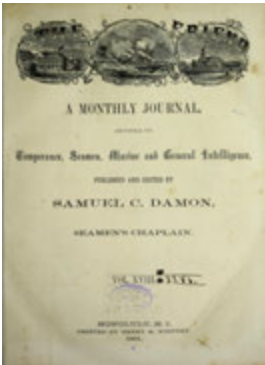
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ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to California's Portuguese Americans!

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### [Digitized Publications](#)

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile resources on California's Portuguese Americans. You can see them on Internet Archive!



**URL:** <https://archive.org/>

**Type in Search Box:** Portuguese AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)&sin=TEXT

**Select Option:** "Search full text of books"

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## BOOKS

Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! These texts provide biographies of prominent Portuguese Americans as well as overviews of Portuguese American history in California.



**Brown, W. (1972).** [Portuguese in California.](#) San Francisco: R and E Research Associates.

This brief but comprehensive overview of Portuguese immigration, settlement and industry in California up through the 1940's serves as an approachable introduction to the Portuguese American impact on California.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D000533020](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000533020)

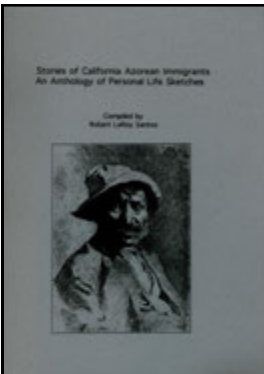


**Robertson, S. (2003).** [Portuguese-Americans : Their life and contributions in California.](#) Sacramento: CSUS.

Another high-level introduction to Portuguese-American history, this book focuses on the emigration and settlement of the Azorean Portuguese in California.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001526052](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001526052)



**Santos, R. (1998).** [Stories of California Azorean immigrants : An anthology of personal life sketches.](#) Denair: Alley-Cass Publications.

A collation of biographies, memoirs and more, this edited compilation is an invaluable resource to individuals tracing their Portuguese Californian ancestors..



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001021835](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001021835)

## BOOKS



Graves, A. (2004). [The Portuguese Californians : Immigrants in agriculture.](#) San Jose: Portuguese Heritage Publications of California.

A meticulously researched dissertation turned popular history, this title provides a good overview of Portuguese American contributions to California agriculture, particularly dairying.



URL: [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001231416](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001231416)



Almeida, C., & União portuguesa do estado da California. Conselho supremo. (1992). [Portuguese immigrants : The centennial story of the Portuguese Union of the State of California.](#) San Leandro: Supreme Council of U.P.E.C.

A history of the Portuguese cultural society UPEC and by extension of Portuguese Californians in general, this book provides information on society events and profiles of prominent Portuguese.



URL: [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D000592506](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000592506)



Vaz, A. (1965). [The Portuguese in California.](#) Oakland, Calif.: I.D.E.S. Supreme Council.

A history of the Portuguese impact on California from Cabrillo's explorations through to the sixties, this comprehensive book touches on societies, newspapers and other aspect of Portuguese California culture..



URL: [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D000262729](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000262729)

## PERIODICALS & NEWSPAPERS

Want something shorter than a book? In addition to individual articles in historical publications you can read periodicals devoted to Portuguese American history!



### [O Progresso](#)

Filled with notes about DNA research, recipes, upcoming events and obituaries, this heritage society magazine extending back to the 1980's provides a window into this thriving community.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D000514270](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000514270)



### [Our Heritage](#)

With notes on prominent local Portuguese American individuals, suggestions for tracing Portuguese immigrants who came to California and more, this periodical would be useful for a genealogist.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001204648](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001204648)



### [A União Portuguesa](#)

An early Portuguese language newspaper filled with news of interest to the Portuguese-American community in San Francisco and Alameda, this is an excellent primary source.

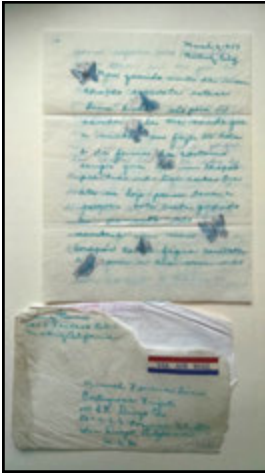


**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001000427](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001000427)

## MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

In addition to periodicals, we have manuscript collections that focus specifically on Portuguese American history. Here are some selected collections at the State Library.

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### [Diane Garcia Aires Collection](#)

This touching collection of letters from Diane to her husband documents the daily details of Portuguese American life from the 1950's through the 1970's.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001456127](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001456127)



### [Portuguese Protective and Benevolent Association Collection](#)

Containing dance cards, association by-laws and membership certificates, this small collection sheds light on the activities of an early Portuguese American life insurance association.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001082077](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001082077)



## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our books, articles, and manuscripts on Portuguese Americans

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### [Catalog](#)

If you are looking for [images](#), [books](#) and [articles](#) on Portuguese Americans, your best source is our [catalog](#).



