



Created by the
Santa Clara
County Historical
and Genealogical
Society

Local & Family History Resources

Santa Clara County, CA

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This document contains links to a variety of local and family history resources for Santa Clara County and is maintained by the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society. Corrections and additions are happily accepted by email at genconsultant@scchgs.org

Adoptions

Records for early adoptions (prior to 1920) may be found in the [probate court indexes](#) kept by Santa Clara County Archives. For a small fee, volunteer [researchers](#) from SCCHGS can make record copies. Hint: when searching the index, use as few letters of the surname as possible and try alternate spellings and names of other family members.

Agnews Development Center

This center opened in 1885 and was originally known as "The Great Asylum for the Insane".

Unfortunately, due to state and federal confidentiality laws, information that can be disclosed is strictly limited. In most cases, these confidentiality laws prevail over any request for patient records from an entity, including family member, other than the patient him/herself, even if the patient is deceased.

Agnews' records are currently maintained at the Department of Development Services. Requests for information can be directed to SOFrecordsrequest@dds.ca.gov [per: their website at https://www.dsh.ca.gov/Hospitals/Patient_Information_Requests_FAQs.html]

Some Santa Clara County Probate Court guardianship cases (prior to 1920) pertain to patients at Agnews. Check this [index](#). The actual case files are available at the Santa Clara County Archives, or you can [hire a researcher](#) to make copies of the record. Hint: when searching the index, use as few letters of the surname as possible and try alternate spellings and names of other family members (potential guardians).

Online Articles:

- [Looking Back: Agnews State Hospital](#)
- [A last peek inside SJ's abandoned 'Great Asylum for the Insane' before it disappears forever](#)
- [The Agnews Insane Asylum and the nearby mass grave of former patients](#) (many photos)
- [Agnews Insane Asylum \(National Park Service\)](#)
- [Agnews State Hospital](#)
- [Agnews Development Center, Historical Marker Database](#)

[YouTube video tour](#) of Agnews

Agnews Cemetery at [FindaGrave](#)

[Agnews Historic Cemetery & Museum](#) is generally open Fridays from 10-2. Call for an appointment.

Agnews Reference materials at Santa Clara City Library

- *Agnews: our jewel in the Silicon Valley*, by Kathleen Lee, Lawrence DeJanvier (DVD 979.473 A27)
- The 1906 earthquake at Agnews (979.473 N71 case)
- 1906 Earthquake Remembrance Ceremony (979.473 N714 case)
- Agnews: asylum, hospital, developmental center 1885-1996 by Lorie Garcia (979.473 G21)
- Index to Commitment Records held at California State Archives (finding aid only)

Images and diagrams of Agnews State Hospital at the [Library of Congress](#)

Images at [Calisphere](#) (search "Agnews")

Archives

[History San Jose](#)

[Los Gatos Archives](#) at the NUMU (New Museum)

[Online Archives of California](#)

[Santa Clara County Archives](#)

[Santa Clara University Archives](#)

[Stanford University Archives](#)

Atlases, see also: maps

Historical atlas map of Santa Clara County, California 1875 by Thompson & West, (912.794 T46). An online [index](#) and [book](#) are available.

[Brainard Agricultural Atlas of Santa Clara County](#), 1880 from History San Jose

The [Atlas of Historical County Boundaries](#) shows changing Santa Clara County boundaries from 1850-1991. The last Santa Clara County boundary change occurred in 1991.

Biographies and Histories, see also: Periodicals, Oral Histories and Surname

The Early Settler files contain information about individuals and families who settled in Santa Clara County more than 100 years ago. Check the [index](#) and note the file(s) to review; *people are often mentioned in files other than the one with their name*. Early Settler files are located in the Heritage Pavilion at the Central Park Library. For a small fee, [researchers](#) can send you copies.

At the Society's website, www.scchgs.org, perform a search for a surname or full name in quotes on any page's search box. This will search the Society's indexes for that name. Try all spelling variations that you know. Ignore the first 2-3 results as these are ads from Google.

The Santa Clara Central Park Library maintains biography files for prominent locals (Santa Clara County). [Consult the index](#). Files may be viewed at the Santa Clara Central Park Library by consulting the upstairs reference desk or a [genealogy consultant](#). Tell them you would like to view the "Biography file for xxx which is in the grey cabinets in the storage room."

The Santa Clara Central Park Library maintains Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County subject files on a wide variety of topics. [Consult the index here](#). Files may be viewed at the Santa Clara Central Park Library by consulting the upstairs reference desk or a [genealogy consultant](#). Tell them you would like to view the "Santa Clara City/County subject file for xxx which is in the grey cabinets in the storage room."

The Santa Clara Central Park Library collection has hundreds of books on local history. Check the [catalog](#) for additional town histories. Search using "<town name> history" as keywords. The following have posted indexes. As noted, some of the books are online. These books have online indexes and possibly images.

The Santa Clara City Library collection has hundreds of family genealogies. Search the [library catalog](#) using a surname and "genealogy" as keywords. Here is a *small sampling* of books about local families:

- [Journal of Isaiah Horn](#) by Gay Frances Taylor, 979.404 H81
- [James Alexander Forbes](#), 1804-1991: His Descendants for Four Generations by Bernard Allan Glienke, 929.2 F69 Case
- [Pioneers in Santa Clara County, the Casey, Barker and Bohnett Families](#) by Ellen Roberts Young, 929.2 C33 Case
- [Jamison and Payne, Pioneers Families of Santa Clara County](#): Ancestry of Theodora May Jamison by David Joseph Riley, GS929.2 J32
- [Bocci: Immigration & Ancestors](#) by Carol Ann Nulk, GS929.2 B664
- [Some Early African American Settlers in the Santa Clara Valley](#) by Edith Smith, GR929.3794 S646
- [History of Black Americans in Santa Clara Valley](#) GS 301.45196 H67
- [Thomas Fowler and his Descendants: From Massachusetts to Los Gatos](#) by Jeanine McNeill, GS929.2 F78
- [Samuel R. Williams; His Family Past and Present](#) by Mabel H Noonan, GS929.2 W727 Case
- [Daniel and Malinda \(McCroskey\) McCray of Santa Clara County, 1852-1873](#) by Norman McCray Scofield, GS929.2 M132
- [Spencer-Phelps Family History](#) by Henry Leland Spencer, GS 929.2 S745
- [The Early Gilroy Phelps Family](#) by Henry Leland Spencer, GS 929.2 P539
- [The Läderich Family](#) by Victor H Laederich, GS 929.2 L158
- [The Other Side of the Coin](#) (Heath and Edwards Families) by Florence Wool GS 929.2 E26
- [Chronology of Residences and Real Estate Holdings of the Family of John Brown](#) by Damon G Nalty, 929.2 B8778 Case

The Santa Clara City Library collection has hundreds of books on local history. Check the [catalog](#) for additional town histories. Search using a town name and history as keywords.

Online books about Santa Clara County and its history:

- [1876 Historical Atlas of Santa Clara County](#). Thompson & West. also: GR 912.794 T46 [Index](#)
- [Bay of San Francisco, the Metropolis of the Pacific Coast & Its Suburban Cities](#). 1892. Also: 979.461 C15 ([vol. I](#) and [vol. II](#) at Archive.org.)

- [*Clyde Arbuckle's History of San José*](#), 1986. Also: GS 979.473 A66 Case (index at image 528)
- [*Historic Names, Places, and Persons in Santa Clara County, California*](#). Roscoe D. Wyatt and Clyde Arbuckle, 1948. Also: 979.47 W97 Case (Sign in to HeritageQuest via the Santa Clara City Library [website](#) using your library card number and pin to see this book.)
- [*History of Santa Clara County*](#). Eugene T. Sawyer, 1922. Also: 979.473 S24, [Index](#)
- [*History of Santa Clara County, California*](#). Alley & Bowen, 1881. Also: 979.473 H67 Case, [Index](#)
- *History of the New California, Its Resources and People*, 1905. Leigh Irvine, 1905. Also 979.4 Ir72 Case ([vol. I](#) and [vol. II](#) at Archive.org)
- [*History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Coast Counties, 1904*](#) J. M. Guinn. Also: GR 979.4 G96 Case, [Index](#) [Additional Index](#)
- [*Pen Pictures from the Garden of The World, or Santa Clara County, California*](#), 1888. Also: 979.47 F6S9, [index](#)
- [*Reminiscences of Santa Clara Valley and San Jose, 1901*](#). Amaury Mars. Also: GS 979.473 M36
- [*Santa Clara County and its Resources - Historical, Descriptive, Statistical*](#), San Jose Mercury, 1896. Also: 979.47 S23.
- [*Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory, 1979*](#) also: 725.94 P11 Case
- [*Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory, 1999*](#) also: 725.94 P11 Case
- [*Santa Clara County, Harvest of Change*](#). Stephen M. Payne. also: 979.473 P34 Case [index](#)
- [*Sign Posts*](#) and [*Sign Posts II*](#). Compilations of articles by Patricia Loomis published by the San Jose Mercury-News, 1971-1981. also: 979.474 L86 Case, [Signposts I index](#) [Signposts II index](#).

The website, [*Pioneer Families of Santa Clara County*](#) contains pioneer biographies and information about various towns in Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara County Pioneer biographies are online at [USGENWEB](#).

Santa Clara County Biographies at [Genealogy Trails](#).

History San Jose has an [inventory of Diaries and Journals](#) (downloads a spreadsheet)

Pioneer blue book of the old Santa Clara Valley by Ralph Rambo, 1973 and *Builders of our Valley: a city of small farms*, 1872 can be viewed online at the San Jose and Oakland Family History Centers.

Personal and Family Collections – It is impossible to keep up with all of the collections that are appearing online. These collections are as of October 2024. Check these sites for new collection information:

- [King Library](#)
- [Santa Clara University](#)
- [Sourisseau Academy](#)
- [Stanford University](#)
- [History San Jose](#)
- [Andrew P. Hill Jr. Collection](#): chronicles the training and career of a professional educator and architect over the course of sixty years (1910-1975), including photographs.

- **Carrie Stevens Walters Family Collection:** Family photographs, books, and ephemera relating to the women's suffrage activist.
- [Charles B. Polhemus Family Albums, 1886-1914](#): rare collection of photographs taken by members of this important California family of their various estates.
- **Fred W. Crandall Photograph Collection:** photographs document the history of the Sorosis Fruit Farm, buildings, and workers depict aspects of this fruit drying company.
- **Ellington Family Photographs and Ephemera** represents the family of Philip and Essie M. Ellington. Mr. Ellington was the son of N.B. and Bertha Ellington, a well-known African American family in San José.
- **Grant Family Album:** photographs relating to the Joseph Grant family and their various properties in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, including the Grant Ranch.
- **George McMurry Papers:** Includes research, photographs and newspaper articles on San José and New Almaden, some written by McMurry who was a local journalist and historian. Clippings also include historical columns written by other local historians
- [James A. Clayton Family Papers](#): correspondence and photographs that document life in the Clayton family of Santa Clara County in the latter half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.
- **Gilmore Collection:** Farm Worker research materials and ephemera on Bracero program and migrant farm workers gathered by Gladys Gilmore, SJSU History professor.
- **Hayes Mansion Collection:** this collection relates to the Hayes family who built the Hayes Mansion in Edenvale area of San José.
- **Horton Family Collection:** Photographs document the family of William Riley Horton who settled in San José in 1909. The photographs chronicle the life of this African American family from about 1905 to the 1940s.
- [Herbert C. Jones Collection](#): personal files of Senator Herbert C. Jones (1902-1969), relate to Jones' personal involvement with the local community, including his work with nonprofit groups such as Semper Virens, the First Congregational Church, the YWCA, local history associations, and his agricultural interests.
- **Jack Douglas Reference Files:** Author, SJSU professor, and local historian Jack Douglas's reference files on local properties and people at History San Jose.
- **McCall Family Photographs and Ephemera Collection:** rare collection of about 300 photographs of family and friends of the John B. and Annie McCall, an African American couple who lived in San José in the early 20th century.
- [Leonard McKay Research Papers](#): papers consist of McKay's [research files on local history](#), scrapbooks, and [negatives and slides](#). McKay was a local historian, as well as a publisher of many books of historical interest.
- [John J Montgomery Collection](#) - an extensive collection of Montgomery materials, including the photos in this digital collection, correspondence, plans for the aircraft he designed, and models.
- [Pellerano Family 1879-1945](#) document the lives of the Pellerano, Boitano, and Wempe families in the San Francisco Bay Area. The records consist of the personal papers of Nicholas, Clorinda, and Pedrina Pellerano. Nicholas Pellerano was an early vice-president of Bank of America and previously worked as a licensed pharmacist.
- [Reid Family Papers](#) - document the personal and professional lives of several members of the Reid family. This collection includes material related to Bernard J. Reid's 1849 overland journey to California from Missouri, including his personal diary from the trip. .

- [Arthur Spearman, SJ Papers](#) (1955-1975), documents the life of priest, author, and former University Archivist Father Arthur D. Spearman, S.J.
- [The Life of Antonio Maria Sunol](#) biography by James P. Delgado.
- [Waterhouse/Mills Family Photos and Letters](#): Part of the Edith Corinne Smith Collection, this collection consists of photographs taken by members of the Waterhouse and Mills family who lived in Saratoga from the late 1890s to the 1950s. The collection includes the [Clark B. Waterhouse Photographs, 1916](#) compiled as part of a landscape architecture project. These images include many of the great estates of California during that period, many of which no longer exist.
- **William Talbot Family Albums**: three albums with early portraits and personal family photographs of this early Bay Area family associated with the Pope & Talbot Lumber Company Washington.
- [Ernest Watson Collection](#) Watson went to Santa Clara College as an undergraduate and was a student during the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

Baptisms, see Church Records

Births, see Vital Records

Cemetery Records, general

[Santa Clara County Cemetery Listing](#) by the Bay Area Funeral Consumers Association
[FindaGrave](#), Santa Clara County Cemeteries
[BillionGraves](#)

[Interment.net](#)

[SFGenealogy Listing and links](#)

Cemeteries of Santa Clara by Bea Lichtenstein, (929.5 L69), book index at www.scchgs.org

[Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers](#) buried in San Jose, California (Genealogy Trails)

Cemetery Records, specific cemeteries

Microfilms listed in this cemetery section (if not specifically noted as FamilySearch films) are available at the Central Park

Agnews Historical Cemetery – [FindaGrave](#)

Alma Cemetery – also called Hebbard Cemetery (currently underneath Lexington Reservoir in Los Gatos)

- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)
- [FamilySearch film 8116614](#) of card index to burials (beginning at image 2107)

Alta Mesa Memorial Park, Palo Alto

- see [plot map](#) under the Grounds tab on their website (high level map of cemetery)
- [FindaGrave](#)

- [BillionGraves](#)
- [Sexton's Records at FamilySearch \(dated 1963\)](#)

Beth David Memorial Gardens, San Jose

- [FindaGrave](#)
- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)

Calvary Catholic Cemetery, San Jose

- [Website "Search for Loved Ones"](#)
- [Calvary Cemetery Burial Reports](#) at History San Jose (opens a spreadsheet)
- [FindaGrave](#)
- Microfilm 929.5 S23, reels 22-25
- Calvary Catholic cemetery: 125th anniversary by Richard J. Ferman, GS 929.5 F35

Christ Episcopal Church Columbarium, Los Altos - [FindaGrave](#)

