RESEARCH GUIDES
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HISTORY

VISIT US
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
It’s easy to see why Santa Barbara County (pop. 423,000), which includes four of the Channel Islands and 110 miles of pristine coastline, is a haven for the rich and famous. From picturesque Montecito village by the beach to the Santa Ynez Valley wine region, almost every corner of this county feels like the ideal vacation spot. In addition to its natural beauty, the county seat and namesake, Santa Barbara, is home to some amazing historical buildings, architectural wonders, and a world renowned landmark, Old Mission Santa Barbara. Learn about the fascinating history of this area in the California History Section History 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 Santa Barbara County.

**Digitized Publications**

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

URL: https://archive.org/

Type in Search Box: (Santa Barbara 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 Santa Barbara County. You can see them on Calisphere.

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

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

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

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

County Website

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

URL: http://www.countyofsfb.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 Santa Barbara 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:** (Santa Barbara 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 Santa Barbara County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more.

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

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Santa Barbara
2. Name of a city in Santa Barbara 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. Santa Barbara
2. Name of a city in Santa Barbara 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. Santa Barbara
2. Name of a city in Santa Barbara County
Specific Resources in Our Catalog

Santa Barbara County has a long and distinguished history. Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this.

**Type**
- Maps
- Books
- County Histories
- Images
- Manuscripts
- Newspapers
- Periodicals
- Statistics
- Vitals
- African Americans
- Japanese Americans
- Latin Americans
- Native Americans

**Subject**
- Aeronautics
- Agriculture
- Art
- Baseball
- Birds
- Business
- Cooking
- Education
- Environment
- Festivals
- Fiction
- Fire
- Fish
- Folklore
- Geology
- Land
- Legal
- Legislature
- Medicine
- Migration
- Mining
- Music
- Oil
- Poetry
- Politics
- Shipping
- Railroads
- Religion
- Restaurants
- Streets
- Water
- Wildlife
- Wine
- 1960’s
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: Santa Barbara County*

**Map File**

Looking for a Santa Barbara 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: Santa Barbara*

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

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

Subject Headings: Santa Barbara County
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

Santa Barbara Genealogical Society
Lompoc Valley Historical Society
Santa Barbara Historical Society & Museum
Santa Maria Valley Genealogical Society
Southern California Genealogical Society
Black Gold Cooperative Library System
County Clerk-Assessor-Recorder

https://sbgen.org/
https://lompochistory.org/
https://www.sbhistorical.org/
https://www.smvgs.org/
http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/
https://www.blackgold.org/polaris/custom/libraries.aspx
https://countyofsb.org/care