**URL:** <http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-b-0>

**Type in Subject Box:** ( Portuguese OR Azore\*)

**Limit:** By place

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### [California Information File II](#)

Sometimes the catalog doesn't provide as much detail as you might like. This is why we created the California Information File II. In this resource, you can find catalog records on individual articles, pamphlets and more.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCalinfo.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm)


**Type in Subject Box:** Portuguese OR Azore\*

**For a narrower search:** Add a place to your keyword search

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## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

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The screenshot shows a search interface for "City and County Directories". At the top, it says "Enter one or more search terms. The more terms you enter, the fewer results you will get." Below this, there is a tip: "To search for a date range, type a colon between the years, e.g., 1945-1950." The form includes several input fields: "County", "City", "Year", "Title", "Author", "Publisher", and "Material type". Each field has a small "x" icon to its left. At the bottom left, there is a "Search Query" button and a "Done" button. At the bottom right, there is a question mark icon and a "Help" link.

### City Directories

Looking for a person? You can trace this information via our city directories! See what we have by checking our specialized database.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCityDir.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Location



The screenshot shows a search interface for "Telephone Directories". At the top, it says "Type in the city or county. If you get too many results, add the year to your search." Below this, there are two input fields: "Location-White Pages" and "Location-Yellow Pages". Below these, there is a tip: "To search for a date range, type a colon between the first and last years, e.g., 1945-1950." The form includes several input fields: "Year" and "Material type". Each field has a small "x" icon to its left. At the bottom left, there is a "Search Query" button and a "Done" button. At the bottom right, there is a question mark icon and a "Help" link.

### Telephone Books

Are you not finding what you need in our city directory collection? No worries, you might find it in our telephone book collection. See what we have by checking our phone book database.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryPhonebk.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Location

## RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

California's Portuguese Americans contribute in a myriad of ways to this state. While these catalog links barely scrape the surface of this history, they provide a good overview.



### By County:

[Alameda](#)  
[Contra Costa](#)  
[Sacramento](#)  
[San Diego](#)  
[San Francisco](#)  
[San Joaquin](#)

### By Subject:

[Agriculture](#)  
[Education](#)  
[Fiction](#)  
[Festivals](#)  
[Fishing](#)  
[Folktales](#)  
[Mining](#)  
[Poetry](#)  
[Women](#)

### By Type:

[Books](#)  
[Images](#)  
[Manuscripts](#)  
[Newspapers](#)  
[Periodicals](#)  
[Vital Records](#)

## ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.

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### **California Information File**

In the library? Check the California Information File before you do anything else! This file indexes over 130 years of California articles, books, and manuscript collections related to individuals active in California.



#### **Subject Headings:**

- Portuguese in California



### **Photographic File**

Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words and not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection, search our picture file.



#### **Subject Headings:**

- Portraits: Individuals by Name

## OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about any information related to Portuguese Americans in the following files:

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### Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including Portuguese Americans. You can check them for information on organizations, event pamphlets and more.



**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians.

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### Postcard Files

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images of Portuguese Americans. Most are not online.



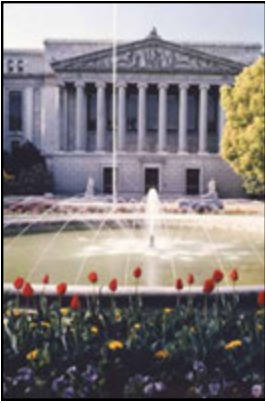
**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians

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## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Of course the California History Section doesn't have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations

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### Other California State Library Sections

[Government Publications Section](#)

[Witkin Law Library](#)

[Sutro Library](#)

[General Information](#)



#### URLs:

- <http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/>
  - <http://www.library.ca.gov/law/>
  - <http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/>
  - <http://www.library.ca.gov/services>
- 



### Other Government Agencies

[California State Archives](#)

[California Museum](#)

[California State Parks](#)

Local California libraries or archives



#### URLs:

- <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>
  - <http://www.californiamuseum.org/>
  - <https://www.parks.ca.gov/>
- 



### Other Organizations

[Portuguese Historical and Cultural Society](#)

[Portuguese Historical Museum](#)

[San Pedro Association](#)



#### URLs:

- <http://sacramentophcs.com/>
  - <https://www.portuguesemuseum.org/>
  - <http://sanpedroassociation.com/index.htm>
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Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

This guide is also available online at:  
<http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/>