

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

MONTEREY COUNTY HISTORY



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California History Section

900 N Street Room 200

9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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One of California's earliest counties, Monterey was famous from the earliest days of Spanish coastal exploration for its excellent harbor. Eventually the site of at least 3 missions and numerous ranchos, Monterey county boasts a wealth of historic locations including Colton Hall, the birthplace of the California constitution and 17-Mile drive, one of the many attractions associated with the Del Monte Hotel. As a major fishing and whaling region, this county has been immortalized in the writings of Steinbeck and Dana, and depicted in the work of numerous artists. Today, with an estimated population of 435,594 (as of 2018), it boasts a number of societies dedicated to preserving this unique region's past. 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 Monterey County!



[Digitized Publications](#)

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



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

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



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

Type in Search Box: ("Monterey County")

DIGITIZED RESOURCES



[California State Association of Counties](#)

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



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



[County Website](#)

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



URL: <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home>

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 Monterey County resources.



Catalog

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

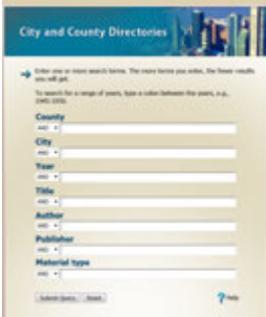


URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

Type in Search Box:

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

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS



The screenshot shows a search interface for 'City and County Directories'. It features 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 search fields include: County, City, Year, Title, Author, Publisher, and Material type. Each field has a small 'GO' button next to it. At the bottom, there is a larger '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. Monterey
2. Name of a city in Monterey County



The screenshot shows a search interface for 'Telephone Directories'. It features 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 search fields include: Location-White Pages, Location-Yellow Pages, Year, and Material type. Each field has a small 'GO' button next to it. At the bottom, there is a larger '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. Monterey
2. Name of a city in Monterey County

SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Monterey 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!

Type		Residents
Maps	Newspapers	Vitals
Books	Periodicals	Chinese Americans
County Histories	Statistics	Irish Americans
Images		Latin Americans
Manuscripts		Native Americans
		Women

Subject		
Agriculture		
Art		
Birds		
Business		
Cooking		
Education		
Environment	Migration	
Festivals	Mining	Religion
Fiction	Music	Restaurants
Fire	Oil	Streets
Fish	Poetry	Taxes
Folklore	Politics	Water
Land	Shipping	Wildlife
Medicine	Railroads	Wine



A map of California with county boundaries. Monterey County is highlighted in red. 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: Monterey County



Map File

Looking for a Monterey 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: Monterey



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: Monterey

OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

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

Postcard Files



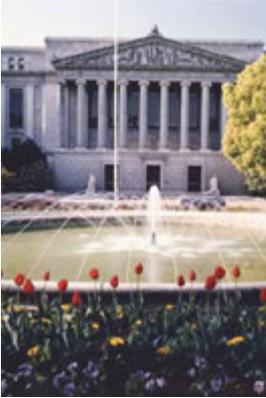
Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Monterey County. Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Monterey 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



[Monterey County Historical Society](#)

[Monterey County Genealogy Society](#)

[Assessor County Clerk-Recorder](#)

[Monterey County Free Library](#)

[Monterey City Library, California History Room](#)

[Monterey History and Art Association](#)

[Monterey State Historic Park](#)



<http://mchsmuseum.com/salinas/>

<https://mocogenso.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/assessor/assessor-county-clerk-recorder>

<http://www2.co.monterey.ca.us/library/>

<https://www.monterey.org/library/>

<https://montereyhistory.org/>

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=575



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Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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