

# CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

## RESEARCH GUIDES

HORSES AND HORSE-RACING IN CALIFORNIA



[Visit Us](#)

California History Section  
900 N Street Room 200  
9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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Are you or have you ever been horse-crazy? Rediscover your love of all things equine. Explore the role that horse-racing, breeding and showing has played in our past in via [California History Section's](#) rich collections!

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ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to horses in California!



### [History Section Display](#)

Our March-April 2017 book and image display focused on horses and horse racing in California. Check the display archive for our post-display booklet.



**URL:** <http://www.library.ca.gov/calhist/ca-display.html>



### [Digitized Images](#)

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images related to horses and horse racing. You can see them on Calisphere!



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

**Type in Search Box:** horse\* OR horse racing OR jockey\*



### [California Horse Racing Board](#)

Curious about the past 20 years of horse racing in California? This site contains industry reports, statistics and more!

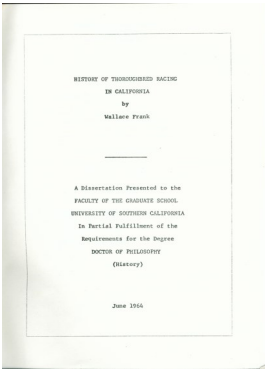


**URL:** <http://www.chrb.ca.gov/index.html>

## GENERAL REFERENCE

Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! If you are interested in horse racing or breeding, these items will point you in the right direction.

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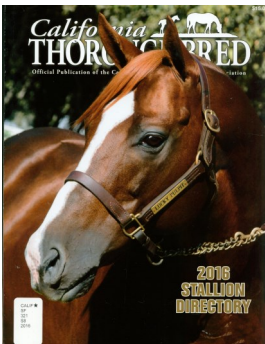
**Frank, Wallace. 1964. “[History of Thoroughbred Racing in California.](#)” University of Southern California.**

This book covers horse racing in California from its earliest period up through the 1960's. In particular it focuses on how horse betting emerged in California, and the growth of gambling regulations surrounding this industry.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D000976891](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000976891)

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**California Thoroughbred Breeders Association. (1997). [Stallion Directory.](#)**

Extending back to the 1950's under various titles, this periodical provides a horse by horse glimpse into California's massive racehorse breeding operations. Learn about the successes of the horse-racing industry, and gain a feel for the international character of horse-trading and breeding by looking at these pedigrees.

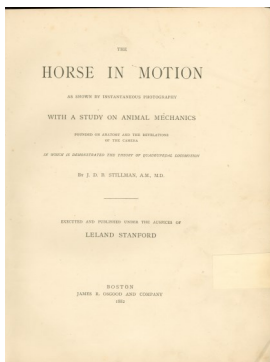


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# RACEHORSE LOCOMOTION

Interested in Muybridge and Stanford's revolutionary study of horse movement? You've come to the right place! Check out these primary sources!

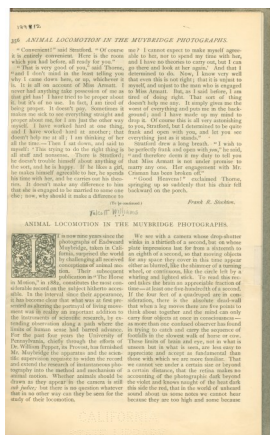


Still, J., & Muybridge, E. (1882). [\*The horse in motion as shown by instantaneous photography, with a study on animal mechanics founded on anatomy and the revelations of the camera, in which is demonstrated the theory of quadrupedal locomotion.\*](#) Boston: Osgood.

In this gem from the 1880's you can rediscover Leland Stanford's and Eadward Muybridge's groundbreaking research on racehorse gaits, a study that transformed human understanding of equine locomotion.



URL: [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D000012242](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000012242)



Williams, T. (1887). [\*Animal locomotion in the Muybridge photographs.\*](#) New York?]: Century Magazine.

With his photography of a Stanford's horses, Muybridge opened new vistas for science. Read about one way in which 19th century scientists built on his research in this periodical article.



URL: [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D0001308118](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D0001308118)

## RANCHO DEL PASO RACING AND BREEDING

The Sacramento area has long played an influential role in thoroughbred breeding and racing. These resources discuss one of our early horse farms.

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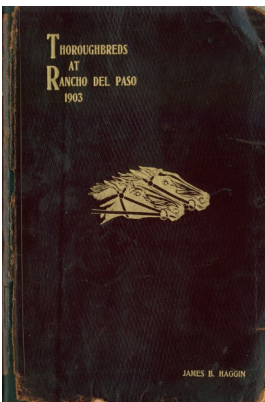
Whitehead, B., & Stanford University Libraries. (1994). [\*Horse racing in Sacramento : A brief history\*](#). Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Libraries.

Curious about the introduction of the pari-mutuel betting system to California? How about the horses at Rancho Del Paso? This slim little booklet provides an overview of horse racing and raising in Sacramento.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001455069](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001455069)

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Haggin, J. (1903). [\*Catalogue of thoroughbreds, stallions and brood mares at Rancho del Paso\*](#), Del Paso, Cal. California?: J. B. Haggin?

With every good breeding operation, there is a subsequent stock sale. Learn about the horses bred and sold at Rancho Del Paso, including their heritage in this sales catalog. You can even find out what races California horses were participating in through this resource.