Dar-Us-Salaam Cemetery, San Jose - [FindaGrave](#)

Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Los Altos

- [FindaGrave](#)
- Card file for Surnames, F-Thornites, [FamilySearch film 8489909](#)
- 1971-1988, microfilm 929.5 S23, reel 25-27

Gavilan Hills Memorial Park (IOOF), Gilroy – [FindaGrave](#)

- [Gavalan Hills Memorial Park & Catholic Cemetery](#) Interment
- [Tombstone Inscription Project](#)
- [Tombstone Index](#)
- [Gavilan Hills Memorial Park](#) on SF Genealogy
- [Gavilan Hills Memorial Park](#) on US GenWeb Archives

Gilroy Cemetery Records - GS 929.3794 G48

Guadalupe Cemetery, New Almaden - [FindaGrave](#)

Hacienda Cemetery and Memorial Park, New Almaden, [general info](#), [FindaGrave](#),

Hebbard Cemetery – see Alma Cemetery

Hilltop Cemetery, New Almaden – 1876-1906, microfilm 929.5 S23, reel 21

Holy Cross Cemetery (Kell Cemetery or St Patrick Cemetery), San Jose

- [FindaGrave](#)
- microfilm 929.5 S23, reel 13

Home of Peace Cemetery, San Jose (Oak Hill)

- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)

- [FindaGrave](#)

International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) & Rebecca's Cemetery, Saratoga
[Cemetery report](#) (Hint: cemetery listing is towards the end of the document)

- [Cemetery Index](#) & photo links by SCCHGS
- [FindaGrave](#)
- 1911-1987, Microfilm, 929.5 S23, reels 13-15
- *Saratoga IOOF Cemetery*, compiled by Harwood G. Kolsky GS 929.5 K81

Islamic Cemetery, San Jose (Oak Hill)

- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)

Laguna Cemetery, Milpitas (Ed Levine Cemetery)

- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)
- [FindaGrave](#)
- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)
- 1870-1905, microfilm 929.5 S23, reel 21
- A few inscriptions are on [film 167519 item 4](#), beginning at image 2118

Los Gatos Memorial Park, Los Gatos

- Burial index cards, surnames A - Brekle, C. C., [FamilySearch film 8321704](#)
- Burial index cards, surnames Brekle, C. C- Fox, A. W., [FamilySearch film 8321678](#)
- Burial index cards, surnames Fox, A.W. – Koss, T. Z., [FamilySearch film 8321679](#)
- Burial index cards, surnames Koss, T. Z. – Para, A, [FamilySearch film 8321865](#)
- Burial index cards, surnames Para, A – Szody, G. W., [FamilySearch film 832866](#)
- Burial index cards, surnames T-Z, [FamilySearch film 8116614](#)
- [FindaGrave](#)
- Cemetery inscriptions, [film 167519 item 1](#), beginning at image 3.
- 1872-1905, microfilm, 929.5 S23, reel 21

Maryknoll Fathers' (Priests') Seminary Cemetery, Los Altos on [FindaGrave](#)

Madronia Cemetery, Saratoga

- [FindaGrave](#)
- [Interment.net](#)
- [Sexton Records](#)
- [Tombstone Inscriptions](#)
- [Cemetery Blog \(Seems inactive\)](#)
- Microfilm, 929.5 D28
- Madronia Cemetery, Treasurer's book, Dec 1880-Oct 1913. Locked Case GS 929.5 T78

Memorial Park, Los Gatos – 1889-1989, microfilm 929.5 S23, reels 16-21

Mission Santa Clara de Asis Cemetery, Santa Clara (Catholic Cemetery)

- [A-L Listing](#) from US Genweb Archives

- [M-Z Listing from](#) US Genweb Archives
- [Cemetery Look up form](#)
- [FindaGrave](#)
- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)

Mission City Memorial Park, Santa Clara (public cemetery)

- [Online Burial index](#) can be found at their website (scroll down and click on “burial index” to download the spreadsheet which has 27,734 entries, spanning 1903-2017)
- [Cemetery Map](#)
- [FindaGrave](#)
- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)
- Microfilm, 929.5 S23, reels 13-15
- *Mission City Memorial Park interment records, 1874-1997*, by Larry DeJanvier, GR 929.5 D32
- *Mission City Memorial Park, 979.473 M67 Case*

Mount Hope Cemetery, Morgan Hill

- [FindaGrave](#)
- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)
- [Listing from US Genweb archives](#)

Mountain View cemetery records: 1888 to 1904, GR 929.5 M928

New Almaden Hilltop Cemetery inscriptions, [film 167519 item 4](#), beginning at image 2118

New Almaden Village Cemetery inscriptions, [film 167519 item 5](#), beginning at image 2135

Oak Hill Memorial Park, San Jose

- [FindaGrave](#)
- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)
- Cemetery inscriptions, images of a card index at FamilySearch films
 - Aa - Bayley, G.W. - [film 1420312](#)
 - Bayley, T. - Burton, N - [film 1420313](#)
 - Burton, R. - Davis, F - [film 1420314](#)
 - Davis, G. - Foss - [film 1420315](#)
 - Fossel - Hanks - [film 1420370](#)
 - Hanley - Johnson, E - [film 1420371](#)
 - Johnson, F. – Lowder - [film 1420372](#)
 - Lowe - Morse - [film 1420373](#)
 - Morse - Peterson - [film 1420374](#)
 - Peterson – Samuel - [film 1420375](#)
 - Samuels - Sunzeri - [film 1420376](#)
 - Supnet – Whitworth - [film 1420377](#)
 - Wibel - Zwink - [film 1420378, Item 1](#)
 - Asian section - [film 1420378, Item 2](#)
 - Miscellaneous inscriptions - [film 1420378, Item 3](#)

- [Oak Hill Receipt Books](#) at History San Jose (this will download a spreadsheet)
- [Oak Hill Cemetery Death Certificates Index](#) at History San Jose (this will download a spreadsheet)
- [Complete Index of Oak Hill Cemetery Records](#) at History San Jose (this will download a spreadsheet)
- SCCHGS has a cemetery index in a binder in the SCCHGS workroom
- Microfilm, 929.5 S23, reels 1-13
- *A walk through the past: San Jose's Oak Hill Memorial Park* by Patricia Loomis, 929.5 L86
- *Oakhill Cemetery record books c1860 – 1910* – Located at History San Jose
- *Index of headstones from San José's Oakhill Cemetery and Santa Clara Mission Cemetery*. The index includes name, dates and location – Located at History San Jose
- *Genealogical data extracted from pioneer sections E, E & H, Oak Hill Cemetery*, is a book that is viewable online at any FHC, 979.474 V3gj.
- Several unmarked graves are documented on [film 167519 item 6](#), beginning at image 2172
- **See Also:** County of Santa Clara Historical Records Series List dated 30 June 2003, kept in binder near door to Local History Librarian's office. This is a list of items from County Clerk-Recorder.

Old St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Gilroy (see also St. Mary's Cemetery, a different cemetery)

- [US Genweb Archives](#)
- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)
- [FindaGrave](#)

Orthodox-Greek Cemetery, San Jose – (Oak Hill)

- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)

Paul Gerber Memorial Cemetery, Santa Clara County - [FindaGrave](#)

Presbyterian Church of Sunnyvale Memorial Garden, Sunnyvale – [FindaGrave](#)

Rundell Cemetery, Los Gatos

- Cemetery inscriptions, [film 167519 item 7](#), beginning at image 2182
- 1872-1905, microfilm, 929.5 S23, reel 21

Santa Clara County Hospital Cemetery (Potter's Field), San Jose – [FindaGrave](#)

St. Andrews Episcopal Church Memorial Garden, Saratoga - [FindaGrave](#)

St Francis of Assisi Memorial Garden, San Jose - [FindaGrave](#)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery, Milpitas

- [FindaGrave](#)
- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)
- Card file, [film 167519 item 8](#), beginning at image 2192
- *St. John the Baptist Cemetery, on Piedmont Road, Milpitas, California*, compiled by Grace Schmitt and Debra Watson, GS 929.3794 S35

- 1902-1985 - Microfilm, 929.5 S23, Reel 2

St. Joseph's Cemetery, Fremont, Alameda County

St. Joseph's Cemetery, Mission San Jose district of Fremont, Alameda County, compiled by Grace Schmitt, is available from the Genealogy Consultant (in binder in workroom). While not in Santa Clara County, some Catholic residents of Santa Clara County were buried there.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Columbarium - [FindaGrave](#)

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Gilroy (see all Old St. Mary's, a different cemetery)

- [Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery, A-D](#) on US GenWeb Archives
- [Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery, E-L](#) on US GenWeb Archives
- [Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery, M-Q](#) on US GenWeb Archives
- [Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery, R-Z](#) on US GenWeb Archives
- [SF Genealogy](#)
- [FindaGrave](#)
- [Tombstone Transcription Project](#)
- [Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery](#) in Colma was used by Santa Clara residents

Census, see also: Voter Registers

[San Jose Census, 1777](#) transcribed from *The Story of San Jose, 1777-1869*

[List of Residents in San Jose](#), published in The Pioneer, on 15 October 1893 is available online from FHC.

[The census of 1790: a demographic history of colonial California including San Jose](#). Also: 929.379 M41

Extracts of census records, 1799 of the Mission San Jose de Guadalupe, film 944282, item 13 is available at the San Jose FHC

[1852 California State Census](#), the only California State Census, is on Ancestry.com. The 1850 Federal Census was the first federal census including California. However the results for Santa Clara, San Francisco and Contra Costa Counties were lost. The 1852 California State census is the best substitute. This census can be difficult to read on Ancestry. If you can't find the name you are looking for on Ancestry, try searching through the [transcription](#) index on the SCCHGS website. A search strategy is listed on the website to facilitate finding names.

Luis María Peralta and his adobe by Frances L. Fox, includes a census of the adobe, GS 921 P426

Church Records, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Membership roles

[Archdiocese of San Francisco Sacrament Records and Genealogy Guide](#)

Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, Santa Clara: directory and yearbook 1906, 287.6 C39 Case

[Early California Population Project](#) – These baptism, marriage and burial records of each of the California missions includes a lot of unique information on the Indians, soldiers and settlers of Alta California from 1769 - 1850. There are 11,102 records from the Santa Clara Mission.

[First Presbyterian Church, Los Gatos](#) - Session Minutes 1881-1903, Pastors, Church Officials, Communicants, Baptisms 1881-1902, Marriages 1883, Deaths 1882-1903, Dismissals is on film 1436383, item 3 but must be viewed from a Family History Center.

[Hinshaw Index to Quaker Records](#) (choose California, then San Jose meeting on the left)

Mission San Jose de Guadalupe Catholic Church, San Jose, CA. Includes Baptisms 1797-1799 Marriages 1797-1803 Deaths 1803-1822. Film 1320538, item 5 is available at the Santa Cruz and Oakland FHC.

[Mission Santa Clara, Index to baptismal records, 1777-1855](#) is available online at FamilySearch

First Unitarian Church of San Jose, [members](#), April 3, 1888

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish - 80 South Market Street, San Jose, CA 95113 (408) 283-8100 x2200. These records are not online; call the parish for more information.

- Baptisms 1849 to the present (St. Joseph's) *
 - Marriages 1849 to the present (St. Joseph's) *
 - Baptisms 15 Jan 1891-3 May 1908 (St. Anthony's)
 - Marriages 18 Jan 1891-19 Jun 1905 (St. Anthony's)
- *Early years include St. Anthony's of New Almaden

Santa Clara Mission Church – at Santa Clara University Archives

Sacramental Records for 1777-1850 are available [online](#)

Researchers may view the original Sacramental Records in the Norman Martin Reading Room on the 3rd floor of the Harrington Learning Commons and Library, room 310, (408) 554-4094. Email several days ahead to specialcollections@scu.edu to schedule an appointment.

Indexed Sacramental Registers in Book Form

- Santa Clara Mission Baptisms 1776 – 1862
- Santa Clara Mission Marriages 1778 – 1863; 1863 – 1903
- Santa Clara Mission Burials 1777 – 1866; 1866-1894

Sacramental Registers on Microfilm

- New Almaden (St Anthony) Baptisms 1891-1908; Marriages 1891-1905 – Roll #21
- St. Joseph Church Baptism Records 1849-1879 – Roll #26
- St Anthony and St Joseph; Burials 1850-1899; Marriages 1849-1900 – Roll #27

Santa Clara County Catholic Sacramental Registers are on microfilm at the Diocese of San Francisco Archives at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Due to their fragile nature, public access is not allowed. Individual parishes maintain the original records, with varying degrees of public access. The following records are known to exist, others probably exist. Contact the local parish churches.

[Diocese of San Jose Catholic Parish Locator](#)

Sacred Heart of Jesus (325 Willow St, San Jose, CA 95110, 408-292-0146)

- Baptisms 1920 - 1952
- Marriages 1920 - 1952

St Patrick's (389 East Santa Clara St. San Jose, CA, 95113, 408-294-8120)

- Baptisms 1872 – 1952
- Marriages 1872 – 1952

The [Sourisseau Academy](#) has the following in their collection:

- *Mission San José baptism and marriage records*, 1850: Photocopies of baptism records from May-Dec 1850; and marriages records from Oct-Nov 1850
- *Mission San José de Guadalupe Registers*, 1849-1900: Photocopies of baptism records: 1849-1875; marriage records: 1849-Jan.1900 (2 copies); confirmation records: 1851 (2 copies)
- *Mission Santa Clara baptism, marriage and burial records*, 1850: Photocopies of baptism, marriage and burial records, 1850

Trinity Church, San Jose, baptisms, burials, marriages, Advent, 1860 to Easter, 1903 [at Ancestry](#) and Heritage Quest.

United Presbyterian Church, San Jose CA. Includes session minutes, 1874-1916, baptisms, 1875-1890, and dismissals 1875-1902. Film 505960, Item 5-6 is viewable at an FHC.

[Westminster Presbyterian Church](#), Santa Clara, CA

- Session minutes 1863-1879,
- Communicants, Baptisms 1863-1885,
- Marriages 1863-1876
- Session minutes 1879-1895,
- Communicants, Baptisms 1890-1894
- Session minutes 1895-190,
- List of pastors, Communicants, Baptisms 1878-1905,
- Marriages 1895-1904

Church Histories

This is a sampling; search the library catalog <city name> "church history"

A history of Christ

Church: Portola Valley and Woodside, 1954 to 2004 GS 283.794 H67

A history of the First Presbyterian Church, Mountain View, CA GS285.1794 W78

History of First Presbyterian Church of Santa Clara, GS285.1794 H67 [microform]

History of the First United Methodist Church and Lakewood United Methodist Church by Dodds B. Bunch GS 287.679473 B94

History of the Free Church of the Holy Savior, Episcopal, Santa Clara, California by Elizabeth Perry GR287.79473 P46

The Methodist Church: 160 years in Santa Clara California, 1846-2006 by Earl Printz 287.6 P95 case

[History of San Jose Quakers, West Coast Friends](#) by Thomas M. King at Google Books

Clippings

The Santa Clara County files located at the Central Park Library document many topics of interest for Santa Clara County. Consultants have a list of topics. These files are kept in storage. Any consultant or librarian can access the files.

