

# California History Section Materials

Wilton

California State Library  
California History Section  
916-654-0176  
[cslcal@library.ca.gov](mailto:cslcal@library.ca.gov)

# California State Library

- In operation since 1850
- One of the premiere collections of Far West material
- Mandate to collect anything to do with California
- Serves everyone





# 2 cities, 4 buildings, 6 sections

- o 6 sections
  - o Witkin Law Library
  - o Government Publications
  - o Information Services
  - o Braille and Talking Book Library
  - o California History Section
  - o Sutro Library



# Section for Local History

- o California History Section
- o Scattered information in other sections





# Types of Materials

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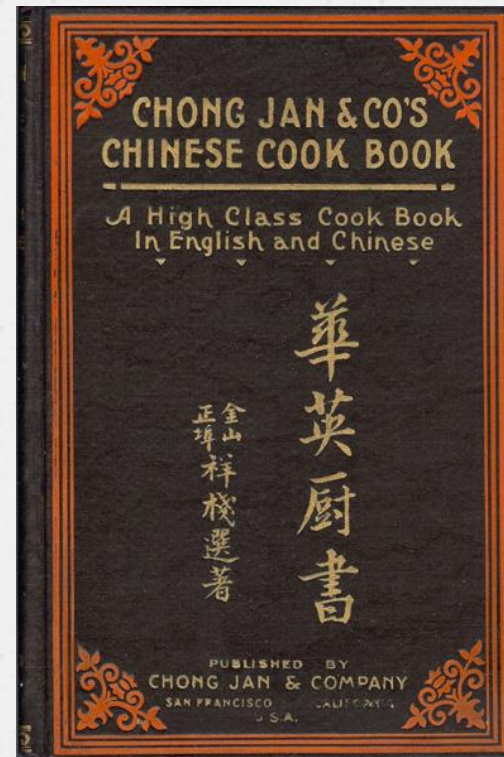
## A quick overview

Books  
Ephemera  
Images  
Indexes  
Manuscripts  
Maps  
Newspapers  
Periodicals



# Books

- o County Histories
- o Biographies
- o Cookbooks
- o Trade Catalogs
- o Directories
- o Telephone Books





# Ephemera

- o Pamphlets
- o Programs
- o Campaign Memorabilia
- o Menus
- o Receipts
- o Posters



# Images

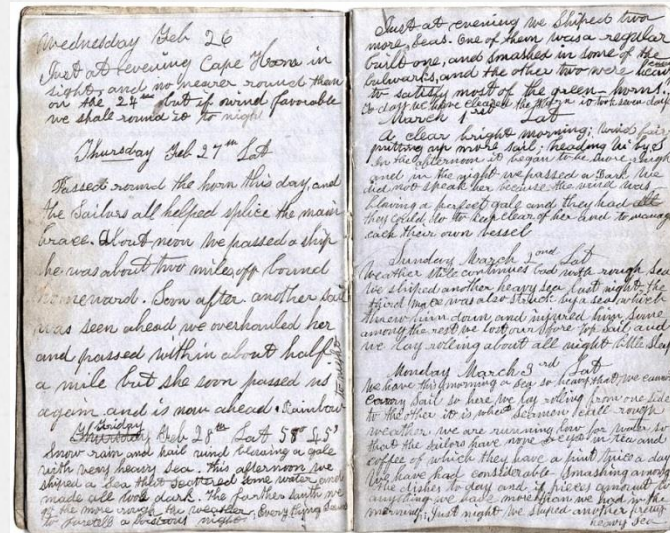
- Daguerreotypes
- Stereographs
- Postcards
- Photographs
- Lithographs
- Paintings





