

Subject Guide: Local History Resources

Santa Cruz County has a rich and interesting history. In addition to [Santa Cruz Public Library](#), there are many resources in the County for those who are researching local history.

Santa Cruz Public Library

Santa Cruz Public Library has:

- More than 400 [articles on Santa Cruz County history](#), many with illustrations, available on their website. Also included are more than 350 full-text local newspaper articles on films and the Japanese-American internment.
- A [local history photograph collection](#), which includes a local history postcard collection. More than 1500 photographs and postcards are available on their website.
- large print collection of local history materials.
- A [newspaper clipping file](#) of articles of local interest (more than 50,000) which have been gathered from a variety of newspapers. The articles range in date from the early 1900's to the present.
- [Indices to local newspapers.](#)
- [Local newspapers on microfilm.](#)

Watsonville Public Library

275 Main Street, Suite 100

Watsonville, CA 95076

831.768.3400

www.watsonvillelibrary.org

Watsonville Public Library has:

- The California Agricultural Workers' History Center (CAWHC), located on the 2nd floor of the Watsonville Public Library, is dedicated to raising awareness of the lives of agricultural workers "through their photographs, through people telling their stories." The CAWHC stands as a collaborative work in progress, a place for diverse community participants to come together to use the center for research, but also to help make it a repository for oral histories and academic papers. Public contribution is encouraged. Although honoring and depicting the histories of local farm workers play a significant part in the exhibits and resources of the CAWHC, the scope of the exhibit, and the center itself, extends beyond Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley to encompass the histories and experiences of all agricultural workers in California. Made possible with support from the California State Library, the CAWHC is the brainchild of former Watsonville Mayor Ana Ventura Phares.
- Special Photo Collection. Early in 1999, the Watsonville Public Library received a grant from the California State Library for a program called Shades of California: Exploring Our History Through Family Photographs. This program, called Shades of Watsonville, provided for the copying and documentation of family photographs from preservation at both the State Library and in the Watsonville Public Library's collection. Binders containing photos copied on Photo Day are available from this special collection for historical research purposes at the library.
- Watsonville Register-Pajaronian on microfilm
- Newspaper clipping file consisting of articles collected from a number of publications and featuring stories of local interest. Articles generally range in date from the early 1900's to the present, with some spotty coverage back to the late 1800's
- Print collection which includes a general Californiana collection, resources and directories for local cemeteries, historic houses, civic organizations, yearbooks, books on local history, etc.
- Polk Directories and Watsonville City Directories (mostly full coverage back to 1900).

Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History Archive/Library

705 Front Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831.429.1964 x17
www.santacruzmah.org

University of California, Santa Cruz - University Library Special Collections

McHenry Library
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
831.459.2547
library.ucsc.edu/speccoll

The University Library has collections of pre-statehood documents, scrapbooks and clipping files, photographs and photo albums taken and compiled by local residents and professional studio photographers, and publications by local authors and institutions. Highlights include the Porter Family collection, the Hihn-Younger archive, the Leon Rowland Research collection, and the Regional History Project.

University of California, Santa Cruz - Map Room

Science & Engineering Library
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
831.459.2364
library.ucsc.edu/maps

The University Map Room contains more than 160,000 items, including the region's largest and most comprehensive collection of maps and aerial photographs. Local highlights include Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, late nineteenth century and early twentieth century maps showing landowners, and the Andrew Jackson Hatch 1889 map of Santa Cruz County.

Capitola Historical Museum

410 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010
831.464.0322
www.capitolamuseum.org

The Capitola Museum maintains extensive collections of photographs and artifacts related to Capitola's history, and offers changing exhibits on the history and art of the area, as well as on special seasonal and topical themes. Museum grounds now include a reconstructed cottage from the era of the early 20th century beach resort.

Highlights of the collection include:

- Newspaper clipping files on subjects related to Capitola, Aptos, Live Oak, Santa Cruz, and Watsonville.

- Binders of newspaper articles, 1950s-1970s, indexed by topic. Two volumes are a collection of news clippings related to Capitola city incorporation and early city history. Four volumes of the Bakalian collection consist of 1970s news clippings on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors; Santa Cruz County planning, LAFCO, Soquel, Aptos, and Scotts Valley; County Proposition 20, court actions, and property rights; and the City of Santa Cruz, including planning, city council, elections, Lighthouse field, and Wilder Ranch.
- Searchable database of dates and photo numbers from the Ed Webber/Vester Dick photograph collection at [Covello and Covello Photography](#). The database is only a partial list from the entire collection, and contains no actual photographs. However, it can be searched by topics and themes, such as "disasters," "tourism," and "slice of life." Some outstanding pictures are listed simply under "wow." The list is useful for locating roughly approximate dates for when the newsworthy photos appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel with associated stories.
- Capitola photographs, arranged by decade. Most are copies from other sources, and only a few are copyright free. All may be viewed for reference. In addition, the following collections also consist of copied pictures:
 - Van Zuiden collection: Capitola, 1876-1960s.
 - Lionel T. Lenox collection: Santa Cruz, Twin Lakes, Capitola, 1917-1926.
 - Frank Daubenbiss collection: Downtown Santa Cruz, 1950s.

