

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

**RESEARCH GUIDES**

MENDOCINO COUNTY HISTORY



**BY**

Austin Bristol, Library Intern

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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!

## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to Mendocino County!

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### [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"

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### [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")

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## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

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### [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.

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### 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)

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

**Type in Search Box:**

1. Mendocino
  2. Name of a city in Mendocino County
-

## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

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The screenshot shows a search form titled "City and County Directories". It includes a header with a blue background and a city skyline. Below the header, there is a search instruction: "Enter one or more search terms. The more terms you enter, the fewer results you will get. To search for a range of years, type a colon between the years, e.g., 1940-1950." The form contains several input fields: "County", "City", "Year", "Title", "Author", "Publisher", and "Material type". Each field has a small "GO" button next to it. At the bottom of the form, there is a "Submit Query" button and a "Help" icon.

### 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](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Mendocino
2. Name of a city in Mendocino County



The screenshot shows a search form titled "Telephone Directories". It includes a header with a blue background and a telephone keypad. Below the header, there is a search instruction: "Type in the city or county. If you get too many results, add the year to your search." The form contains several input fields: "Location-White Pages", "Location-Yellow Pages", "Year", and "Material type". Each field has a small "GO" button next to it. At the bottom of the form, there is a "Submit Query" button and a "Help" icon.

### 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](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Mendocino
2. Name of a city in Mendocino County

## SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Mendocino County has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this

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<b>Type</b>		<b>Residents</b>
<a href="#">Maps</a>	<a href="#">Manuscripts</a>	<a href="#">Vitals</a>
<a href="#">Books</a>	<a href="#">Newspapers</a>	<a href="#">Chinese Americans</a>
<a href="#">County Histories</a>	<a href="#">Periodicals</a>	<a href="#">Native Americans</a>
<a href="#">Images</a>	<a href="#">Statistics</a>	<a href="#">Women</a>



### **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.

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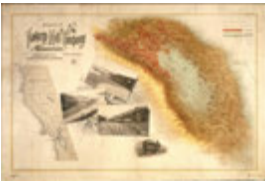
### California Information File

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

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### 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

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### 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

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## 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.

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### 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

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### Postcard Files



Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Mendocino County.

Most are not online.



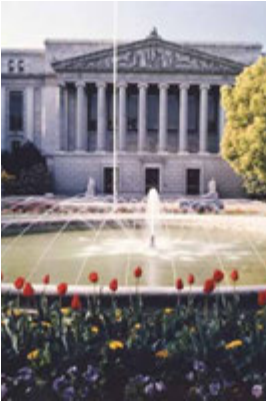
**Subject Headings:** Mendocino County

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## 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

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### 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>

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### 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/>

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Phone: (916) 654-0176  
E-mail: [cslcal@library.ca.gov](mailto: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/>