RESEARCH GUIDES
MARIN COUNTY HISTORY

VISIT US
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
One of California’s original counties, Marin’s history stretches back to the earliest days of European exploration in Alta California. Sir Francis Drake landed here, as did many Spanish explorers. Not surprisingly given this early history, the region is home to many Spanish and Mexican ranchos as well as historic missions, lighthouses, paper mills, and even a Frank Lloyd Wright building. In addition to these many historic buildings, the region also features several gorgeous nature preserves, such as Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods. If you are curious about the riches this county has to offer, check out the California History Section’s research guide.

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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 Marin County.

**Digitized Publications**

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

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

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

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

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

California State Association of Counties
Like Wikipedia but locally grown, this government website will provide basic information about Marin County.

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

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

URL: https://www.marincounty.org/
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 Marin 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: (Marin 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 Marin County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more.

URL: https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/cainfoii
Type in Search Box:
1. Marin
2. Name of a city in Marin 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](https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/citycounty)

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Marin
2. Name of a city in Marin 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:** [https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/phone](https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/phone)

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Marin
2. Name of a city in Marin County
Marin 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
- Statistics

**Residents**
- Vitals
- Chinese Americans
- German Americans
- Latin Americans
- Native Americans
- Women

**Subject**
- Aeronautics
- Agriculture
- Art
- Baseball
- Birds
- Business
- Cooking
- Education
- Environment
- Festivals
- Fiction
- Fish
- Folklore
- Geology
- Land
- Legal
- Medicine
- Poetry
- Politics
- Shipping
- Railroads
- Religion
- Restaurants
- Streets
- Taxes
- Water
- Wildlife
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: Marin County

**Map File**
Looking for a Marin 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: Marin

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

**Postcard Files**

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

Subject Headings: Marin 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

Marin County Genealogical Society
Marin County Free Library
Marin History Museum
County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder

https://maringensoc.wildapricot.org/
https://marinlibrary.org/
https://www.marinhistory.org/
https://www.marincounty.org/depts/ar