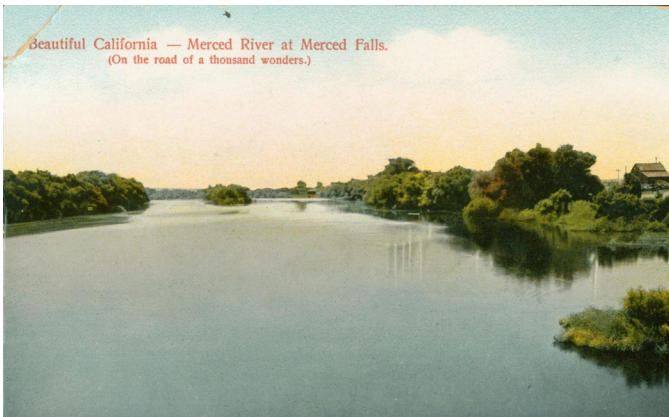


# CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

## RESEARCH GUIDES

MERCED COUNTY HISTORY



### [VISIT US](#)

*California History Section*

*900 N Street Room 200*

*9:30-4 Monday-Friday*

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Though formed in 1855, Merced County’s written history actually extends back quite a bit further. This region was explored by Gabriel Moraga during his famous inland expedition and by Jedidiah Smith a few years later. It was divided into several ranchos during the Spanish and Mexican periods and it was also during that time that traffic along the historic Pacheco Pass began to increase. Later on, much of the region became part of Miller and Lux’s infamous cattle empire, but several cities and towns also managed to thrive, including Santa Nella and Los Banos. 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 Merced 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 Merced County on Internet Archive.



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

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



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

**Type in Search Box:** (“Merced 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 Merced County.



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



### [County Website](#)

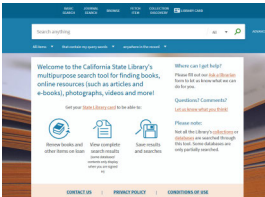
Want to learn about what Merced County residents have to say for themselves? Check out the county government's website.



**URL:** <https://www.co.merced.ca.us/>

## 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 Merced 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:** (Merced 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 Merced County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more.



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

**Type in Search Box:**

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

## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

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City and County Directories

→ 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., 1945:1950.

County  
AND ▾

City  
AND ▾

Year  
AND ▾

Title  
AND ▾

Author  
AND ▾

Publisher  
AND ▾

Material type  
AND ▾

Submit Query Reset Help

### 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. Merced
2. Name of a city in Merced County

Telephone Directories

→ Type in the city or county. If you get too many results, add the year to your search.

Location-White Pages  
AND ▾

Location-Yellow Pages  
AND ▾

→ To search for a date range, type a colon between the first and last years, e.g., 1915:1920.

Year  
AND ▾

Material type  
AND ▾

Request all items at the Information Desk.

Submit Query Reset Help

### 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. Merced
2. Name of a city in Merced County

## SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Merced 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.

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### Type

[Maps](#)

[Books](#)

[County Histories](#)

[Images](#)

[Newspapers](#)

[Periodicals](#)

[Statistics](#)

### Subject

[Aeronautics](#)

[Agriculture](#)

[Art](#)

[Baseball](#)

[Business](#)

[Cooking](#)

[Environment](#)

[Migration](#)

[Mining](#)

[Music](#)

[Religion](#)

[Water](#)



### Residents

[Vitals](#)

[Japanese 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.

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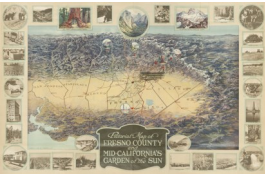
### California Information File

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:** Merced County

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### Map File

Looking for a Merced 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: Merced

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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: Merced

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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 Merced 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: Merced

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### Postcard Files

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



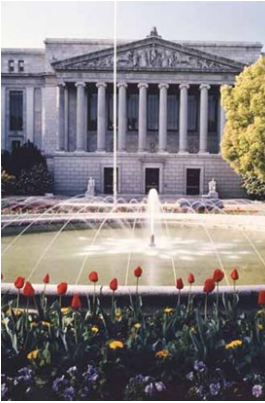
**Subject Headings:** Merced County

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## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Can't find what you need in our collection? You may want to 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 Organizations

[Merced County Library](#)

[Merced County Genealogical Society](#)

[Merced County Courthouse Museum](#)

[County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder](#)



<https://www.co.merced.ca.us/77/Library>

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~camcgs/>

<http://www.mercedmuseum.org/>

<https://www.countyofmerced.com/239/Recorder>

Recorder

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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](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/>