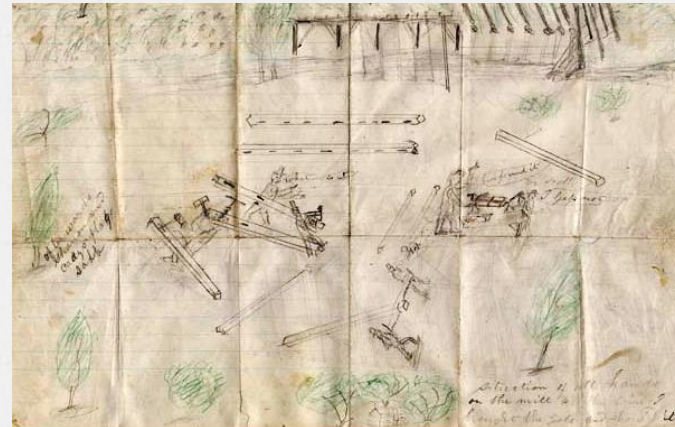
# Manuscripts

- Corporate Records
- Diaries
- Legal Documents
- Letters



# Maps

- o General
- o Sanborn
- o Thomas Brothers





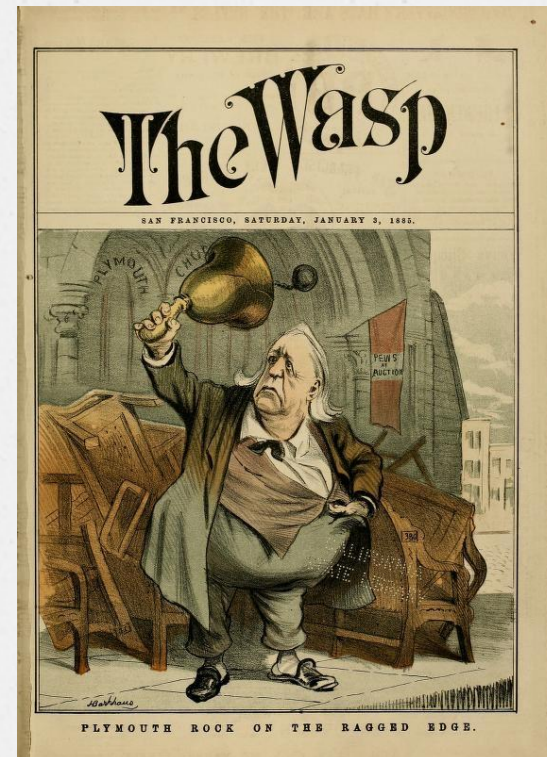
# Newspapers

- o City and County
- o College
- o Internment camp
- o Military



# Periodicals

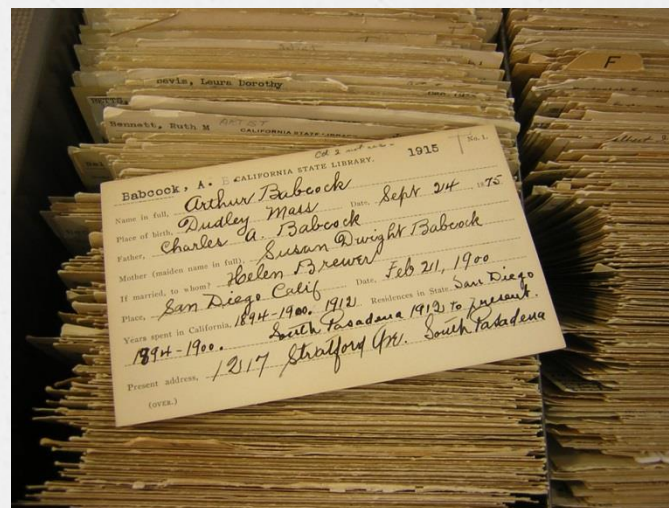
- Trade Journals
- Historical and Genealogical Society Publications
- Museum Circulars
- Academic Journals
- Business Journals
- College Magazines





# Indexes

- o California Information File
- o San Francisco Newspaper Index
- o Biographical Files
- o Pioneer Card File
- o Newspaper Indexes
- o Periodical Indexes
- o Vital Records Indexes



# Conducting Research

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A few pointers





# Starting Out

General Resources:

Books, Indexes, Online

Angles:

Who, What, Where

# Access Points

## Online

- o Catalog  
<http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?>
- o CIF II  
[http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCalinfo.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm)
- o City and County Directories  
[http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCityDir.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm)
- o Telephone Books  
[http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryPhonebk.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm)

## In-Person

- o CIF
- o Portrait File
- o Map File





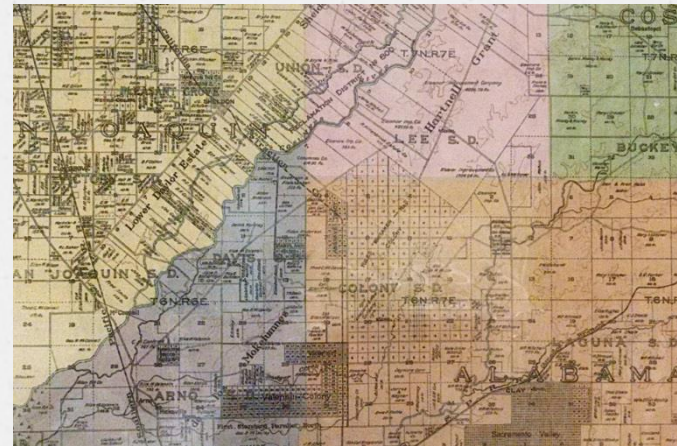
# Wilton

- o Ref. Books
  - o *California's Geographic Names* (Durham)
  - o *California Place Names* (Gudde)
- o Books
  - o Catalog search:
    - o SU=Wilton
- o Indexes
  - o California Info File
    - o Sacramento County: Wilton
- o Online
  - o <http://www.cvrtf.org/html/history.html>



