CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

Butte County History

VISIT US
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
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Formed in 1850, Butte County boasted a population of 220,000 people as of 2010. In addition to having several historic preservation organizations, Butte is also home to many historic mining operations, CSU Chico, several unique geologic formations and more! 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 county!

Digitized Resources .................................................................4
General Research Tips .............................................................6
Specific Resources in our Catalog ..............................................8
On-site Research Resources .....................................................9
Other On-site Resources ........................................................10
Other Places to Look ..............................................................11

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 Butte County!

Digitized Publications

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

URL: https://archive.org/
Type in Search Box: (Butte) 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 Butte County. You can see them on Calisphere!

URL: https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/
Type in Search Box: (“Butte County”)
California State Association of Counties

Like Wikipedia but locally grown, this government website will provide basic information about Butte County.

URL: http://www.counties.org/county-websites-profile-information

County Website

Want to learn about what Butte County residents have to say for themselves? Check out the county government’s website!

URL: http://www.buttecounty.net/
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 Butte County resources.

**Catalog**

If you are looking for Butte County 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 8 of this research guide!

**URL:** https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?
vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank

**Type in Subject Box:** (Butte)

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

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

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Butte
2. Name of a city in Butte County
**General Research Tips**

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**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. Butte
2. Name of a city in Butte County

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**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. Butte
2. Name of a city in Butte County
Specific Resources in Our Catalog

Butte County has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this county’s complex past!

### Type
- Maps
- Books
- County Histories
- Images
- Manuscripts
- Newspapers
- Periodicals

### Residents
- Vitals
- African Americans
- Chinese Americans
- German Americans
- Japanese Americans
- Jewish Americans
- Latin Americans
- Native Americans
- Women

### Subject
- Aeronautics
- Agriculture
- Art
- Birds
- Business
- Cooking
- Education
- Environment
- Festivals
- Fiction
- Folklore
- Geology
- Highways
- Land
- Legal
- Migration
- Mining
- Music
- Poetry
- Politics
- Railroads
- Religion
- Restaurants
- Water
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: Butte

Map File
Looking for an Butte county map? Our map file is a great place to start. We have a wide variety of maps, including Sanborns, some of which cover settlement patterns and even natural history.

Subject Headings: Counties: Butte

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: Butte
OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

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

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**Vertical Files**

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

**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians

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**Postcard Files**

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Butte County. 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

California State Archives
Butte County Historical Society
Far West Heritage Association
Butte County Library

URLs:
- http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/
- https://Buttemuseum.org/
- http://www.farwestheritage.org/
- http://www.buttecounty.net/bclibrary/Home.aspx
This guide is also available online at:
https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/