

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORY



[VISIT US](#)

California History Section

900 N Street Room 200

9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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Designated as a county in 1850, Sacramento County had an estimated population of 1,540,975 people as of 2018. Not only is Sacramento County the home to California’s State Capitol and numerous historical organizations (including the State Library), it has also played a significant role in California’s history. In this county, there are at least two historic air-force bases, several Spanish and Mexican land grants, including Sutter’s parcel, New Helvetia and the Leidesdorff estate, as well as one end of the pony express route. This region was also the first in California to have a Jewish cemetery, a train and a permanent purpose-built theatre. 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 Sacramento County!



[Digitized Publications](#)

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



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

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



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

Type in Search Box: ("Sacramento County")

DIGITIZED RESOURCES



[California State Association of Counties](#)

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



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



[County Website](#)

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



URL: <https://www.saccounty.net/Pages/default.aspx>

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 Sacramento County resources.



Catalog

If you are looking for Sacramento 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: (Sacramento 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 Sacramento County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!



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

Type in Search Box:

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

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS



The screenshot shows a search interface for "City and County Directories". It includes a header with the title and a background image of city buildings. 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

Type in Search Box:

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



The screenshot shows a search interface for "Telephone Directories". It includes a header with the title and a background image of 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

Type in Search Box:

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

SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

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

Type		Residents
Maps	Newspaper Indexes	Vitals
Books	Newspapers	African Americans
County Histories	Periodicals	Chinese Americans
Images	Statistics	German Americans
Manuscripts		Irish Americans
		Japanese Americans
		Jewish Americans
		Latin Americans
		LGBTQ
		Native Americans
		Portuguese Americans
		Women
Subject		
Aeronautics		
Agriculture		
Art		
Baseball		
Birds		
Business		
Cooking		
Education		
Environment	Legal	
Festivals	Legislature	
Fiction	Migration	
Fish	Mining	Railroads
Folklore	Music	Religion
Geology	Oil	Restaurants
Highways	Poetry	Taxes
Horses	Politics	Water
Land	Shipping	Wine



A map of California showing its county boundaries. Sacramento County, located in the northern part of the state, is highlighted in red. The rest of the map is outlined in green.

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 all 58 counties.



Subject Headings: Sacramento County



Map File

Looking for a Sacramento 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: Sacramento



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: Sacramento

OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Sacramento 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: Counties: Sacramento



Postcard Files

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

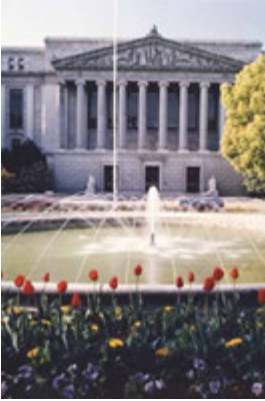
Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Sacramento County

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](#)



<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 Government Organizations

[Center for Sacramento History](#)

[Sacramento Room](#)

[California State Archives](#)

[California State Parks](#)

[California Museum](#)

[California State Capitol Museum](#)



www.centerforsacramentohistory.org

www.saclibrary.org/Locations/

[Sacramento-Room/](#)

www.sos.ca.gov/archives/

www.parks.ca.gov

www.californiamuseum.org

www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov

[California State Railroad Museum](#)

[Leland Stanford Mansion](#)

[Old Sacramento Historic Park](#)

[Sacramento History Museum](#)

[State Indian Museum](#)

[Sutter's Fort](#)



www.californiarailroad.museum

www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=489

www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=497

www.sachistorymuseum.org

www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=486

www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=485

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



Non-Profits

[Aerospace Museum of California](#)

[Big House Prison Museum](#)

[Caledonian Club of Sacramento](#)

[California Automobile Museum](#)

[California Pony Express](#)

[Chinese American Council of Sacramento](#)

[Citrus Heights Historical Society](#)

[Congregation B'nai Israel Archives](#)

[CSUS, Special Collections and University Archives](#)

[Daughters of the American Revolution--Sacramento Chapter](#)

[Daughters of the American Revolution--Sutter Chapter](#)

[Don & June Salvatori California Pharmacy Museum](#)



<https://aerospaeca.org/>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/206044736158/>

<https://www.calautomuseum.org/>

<https://nationalponyexpress.org/the-states/california/>

<https://www.cacsweb.org/cacsweb.php>

<https://www.citrusheightsstories.com/>

<https://www.cbisacramento.org/archives.html>

<https://library.csus.edu/special-collections-and-university-archives>

<https://sacto.californiadar.org/>

<https://genjohnasutter.californiadar.org/>

<https://donjunesalvatoricapharmacymuseum.org/>

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



Non-Profits cont.