# Results

- o *History of Sacramento County California with Biographical Sketches* (Reed)
  - o Seth A Wilton=Early Founder
  - o Central California Traction Company=Area railroad





# Second Pass

Prioritize research  
List sources to check

# For a Place

## Resources

- Maps
- Histories and EIRs
- Periodicals
- Images
- Directories
- Legal

## Questions

- Uses?
- Re-development?
- Ownership?





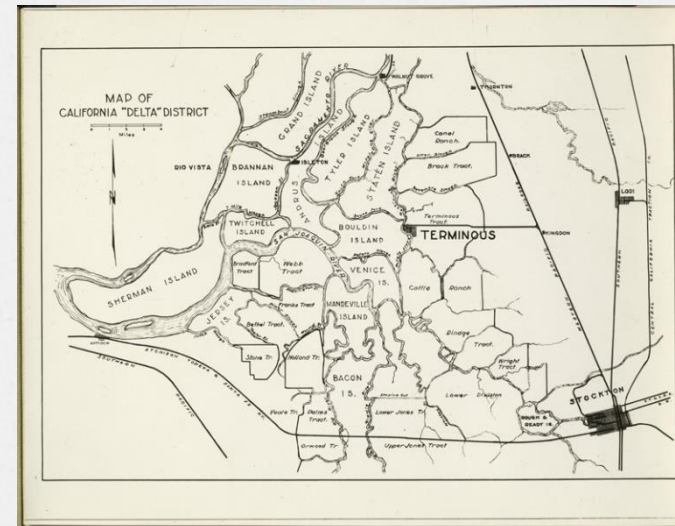
# Central California Traction Company Station

- o Catalog
  - o Sacramento Electric Railroads
  - o Electric Railroads California Fire
  - o Central California Traction Company
- o CIF II (See above)
- o Map File
  - o Sacramento
- o Image File
  - o Sacramento:
  - o Railroads: Name
- o CIF
  - o Railroads: Name
  - o Railroads: Electric: Name
  - o Sacramento Co: Transportation



# Results

- o Multiple newspaper and periodical references
- o References in several books
  - o *California's Electric Railways* (Demoro)
  - o *Encyclopedia of Western Railroad History* (Robertson)
- o Reference in the John Barry Streetcar & Bus Memorabilia Program





# For a Person

- o Resources
  - o Indexes
  - o Directories
  - o Censuses
  - o Papers
  - o Taxes
  - o Legal
- o Questions
  - o Who
  - o What
  - o Where



# Seth Wilton

- o Catalog
  - o Sacramento Indexes
  - o Sacramento Registers
  - o Sacramento Births
  - o Sacramento Directories
  - o Personal name
- o CIF II (see above)
- o City Directories
  - o Sacramento
- o Telephone Books
  - o Sacramento
- o CIF
  - o Personal Name
- o Image File
  - o Personal Name





# Results

- o Mention in *History of Sacramento County California with Biographical Sketches* (Reed)
  - o Talks about upbringing, land and family
- o 1905 City Directory—  
Listed in Arno (formerly Hicksville), was a farmer
- o Same in 1911 city directory



# Events

- o Resources
  - o Histories
  - o Manuscript collections
  - o Periodicals
  - o Images
  - o Vertical Files
- o Questions
  - o What
  - o Who
  - o When





# WWI

- o Catalog
  - o World War 1914
- o CIF II(see above)
- o Image File
  - o War
- o Vertical Files
  - o World War
- o CIF
  - o Sacramento: War: World War I
  - o War: World War I



# Results

- Records of Californians who Served in World War I

- Milford Hooper
  - *31<sup>st</sup> Infantry*
  - *Serving in Siberia*
  - *Also obtained information about his family including parents and wife*





