

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

IMAGES OF CALIFORNIA



[Visit Us](#)

California History Room

900 N Street Room 200

9:30-4 Monday-Friday

**This Page
Intentionally
Left Blank**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Are you looking for images of California? How about the works of a famous California painter or photographer? Explore the history of this State via art and images [California History Section's](#) rich collections of photographs, prints, letter sheets and more!

Digitized Resources	4
General References	5
Catalog General Research Tips	6
County-Specific Resources in our Catalog	7
On-site Research Resources	8
Other Places to Look	10

ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore dedicated to California imagery!



[Digitized Images](#)

We have scanned and digitized a portion of the images in our collection and placed them on Calisphere! Check them out and remember that we have a lot more in the catalog and in the library.



URL: <https://calisphere.org/institution/51/collections/>



[Online Exhibits](#)

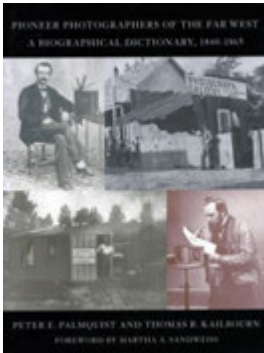
The exhibits at the State Library often use a large number of photos from the collection. You can see a portion of these by checking out our online exhibits!



URL: <http://www.library.ca.gov/collections/online-exhibits/>

GENERAL REFERENCES

Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! If you are interested in California imagery, either via photography or other mediums these items will help.



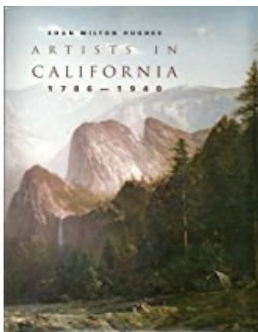
Palmquist, P., Kailbourn, T., & Sandweiss, M. (2000). *[Pioneer photographers of the far west : A biographical dictionary, 1840-1865.](#)* Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

Interested in learning more about the person who created that daguerreotype or stereograph. This book provides biographical information about 19th century photographers.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title and/or author



Hughes, E., & Crocker Art Museum. (2002). *[Artists in California, 1786-1940](#)* (3rd ed.). Sacramento, CA: Crocker Art Museum.

Did one of our paintings catch your eye? Curious about the life of a local artist? This book provides biographies of artists other than photographers.



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank

Search by: Title and/or author

CATALOG GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

Not only are our materials on special image-focused websites, they are also available in our catalogs! You can use the following resources to learn about what types of images we have.



Catalog

If you're looking for images kept at the California State Library, your best source is our [catalog](#).



URL: <https://>

[csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/
search?](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?)

[vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank)

Type in Search Box: Desired keyword



California Information File II

Sometimes there are also images listed in the California Information File II a continuation of the analog California Information File I. In this resource, you can find postcards, prints and more!



URL: [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/
QueryCalinfo.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm)

Type in Search Box: Desired keyword

COUNTY-SPECIFIC SINGLE IMAGES IN OUR CATALOG

Curious about images of a specific county? While these links don't list all of what the California History Section has, they are a good starting point for photos and photo albums.

[Alameda](#)

[Alpine](#)

[Amador](#)

[Butte](#)

[Calaveras](#)

[Colusa](#)

[Contra Costa](#)

[Del Norte](#)

[El Dorado](#)

[Fresno](#)

[Glenn](#)

[Humboldt](#)

[Imperial](#)

[Inyo](#)

[Kern](#)

[Kings](#)

[Lake](#)

[Lassen](#)

[Los Angeles](#)

[Madera](#)

[Marin](#)

[Mariposa](#)

[Mendocino](#)

[Modoc](#)

[Mono](#)

[Monterey](#)

[Napa](#)

[Nevada](#)

[Orange](#)

[Placer](#)

[Plumas](#)

[Riverside](#)

[Sacramento](#)

[San Benito](#)

[San Bernardino](#)

[San Diego](#)

[San Francisco](#)

[San Joaquin](#)

[San Luis Obispo](#)

[San Mateo](#)

[Santa Barbara](#)

[Santa Clara](#)

[Santa Cruz](#)

[Shasta](#)

[Sierra](#)

[Siskiyou](#)

[Solano](#)

[Sonoma](#)

[Stanislaus](#)

[Sutter](#)

[Tehama](#)

[Trinity](#)

[Tulare](#)

[Tuolumne](#)

[Ventura](#)

[Yolo](#)

[Yuba](#)



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.



