

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

PLACERVILLE HISTORY



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California History Section

900 N Street Room 200

9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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Founded in 1848, the city of Placerville was established as the El Dorado county seat in 1857 and boasted an estimated population of 11,048 people as of 2018. Built in the heart of California's early goldfields, Placerville is not only notable for its mining history but for its definitive role in a variety of significant historic events, including helping the Studebaker Company get its start. It boasts a large old town, a walk-in mine and a number of historic preservation organizations. If you are looking for exciting local information resources in the [California History Section's](#) rich collections, then check out what we have for this city!

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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 Placerville!



[Digitized Publications](#)

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



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

Type in Search Box: (Placerville) 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 Placerville. You can see them on Calisphere!



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

Type in Search Box: ("Placerville")

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 Placerville resources.



Catalog

If you are looking for Placerville 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 7 of this research guide!



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

Type in Subject Box: (Placerville)



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 Placerville deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!



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

Type in Search Box:

1. Placerville

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS



The screenshot shows a search interface for 'City and County Directories'. It includes a search bar and several dropdown menus for 'County', 'City', 'Year', 'Title', 'Author', 'Publisher', and 'Material type'. There is an 'Advanced 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

Type in Search Box:

1. Placerville



The screenshot shows a search interface for 'Telephone Directories'. It includes a search bar and dropdown menus for 'Location - White Pages', 'Location - Yellow Pages', 'Year', and 'Material type'. There is an 'Advanced 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

Type in Search Box:

1. Placerville

SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Placerville has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this city's complex past!

Type

[Maps](#)

[Books](#)

[Images](#)

[Manuscripts](#)

[Newspapers](#)

[Periodicals](#)

[Statistics](#)

Residents

[Vitals](#)

[Chinese Americans](#)

[German Americans](#)

[Italian Americans](#)

[Japanese Americans](#)

[Jewish Americans](#)

[Women](#)



Subject

[Agriculture](#)

[Art](#)

[Business](#)

[Cooking](#)

[Education](#)

[Environment](#)

[Folklore](#)

[Geology](#)

[Highways](#)

[Land](#)

[Legislature](#)

[Migration](#)

[Mining](#)

[Politics](#)

[Railroads](#)

[Religion](#)

[Restaurants](#)

[Water](#)

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: El Dorado:
Placerville



Map File

Looking for a Placerville 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: El Dorado County



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: El Dorado:
Placerville

OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Placerville information contained in the following resources.



Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including individual cities. You can check them for pamphlets, certificates and even posters related to organizations, individuals, and area histories.



Subject Headings: Counties: El Dorado:



Postcard Files

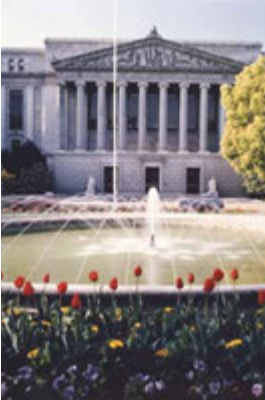
Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Placerville. Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Counties: El Dorado:
Placerville

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



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/>
- <https://www.library.ca.gov/services>



Other Organizations

[El Dorado County Clerk](#)

[El Dorado County Historical Society](#)

[El Dorado County Library](#)

[El Dorado County Museum](#)



URLs:

- <https://www.edcgov.us/countyclerk>
- <https://www.eldoradocountyhistoricalsociety.org/>
- <https://www.eldoradolibrary.org/>
- <http://museum.edcgov.us/home>

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Phone: (916) 654-0176
E-mail: cslcal@library.ca.gov
Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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