RESEARCH GUIDES
Fresno County History

VISIT US
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
Organized in 1856, Fresno County boasted a population of about 999,101 people in 2019. Fresno’s storied history has included legendary bandits, such as Joaquin Murrieta, Giant Sequoias preserved via the interventions of loggers, as well as engineering feats, such as the Friant Dam and the deeply unusual Forestiere Underground Gardens. Today, the region is known primarily for its rich agricultural sector, but in keeping with its rich traditions, it also boasts a large number of historical societies. If you want to know more about this county, check out the resources that the California History Section has on the area!

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ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH.
Can’t come to the library just yet? No worries. There are a number of online resources you can explore related to Fresno County.

**Digitized Publications**

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

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

**Type in Search Box**: (Fresno County) AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)

**Select Option**: “Search Full Text of Books”

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**Digitized Images**

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

**URL**: https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/

**Type in Search Box**: (“Fresno County”)
California State Association of Counties
Like Wikipedia but locally grown, this government website will provide basic information about Fresno County.

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

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

URL: https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/
GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

Not finding what you need online? We have additional materials available that cannot be accessed digitally. You can use the following resources to learn about our resources.

**Catalog**

If you are looking for Fresno 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: (Fresno County)

**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 Fresno County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more.

URL: https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/cainfoii

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Fresno
2. Name of a city in Fresno County
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: https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/citycounty

Type in Search Box:

1. Fresno
2. Name of a city in Fresno County

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: https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/phone

Type in Search Box:

1. Fresno
2. Name of a city in Fresno County
Fresno 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

### Residents
- Vitals
- German Americans
- Japanese Americans
- Latin Americans
- Native Americans
- Women

### Subject
- Aeronautics
- Agriculture
- Art
- Baseball
- Business
- Cooking
- Education
- Environment
- Festivals
- Fiction
- Fire
- Folklore
- Geology
- Land

- Medicine
- Migration
- Mining
- Music
- Oil
- Poetry
- Politics
- Railroads
- Religion

- Newspaper Indexes
- Newspapers
- Periodicals
- Statistics

- Restaurants
- Streets
- Taxes
- Water
- Wildlife
- Wine
- 1960s
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 all 58 counties.

*Subject Headings:* Fresno County

**Map File**
Looking for a Fresno County 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:* Counties: Fresno

**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: Fresno
**Other On-Site Resources**

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Fresno 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: Counties: Fresno

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**Postcard Files**

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

Subject Headings: Fresno County
Other Places to look

Can’t find what you need in our collection? You may want to contact the following organizations.

Other California State Library Sections

Government Publications Section
Witkin Law Library
Sutro Library
General Information

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

Fresno County Public Library
Fresno City and County Historical Society Archives
Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society of Central California
Fresno County Genealogical Society
Fresno County Recorder

http://www.fresnolibrary.org/ref/refdep.html
https://www.valleyhistory.org/
https://sites.google.com/site/aahgscc2/
https://fresnogenealogy.org/
https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/recorder/recorder-contact
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

California History Section
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Phone: (916) 654-0176
E-mail: cslcal@library.ca.gov
Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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