There is an [online index](#) to various scrapbooks held by SCCHGS. The scrapbooks are kept in Local History Librarian's office at the Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara. (Select "online index" pull down menu)

The SC City Library maintains indexes to the Santa Clara Women's Club Scrapbooks [1966-1967](#), [1968-1969](#), and [1970-1971](#) scrapbooks

Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce Scrapbooks - Below are digitized versions of the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce scrapbooks. With the accompanying index, these document the development and growth of the City of Santa Clara and the surrounding areas from 1937-1961. Learn about business development, road construction, shopping centers, the conversion of ranch land to housing subdivisions, schools and Santa Clara residents.

[Scrapbook 1937 - 1940](#)

[Scrapbook 1940](#)

[Scrapbook 1941 - 1942](#)

[Scrapbook 1943 - 1946](#)

[Scrapbook 1948 - 1949](#)

[Scrapbook 1949 - 1950](#)

[Scrapbook 1950 - 1951](#)

[Scrapbook 1951](#)

[Scrapbook 1952](#)

[Scrapbook 1953](#)

[Scrapbook 1954](#)

[Scrapbook 1955](#)

[Scrapbook 1956](#)

[Scrapbook 1957](#)

[Scrapbook 1958](#)

[Scrapbook 1959 - 1960](#)

[Scrapbook 1960 - 1961](#)

San José Mercury News clipping collection contains clippings from 1920-1979 and is available on microfiche in both the California Room and Periodicals Department with an [online index](#).

History San Jose Subject files [online index](#)

[California Room Index](#) – The California Room Index is an online index to people, places, and events in the history of San José, Santa Clara County, and California. The index contains citations that are not included in the Library Catalog. Once you have a citation for a resource you want to view, visit the California Room at the King Library where the staff will help locate the materials.

Biographical Newspaper clippings, mostly from the San Jose Mercury News and scattered clippings from earlier San José newspapers dates 1920s-1985 can be found at History San Jose (no online index)

The Sourisseau Academy has the following clipping files:

- **Ernie Renzel Newspaper Clipping Scrapbook (copy)**. Chronicles former San José City Mayor Ernie Renzel's career from the 1930s-1970s
- **Hank Calloway Scrapbooks**. Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings on local historical events or people dating between the 1930s-1940s
- **George McMurry Collection**. Clippings related to local history.

Clubs & Societies, see also: Linage Societies

Countywide

[California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, 1957-1958](#)

[California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, 1980](#)

Gilroy

[1882 Keith Lodge \(Freemasons\)](#)

Mayfield

[1890 Charter Members of Native Sons of the Golden West, Mayfield Parlor](#)

[1894 Officers and Members of Native Sons of the Golden West, Mayfield Parlor](#)

[1903 I.O.O.F., Lodge No. 192 Officers](#)

Mountain View

[1882 Mountain View Lodge \(Freemasons\)](#)

San Jose

[1882 San Jose Lodge \(Freemasons\)](#)

[1882 Friendship Lodge \(Freemasons\)](#)

[Societies in San Jose, 1888](#)

[1889 Sainte Claire Club Roll of Membership](#)

[American Association of University Women, California State Division, 1928-1929](#)

Santa Clara

[1882 Santa Clara Lodge \(Freemasons\)](#)

[Native Sons of the Golden West, Charter Members of Santa Clara Parlor, 1902](#)

Coroner's Records

The Santa Clara County Coroner Inquests Collection consists of 9,300 reports of corner inquests from 1891 to 1932. [Online Index](#). The Corner Registers and inquest reports are available at the Santa Clara County Archives. For a small fee, copies can be made by our [researchers](#).

Court Records, see also: Probate

County of Santa Clara Historical Records Series List dated 30 June 2003, kept in binder near door to the Local History Librarian's office. This is a list of items at the Office of the County Clerk-Recorder.

[Santa Clara County Court Records](#) is a downloadable index to records held at History San Jose (1850s-1930s). These records are not online, but for a small fee, our [researchers](#) can obtain copies.

Criminal Records, see also: newspapers

Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Mug Books 1874-1941 are online. The SCCHGS genealogy consultant has access to an offline index.

[Santa Clara County Mug Book, 1887-1898](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1874-1887](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1895 - 1897](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Index, 1899-1910](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1899-1901](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1902-1905](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1902-1903](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1907-1908](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1908-1909](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1909-1910](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1911-1912](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1911-1918](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1917-1919](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1920](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers, 1921-1922](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers – 1922 - 1923](#)

[Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Wanted Fliers – 1926-1932](#) – (incorrectly labeled as 1902-1932)

Death Records, see Vital, Funeral Home, Coroner, Cemetery, Obituaries, Wills & Probate

Directories, Online

Also check the constantly growing collection of Telephone Directories at the [Library of Congress](#)

Countywide

Santa Clara County Directory, 1968, 1969, 1970 ([Heritage Quest](#) & [Ancestry](#))
[1875 Handbook and Directory of Santa Clara....etc Counties](#)
1875 [Santa Clara County Directory](#),
1893 [Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Telephone Directory](#)
1895 [Prominent Citizens of Santa Clara County](#)
1916 [Telephone Directory](#)

Gilroy

1962, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1979 ([Heritage Quest](#) & [Ancestry](#))
[Gilroy 1870 Business Directory](#)

Los Altos

1924 [Los Altos Blue Book](#) (transcribed)

Los Gatos

[Los Gatos](#), 1923, 1924, 1940, 1944, 1945, 1947, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1967 ([Heritage Quest](#) & [Ancestry](#))
[Los Gatos Telephone Directory, 1972](#)

Menlo Park

[Menlo Park](#) 1939, 1940, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1971, 1973, 1977, 1978 ([Heritage Quest](#) & [Ancestry](#))

Mountain View

[Mountain View](#), 1962, 1964, 1966, 1968 ([Heritage Quest](#) & [Ancestry](#))

Mayfield, Palo Alto, Stanford, Menlo Park

1895-1896 [Palo Alto City Directory](#) (transcribed)
1897-1898 [Palo Alto, Stanford City Directory](#)
1900-1901 [Palo Alto City Directory](#) (transcribed)
1904 [Palo Alto, Mayfield, Menlo Park City Directory](#)
1904 [Mayfield Directory](#), (transcribed)
1911 [Mayfield Directory](#) (transcribed)
1921-1922 [Palo Alto Blue Book](#) (transcribed)
1922 [Who's Who Among Palo Alto Women](#) (transcribed)
1923 [Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, Stanford City Directory](#)
1924 [Palo Alto Blue Book](#) (transcribed)
[1936 through 1944 Palo Alto City Directory](#)

San Jose

[San Jose City Directory](#), 1870, 1874, 1890-1894, 1896, 1898-1913, 1915-1920, 1922-1945, 1947, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1956-1957, 1959-1974, 1975-1977, 1979 ([Heritage Quest](#) & [Ancestry](#))

[1870 San Jose City Directory](#)

[1870-1918 San Jose Business Classified directories at SJPL](#)

[1887 San Jose City Directory](#)

[1890 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1892 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1893 San Jose Telephone Directory](#), Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Company (transcribed)

[1893 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1895 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1896 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1897 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1898 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1899 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1900 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1901 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1902 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1903 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1904 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1905 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1906 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1907 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1908 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1909 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1910 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1911 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1912 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1913 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1915 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1916 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1917 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1918 San Jose City Directory](#) – Business Classified Section

[1920 San Jose City and Santa Clara County Directory](#)

1972 [San Jose Telephone Directory](#)

Santa Clara

[1944, 1945, 1947 Santa Clara City Directory](#) ([Heritage Quest](#) & [Ancestry](#))

Sunnyvale

[Sunnyvale](#), 1968, 1966, 1968 ([Heritage Quest](#) & [Ancestry](#))

[Ancestor Hunt](#) has a list of online directories

Directories, offline

City	Years	Location
Los Gatos	1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1967	Santa Clara City Library
Palo Alto	1937, 1958, 1959, 1970, 1971, 1976	Santa Clara City Library
Palo Alto	1965	Sunnyvale Public Library
San Jose	1870-1979	California Room, King Library
San Jose	<u>1870-1979 not inclusive. See their holdings listing</u>	History San Jose
San Jose	1870 – 1970 (not inclusive)	Santa Clara County Archives
San Jose	1867, 1870, 1882, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1916, 1917, 1920, 1923-1945, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1954-1978	Santa Clara Public Library
San Jose	1920, 1930	Sunnyvale Public Library
San Jose Reverse Directory	1915+	California Room, King Library
San Jose Surburban	1968-1974	California Room, King Library
San Jose Surburban	1954, 1968-1975	Santa Clara City Library
San Martin	1971	Santa Clara City Library
Sunnyvale	1964, 1966	Santa Clara City Library
Sunnyvale	1964, 1966, 1968	Sunnyvale Public Library
Telephone books		Santa Clara City Library
Telephone books	<u>search their database</u>	Sutro Library
Various dates & cities	<u>search their database</u>	Sutro Library

Divorce Records, see Vital Records

Ephemera

The MKL library has a collection of printed matter such as brochures, handbills, memorabilia, pamphlets, tickets, timetables, etc. The collection centers on people, places, and events in the Santa Clara Valley, and dating back to the late 19th century.

Santa Clara University has a digital collection of [Ephemera](#) and other local history information.

Farming and Orchards

The [Spring 2014 issue of Connections](#) (beginning on page 12) contains a list titled, "Valley Orchard Family Names". It contains, along with family names, the location, crops, acreage and dates of operation. (free to members of SCCHGS)

Book: Passing Farms, Enduring Values by Yvonne Jacobson, 979.473J17

Book: Builders of our Valley, A City of Small Farms by Bertha Marguerite Rice, 979.473 F93 CASE

Book: Garden of the World, 338.1089 T88

Video: Valley of Heart's Delight 979.473 V18 (VCR and DVD)

Video: Valley That Was 979.473 V187 CASE (VCR and DVD)

Funeral Home Records

SCCHGS has microfilms of the funeral books for the William and Monahan Funeral Home.

[Williams Funeral home index](#)

[Monahan Funeral home index](#)

[San Francisco Area Funeral Home Records, 1895-1985](#) from Ancestry, has about 2000 entries of people who died or lived in Santa Clara County.

[E. E. Place Funeral Home Record Book](#), 1923 to 1940 (Los Gatos) at Archive.org

E. E. Place Funeral Home and C. S. Topping Funeral Parlors Index, 1901-1922

[Surname A-Cu](#), [Surname Cu-Hi](#), [Surname Hi-Mi](#), [Surname Mi-St](#), [Surname St-Z](#)

Index to Los Gatos Library's non-digitized records at scchgs.org with some image links – This project is about 75% complete

- West Valley Funeral Records, 1969-1998
- West Valley Chapel – Rex A. Brunner, 1904-1988
- Chapel of the Hills Funeral Records, October 1954-1971
- E. E. Place Funeral Home, 1911-1965
- Place Funeral Home, 1923-1935
- C.S. Topping Funeral Records, 1905-1963

Hayes Mortuary records are held at the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, 96 El Camino Read West, Mountain View, California, 94040. (650) 968-4453.

Gazetteers

San Jose – [Vest Pocket Guide and Gazetteer of San Jose, Cal.](#), 1895

[Sunnyvale, 1911](#)

Genealogy and Local History Organizations, see also: Appendix 1 and 2

[California Historical Society](#) is starting a [digital collection](#).

[California Genealogical Society](#) has [online resources](#)

The California Room at the San Jose Public Library has many resources including [online resources](#).

[Nuevo Mundo](#) – Latino/Hispanic history and Genealogy (Facebook group)

[Los Gatos Local History Collection](#) has a collection of images, oral histories and information on historic homes.

[Online Archive of California](#) [Online Archive of California](#) is an online guide to personal papers, government and corporate records, and photograph collections.

[Palo Alto Historical Association](#) has an online photograph collection. (The obituary database noted on their web page is now at the Palo Alto City Library – see obituary section of this document.)

[SF Genealogy](#) – is an excellent San Francisco Bay Area Genealogy and History web site.

[Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society](#) is the creator of this document. For a small fee, [volunteers will do lookups](#) at repositories in the area.

[Society of California Pioneers](#) is the oldest historical organization west of the Mississippi.

[Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group](#) – offers excellent classes each month.

Guardianships

Guardianship in California are handled by the County Probate Courts. Records for early guardianships (prior to 1930) can be found through the probate court indexes (see probate section).

Guidebooks (check for more – Google Books, Hathitrust, Archive.org)

[Hare's guide to San José and vicinity](#), for tourists and new settlers, 1872

[In blossom land](#): a springtime sketch: San José and Santa Clara County, 1901

[On the Road to Mount Hamilton](#), 189-?

[Picturesque San José and environments](#), 1888

[Reminiscences of Santa Clara Valley and San José](#), with the souvenir of the carnival of roses held in honor of the visit of President McKinley, 1901

[San José](#), 1901

[San José \(San Hosay\)](#), Santa Clara County, California, 1904

[Santa Clara County, California](#): souvenir, 1897

[Santa Clara, the City of Homes](#), 1908

Historic Homes & Places, see also: Biographies, Clippings, Maps, Photographs, Pueblo San Jose

[Historic Homes Index](#) – SCCHGS index to resources in Santa Clara County by address and property name

[US National Register of Historic Places](#) - The National Park Service provides some information on registered properties (use the search box to enter the city name. Use quotes for two word names e.g. "Santa Clara")

[Historic Properties in the City of Santa Clara](#) on the National Register of Historic Places in Santa Clara County.

[State of California Historical Landmarks in Santa Clara County](#) – lists properties designated as State Historical Landmarks by the State of California.

[How to Information](#) from the King Library for researching homes in San Jose

City of Santa Clara: Historic Homes, An [interactive map](#) of historic homes around the city.

Check city websites for information specific to each city (for example, Los Gatos).

History of Early California

["Early California History" from the Library of Congress](#)

["History of California" by Wikipedia](#)

[Silicon Valley Historical Society](#)

[County of Santa Clara Historic Context Statement and Report, 2004](#)

[The Sourisseau Academy](#) has *San José, California, Government Documents, 1792-1859*: A collection of copies of documents relating to civil and military communications written by the Spanish government of San José during the years 1792 to 1848, translated from Spanish into English. Included in the collection is an index to the collection of Spanish materials owned by the City of San José.

Historical Societies

- [Bench Bar Historical Society of Santa Clara County](#) (lawyers and judges of Santa Clara County)
- [Chinese Historical and Cultural Project](#)
- [Cupertino Historical Society and Museum](#)
- [Filipino American National Historical Society – Santa Clara Valley Chapter](#)
- [Gilroy Historical Society](#)
- [Los Altos Hills Historical Society](#)
- [Milpitas Historical Society](#)
- [Moffett Field Historical Society](#)
- [Morgan Hill Historical Society](#)
- [Mountain View Historical Society](#)
- [Palo Alto Historical Society](#)
- [Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society – SCCHGS](#)
- [Santa Clara County Pioneers](#)
- [Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society](#)
- [Saratoga Historical Foundation](#)
- [Silicon Valley Historical Association](#)
- [Southbay Historical Railroad Society, Inc.](#)
- [Stanford Historical Society](#)
- [Sunnyvale Historical Society and Heritage Park Museum](#)

Home History (researching your home's history)

[Discovering your House's Story](#) – SCCHGS's 23 page guide to researching homes in Santa Clara County

Article, [House and Property Research](#) on MLK Library website contains a lot of information and resources.

[Index to County Assessor's photos](#) of residences (partial collection, 1950-1970)

Santa Clara Department of Planning and Development Article "[Research a property](#)"

The Heritage Home Collection at the Mission Branch of the Santa Clara City Library contains 70+ books on historic architecture styles, renovating, decorating, and preserving historic houses. To find the titles of these books in the [library's online catalog](#), and search for "heritage home collection."

