Research Guides

Ventura County History

Visit Us
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
This Page
Intentionally
Left Blank
Formed in 1872, Ventura County boasted a population of 823,318 people as of 2010. In addition to having several historic preservation organizations, Ventura is also home several historic oil fields, CSU Channel Islands, two naval bases and Los Padres National Forest. 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!

**Digitized Resources**  ..........................................................4
**General Research Tips**  ......................................................6
**Specific Resources in our Catalog**  .................................8
**On-site Research Resources**  ..............................................9
**Other On-site Resources**  ..................................................10
**Other Places to Look**  .......................................................11

**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 Ventura County!

**Digitized Publications**

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

**URL**: https://archive.org/  
**Type in Search Box**: (Ventura) 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 Ventura County. You can see them on Calisphere!

**URL**: https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/  
**Type in Search Box**: (“Ventura County”)
**Digitized Resources**

**California State Association of Counties**

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

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

---

**County Website**

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

**URL:** http://www.ventura.org/
While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our Ventura County resources.

**Catalog**

If you are looking for Ventura 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:** (Ventura)

---

**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 Ventura County menus, deeds, pamphlets and more!

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

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Ventura
2. Name of a city in Ventura County
General Research Tips

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. Ventura
2. Name of a city in Ventura 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. Ventura
2. Name of a city in Ventura County
Ventura 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

**Subject**
- Aeronautics
- Agriculture
- Baseball
- Birds
- Business
- Cooking
- Education
- Environment
- Geology
- Highways
- Land
- Mining
- Oil
- Politics
- Shipping
- Railroads
- Water
- Wine

**Residents**
- Vitals
- African Americans
- Latin Americans
- Native Americans
- Women
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 a variety of counties.

Subject Headings: Counties: Ventura

Map File
Looking for an Ventura county map? Our map file is a great place to start. We have a wide variety of maps, including Sanborns, some of which cover settlement patterns and even natural history.

Subject Headings: Counties: Ventura

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: Ventura
OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

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

Postcard Files

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

Subject Headings: Check with librarians
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

URLs:
- http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/
- http://www.library.ca.gov/law/
- http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/
- http://www.library.ca.gov/services

Other Organizations

- California State Archives
- Museum of Ventura County
- Ventura County Library

URLs:
- http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/
- https://venturamuseum.org/
- https://vencolibrary.org/
This guide is also available online at:
http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/