[Elk Grove Historical Society](#)

[Fair Oaks Historical Society](#)

[Florin Chapter Japanese American Citizens League](#)

[Florin Historical Society](#)

[Folsom El Dorado and Sacramento Historical Railroad Association](#)

[Folsom Historical Society](#)

[Friends of Sutter's Fort](#)

[Galt Historical Society](#)

[Isleton Brannan-Andrus Historical Society](#)

[Italian Cultural Society](#)

[Jewish Genealogical Society, Sacramento](#)

[Lavender Library](#)

[Linda Mae Mahon Lema Foundation](#)

[Locke Foundation](#)



<https://elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com/>

<http://fairoakshistory.org/>

<http://www.florinjacl.com/>

<http://florinhistoricalssociety.org/membership.html>

<http://fedshra.org/>

<https://www.folsomhistoricalsociety.org/>

<https://suttersfort.org/>

<https://www.galthistory.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/IsletonMuseum/>

<http://www.italiancenter.net/>

<https://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/>

<http://lavenderlibrary.com/>

<https://www.lmmlfoundation.org/>

<http://www.locke-foundation.org/about/board-of-directors/>

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



Non-Profits cont.

[Mexican Cultural Center of Northern California](#)

[Murer House Foundation](#)

[Museum of Medical History](#)

[Native Daughters of the Golden West. Califia No. 22](#)

[Native Daughters of the Golden West. Sutter No. 111](#)

[Old City Cemetery Committee of Sacramento](#)

[Old Sacramento Living History Program](#)

[Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum](#)

[Pacific Coast Chapter Railway & Locomotive Historical Society](#)

[Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder](#)

[Portuguese Historical and Cultural Society](#)

[Rancho Cordova Historical Society](#)

[Rio Linda Elverta Historical Society](#)

[Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society](#)



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

<http://murerhouse.org/>

<http://www.ssvms.org/museum.aspx>

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

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

<https://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org/>

<http://sachistorymuseum.org/programs-events/living-history/>

<http://oldsacschoolhouse.scoe.net/index.html>

<http://pacificcoastchapterrlhs.org/about.html>

<https://www.sacramentofiremuseum.org/>

<http://sacramentophcs.com/>

<https://www.cordovacouncil.org/rancho-cordova-historical-society>

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

<https://rootcellar.org/contact.php>

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



Non-Profits cont.

[Sacramento Archeological Society](#)

[Sacramento Art Deco Society](#)

[Sacramento Chinese Culture Foundation](#)

[Sacramento City College Special Collections](#)

[Sacramento Civil War Round Table](#)

[Sacramento County Cemetery Advisory Commission](#)

[Sacramento County Historical Society](#)

[Sacramento FamilySearch Library](#)

[Sacramento German Genealogy Society](#)

[Sacramento Pioneer Association](#)

[Sacramento River Delta Historical Society](#)

[Sacramento Turn Verein](#)

[Sacramento Valley Chapter of Germans From Russia](#)



<http://sacarcheology.org/>

<http://sacartdeco.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Sacramento-Chinese-Culture-Foundation-248595585152996/>

<https://www.scc.losrios.edu/specialcollections/>

<http://www.sacramentocwrt.com/>

<https://coroner.saccounty.net/sccac/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.sachistoricalociety.org/>

<https://www.sacfamlysearchlibrary.org/>

<https://sggs.us/index.php>

<https://sacramentopioneer.org/pioneer-hall/>

<http://www.srdhs.org/home.html>

<http://sacramentoturnverein.com/>

<https://www.svcgr.org/about>

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK



Non-Profits cont.

[Sacramento Valley Historical Railways](#)

[Saint Andrews Society of Sacramento](#)

[Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum](#)

[Unsung Heroes Living History Project](#)

[Wells Fargo History Museum](#)

[Wilton History Group](#)



<http://svhr.org/index.htm>

<https://saintandrewssocietyofsacramento.wildapricot.org/>

<https://www.sojoartsmuseum.org/>

<https://www.unsungheroeslhp.org/>

<https://www.wellsfargohistory.com/museums/sacramento/>

<https://wiltonhistorygroup.org/>



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