RESEARCH GUIDES

SIERRA COUNTY HISTORY

VISIT US
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
Sierra County was established in 1852 when it split off from Yuba County. It had a population of about 2,987 people in 2018. Historically a gold mining region, this county features a number of historic mining operations including the Kentucky Mine, now a museum, and the Alleghany mining district. As might be expected given this county’s location deep in the Sierra Nevada mountains, Sierra County is a sports enthusiast’s paradise, featuring excellent cross-country skiing areas, as well as fishing, boating, mountain biking and hunting opportunities. 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 Sierra County.

**Digitized Publications**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

URL: http://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/
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 Sierra 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: (Sierra 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 Sierra County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more.

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

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

Sierra 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

Subject

- Agriculture
- Business
- Education
- Environment
- Fire
- Geology
- Legal
- Medicine
- Mining
- Politics
- Religion
- Restaurants
- Streets
- Water
- Wildlife

Residents

- Vitals
- Japanese Americans
- Native Americans
- Women
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: Sierra County

**Map File**

Looking for a Sierra 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: Sierra

**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: Sierra
OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

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

Postcard Files

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

Subject Headings: Sierra 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**

- Sierra County Historical Society
- Plumas County Library
- Sierra County Clerk-Recorder

https://www.sierracountyhistory.org/
https://www.plumascounty.us/546/Library
http://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/202/Clerk-RecorderElections
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

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Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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