

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

# RESEARCH GUIDES

ALAMEDA COUNTY HISTORY



[VISIT US](#)

*California History Section*

*900 N Street Room 200*

*9:30-4 Monday-Friday*

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Formed in 1853, Alameda County boasted a population of 1,510,271 people as of 2010. In addition to having several very active historic preservation organizations and the Bancroft library at Berkeley, Alameda is also the former home of a thriving coal mining industry and of course, Jack London. 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 Alameda 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 Alameda County on Internet Archive!



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

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



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

**Type in Search Box:** ("Alameda County")

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## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

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### [California State Association of Counties](#)

Like Wikipedia only more reputable, this government website will provide basic information about Alameda County.



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



### [County Website](#)

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



**URL:** <http://acgov.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 Alameda County resources.

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### [Catalog](#)

If you are looking for Alameda 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!



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

**vid=01CSL\_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank**

**Type in Search Box:** (Alameda)

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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 information about individual articles, as well as Alameda County menus, deeds, 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. Alameda
  2. Name of a city in Alameda County
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## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

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

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





## 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 a variety of counties.



**Subject Headings:** Counties: Alameda

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### Map File

Looking for an Alameda county map? Our map file is a great place to start. We have a wide variety of maps, including Sanborns, some of which cover settlement patterns and even natural history



**Subject Headings:** Counties: Alameda

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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.



**Subject Headings:** Counties: Alameda

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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 Alameda 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 information on organizations, individuals, and area histories.



**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians

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### Postcard Files

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



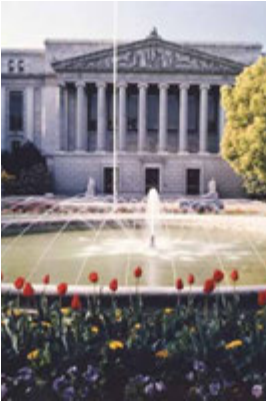
**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians

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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](#)



#### **URLs:**

- <http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/law/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/services>



### **Other Organizations**

[California State Archives](#)

[Alameda County Historical Society](#)

[Alameda County Library](#)



#### **URLs:**

- <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>
- <http://www.alamedacountyhistory.org/index.html>
- <http://www.aclibrary.org/>



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