RESEARCH GUIDES
Mendocino County History

By
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One of the original 27 counties when California was admitted to the union, Mendocino County had an estimated population of 87,606 people as of 2018. The county was named for Cape Mendocino, which is located 200 miles north from San Francisco and itself honors Antonio de Mendoza, the first viceroy of New Spain. In addition to being the historic home of several Native American tribes, Mendocino is known for its beautiful redwood trees, many of which are located at the Russian Gulch State Park. Also, Mendocino is the home of Lost Coast, a scenic stretch of California coastline, Fort Bragg, the site of a historic military post, Mineral Springs, Black Bart’s Rock and many more unique spots. 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!**
Can’t come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to Mendocino County!

Digitized Publications

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

URL: https://archive.org/

Type in Search Box: (Mendocino County) 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 Mendocino County. You can see them on Calisphere!

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

Type in Search Box: (“Mendocino County”)
California State Association of Counties

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

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

County Website

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

URL: https://www.mendocinocounty.org/
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 Mendocino County resources.

Catalog

If you are looking for Mendocino 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: (Mendocino 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 Mendocino County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!

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

Type in Search Box:
1. Mendocino
2. Name of a city in Mendocino 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:** http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Mendocino
2. Name of a city in Mendocino 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:** http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Mendocino
2. Name of a city in Mendocino County
Mendocino County has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this.

### Specific Resources in Our Catalog

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

#### Residents
- Vitals
- Chinese Americans
- Native Americans
- Women

#### Subject
- Art
- Business
- Cooking
- Education
- Environment
- Fiction
- Fish
- Folklore
- Forced Labor
- Geology
- Medicine
- Mining
- Poetry
- Politics
- Shipping
- Railroads
- Religion
- Restaurants
- Streets
- Taxes
- Water
- Wildlife
- 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 all 58 counties.

Subject Headings: Mendocino County

Map File
Looking for a Mendocino 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: Mendocino

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: Mendocino
OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

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

Postcard Files

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

Subject Headings: Mendocino County
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

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 Government Organizations

Mendocino County Library
Mendocino County Museum
Mendocino Assessor, Clerk, Recorder
Mendocino County Historical Society
Point Cabrillo Light Station
Kelley House Museum
Mendocino Coast Model Railroad and Historical Society

https://www.mendolibrary.org/home
https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cultural-services-agency/museum
https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/assessor-county-clerk-recorder-elections
http://mendohistoricalsociety.com/index.html
https://pointcabrillo.org/
https://www.kelleyhousemuseum.org/
https://www.mendorailhistory.org/
California State Library
California History Section

California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
Sacramento CA 95814

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/