Building permits were required beginning in 1890 in San Jose and later elsewhere in the county.

- The Santa Clara County Building Department has permits in binders and are sorted by street name and year. Permits begin in 1947 and are for Santa Clara County properties only – locations not in any specific city or town.
- History San Jose has an index to permits for early building in the City of San Jose. There are some from 1890's and books from 1910-1940. Note: the index for 1900-1910 is missing. Call for appointment.
- Sourisseau Academy on the 5th floor of the MLK Library in San Jose has the original building permit books dating to the 1920's. The books are organized by year and are not indexed. Be sure to check the hours as the Academy is open fewer hours than the library.
- Many cities now have some searches available online. Check with a city's website for the building or planning departments.

Fire Insurance maps is another resource. See map section.

Immigration

[California Immigration Registers of Japanese, Filipinos, and Hawaiians at San Francisco](#), 1928-1942

[San Francisco, California, Registers of Chinese Laborers Returning to the U.S., 1882-1912](#)

[San Francisco, California, U.S., Immigration Office Minutes, 1899-1910](#)

[San Francisco, California, Chinese Arriving Passenger Arrivals and Disposition, 1903-1947](#)

[Chinese Immigration Exclusion Act Case Files](#), 1883-1923,

[Index to Chinese Exclusion Case Files](#), 1903-1944

[Index to Chinese Arrival Case Files Index](#) (California) 1884-1940

[San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists](#), 1893-1953

[San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists Vol. I](#) 1850-1864

[San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists Vol. II](#) 1850-1851

[San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists Vol. III](#) Nov 7 1851-June 17, 1852

[Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service](#), kept at National Archives San Bruno includes Records of the District Office, San Francisco, relating to immigration investigations, 1882-1955, including case files of the Angel Island Immigration Station, 1910-40. Most of the records document investigations related to enforcement of the Chinese Exclusion Acts, 1882-1943. (record group 85)

Land Grants

[Spanish/Mexican Land Grants](#) was prepared by the Staff of the State Lands Commission

[Land Grants in Alta California](#) is part of the California Frontier Project

Land Grant Books: Check where these books are

- *California Ranchos: Patented Private Land Grants* (second edition) **(on the purchase list Oct 2024)**
- *Diseños of California ranchos ; maps of thirty-seven land grants, 1822-1846*, from the records of the United States District Court, San Francisco, by Robert H. Becker.
- [Becker, Robert H. \(Robert Hewitt\), 1915-1987](#)
- Books & Journals | Book Club of California | 1964 - at SFPL
- *Ranchos of California : a list of Spanish concessions, 1775-1822, and Mexican grants, 1822-1846* by Robert G. Cowan.

Library Research Guides (California State Library)

[African Americans in California](#)
[Art and Artists of California](#)
[Chinese Americans in California](#)
[Fires and Firefighters in California](#)
[German Americans in California](#)
[Highways and Byways in California](#)
[Horses and Horse Racing in California](#)
[Images of California](#)
[Japanese Americans in California](#)
[Jewish Americans in California](#)
[Land grants in California](#)
[Latin Americans in California](#)
[Medicine in California](#)
[Mining in California](#)
[Native Americans in California](#)
[Oddities in California](#)
[Oil in California](#)
[Poetry in California](#)
[Portuguese Americans in California](#)
[Railroads in California](#)
[Remote Access: Vital Statistics and Indexes](#)
[Ships and Shipping in California](#)
[Sutter's Fort Character Guide](#)
[Water in California](#)
[Wine in California](#)
[Women in California](#)
[1960's in California](#)

Lineage Societies

[Early Settlers to Santa Clara County](#), Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society

[Phil Sheridan Camp 4](#), Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - based in San Jose, California and serving the California counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco.

[1957-1958 California Pioneers of Santa Clara County](#)

[1980 California Pioneers of Santa Clara County](#)

Marriage Records, see Vital Records

Maps

Online maps:

[1876 Santa Clara County Atlas](#), Archive.org, also available at SC City Library

[1876 Indexed Land Ownership](#) maps for Santa Clara County, Ancestry.com

[1880 Santa Clara County, Brainard Agricultural Atlas](#), San Jose Public Library

[1887 Map of San Jose](#), New York Public Library Map Collection

[1888 Map of San Jose](#), New York Public Library Map Collection

[1889 Map of Santa Clara County](#), Library of Congress

[1950 Historic Land Atlas](#), Ancestry.com

[1956 Maps of Santa Clara County](#), Historic Map Works

Online Collections:

[David Rumsey Historic Map Collection](#) includes many historic Santa Clara County maps. Use their search feature to view what's available.

[Historic Map and Atlas Collection](#), (Santa Clara County and CA maps), San Jose Public Library

[Santa Clara County Assessor](#) Tract Maps– (enter a property address and press enter, then click on “Print Assessor’s Parcel Map”)

[Santa Clara University Digital Map Collection](#) has a variety of online maps of Santa Clara, the mission, the University and surrounding areas, some dating back to 1783.

[Topographical maps of California](#) (earliest is 1899), at UC Berkeley

[Santa Clara County Surveyor Maps](#)

[Santa Clara County Planning and Development](#) Interactive Map Collection

Sanborn Maps (online):

List of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from [UC Berkeley](#)

[Library of Congress](#) has various Santa Clara County Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (in color)

[Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps](#) at Archive.org for San Jose (1884, 1932, 1939, 1950)

[1867-1970 Digital Sanborn fire maps various](#) cities are available from the MLK Library (San Jose Public Library Card Required)

Offline Resources & Indexes:

- The Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara has a 1939 **Santa Clara Sanborn Fire Insurance** map book.
- History San Jose has **Sanborn Fire Insurance maps 1884-1968** for the City of San Jose and the City of Santa Clara.
- **Santa Clara County, California land ownership map, 1890** is available at the Santa Clara FHC on 4 microfiches (6079276).
- History San Jose has over 1,000 local maps from 1787 to the present, and atlases (bulk dates 1876 – present). Card catalog entries for these maps are listed by street name and/or subdivision. Several are listed by property owners.
- Santa Clara County Map Book Collection – [online index](#) – Maps can be accessed at the Clerk-Recorder Office.
- Index to [Thomas Bros. & Rucker Realty Block Books](#) (downloads spreadsheet)
- Index to [Santa Clara County Subdivision Map Books](#)

Military Records

[Civil War Veterans](#)

[Records of California men in the War of the Rebellion](#), 1861 to 1867

[Merchant Marine Applications, 1914-1949](#) (San Francisco)

[Militia enrollment](#) 1873 to 1874

[San Francisco National Cemetery](#)

[San Jose High School Graduates Serving in World War I](#)

[The War History of Santa Clara County](#), 1876

[Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers](#) buried in San Jose, California

[World War II Honor Roll of Dead and Missing, Santa Clara County](#)

[World War II Enlistees from Santa Clara County](#)

[Vietnam Veterans Wall of Faces](#), photos of local soldiers killed in Vietnam

FOLD3, the primary US military database, is currently available free of charge with a Santa Clara **County** Public Library Card on their [website](#) and at all Family History Centers.

Resources at the Santa Clara Central Park Library

- Grand Army of the Republic, Post 196, CA and NV (Film #1421946 Item 4), and minute books, 12 January 1923 to 29 May 29, 1926 (Film #1421946 Item 5). This is on microfilm and is located on the “O” drawer of microfilm (for old book project), in the film cabinets labeled “Genealogy microfilm by title”.
- *Civil War Soldiers buried in San Jose, CA* by Bev Hetzel (979.473.V3h)
- New Almaden and the Civil War, 979.473 N53 Case

Mining - New Almaden Mine, see also: Periodicals, The Trailblazer

The Jimmy Schneider and Robert Bullmore Collection at History San Jose documents the quicksilver mines at New Almaden from 1853 to 1973. An online guide to the collection is available at the [Online Archive of California](#).

Materials in the SC City Library Collection

- *Images of America: New Almaden*, Boulland, Michael, 979.473 B76
- *The New Almaden Quicksilver Mine with An Account of the Land Claims Involving the Mine and Its Role in California History*, Johnson, Kenneth M 79.47 J67
- *Suggestions for Exploration at New Almaden Quicksilver Mine, California. Prepared in Cooperation with the U. S. Geological Survey*, Bailey, Edgar H., 622.12 C15 Case
- *Mining Offices, Map Houses, Surveyors at the New Almaden Mines*, Boudreault, 979.473 B75 Case
- *Presentation on New Almaden Quicksilver Mines*, Southwest Labor Studies Association Conference, San Jose State University, April 30, 1983, 979.4 P93 Case
- *Life in the Mines of New Almaden*, San Jose Historical Museum Association, 979.473 L72
- *The Complete History of Santa Clara County's New Almaden Mine*, Schneider, Jimmie, 979.47 S35
- *New Almaden: Yesterday and Today, From Mining to Fun!* MacDonald, Craig, 979.473 M13 Case
- *Four Mining Engineers at New Almaden*, Rickard, T. A. GS 979.47 R53
- *Cinnabar Hills: The Quicksilver Days of New Almaden*, Lanyon, Milton, 979.47 L29
- *New Almaden: A California Mining Camp* Foote, Mary Hallock, 979.473 F68 Case
- *New Almaden: Or A California Mining Camp : Life in 1877 at New Almaden*, Foote, Mary Hallock, 979.473 F68
- *A High and Holy Place: A Mining Camp Church at New Almaden*, McKinney, Gage, 979.47 M15
- *Poems Written on Walks in the Quicksilver Mines Park in Almaden Valley*, Holmes, Ken, 811.54 H75 Case

Miscellaneous lists

- [California Academy of Medicine Members](#), 1930
- [Oaths of Office](#) Public Officials taking Oath, 1850-1854
- [Register of Dentists](#), 1903-1922
- [Register of Doctor's certificates](#), 1916-1943
- [Santa Clara City Government Officials](#), 1851-1876
- [Inventory list of County Archives of Santa Clara Co](#)

Missions in Santa Clara County, see also: Church Records

- Situating Mission Santa Clara de Asís, 1776-1851 by Skowronek with, (979.473 S62 Case)
- The Laurelwood mission: a documentary history of Santa Clara de Asís by Weber, (979.47 L37 Case)
- [Santa Clara University Digital Collections](#)
- [Mission Santa Clara de Asis](#), "Missions of California" series online at Archive.org
- [Mission Santa Clara de Asis](#), 1968, by Mary Null Boule, online at Archive.org

Museums - Local History

- [Agnews Historic Museum](#)
- [California History Center and Foundation at De Anza College](#)
- [Campbell Historical Museum](#)
- [Chinese Historical and Cultural Project](#)
- [Computer History Museum](#)
- [De Saisset Museum](#) (at Santa Clara University)
- [Gilroy Museum](#)
- [Harris Lass House](#)
- [History San José](#)
- [Japanese American Museum of San José](#)
- [Los Altos History Museum](#)
- [NUMU - New Museum Los Gatos](#)
- [Market Street Chinatown Archaeological Project](#)
- [Museum of American Heritage](#)
- [New Almaden and the Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum](#)
- [Portuguese Historical Museum](#)
- [Rengstorff House](#)
- [Saratoga Historical Foundation](#)
- [Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History](#)
- [Southbay Historical Railroad Society, Inc.](#)
- [Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum](#)

Naturalization Records

The Declaration of Intention (or first papers) could be filed soon as a person arrived in the United States, wherever they were living or traveling through at the time. The Petition for Naturalization (second papers) generally took place near the person's current residence, but also could have been done in neighboring counties or even states if that location was more convenient.

Try looking for records in the following order:

Method 1: FamilySearch

[California County Naturalizations, 1831-1985](#) from FamilySearch has over 20,000 entries linked to images for Santa Clara County. Hints: putting Santa Clara, California in the "Any Place" field limits results to Santa Clara County. Many documents are more than one page, so be sure to check subsequent images.

Method 2: County Records

[Santa Clara County Naturalization Index](#) lists 8,000 individuals naturalized in Santa Clara County courts from 1850 to 1934. The naturalization records are in the custody of the Santa Clara County Superior Court at 191 N. First Street, San Jose. However, many are online at [Ancestry](#) (see below) and other records are browsable at [FamilySearch](#) (also below).

Method 3: Ancestry.com

[California, State Court Naturalization Records, 1850-1986](#), Ancestry.

To search on a name, enter use wildcard name searches plus the naturalization place of "Santa Clara County, California" and "match naturalization place exactly"

To browse all Santa Clara County records, enter no name information and on right choose each of the following in turn:

3rd and 20th District Court, Santa Clara County

3rd District Court, Santa Clara County

Superior Court, Santa Clara County

Method 4: Browsable records

[Naturalization records, 1831-1933](#) – browsable at FamilySearch. If you do not find the name you are looking for in the Ancestry indexes, try this:

For Declaration of Intent prior to 1895, look through the index on [film 007790005](#), images 2-58 and for Declarations of intent from 1895-1930, images 62-125. This index is organized by the first letter of surname and date the declaration was filed. Look through the appropriate letter (for example, S 1831-1894 is found on images 47-50 and S for 1895-1930 is found on images 108-112).

Note the date of the declaration on the right-hand side of the column.

Next go the film which covers the date you discovered in the index. These films are arranged chronologically.

Declarations of intention, vols. A-C, 1850-1869 (to v.C, pg 205) [1455370](#) Items 3-5

Declarations of intention, vols. C-E, 1869-1870 (from v.C, pg 205) [1455371](#)

Declarations of intention, vols. F-I, 1879-1887 [1455372](#)

Declarations of intention, vols. J-L, 1887-1901 (to v.L, "Wo") [1455373](#)

Declarations of intention, vols. L-M, 1901-1906 (from v.L, "Wo") [1455373](#)

Declarations of intention, vols. 1-3, 1906-1912	1455374
Declarations of intention, vols. 4-7, 1912-1921 (to v7, pg 156)	1455375
Declarations of intention, vol. 7-10, 1921-1928	1455376
Declarations of intention, v. 11-12, 1928-1933	1455377

It doesn't appear that Declarations of Intention were indexed from 1931-1933. You will need to look through the last part of film 1455377 for these dates.

For the Acts of Naturalizations and Petitions and records, each volume has an alphabetical index at the front of the volume.

Acts of naturalization, v. 1, 1869-1871	1455377
Acts of naturalization, v. 2-5, 1869-1877 (to v5, g 226)	1455378
Acts of naturalization, v. 5-10, 1877-1890 (from v5, pg 226) (only on Ancestry : Acts of naturalization, 1894-1899)	1455379
Acts of naturalization, v. 11-14, 1899-1900 (to v14, pg 98)	1455380
Acts of naturalization, v. 14-17, 1900-1906 (from v14, pg 98)	1454380
Petitions and records, v. 1-3, 1906-1910	1455381
Petitions and records, v. 4-7, 1910-1914	1455382
Petitions and records, v. 7-10, 1914-1918	1455383
Petitions and records, v. 11-12, 1918-1921	1455384
Petitions and records, v. 14-16, 1921-1925	1455385
Acts of naturalization, v. 17-20, 1925-1928 (to v20, pg 30)	1468547
Acts of naturalization, v. 20-23, 1928-1931 (from v20, pg 30)	1468548

Method 5: Offline resources

There are three other possible sources for Santa Clara County naturalization records.

