

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

RICHMOND HISTORY



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California History Section

900 N Street Room 200

9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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Incorporated in 1905 and located on the historic Rancho San Pablo, Richmond boasted a population of 103,701 people as of 2010. In addition to having several active local history organizations, Richmond is also home to a shipyard instrumental in constructing naval vessels for World War II and several historic structures. If you are looking for exciting local history resources in the [California History Section's](#) rich collections, then check out what we have for this city!

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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 Richmond!



[Digitized Publications](#)

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile publications. You can now see documents related to Richmond on Internet Archive!



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

Type in Search Box: (Richmond) AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)

Select Option: "Search Full Text of Books"



[Digitized Images](#)

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images related to Richmond. You can see them on Calisphere!



URL: <https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/>

Type in Search Box: ("Richmond")

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 Richmond resources.



Catalog

If you are looking for Richmond materials your best source is our [catalog](#). You can do a general search on the catalog but also be sure to check out our specialized resources on page 7 of this research guide!



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

Type in Subject Box: (Richmond)



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, successor to the analog California Information File I. In this resource, you can find indexing to individual articles, as well as Richmond deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!



URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Richmond

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS



City and County Directories

Enter one or more search terms. The more terms you enter, the fewer results you will get.

To search for a range of years, type a colon between the years, e.g., 1940-1950.

County
City
Year
Title
Author
Publisher
Material type

Submit Query... Search

City Directories

Looking for a person? How about the history of a location? You can trace this information and more via our city directories! See what we have by checking our specialized database.



URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Richmond



Telephone Directories

Type in the city to search. If you get too many results, add the year to your search.

Location-White Pages
Location-Yellow Pages

To search for a date range, type a colon between the first and last years, e.g., 1940-1950.

Year
Material type

Request all items at the Information Desk.

Submit Query... Search

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

Type in Search Box:

1. Richmond

SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Richmond has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this city's complex past!

People

[Vital Statistics](#)
[African Americans](#)
[Chinese Americans](#)
[Italian Americans](#)
[Japanese Americans](#)
[Women](#)

Type

[Books](#)
[Images](#)
[Maps](#)
[Manuscripts](#)
[Newspapers](#)
[Periodicals](#)



Subject

[Art and Music](#)
[Business](#)
[Earthquakes](#)
[Education](#)
[Environment](#)
[Fishing](#)
[Migration](#)
[Mining](#)
[Oil](#)

[Poetry](#)
[Politics](#)
[Railroads](#)
[Shipping](#)
[Sixties](#)
[Transportation](#)
[Water](#)
[Wine](#)

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.



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 from a variety of counties.



Subject Headings: Counties: Contra Costa:
Richmond



Map File

Looking for a Richmond map? Our map file is a great place to start. We have a wide variety of maps, including Sanborn fire insurance maps. Some of our maps cover settlement patterns and even natural history.



Subject Headings: Richmond



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 card catalog.



Subject Headings: Counties: Contra Costa:
Richmond

OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Richmond information contained in the following resources.



Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including individual cities. You can check them for pamphlets, certificates and even posters related to organizations, individuals, and area histories.



Subject Headings: Check with librarians



Postcard Files

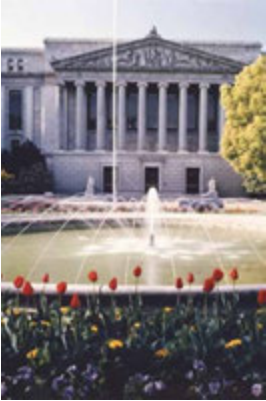
Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Richmond. Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Check with librarians

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



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/>
- <https://www.library.ca.gov/services>



Other Organizations

[Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder](#)

[Contra Costa County Historical Society](#)

[Contra Costa County Library](#)

[Richmond Museum Association](#)



URLs:

- <https://www.ccclerkrec.us/>
- <https://www.cocohistory.org/>
- <https://ccclib.org/>
- <https://www.richmondmuseum.org/>

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900 N Street Room 200
Sacramento CA 95814

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E-mail: cslcal@library.ca.gov
Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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