Aptos Museum

7605-B Old Dominion Court
 Aptos, CA 95003
 831.688.1467

San Lorenzo Valley Museum

12547 Highway 9, P.O. Box 576
 Boulder Creek, CA 95006
 831.338.8332
www.slvmuseum.com

The San Lorenzo Valley Museum's mission is to preserve the history of the San Lorenzo Valley through collecting and exhibiting artifacts, gathering historical information, and providing education through the Museum and its educational outreach programs. The Museum collection includes:

- People (family) folders containing journals, photographs, guest books, newspaper articles, letters, etc.
- Clothing and other textiles used by local families
- Logging and lumber artifacts
- Railroad artifacts
- Household items such as furniture, china, glass, silverware, grooming items, and games and toys that were used in local historical households
- Artwork by local artists
- Photographs arranged by subject
- Maps (Sanborn, town planning)
- Newspapers
- Business artifacts (account books, deeds)
- Genealogical and biographical records of pioneer families

Agricultural History Project

P.O. Box 1181
Watsonville, CA 96077
2601 East Lake Ave, Watsonville (entrance to the Santa Cruz County fairgrounds)
831.724.5898
www.ahistoryproject.org

Collections include:

- Henry Washburn Annual Reports 1917-1941, 1953. These reports document activities of the farm advisor, changes in agriculture, erosion control efforts, dairy herd improvement, 4-H Club activities, black & white photos of the county during those years.
- Henry Washburn photos and films. Most are from the 1930s and 1940s, and are mostly agriculture but include scenes from around the county.
- Apple and vegetable labels. Approximately 300. Most are local.
- Tyler Collection. The USDA and UC Extension Service Bulletins on various crops, livestock, poultry, insects, and diseases. Some are from the late 1800s; many are from the 1920s through 1940s. Also, booklets on irrigation and water use, land use, soil surveys and Santa Cruz County studies.
- Clipping File. Agriculture-related articles. Most are from the last 5-10 years.
- Regional History Project. 17 agriculture-related oral histories. A UCSC project.
- Farm equipment identification. Books on plows, tractors, implements and hand tools.
- California Historical Society Quarterly. Includes indexes.
- Yearbook of Agriculture. Intermittent from 1884 through the 1970s.

Pajaro Valley Historical Association

332 E. Beach St., P.O. Box 623
Watsonville, CA 95077
831.722.0305
www.pajarovalleyhistory.com

The PVHA's major activities are the management of the Bockius-Orr House and the operation of the Snyder Archive and the Volck Museum. The Snyder Archive holdings are available on a limited basis for use by the public for history programs, public lectures, and offsite exhibits. The Archive holdings include the following items dealing with the Pajaro Valley:

- Books, manuscripts, newspapers, directories, and other printed materials
- Historic posters, photographs, postcards, albums and artifacts
- Maps, oral histories, genealogies, and WHS yearbooks
- Historic materials related to agriculture, business, local schools, organizations, and families.
- Special collections including Betty Lewis, William Weeks, and Charley Parkhurst

The Bockius-Orr House contains the area's largest collection of historic clothing and textiles. The Bockius-Orr campus, including the gardens, is available for tours and events.

Scotts Valley Historical Society

www.scottsvalleychamber.com/svhistory/

The SVHS has some information and photographs on their website. The society also provides assistance to persons interested in researching the history of their homes, neighborhoods, or pioneer families.

California State Library

www.lib.state.ca.us

The State Library has an extensive California History collection which includes books, newspapers, periodicals, manuscript collections, maps, and ephemera. Some of these items can be found using the catalog. Only about 10% of the library's photographs are included in the picture catalog, and only some of them are available for online viewing. However, there is a considerable number of Santa Cruz photographs available online.

Covello & Covello Photography

covellocovello.com

Covello & Covello Photography was founded in 1938 and was well known locally as the news photography service that provided the photos for the Santa Cruz Sentinel. Their photo collection is recognized as one of the most extensive photographic archives of the Santa Cruz area. The [Capitola Museum](#) has a searchable database to some of this collection.

Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County

224 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831.427.7707 ext. 5794

<http://www.cagenweb.com/santacruz>

The Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County provides a collection at the [Central Branch](#) of Santa Cruz Public Libraries. There are more than 9,000 books, microfilm, periodicals, CD-ROMS and other items in the collection that cover Santa Cruz County, as well as every state and many countries.

These resources are available to researchers during [normal library hours](#). Volunteers are available to help beginners, locate materials, and suggest research techniques. Call ahead to verify volunteer hours.