- California, Northern U.S. District Court [Naturalization Index](#), 1852-1989 at FamilySearch
- *Declarations of intention for naturalization*, Santa Clara County, California: volume A, 1850-1962, volume B, 1862-1867, volume E, 1848-1870, by Christine Rose GS 929.3794 R79
- Indexes to naturalization records from Federal courts in Honolulu, Reno (NV) and San Francisco is available at San Bruno NARA.

Method 6: Writing to the Santa Clara County Superior Court

If your ancestor was naturalized in Santa Clara County, and you know some of the information, you can request copies of the papers by mailing a request to the following address, using the template provided below.

DTS Records
Superior Court of Santa Clara County
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

I'm requesting to obtain a copy of ALL of my _____'s naturalization records, including:

- Declaration of Intent document ("first papers") and any initial documents filed
- Application for Naturalization ("second set of papers")
- Ship Register

As instructed, I have included the following information;

Name of Ancestor:
Petition Number (4 digits)
Certificate number (7 digits)
Nationality
Age
Birth Year
Gender
Residence at time of naturalization (city, county, state)
Marital Status
Spouse's name

Once my ancestor's information becomes available, please make (1) copy of everything. Enclosed, you will find a SASE and a check payable to the Superior Court of Santa Clara County for \$_____. I understand that copies are produced at the cost of 50 cents per page. [assume 10-20 pages, so include \$5.00 to \$10.00, no refunds]

Thanks in advance,

Signature
Full Name
Full address

Newspapers, See also: Clippings

The San Jose Mercury News, while holding various titles (San Jose News, San Jose Mercury & Evening News, San Jose Mercury Herald....), has been the major newspaper covering San Jose and Silicon Valley. While this will be the main source of newspaper information for Santa Clara County, also check local (city) weekly newspapers, ethnic newspapers, and other counties' major newspapers (Alameda, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and San Francisco).

- [San José Mercury and Evening News Historical Archives, 1884–1922](#) - Available in all Santa Clara City Libraries and remotely with a library card
- [San José Mercury News Historical Archive \(Newsbank\) \(1900-1985\)](#) - Digital access to archived issues of the San José Mercury News; full-page scans include articles, obituaries, classifieds, and other advertising. Requires a San José Public Library Card.
- [San José Mercury News, \(1985 - current\)](#) - Available in all Santa Clara City Libraries and remotely with a library card). Note that this is not a full digitization of the newspaper.
- *San José Mercury News* online archive, June 1985 – present. This fee-based site provides [free online searches](#). There is a \$2.95 fee to see the full text of an article. Some recent articles may be free. if you find an article using this search, try to find it in the San José Mercury News, (1985-current) link above (for free).

Newspaper	Paper copies	Microfilm	Digital @ Library	Digital Remote	Library/Source
California Farmer and Journal of Useful Sciences				1855-1880	Calif Digital Newspapers
California Star		1847-1848			SJPL, California Room
Campbell Express: Cambrian News			1988+		SC County Lib System
Campbell Press		1895-1896, 1903-May 1986	1895-1896, 1903-May 1986	1895-1896, 1903 - 1923	SC County Lib System
Campbell Press				1895-1954	Calif Digital Newspapers
Campbell Reporter			1999+		SC County Lib System
Campbell Sun			July 1973	July 1973	SC County Lib System
Campbell Times		1995+			SC County Lib System
Cupertino Courier & Neighbor	current issue + 6 months	1972-1976; 1978-1996	1972-2018		SC County Lib System
[Fremont] Argus				1960-1977	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
Gilroy Advocate				1868-1922	SC County Lib System

Newspaper	Paper copies	Microfilm	Digital @ Library	Digital Remote	Library/Source
Gilroy Dispatch	Current & previous week (Gilroy Branch)		1944-1999 2001-2004	2019?-current	SC County Lib System Gilroy Dispatch
Hayward Daily Review				1895-1947	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
Hayward Semi-Weekly Review				1926-1928	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
Los Altos Town Crier	last 12 months (Los Altos Branch)			1894-1901 1995-current	SC County Lib System Los Altos Town Crier
Los Gatos Mail				1893-1915	Calif Digital Newspapers
Los Gatos News				1881-1915	Calif Digital Newspapers
Los Gatos Star				1923-1929	Calif Digital Newspapers
Los Gatos Times				1936-1990	Calif Digital Newspapers
Mayfield Enterprise				3/5/1870-5/3/1871	Palo Alto Library
Milpitas Post	last 6 months (Milpitas Branch)	1955+ (Milpitas Branch)	1955-2016		SC County Lib System
[Milpitas] Tri-City Voice				2004-current	Tri-City Voice Website
Morgan Hill Life			2016-2018	-	SC County Lib System
Morgan Hill Sun			1894-1901	1894-1901	SC County Lib System
Morgan Hill Times	Morgan Hill Branch		1899-2018	1899-1923	SC County Lib System
Mountain View Daily Register			1953-1956		Mountain View Library
Mountain View News Herald			1969-1970		Mountain View Library
Mountain View Pictorial Review			1962-1963		Mountain View Library
Mountain View Register Leader			1903-1964		Mountain View Library
Mountain View, The			1960-1961		Mountain View Library
[Mountain View] Standard Register Leader			1966-1968		Mountain View Library
Oakland Enquirer				1891-1921	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
Oakland Morning Times				1969-1891	Newspapers.com (\$\$)

Newspaper	Paper copies	Microfilm	Digital @ Library	Digital Remote	Library/Source
Oakland Post Enquirer				1922-1950	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
Oakland Tribune				1874-2016	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
Oakland Times				1891-1900	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
Palo Altan				12/1/1905-12/28/1906, 1912-1914	Palo Alto Library
[Palo Alto] Citizen				1904-1905	Palo Alto Library
Palo Alto Live Oak			Oct 1896 – 1903		Palo Alto Library
Palo Alto Press			1901-1902		Palo Alto Library
Palo Alto Times, The				1893- 23 Nov 1905	Palo Alto Library
Palo Alto Times, The Daily				9 Jan 1908-1918	Palo Alto Library
[Palo Alto] Citizen				5 Mar 1904- 31 Dec 1905	Palo Alto Library
[Palo Alto] Daily News				2006-2021	Palo Alto Library (library card required)
[Palo Alto] Daily Post				2006-2024	Palo Alto Library (library card required)
Daily Palo Alto (Stanford Univ)			Sep 1902 - Dec 1902		Palo Alto Library
Palo Alto News Index				Index of 1989-2015 Articles	Palo Alto Library
Palo Alto High School				1895 - current	PALY Journalism Archive
Peninsula Times Tribune 1893-1990				1893-1990	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
San Bruno Herald (South San Francisco)				1976-1979	Calif Digital Newspapers
San Francisco Call				1890-1922	Calif Digital Newspapers
San Francisco Morning Call				1 Apr 1890-4 Mar 1895	Chronicling America
Saratoga News	Saratoga Branch		1955-2015		Santa Clara Co. Lib
San José Daily Argus		1876-1877			SJPL, California Room

Newspaper	Paper copies	Microfilm	Digital @ Library	Digital Remote	Library/Source
San José Daily Mercury		1861-63, 1865-70, 1872-1895		1861-1862	SJPL, California Room Calif Digital Newspapers
[San Jose] Daily City Item		1884-1885			SJPL, California Room
[San Jose] Daily Morning Times		1879-1884		1879-1884	SJPL, California Room Calif Digital Newspapers
[San Jose] Morning Times		1906-1909			SJPL, California Room
San José Herald		1876-1900		1876-1900	SJPL, California Room Calif Digital Newspapers
San Jose Mercury News Historical Archive				1861-2019 1869-1920 1884-1922 1900-1985	Genealogy Bank \$\$ Calif Digital Newspapers Santa Clara City Library SJPL, with Library card
San Jose Mercury News		1863-2011 (some gaps)		1985-current 1985-present	Santa Clara City Library SC County Lib System (library cards required)
San José Mercury Herald		1900-1985			SJPL, California Room
San José News		1973-1983			SJPL, California Room
San José News, Evening Edition		1887-1947			SJPL, California Room
San José Times Star				1907-1908	Calif Digital Newspapers
San José Weekly Mercury		1864-1881		1861-1892	Calif Digital Newspapers SJPL, California Room
San José Weekly Mercury		1864-1881			SJPL, California Room
[San José] Daily Morning Times				1879-1884	Calif Digital Newspapers
San Mateo Post				1960-1963	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
San Mateo Times				1925-1977	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
Santa Clara Argus		1866-1878			Sourisseau Academy
Santa Clara News		1890-1990 partial index available			Santa Clara Central Park Library
Santa Clara Register		1853			SJPL, California Room

Newspaper	Paper copies	Microfilm	Digital @ Library	Digital Remote	Library/Source
Santa Cruz Evening Sentinel				1896-1907	Calif Digital Newspapers
Santa Cruz Evening News				1907-1941	Calif Digital Newspapers
Santa Cruz Sentinel				1884-2010	Calif Digital Newspapers
Santa Cruz Surf & Farmer				1883-1899	Newspapers.com (\$\$)
Santa Cruz Sentinel (weekly)				1862-1894	Calif Digital Newspapers
Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel				1905-1908	Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] Bay Area Reporter				1971-2005	Calif Digital Newspapers
San Francisco Call				5 Mar 1895- 8 Dec 1913 1890-1922	Chronicling America Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] California Star				1847-1848	Calif Digital Newspapers
SF Call & Post				1913-1920	Chronicling America
San Francisco Chronicle		1906, 1971-2004		1865-present	Santa Clara Central Park Library SF Public Library (Library Card Required)
SF Morning Call				1878-1895	Chronicling America
[SF] Daily Alta California				1849-1891	Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] Daily Pacific News				1849-1851	Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] Elevator				1865-1898	Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] Vindicator				1887-1889	Chronicling America
[SF] Western Outlook				1900-1928	Chronicling America
SF Vestkusten (Swedish newspaper)				1887-2007	Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] Jewish News of Northern California				1895-2022	Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] Nichibei [Japanese American News]				1912-1932	Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] Organized Labor				1900-1988	Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] Shin sekai [New World]				1912-1932	Calif Digital Newspapers
[SF] Shinsekai asahi shinbun [New World Sun]				1932-1941	Calif Digital Newspapers

Newspaper	Paper copies	Microfilm	Digital @ Library	Digital Remote	Library/Source
[SF] l'Italia (nearest Italian newspaper)				1897-1919 1887-1943	Calif Digital Newspapers Chronicling America
[SF] La cronica (Spanish newspaper)				1914-1917	Chronicling America
Stanford [University] Daily				1892-current	Stanford University
Saratoga Item			1896-1899	1896-1899	SC County Lib System
Saratoga News	Saratoga Branch		1955-2015		SC County Lib System
Saratoga Observer			1958		SC County Lib System
Saratoga Springs Item			1896-1897	1896-1899	SC County Lib System
Saratoga Star			1917-1922 1917-1923	1917-1922 1917-1923	SC County Lib System Calif Digital Newspapers
[Saratoga] Sun Times				1901-1906	SC Library System
Silicon Valley Voice				2011-present	Silicon Valley Voice
Sunnyvale Daily Standard			1963-1965	1959-1963	Mountain View Library Sunnyvale City Library
Sunnyvale Standard			1968-1969	1908-1959	Mountain View Library Sunnyvale City Library
Sunnyvale Sun	previous 6 mo.				Sunnyvale City Library
Valley Journal			1970-1979		Mountain View Library
West Valley Times				1963	Sunnyvale City Library

Other Methods to Locate Newspapers

The [*Historical Directory of Santa Clara County Newspapers, 1860-1972*](#) is available at the Sourisseau Academy.

[California State Library](#) - Using your local library's Interlibrary Loan service, order microfilm of the *San Jose Mercury* and other California newspapers (some back to 1850) from the California State Library, P.O. Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 94237-0001.

[SCCHGS Researchers](#) can do newspaper look ups if the paper or digital copy is located in Santa Clara County for a small fee.

New papers come online frequently. These lists *may* be more up to date.

- [Ancestor Hunt list of Newspapers for California](#)
- [Ancestry.com](#) (use control-f to search "California" – currently none from Santa Clara Co. 10/24)
- [California Digital Newspaper Collection](#)
- [Chronicling America](#)
- [Genealogy Bank](#)
- [Newspaper Archive](#)
- [Newspapers.com](#)
- [OnlineNewspapers.com](#)
- [Wikipedia List of Online Newspapers](#) (scroll down to United States-California)

Obituaries

San Jose area deaths from 1884-1962 may be found in San Jose newspapers in [Newsbank](#), accessed remotely with a valid SC City Library Card or San Jose Public Library card. See Newspaper section.

A Santa Clara County obituary index for the [San Jose] *Evening News*, *Morning Times*, *Mercury News*, and *Daily Herald* newspapers, ca. 1877-1901 is available at [Ancestry](#).

Index to obituaries, Aa- Gjoby also online from [FHC film 1420388](#)

Index to obituaries, Glaze – Owens also online from [FHC film 1420389](#)

Index to obituaries, Pabon – Zz also online from [FHC film 1420390](#)

This is only an index. Once you know where the obituary was published, look in the newspaper section to see where to find the specific newspaper.

An index of obituaries, 1879 to 1912, is available which lists the date of obituary and newspaper. Newspapers indexed include the (San José) *Daily Morning Times*, *San Jose Evening News*, *San Jose Daily News*, *San Jose (Daily) Herald*, and the *San Jose Mercury*. This is held at History San Jose and there is no online index. Microfilm of the newspapers is available at the California Room, San Jose Public Library.

[Mountain View Obituary index](#), 1967-2004 from the Mountain View History Center. The actual obits are available at the Mountain View History Center, or possibly by telephone.

Obituaries from the [Mountain View Voice](#) (more recent)

Ave Maria Memorial Chapel, Watsonville, CA – Obits from 2013-2016 are found in binders on the table by the door to the workroom. An alphabetical index is found in each binder and on the SCCHGS consultant's computer desktop.

Palo Alto Historical Association has an [index to obituaries](#) the Palo Alto library. [Hint: search by last name only in the search box in the upper right-hand corner]. Obits are viewable only in the Palo Alto library.

Obits from the Los Altos Town Crier - 1 July 1997 to 31 Dec 2006; 9 January 2008 to 21 December 2011. Check the [online index](#). Obits are in the binders in the Local History Librarian's office.