Picture File

Not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection search our analog picture file.



Subject Headings:

1. Organized by name, location and subject
2. Check with librarians



Art & Reproduction File

Curious about the artwork kept at the State Library? Check our analog Art & Reproduction file! It contains references to many images not listed in our online catalog.



Subject Headings:

1. Check with librarians



Prints File

Some of our finer images, especially of early California are prints. Check for items not online using our in-house file!



Subject Headings:

1. Check with librarians

ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES



Letter Sheet File

Our collections include a number of letters on highly illustrated stationary depicting scenes of early California. We keep track of what we have in our letter sheet file.



Subject Headings:

1. Check with librarians



Postcard Files

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of real photo and photomechanical images from the late 19th century onward. Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Check with librarians

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



Bancroft Library
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720



(510) 642-3781
bancref@library.berkeley.edu
<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu>



California Historical Society
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105



(415) 357-1848, ext. 220
reference@calhist.org
<http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org>



**California State Railroad Museum
Library**
113 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



(916) 323-8073
rrmuseumlibrary@parks.ca.gov
<http://www.csrnf.org>

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



Photo Archives
The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108



(626) 405-2191
libraryinfo@huntington.org
<http://www.huntington.org>



Los Angeles Public Library
Historic Photograph Collection
630 W. Fifth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2097



(213) 228-7274
<http://photos.lapl.org>



National Maritime Museum Library
Fort Mason Center, Bldg. E
San Francisco, CA 94123



(415) 561-7030
<https://www.nps.gov/safr/learn/historyculture/research-center.htm>

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



Oakland Museum History Department

1000 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94607



(510) 238-3842

<http://collections.museumca.org>



Center for Sacramento History

551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95811-0229



(916) 264-7072, by appt. only
csh@cityofsacramento.org

[http://
www.centerforsacramentohistory.org](http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org)



San Diego Historical Society

Photograph Collection
1649 El Prado, Suite 3
San Diego, CA 92101



(619) 232-6203, ext. 164

<https://www.sandiegohistory.org>

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



San Francisco Room and Archives, 6th Fl.

San Francisco Main Library, Civic Center
100 Larkin Street,
San Francisco, CA 94102



(415) 557-4567

<https://sfpl.org/?pg=0200002501>



Seaver Center for Western History Research

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles
County
900 Exposition Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007-4057



(213) 763-3359

<http://www.nhm.org/site/research-collections/seaver-center>



UC Davis Shields Library Special Collections

100 N.W. Quad
Davis, CA 95616-5292



(530) 752-1621

speccoll@ucdavis.edu
<http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/dept/specol>

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



**UC Riverside / Calif. Museum of
Photography**

3824 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501



(909) 787-3686

<https://artsblock.ucr.edu/Page/research>



**Map & Imagery Laboratory
Davidson Library**

University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010



(805) 893-2779

milrefdesk@library.ucsb.edu
<https://www.library.ucsb.edu/mil>



**Regional History Center
Doheny Memorial Library, Room
206**

USC Libraries
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0189



(213) 821-2366

specol@usc.edu
[https://libraries.usc.edu/locations/
special-collections](https://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections)

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



Wells Fargo History Services
420 Montgomery Street (A0101-026)
San Francisco, CA 94163



(415) 396-4157, by appt. only
historicalservices@wellsfargo.com
<http://www.wellsfargohistory.com/>



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