CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES
INYO COUNTY HISTORY

VISIT US
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
Home of Mt. Whitney and Death Valley, Inyo County has not only the highest and lowest spots in California but scenes of historic triumph and tragedy, including the first scaling of Mt. Whitney and the Jayhawker party’s harrowing desert crossing. The region later became a center of borax production and the epicenter of the Owens Valley water wars. Today, its picturesque cities have a number of historic buildings as well as preservation-minded organizations. 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.

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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 Inyo County.

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**Digitized Publications**

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

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

**Type in Search Box:** (Inyo 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 Inyo County. You can see them on Calisphere.

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

**Type in Search Box:** (“Inyo County”)
**Digitized Resources**

**California State Association of Counties**

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

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

**County Website**

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

**URL:** https://www.inyocounty.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 Inyo 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: (Inyo 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 Inyo County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more.

URL: https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/cainfoii
Type in Search Box:
1. Inyo
2. Name of a city in Inyo 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. Inyo
2. Name of a city in Inyo 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. Inyo
2. Name of a city in Inyo County
Inyo 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
- Images
- Manuscripts
- Newspapers
- Periodicals

### Subject
- Aeronautics
- Agriculture
- Business
- Environment
- Festivals
- Geology
- Medicine
- Migration
- Mining
- Railroads
- Religion
- Restaurants
- Water
- Wildlife

### Residents
- Vitals
- Japanese Americans
- Native Americans
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:** Inyo County

**Map File**

Looking for a Inyo 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: Inyo

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

**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: Inyo

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**Postcard Files**

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

**Subject Headings:** Inyo 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

- Eastern California Museum
- Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert
- Searles Valley Historical Society
- Inyo County Library
- County Clerk Recorder
- Laws Railroad Museum

https://www.inyocounty.us/residents/things-to-do/eastern-california-museum
hsimd.org/
http://www1.iwvisp.com/svhs/
https://www.inyocounty.us/services/library
https://www.inyocounty.us/services/clerk-recorder
https://www.lawsmuseum.org/
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This guide is also available online at:
https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/