Limited [Santa Clara County Obituaries](#) can be found on USGenWeb

[ObitsArchive](#) can be searched to see what's available for the following newspapers (index only site)

Cupertino	La Voz Weekly: De Anza College	05/15/2000 – current
Campbell	Campbell Reporter	09/22/1999 – Current
Los Gatos	Los Gatos Daily News	09/22/2006 – Current
Palo Alto	Burlingame Daily News	09/22/2006 – Current
Palo Alto	Daily News	09/22/2006 – Current
Palo Alto	Daily Post	12/18/2006 – Current
Palo Alto	Redwood City Daily New	09/22/2006 – Current
San Jose	Almaden Resident	10/16/2003 – Current
San Jose	Cupertino Courier	12/27/1995 – Current
San Jose	Los Gatos Weekly-Times	03/17/1999 – Current
San Jose	San Jose Mercury News	06/01/1985 – Current
San Jose	Rose Garden Resident	04/29/2004 – Current
San Jose	Willow Glen Resident	01/10/1996 – Current
Saratoga	Saratoga News	12/06/1995 – Current
Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale Sun	02/21/1996 – Current

Genealogy Bank, Recent Obituaries:

Campbell	Campbell Reporter	09/22/1999 – Current
Cupertino	Cupertino Courier	12/27/1995 – Current
Cupertino	La Voz Weekly: De Anza College	05/15/2000 – Current
Los Gatos	Los Gatos Daily News	09/22/2006 – 08/19/2007
Los Gatos	Los Gatos Weekly-Times	03/17/1999 – Current
Milpitas	Fremont Bulletin	06/28/2007 – 07/06/2016
Milpitas	Milpitas Post	08/05/2004 – Current
Palo Alto	Burlingame Daily News	09/22/2006 – 09/25/2008
Palo Alto	Daily News	09/22/2006 – Current
Palo Alto	Daily Post	12/18/2006 – Current
Palo Alto	Redwood City Daily News	09/22/2006 – 09/25/2008

San Jose	Mercury News	06/01/1985 – Current
San Jose	Rose Garden Resident	04/29/2004 – Current
San Jose	Willow Glen Resident	01/10/1996 – Current
San Jose	Mercury News, Web Edition	04/01/2007 – Current
San Jose	Cambrian Resident	11/21/2012 – Current
Saratoga	Saratoga News	12/06/1995 – Current
Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale Sun	02/21/1996 – Current

[Sacred Space Memorial](#) has some recent online obituaries

Oral Histories

[City of Santa Clara Collection](#) at Archive.org

[History San Jose Collection](#) at Archive.org

[Mountain View Oral History Collection](#)

[Oral History Collection](#) at Santa Clara University

[Sunnyvale Stories](#) from the Sunnyvale Public Library's YouTube channel

Periodicals

[Trailblazer](#) – published by the Pioneers of Santa Clara County. Non-circulating back issues are available in the Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara.

[Connections](#) – published by the Santa Clara County Genealogical and Historical Society. All back issues of Connections are available on the member only area of [SCCHGS](#) website. Non-circulating back issues are available in the Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara. An [index](#) is available and free to use.

Personal Papers and Institutional Records

[Townsend Family Papers](#) (1826-1914) from the California Room of the MLK Library are most known for their pioneering expedition from Missouri to California as members of the Murphy party in 1844, only three years after the first overland journey to California. Items in this collection offer glimpses into their life: travels with the Murphy party, real estate investments and roles as settlers of Northern California during the mid to late 1800s.

At History San Jose: Other **personal papers and institutional records of San José local figures**, businesses, and early technology pioneers, including:

- Lee de Forest
- Ernie Renzel
- American Institute of Architects Santa Clara Valley Chapter
- William Ross Aiken
- Frank Bacon
- Roland Eberhart
- Florence Cunningham
- Patricia Loomis
- Leib Family
- Hayes Mansion
- Harry E. Slonaker
- Pioneer Women's Club
- Knapp Plow Company

Photographs, Images, Video and Sound Recordings

[Historic Photos from the California Room](#) of the MLK Library of the Santa Clara Valley

Collection of [postcards](#) documenting California and Santa Clara Valley is available at History San Jose

[Historic California Postcards](#) from SJ Public Library

[County Office of Planning Photograph Collection](#) 1906 to 1980, with the bulk of the collection ranging from 1950 to 1970 is available at the Santa Clara County Archives and documents the development of the county's government.

[Index to County Assessor's photos](#) of residences (partial collection, 1950-1970)

[Images from 1876 Santa Clara County Atlas](#) by Thompson and West

Los Gatos: Then and Now, 2005, (DVD 979.473 L87 Case)

[County Photographers' Collection](#) from the SC County Archives depict the county, 1950 - 1993.

[Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara Image Collection on Calisphere](#)

[Sunnyvale Online Photos](#)

[Mountain View Photographs Online Collection](#)

[Santa Clara University Digital Collection](#)

[History San Jose archival footage](#) on YouTube

[History San Jose archival footage](#) on Archive.org

[History San Jose postcard & image collection](#)

[Historical Court House photos](#)

[Digital Public Library of America](#) (Search on city name)

The [Sourisseau Academy](#) has the following collections:

- **Late 19th and Early 20th Century Photographs:** The primary Sourisseau photograph collection and the Edith C. Smith Collection includes samples of the work of well-known local photographers, including Clayton, Heering, Watkins, Loryea, Hill and Tucker and many others.
- **John C. Gordon Photographs (1913-1950s):** Part of the Edith C. Smith Collection, the John C. Gordon collection consists of about 500 commercial photographs of San José and Santa Clara County between 1913 and the 1950s. The prints focus primarily on the built environment and agriculture, but many personal photographs of the Gordon family are included in the collection.
- [Del Carlo Photographs \(1940s-1960s\):](#) This collection represents more than twenty years of work by local commercial photographer Arnold Del Carlo. The collection includes negatives and prints of local businesses and the built environment, including aerial photographs of the Santa Clara Valley, as well as portraiture of local families and individuals. The collection documents the growth of the valley during this period of rapid change.
- [Leonard McKay Photographs:](#) Part of the Edith C. Smith Collection, the Leonard McKay Research Papers includes [original and copy negatives](#) of many important historic photographs relating to San José and the Santa Clara Valley.
- **Edith Corinne Smith Postcard Collection:** The Edith C. Smith Postcard collection consists of thousands of postcards that document life in San José and Santa Clara County in the early 20th century. The collection has many real photo postcards that document many local homes, buildings, and landscapes. Emphasis has been placed on collecting the works of various photographers that focus on creating post cards such as Edward O. Webb and Robert Law. Portions of the collection were collected by Leonard McKay, Jack Douglas and Steve Carlson, as well as 100s of cards collected by the Edith C. Smith Trust.

Place names

[Place names in Santa Clara County](#)

[UGSG Place Names](#) - provides GPS coordinates for many places, including parks, schools, airports, etc.

[City of Santa Clara Street Names](#) (scroll down and select "Street Names" tab)

1500 California Place Names by William Bright, 917.94 B85

California's Place Names by Gudde by Erwin Gustav, 910.3 G92

California's Spanish Place Names by Barbara Marinacci, 979.4 M33

Durham's Place Names of the San Francisco Bay Area by David L. Durham, 910.3 D96

Probate Records, see also: Wills

In California, County Probate Courts (Superior Courts) handle wills, financial affairs of those who have died as well as guardianships and adoptions of children and conservatorships (guardianships) of adults.

SCCHGS Volunteers created an [index to the probate files](#) available at the Santa Clara County Archives. This file is pending to be placed on the Santa Clara County Archives Website but is currently a PDF in the SCCHGS Google Drive account. Hint: Do a search using “find”, names are contained in more than the name column. If you find an index entry, you can view the files at the Santa Clara County Archives or [hire a SCCHGS researcher](#) to copy the file for you. Some are only available on [Ancestry](#) or on film from Salt Lake.

Probate Records are browsable on FamilySearch:

[Probate Court Register of actions, 1850-1920](#). Is browsable online at FamilySearch. This is a register which documents various filings made and fees assessed during probate. Most volumes include surname index – note that there are multiple volumes per “film”.

- Register of actions, v. A-C, 1850-1877 (to v. C, page 650) [1468549](#)
- Register of actions, v. C-F, 1877-1888 (from v.C, page 650 to v.F, p 300) [1468550](#)
- Register of actions, v. F-H, 1888-1894 (from v F, page 300 to v H, p 465) [1468551](#)
- Register of actions, v. H-K, 1894-1899 (from v H, page 465 to v K, p 25) [1468552](#)
- Register of actions, v. K-M, 1899-1904 (from v K, page 25 to v M, p 351) [1468553](#)
- Register of actions, v. M-O, 1904-1909 (from v. M, page 351) [1468554](#)
- Register of actions, v. P-R, 1909-1912 (to v. R, page 300) [1468555](#)
- Register of actions, v. R-T, 1912-1916 (from v. R, page 300) [1468556](#)
- Register of actions, v. U-W, 1916-1918 (to v. W, page 255) [1468557](#)
- Register of actions, v. W-X, 1918-1920 (from v. W, page 255) [1448558](#)

[Index to probates, ca 1850-1912](#) (beginning at image 20) is mostly in alphabetical order on FamilySearch. Go through the index cards and note the file number beginning with “74” in the lower left corner of the index card image. Use this number choose the correct film to browse listed in the next entry in the [Probate Record files](#) at FamilySearch. Probate records, file nos.74-8335 through 74-17008 are digitized.

Property and Land Records, see also: Ranchos of Santa Clara County, Pueblo San Jose

The County of Santa Clara Historical Records Series List dated 30 June 2003, kept in binder near door to Local History Librarian's office. This is a list of items at the Office of the County Clerk-Recorder.

-[Santa Clara County Clerk Recorder Records Search](#) for more contemporary records. Sorry, this database was recently removed for "privacy" reasons. Searches must be done in person at the Clerk-Recorder's office.

[Alien Land Ownership Records](#), 1921-1952, Ancestry.com

The Bureau of Land Management and General Land Office (BLM-GLO) has an on line [Land Patent Search](#), an index to federal land patents from 1788 to the 1960s held at the National Archives. Start with this index to get the information needed to order the records from the BLM California State Office.

[Bureau of Land Management](#) has Federal Land Patent records, survey plats and land status records for Santa Clara County (same site as above).

[Santa Clara County Surveyor Maps](#) 1,700 surveys from 1890-1960's

The [National Archives](#) (in Washington and Maryland) has the original tract books, plat maps, and land-entry case files. These include cash entries and homestead entries.

Records of state land grants are located at the [State Lands Commission](#).

The State Archives holds official state copies of [land grants from the Spanish and Mexican](#) periods including transcripts of official correspondence and maps. They maintain an [Index of United States Surveyor General for California Maps](#).

Santa Clara County official index to deeds is on 6 rolls of microfilm held by the Central Park Library, 929.3794. Hint: left hand page is (sort of) alphabetical by Grantor (seller) and the right-hand page is (sort of) alphabetical by Grantee (buyer).

- roll 1. Vol. A 1846-1855, A-Z; Vol. B 1855-1866
- roll 2. Vol. C 1866-1869, A-Z; Vol. D 1869-1873
- roll 3. Vol. E 1873-1875, A-Z; Vol. F 1875-1878
- roll 4. Vol. G 1878-1881, A-Z; Vol. H 1881-1884
- roll 5. Vol. I 1884-1885, A-Z; Vol. J 1885-1887
- roll 6. Vol. K 1887-1888, A-Z; Vol. L 1888

[Index to Federal Land Records](#) is a listing by township/range/section of land transactions for the Mount Diablo Meridian.

[Index to Santa Clara County Real Estate Records 1850-1952](#) (bulk of records date 1850-1906). The actual records are held by History San Jose. This file has been removed from the internet. An SCCHGS genealogy consultant may be able to access an older version of the file.

[California Spanish Land Records](#) 1784-1868 (ancestry.com)

Map 39 CA Santa Clara County, 1890 by A. T. Herrmann (4 microfiches) can be viewed at the *Santa Clara* Family History Center, item number 6079276.

Santa Clara Office of the [County Clerk-Recorder](#) has the **originals of Santa Clara County deeds**. To purchase copies, you need: Document Number, Book and Page Number (which you can obtain from the Santa Clara County official indexes at the library).

Index to Building Permits 1895-1910, 1910-1930. Listed by street address, date issued, permit number, owner, description of work, and property value, available at History San Jose. There are no online indexes.

Building Permits 1930's to 1940's. Original permits organized under the street name. Permits include information concerning the building, property value, and the owner, available at History San Jose. There are no online indexes.

1853 San Jose Tax Roll, microfilm GR 657.46 C58

1873-1881 Delinquent Tax indexes, 45 pages in Vital Records binder in workroom

Tax Assessor Ledgers approx. 1850-1900. The majority of the collection is from the City of San José with a limited number from Santa Clara County. Ledgers are listed under the name of the property owner, and give a description of the property, taxes, and property value, available at History San Jose. There are no online indexes. These have recently been placed online at [Archive.org](#).

Property Assessment Roll - 1852

Property Assessment Roll – 1860

Index to Assessment Rolls - 1860

Property Assessment Roll – 1861

Property Assessment Roll - 1865/1866

Assessment Roll Index - 1867/1868

[Tax Assessment Index - 1870/1871](#)

Index to Original Assessment Book and Tax List - 1873/1874

Index to Original Assessment Book and Tax List - 1874/1875

Index to Original Assessment Roll - 1882/1883

[Index to Assessment Book - 1884/1885](#)

Index to Assessment Book - 1885/1886

Index to Assessment Book - 1886/1887

Index to Original and Duplicate Assessment Roll - 1875/1876

Index to Assessment Books - 1890/1891

Index to Assessment Books - 1891/1892

Index to Assessment Books - 1892/1893

Index to Assessment Books - 1897/1898

Assessment Book, East San Jose - 1907

Assessment Book, East San Jose - 1908

Assessment Book, East San Jose - 1910

Assessment Book, East San Jose - 1909

Assessment Book, East San Jose - 1911

Tax Assessor Worksheets and Photographs, mid-20th century. Worksheets are organized by street address and provide information on property improvement, appraisal, and include a photograph of the building site. Tax Assessor photographs, without worksheets for buildings in the City of San José, are listed by street name. Available at History San Jose. There are no online indexes.

Pueblo San Jose (City of San Jose)

The archival papers are housed at the [History San José Research Library & Archives](#). Known as the Pueblo Papers, or the Spanish-Mexican Archives, these 4,000+ documents date from 1781 through the admission of California to statehood in 1850. They delineate the ayuntamiento or municipal government activities, capturing the official governmental rule colored with patriarchal concern. The primary official, the Alcalde, served as the magistrate, governor, and “town father,” and his interests reflected not only the official viewpoint, but the particulars of the town, its citizens, and its role as a Spanish settlement.

These records were recently put online (unindexed) on Archive.org. The records are in Spanish and are often difficult to read but contain a lot of great information.

[City of San Jose Mexican Records, Vol. 1](#)

[City of San Jose Mexican Records, Vol. 2](#)

[City of San Jose Mexican Records, Vol. 3](#)

[City of San Jose Mexican Records, Vol. 4](#)

[City of San Jose Mexican Records, Vol. 5](#)

[City of San Jose Mexican Records, Vol. 6](#)

Note that 50+ documents from the City's original collection are held at the San José Public Library and are available through their [digital collections](#).

Ranchos of Santa Clara County

[The Story of Rancho San Antonio](#) (ancestry.com)

[Map of Santa Clara County Ranchos](#) from Clyde Arbuckle's book (archive.org)

Santa Clara Co. ranchos / by Clyde Arbuckle; 979.47 A66

Some old ranchos and adobes / by Philip S. Rush BOOK (979.4 R95 Case)

A map of the missions, presidios, pueblos, and some of the more interesting ranchos of Spanish California [cartographic material] by Robinson, W. W. 1891-1972. (912.794 R66 Case)

Land in California: the story of mission lands, ranchos, squatters, mining claims, railroad grants, land scrip, homesteads / by W.W. Robinson. Available at the Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara (979.4 R66)

[La Purisima Concepcion: a history of part of Juana Briones' land](#) by Jeanne Waters Strong is viewable online at any Family History Center.