# Fleshing out the Picture

Citation Chaining  
Newspaper research

# Citation Chaining

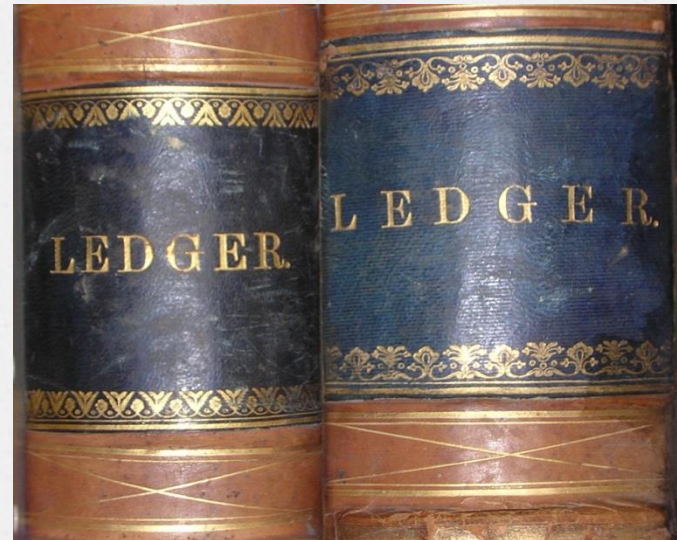
- Citation notes
- Catalog
- WorldCat





# Results of a Search

- Bibliography in Demoro book leads to issue 204 of *The Western Railroader*
- Leads to *Circuit Breaker* (available at the San Francisco Public Library)



# Newspaper Research

- o California Digital Newspaper Collection  
<https://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc>
- o Local papers
- o Newspaper indexes





# The Rest of the Story

- Sacramento Union, 18 December 1912
  - Talks about land subdivisions in the area being sold by railroad president
- Sacramento Union, 29 September 1918
  - Talks about WWI involvement of Seth Wilton who made a point of buying war bonds



# Visiting

Preparation  
Contact Information  
Transit Information





# Before you come in

- o Recommended resources to consult
  - o CIF II
  - o OAC
  - o Library catalog
- o Recommended research tools to pack
  - o ID
  - o Flash Drive
  - o Camera
  - o Quarters for parking etc.
  - o Your notes/notebook
  - o Preliminary list of what you want to see



# Contact Us

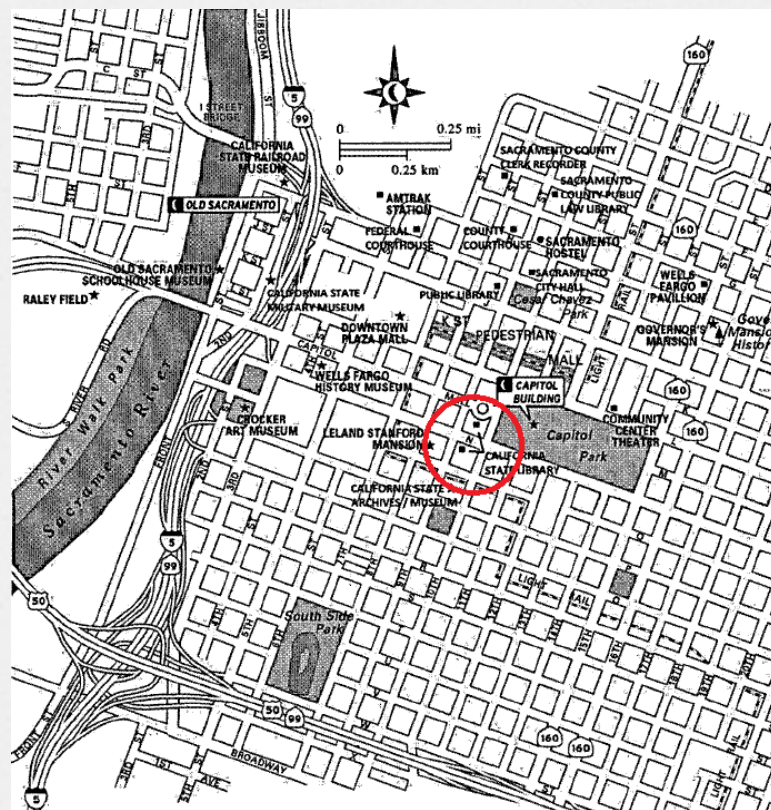
- o 9:30-4 Monday-Friday--Excluding state holidays
- o 900 N Street Sacramento (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- o (916) 654-0176 to reach California History
- o [cslcal@library.ca.gov](mailto:cslcal@library.ca.gov)





# Getting to the Library

- Light Rail stop: “8<sup>th</sup> and O” or “Archives Plaza” (Blue and Gold lines)
- Parking: Street parking or area garages (arrive before 9 for early-bird deals)





# Review

California State Library

Our Materials

Research

Visiting





Questions?