The Sourisseau Academy has the following in their collection:

- Abstract of Title, Laguna de Tache Rancho, late 1800s.
- Abstract of Title, AB Miner Property, 1888. Formerly this land was part of Stockton Ranch and Potrero de Santa Clara.
- Abstract of Title, Lots 1, 2, and 5 of Froment's Survey, 1889. Made at the request of William Matthews, by Pomeroy & Howe, regarding former lands of the Stockton Ranch and the Rancho El

Potrero de Santa Clara. Property bounded by Autumn St., the Alameda, Stockton Av., and Montgomery St.

- Abstract of Title, Rancho de las Animas, 1869. Made at the request of William Matthews, regarding Rancho de las Animas, formerly owned by Josepha Romera, widow of José Mariano Castro. Present-day Gilroy is located within these lands.
- Santa Clara County Cattle Brands, 1850s-1920s: A collection of 31 scraps of leather and wood with the brands of local ranchers burned into them. The brands were registered at the Santa Clara County Courthouse between 1850 and 1920.

Schools, see also: Yearbooks

Marian A. Peterson High School Scrapbook Index, 1964-1981 [index](#)

[Santa Clara County School Records](#) links provided by SFGenealogy

Research Assistance

[SCCHGS Researchers](#) are available to perform look ups for a small fee. The volunteers are willing to travel to various libraries, archives and cemeteries in Santa Clara County.

Genealogy consultants are available in the Heritage Room of the Central Park Library at [scheduled times](#). Scroll down to see the consultant's calendar. This service is free of charge and sponsored by the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Scrapbooks, see also: Clippings

History San Jose has an [Inventory of Scrapbooks](#) in their collection (downloads a spreadsheet)

Surnames, see also: Biographies/Histories, Clippings, Personal Papers

The SCCHGS **surname index** is located in the card catalog against metal cabinets in the back left area of the Pavilion. These have not been updated in a while.

[Biographical Clippings Index](#) at History San Jose

[Family History Files](#) at History San Jose

[Indexes](#) to the SCCHGS publication, *Connections*. All *Connections* issues are online in the member-only area of SCCHGS.org.

[California Room Index](#) – The California Room Index is an online index to people, places, and events in the history of San José, Santa Clara County, and California. There are no online images.

History San Jose has a List of Names in the [Hartford Company policy book, Campbell \(1898-1913\)](#)

[Santa Clara University Digital Collection](#) has papers from various families.

Town Histories, see Biographies/Histories**Vital Records, General**

[How to order vital records from the State of CA](#)

- Births, 1905 – present
- Deaths, July 1905- present
- Marriages, 1949-1986 and 1998-1999
- Divorces, 1962- June 1984

[Ordering Vital Records from Santa Clara County](#)

- Births, 1873 to present
- Death, 1873 to present
- Marriages, 1850 to present

See Also: County of Santa Clara Historical Records Series List dated 30 June 2003, kept in binder near door to Local History Librarian's office. This is a list of items at the Office of the County Clerk-Recorder.

Vital Records, Births

Birth certificates may be ordered from [Santa Clara County Clerk Recorder](#), for births after 1873. Any interested party may order an informational copy.

[California Birth Index](#), 1905-1995 (ancestry.com), also at [FamilySearch](#)

[California Births and Christenings](#), 1812-1988 (Limited entries), FamilySearch

[California, County Birth and Death records, 1800-1994](#) is a FamilySearch database that indexes many of the birth records from the microfilms at the library. When searching this database, enter the birthplace of "Santa Clara, California" and check the small box to the right to limit results to births in Santa Clara County. The table on the next page shows what's included in the database as of March 2020.

Vital Records, Deaths, see also: Obituaries and Coroner Records

[California Death Index](#), 1905-1939 (ancestry.com), also [FamilySearch](#)

[California Death Index](#), 1940-1997 (ancestry.com), also [FamilySearch](#)

[Social Security Death Index](#), 1935- Feb 28, 2014 (ancestry.com), also [FamilySearch](#)

[US Department of Veterans Affairs Death File, 1850-2010](#) at Ancestry.com

[Numident Records](#) at FamilySearch

Death Records, Santa Clara County, 1873-1905 are viewable online at FamilySearch. Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara also has a copy of these films, 1302029 and 1302030.

Hint: The FamilySearch index is *not complete*. If you don't find your name in the [FamilySearch Index to SCC Deaths](#), try the [SCCHGS Online index](#) and then go to the correct film on [FamilySearch](#) (or microfilm at the City Library) to view the image.

Hint: The original clerk sometimes switched first and last names. The entries are indexed as written. Therefore, if the name is not found, swap first name and surname and search again.

Hint: These films contain death registers. They are organized by "A" surnames, followed by "B" surnames and so on and chronologically within each letter section.

Death records v. A-B 1873-1904 (Santa Clara County)

Item 3 begins at image 350 [Film 1302029](#)

Item 4 begins at image 458

Item 1 begins on images 3 -39 [Film 1302030](#)

Death records 1899-1905 (City of San Jose)

[Film 1302030](#)

Item 2, Book C is on images 42-227

Item 3, Book 1 is on images 230-290

Item 4, Book 2 is on images 393-422

Death certificates may be ordered from [Santa Clara County Clerk Recorder](#), for deaths after 1873. Any interested person can order a death certificate by checking the Part 1 box labeled "I would like a certified information copy of the record identified on the application form." Ignore part 2 of the form.

History San Jose has [San Jose City Records of Deaths/Burial Permits](#) (1890s-1904, 1924) – downloads spreadsheet

[California, County Birth and Death Records](#), 1800-1994, at FamilySearch (there are very limited indexed entries for Santa Clara County)

[The Sourisseau Academy](#) has *San José Death Certificates (Oak Hill)*: Photocopies of the volume "Certificates of Death: Aug 5, 1862- Feb 3, 1869"

Vital Records, Marriages

Method 1: FS Index

The [FamilySearch online index](#) for the record set, California, County Marriages 1850-1952, is **incomplete**. But try this first as it is the easiest method and you may find the indexed image. Enter "Santa Clara, California" as the marriage place, plus your search terms.

Method 2: FamilySearch Films

If you don't find the record in the FamilySearch online index, check the following indexes. If you find a record you want to view, take note of the identifying information – volume letter, page number, film number, date, etc). Records before 1918 are viewable online at FamilySearch (clickable at the bottom of this page); more recent records must be ordered from the Santa Clara County Clerk Recorder office (see last item in this section).

[SCCHGS Early Marriage index, 1850-1905](#)

Marr Index, alphabetical by groom , 1904-1918	(1468516 begins at image 69)
Marr Index, alphabetical by bride , 1904-1918	(1468516 begins at image 378)
Marr Index, chronological by certificate nos. , 1904-June 1917	(1468515, begins image 672)
Marr Index, chronological by certificate nos. , June 1917-1918	(1468516 begins at image 3)

Using the information found in one of the indexes above, look for the marriage record on these browsable films at FamilySearch.

Marriage records v. A 1850-1858 -v. B (p 1-551) 1862-1870	1302022 *
Marriage records v. B (p.550-640)-v. E (p 1-343) 1858-1878	1302023 *
Marriage records v. E (p 342-604)-v. F 1878-1881	1302024 *
Marriage records v. G-v. I (p 1-117) 1881-1887	1302025 *
Marriage records v. I (p 116-403)-v. K (p.1-467) 1887-1893	1302026 *
Marriage records v. K (p 466-598)-v. M 1893-1899	1302027 *

Marriage records v. N-v. P (p 1-127) 1899-1903	1302028 *
Marriage records v. P (p 126-638)-v. Q 1903-1905	1302029
Record of marriages, v. Q, 1904-1906 (p1-281)	1468516
Record of marriages, v. Q, (p280-1280), 1904- 1906, v. R, 1906-1907 (p1-485)	1468517
Record of marriages, v. R. 1906-1907 (p485-1280)	1468518
Record of marriages, v. S, 1907-1908 (p1-1200), v. T. 1909 (p1-310)	1468519
Record of marriages, v. T, 1909 (p 310-1200), v. U, 1910-1911 (p1-420)	1468520
Record of marriages, v. U. 1910-1911 (p420-1200), v. V, 1911-1912 (p1-860)	1468521
Record of marriages, v. V, 1911-1912 (p860-1200), v. W, 1912-1913	1468522
Record of marriages, v. X, 1913-1914, v. Y, 1914-1915 (p1-371)	1468523
Record of marriages, v. Y, 1915-1916 (p371-1200), v. Z, 1916-1917 (p1-700)	1468524
Record of marriages, v. Z, 1916-1917 (p700-1200)	1468525

*Note: The SC City Library has copies of microfilms 1302021-1302028

Method 3: Other indexes

- US Marriage Collection from [Findmypast](#) has over 100,000 Santa Clara Co. marriages [note that Findmypast is free to use at the Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara and FamilySearch Centers]
 - [California Marriage Index](#), 1949-1959 (Ancestry, 72,000 entries for SC County)
 - [California Marriages, 1850-1877](#) (Ancestry , only 1202 entries for SC County)
 - [California Marriage Index](#), 1960-1985 (FamilySearch) and [Ancestry](#)
 - [California County Marriages](#) (limited entries for Santa Clara County), 1850-1945 (FamilySearch)
 - [California Divorce Index](#), 1966-1984 (ancestry.com) and [FamilySearch](#)
- [Western States Marriage Index](#), 1809-2011 includes Santa Clara County, Ancestry (limited entries – about 6800)
- Microfiche Indexes** are available at the Central Park Library:
 - California Bride Index, 1960-1985
 - California Groom Index, 1960-1985
- Santa Clara County Archives has marriage licenses, 1849 – 1946 (most are 1850 – 1914). This is not a complete set of all SCC marriage licenses. PDF file index links are below. The records **may** be viewable at the Archives. However, they may be sealed for privacy-this is currently being disputed, call first). Records through 1917 are viewable online on [films 1468526 – 1468545](#) at FamilySearch (see above). For a small fee, [SCCHGS researchers](#) can try to get a copy for you.
 - Index by [Bride Last Name A-J](#)
 - Index by [Bride Last Name K-Z](#)
 - Index by [Groom Last Name A-E](#)
 - Index by [Groom Last Name F-N](#)
 - Index by [Groom Last Name O-Z](#)

FamilySearch has browsable films recording the card index of Santa Clara County marriage licenses, 1849-1946. These licenses are now at the County Clerk Records Office.

- Index - Brides, Aa – Florina [1420196/ 8298090](#)
 - Index - Brides, Flor – Radway [1420197/ 8116657](#)
 - Index - Brides, Rae – Zz [1420198/ 8100652](#)
 - Index - Grooms, Aa – Cos [1420198/ 8100652](#) (begins at image 2537)
 - Index - Grooms, Cota – Mann [1420231/ 8298089](#)
 - Index - Grooms, Manner – Zz [1420232/ 8272855](#)
-
- [California, Select Marriages](#), Ancestry has a very limited number of Santa Clara Co. marriages
 - SCCHGS has four typed pages of early Marriages, 1850-1854 stored in their “Vital Records” Binder.

Method 4: Order from County

Marriage certificates may be ordered from the [Santa Clara County Clerk Recorder](#) for marriages after 1850. Any interested party can obtain an “*Information Copy*” of a marriage license *without* the notarized form by checking the box labeled, “Those who are not authorized by law to receive a certified copy of a nonconfidential (standard) marriage record will receive a certified copy marked “INFORMATIONAL, NOT A VALID DOCUMENT TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY” (Sworn Statement Not Required).”

Vital Records, Divorces

[Superior Court Divorce Records](#), Santa Clara County(last 10-15 years only)

[The California Department of Public Health](#) – Vital Records (CDPH-VR) maintains divorce records for only **1962 through June 1984**. These records consist only of the face sheet of the divorce action – ***not the actual divorce decree***. CDPH-VR is only able to provide you with a Certificate of Record, which includes the names of the parties, filing date, county, and case number of the divorce. Copies of the ***actual divorce decree*** can only be obtained from the Superior Court in the county where the divorce took place.

The Santa Clara County Probate court dealt with guardianship issues, sometimes stemming from divorce. An [online index](#) for early probate cases (prior to 1920ish) is available. For a small fee, [SCCHGS Researchers](#) may be able to obtain a copy for you.

Check local newspapers for mention of divorce cases. Specifically, try *Historical San Jose Evening News*, 1884-1922 and the *San Jose Mercury News*, 1900 – 1922. Check this and other newspapers mentioned in the “Newspaper” sections of this document.

Voter Registrations

Ancestry has the following Great Registers for Santa Clara County:

- [1867 register](#), images 1-78 (arranged by area: Alviso, Almaden, San Jose, Mayfield, etc.)
- [1867 Supplement](#), images 79-87 (all areas combined)
- 1867 [Supplement to the supplement](#), (really) images 95-98
- [1871 register](#), images 97-173 (arranged by area)
- [1872 register](#), images 174-223
- [1873 register](#), images 224-274
- [1875 register](#), images 274-328
- [1876 register](#), images 329-389
- [1878 or possible 1879 register](#), images 390-459
- [Supplement to the above](#), images 460-464
- [1880 register](#), images 1-44
- [1882 register](#), images 45-95
- [supplement to the 1882](#) register, image 95
- [1884 register](#), images 97 – 151
- [1888 register](#), images 152-222
- [Cancelations to the 1888](#) register, image 223
- [1890 register](#), images 224-297
- [1892 register](#) also at [FamilySearch](#)
- [1894 register](#)
- [1896 register](#)

“Santa Clara County, California 1890 great register,” GS 929.3794 E347 at Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara. [SCCHGS](#) sells this published book for \$5.00.

[California Great Registers](#), 1866-1910 (FamilySearch). **These are not complete! Use Ancestry, links above.**

Santa Clara City Library has has these Great Registers for Santa Clara County: 1867, 1868, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1894, 1900, 1902, 1904, 1906

Santa Clara County Archives has these Great Registers for Santa Clara County: 1877-1928, inclusive

History San Jose has these Great Registers for Santa Clara County: 1867, 1872, 1873, 1875, 1880, 1884, 1886, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1894, 1904. Note: Except for 1904, these are the same ones published at Ancestry.

Wills, see also: Probates

[California Wills and Probate Records, 1850-1953](#) is online at Ancestry. Their index is quite incomplete, but this is the easiest way to find a Santa Clara County Will. If you are not successful with Ancestry, try one of the following methods. Also, check the probate indexes.

The following are available online at FamilySearch. First look at [Santa Clara County Will Index, 1849-1912 index](#) to find the book and page, and then look through these films at FamilySearch.org:

Will books, v. B-C, Dec. 1866-Sept. 1875	1468546
Will books, v. E-F, Nov. 1878-Apr. 1888	1476776
Will books, v. G-H, Apr. 1888-Dec. 1893	1476777
Will books, v. I-J, Dec. 1893-Oct. 1899	1476778
Will books, v. K-L, Oct. 1899-Mar. 1904	1476779
Will books, v. M-N, Apr. 1904-Mar. 1909	1476780
Will books, v. O-P, Mar. 1909-July 1912	1476781

Note: Will Book A was not filmed, but is available (along with the other will books) at the [Santa Clara County Archives](#) has limited and changing hours - call first to verify hours and make an appointment.

[Early California Wills, Santa Clara County, 1850-1864](#) are browsable at FamilySearch. Begin at image 434 for the every-name Index for Santa Clara County and then go to the page indicated to see the will abstract.

[Wills and abstracts of wills from California counties](#), September 1857 – February 1863 is browsable at FamilySearch. Santa Clara County abstracts are found on images 185-235. There does not appear to be an index. This is not a complete set of abstracts and some of the “abstracts” seem to be a complete transcribed will.

[Santa Clara County Wills Collection Index](#) to approximately 10,000 wills filed with the County Clerk, dating from early 1900's into the 1970s, with the bulk of the wills from after 1940. The actual wills are found at the Santa Clara County Archives.

The Clerk-Recorder's Office does have more recent recorded wills, but not all wills are recorded. It is up to the individual if their will is recorded. These wills must be researched in person at the Clerk-Recorder's Office using their public records systems. An appointment can be made by contacting the Recorded Document Copies Division via e-mail: bus-rdc@rec.sccgov.org, phone: 408-299-1558, or by visiting their [website to book online](#).

Yearbooks

Yearbooks for local high schools and colleges are kept in the locked case in the back right corner of the Heritage Pavilion in the Santa Clara Central Park Library. Search the [catalog](#) with keywords “yearbook” and school of interest.

There are many [yearbooks](#) in the California Room Yearbook Collection at the King Library.

Some [San Jose High School](#) yearbooks, including “The Bell” are online at the SJ Public Library.

[Classmates.Com](#) has many online yearbooks; a free login is required. For some reason, this link does not work. Try typing <https://www.classmates.com/yearbooks/> into your browser.

[Ancestry](#) has many yearbooks as does [MyHeritage](#).

The blog [Ancestor Hunt](#) has a listing of where to find yearbooks.

Marian A. Peterson High School [scrapbook index](#).

Also check: Archive.org, Googlebooks, FamilySearch, Hathitrust.

Appendix 1: Addresses of Local History Repositories

[Central Park Library, City of Santa Clara](#)

Referred to in this document as SC City Library
2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95051
Adult Services: (408) 615-2900

[San Jose Public Library](#), King Branch

150 E. San Fernando St., San Jose, CA 95112
Main Library phone: (408) 808-2000

[California Room](#)

5th floor of the SJ Public Library, King branch
Phone: (408) 808-2167
(open fewer hours than the library)

[History San Jose](#)

635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112
Phone: (408) 287-2290
by appointment only

[Santa Clara County Archives](#)

1875 Senter Road (corner of Needles) – **office scheduled to move, mid-2025.**
San Jose, CA 95112
Phone: (408) 755-7895 (call for appointment)

[National Archives at San Francisco](#)

Leo J. Ryan Memorial Federal Building
1000 Commodore Drive
San Bruno, California 94066-2350
Phone: (650) 238-3501

[Clerk-Recorder's Office](#) (County of Santa Clara)

70 West Hedding St.
1st Floor, East Wing
San Jose, CA 95110
Phone: (408) 299-5688
by appointment only

[Santa Clara Family History Center](#)

875 Quince Avenue, Santa Clara CA 95051
Phone: (480) 241-1449, call for hours of operation

Appendix 2: Local Societies

[Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society](#)

Monthly meetings, classes, seminars, special interest groups, free consulting
Central Park Library - 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, 95051

[Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group](#)

Monthly meeting on the 2nd Saturday of every month 9:00-11:00.
LDS Church 875 Quince Ave, Santa Clara, 95051

[San Mateo County Genealogical Society](#)

Monthly meetings, seminars and special interest groups
Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403.

[Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz](#)

Monthly meetings and other events
224 Church St, Santa Cruz, CA

[California Genealogical Society](#)

Quarterly meetings, special interest groups and extensive library
2201 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612

[San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society](#)

Meetings are held in Palo Alto, San Francisco and Oakland

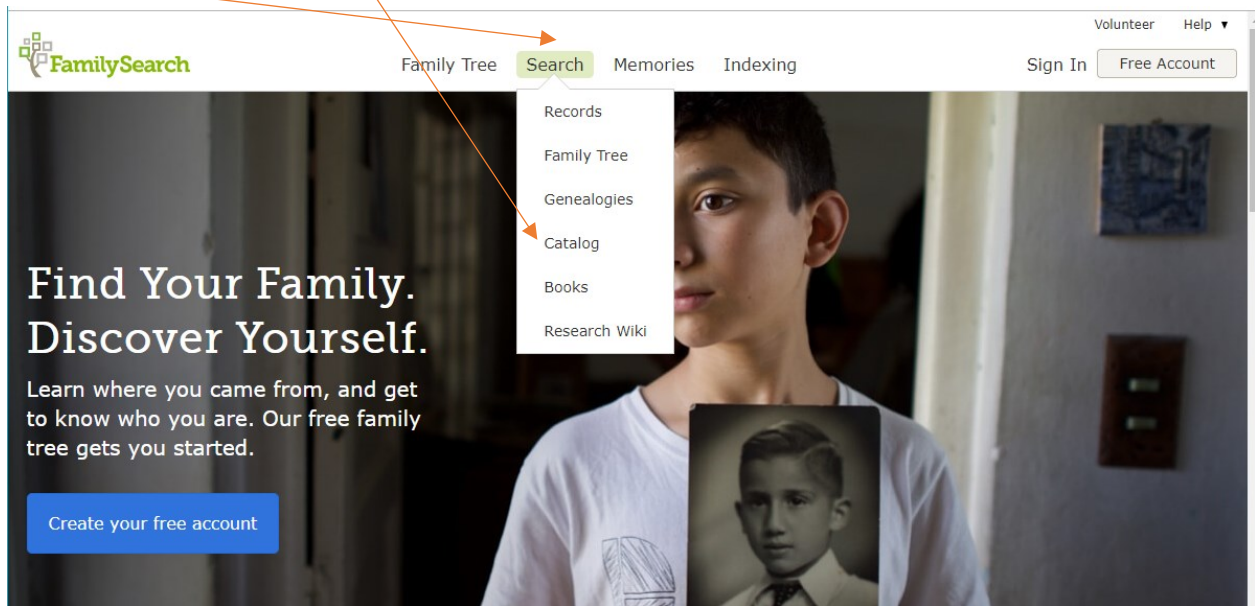
[African American Genealogical Society of Northern California](#)

Meetings are held in Oakland the third Saturday of the most months

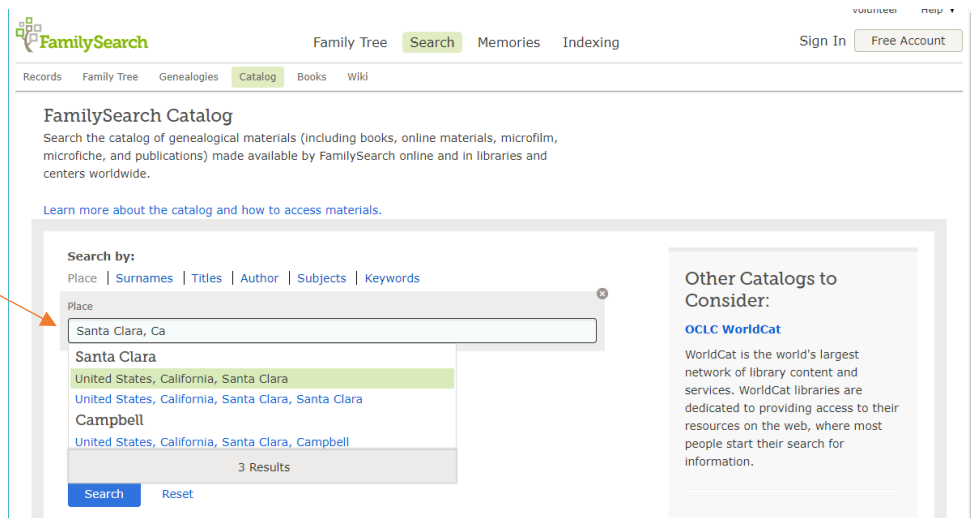
Appendix 3: How to find films to view on FamilySearch.org

If you want to see what resources are available for a specific location

1. Go to FamilySearch.org
2. Select SEARCH and then CATALOG



3. Enter a place name and press search. Note that 'Sana Clara' is Santa Clara County and 'Santa Clara, Santa Clara' is the city of Santa Clara.



4. At this point, a list of records for the location appear.

Refine your search ▼

Search by:

Place

United States, California, San

Surnames

Titles

Author

Subjects

Keywords

Search for:

Call Number

Film/Fiche Number

Availability

☒ Any

☐ Online

☐ Family History Center

Update **Reset**

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

[PRINT](#) [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

Notes ▼

Created 1850, original county

Part of [United States, California](#)

[Places within United States, California, Santa Clara](#) ▶

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Archives and libraries (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Biography (9)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Cemeteries (3)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Church directories (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Church records (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Description and travel (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Directories (5)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Genealogy - Periodicals (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Genealogy - Societies - Periodicals (3)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Guardianship - Indexes (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - History (17)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - History - Indexes (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - History - Periodicals (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - History - Societies - Periodicals (3)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Land and property (3)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Land and property - Maps (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Language and languages (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Maps (3)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Native races - Genealogy (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Naturalization and citizenship (2)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Obituaries - Indexes (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Probate records (3)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Probate records - Indexes (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Societies (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Societies - Periodicals - Indexes (1)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Vital records (11)

▶ United States, California, Santa Clara - Vital records - Indexes (2)

Print List

5. Scroll down to Naturalization and citizenship. For Santa Clara County, there are two record sets that exist.

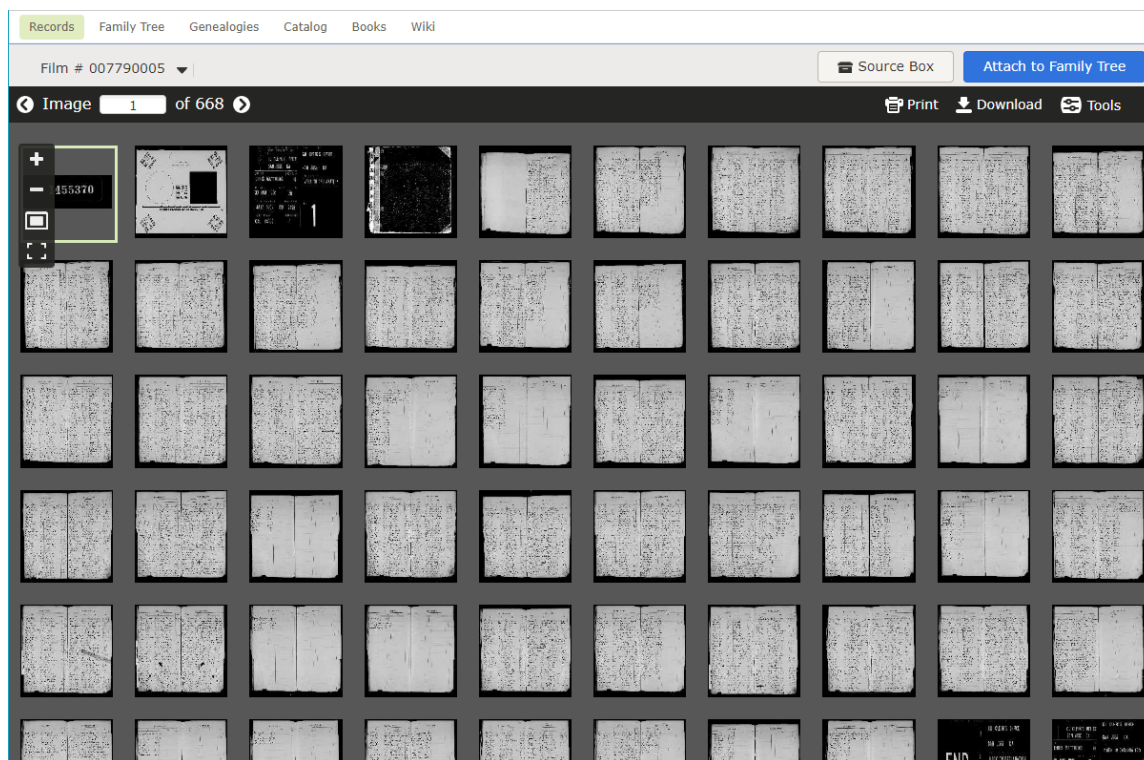
▼ **United States, California, Santa Clara - Naturalization and citizenship (2)**

Declarations of intention for naturalization, Santa Clara County, California : volume A, 1850-1962, volume B, 1862-1867, volume E, 1848-1870 Author: Rose, Christine (Christine Ciciarelli), 1935-; Rose Family Association (San Jose, California)	Add
Naturalization records, 1831-1933 Author: California. Superior Court (Santa Clara County)	Add

6. Select 'Naturalization records, 1831-1933' by clicking on the title. At this point, a list of 'films' appear.

Film/Digital Notes (This family history center has 18 of 18 films/fiche.)					
Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
Index to declarations, vols. A-B, 1831-1930	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	1455370 Items 1-2	7790005	 
Declarations of intention, vols. A-C, 1850-1869 (to vol. C, page 205)	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	1455370 Items 3-5	7790005	 
Declarations of intention, vols. C-E, 1869-1870 (from v. C, page 205)	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	1455371	7790006	 
Declarations of intention, vols. F-I, 1879-1887	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	1455372	7790007	 

7. To look at the images, click on the camera icon



Things to note :

- You must be signed in, with a free account, to view the images.
- The magnifying glass means that **some** of the images are indexed.
- The camera icon means that there are images you can view
- The camera icon with a key over it, means the images can only be viewed at a Family History Center.
- Many films have indexes at the beginning or end of a section to help you find an image.
- The number of images in the film is shown in the top black bar.

Appendix 4 : How to access premium data bases for free

California residents can obtain free library cards to any public library in California; however one must apply in person. Many libraries offer free genealogy databases and some of which can be accessed remotely with a valid library card.

	Free at these libraries	Free remotely with library card from (must go to library to get card)
19th Century British News	FamilySearch Centers	
Alexander Press (Civil War)	FamilySearch Centers	
American Ancestors	Santa Clara City Library FamilySearch Centers	
Ancestry.com	Most public libraries FamilySearch Centers	
Arkiv Digital (Swedish)	FamilySearch Centers	
FindmyPast	Santa Clara City Library (Central Park Branch only) FamilySearch Centers	
FOLD3	FamilySearch Centers	Alameda County Library Santa Clara County Library San Francisco Public Library
GenealogyBank	FamilySearch Centers	Alameda County Library
Heritage Hub Obituaries		Alameda County Library
HeritageQuest	Many public libraries	Santa Clara City Library & most others
Irish Ancestors	FamilySearch Centers	
MyChinaRoots	San Francisco Public Library	San Francisco Public Library
MyHeritage Library Edition	FamilySearch Centers	Alameda County Library San Jose Public Library San Francisco Public Library
Newspapers.com (basic subscription)	FamilySearch Centers	Santa Cruz County Library (basic subscription only)
Newspaper Archives	FamilySearch Centers	Los Angeles Public Library under "A" for Access NewspaperArchive
New York Times, 1851-2009	Santa Clara County Library	Santa Clara County Library
PaperTrail (19th C westward Movement – US)	FamilySearch Centers	
Reference Solutions	Alameda County & Alameda Free Library	Alameda County Library San Francisco Public Library
Sanborn Fire Maps	San Jose Public Library	San Jose Public Library San Francisco Public Library
San Jose Evening News, 1884- 1983	San Jose Public Library	San Jose Public Library
San Jose Mercury, 1887-1922	Santa Clara City Library	Santa Clara City Library
San Jose Mercury, 1900-1985	San Jose Public Library	San Jose Public Library
The [SJ] Mercury, 1985-present	San Jose Public Library Santa Clara City Library	San Jose Public Library Santa Clara City Library