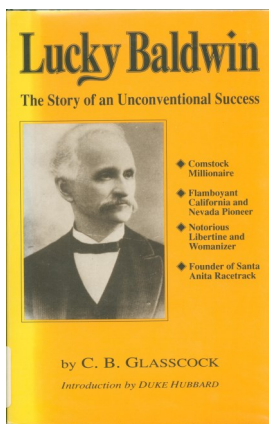
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## RACING AT SANTA ANITA

Curious about this historic Southern California track? Check out our histories or glance at the periodicals documenting races here!

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Glasscock, C., & Hubbard, D. (1993). [\*Lucky Baldwin: The story of an unconventional success\*](#) (New ed.). ed.). Reno, Nev.: Silver Syndicate Press.

The big four may have built railroads, but Lucky Baldwin's legacy is in horseflesh. Read about how this hotelier, investor and sharp-eyed horseman developed one of the most innovative racetracks in 19th century California...Santa Anita.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001120363](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001120363)

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Santa Anita Park. (2000). [\*The ... Santa Anita Handicap\*](#).

Researching the races at Santa Anita? This periodical, which has existed under different names since 1946, will give you more figures, statistics and names than you know what to do with. Learn what horses were running, who was riding and what owners were participating in this annual race .



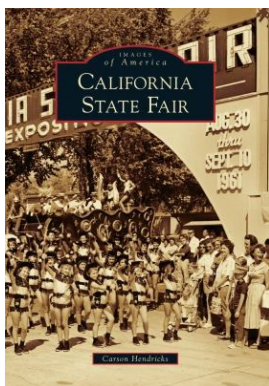
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## RACING AT THE STATE FAIR

Horse racing and the California State Fair, they go together like funnel cakes and powdered sugar! These resources will give you a glimpse of this long partnership

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Hendricks, C. (2010). [\*California State Fair\*](#) (Images of America). Charleston SC: Arcadia Publishing.

Its summer is Sacramento, time to go to the State Fair and watch the horse races! This book uses a combination of images and commentary to document the history of the State Fair, and the horse races that have been a part of it practically since the fair's inception.



URL: [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001416809](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001416809)

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[\*Horse Show: Official Program\*](#), n.d. Sacramento, Calif: California State Fair.

Popcorn, rides and horses? It sounds like the State Fair! See not only what horses were running at the California State Fair in this periodical from the 30's, but also other aspects of the horse show including Dressage and conformation competitions.



URL: [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001408728](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001408728)

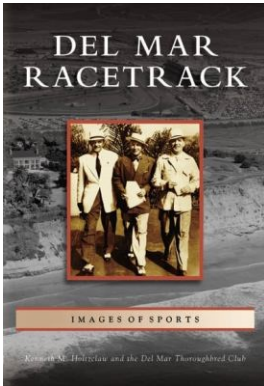
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## RACING AT DEL MAR

Del Mar, the name itself evokes high stakes races. Read more about this racetrack in this resource.

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Holtzclaw, K., & Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. (2006). [\*Del Mar racetrack\*](#) (Images of sports). Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing.

Curious about racing in the San Diego area? Ascribing to the theory that a picture is worth a thousand words, this book uses a combination of action shots and extensive commentary to relate the history of horse racing at Del Mar.



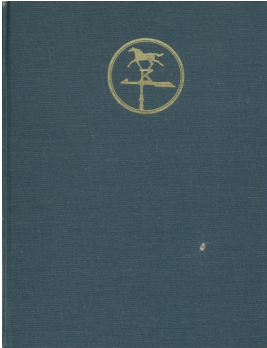
**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001269430](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001269430)

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## ARABIANS AT KELLOGG

Not as interested in horse racing as you are in breeding or showing? Check out these resources on Arabian breeding and showing in Pomona!

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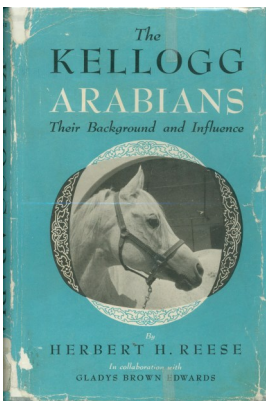
Parkinson, Mary Jane. 1977. [\*The Kellogg Arabian Ranch: The First Fifty Years: A Chronicle of Events, 1925-1975\*](#). El Cajon, Calif: HHR Publications.

Not every book we have on horses focuses on horse racing. Some of them focus on horse breeding as this book does. Here you can learn about another angle of the horse industry, the history of breeding and training pedigreed show animals in Pomona.



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001014431](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001014431)

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Reese, H. (1958). [\*The Kellogg Arabians: their background and influence\*](#). Los Angeles: Borden Pub.

Do you want a second view of the breeding and showing programs at Kellogg? Then check out this earlier book. Here, you can read a slightly different perspective of the man and horses that built this remarkable farm.

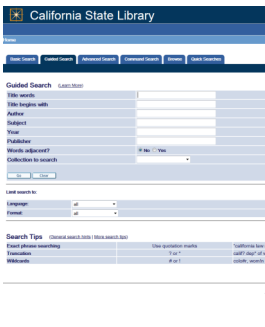


**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D000101094](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000101094)

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## CATALOG GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our books, articles, and manuscripts on horses



The screenshot shows the California State Library catalog search page. It features a header with the library logo and navigation links. Below is a 'Guided Search' section with fields for 'This search', 'Like begins with', 'Author', 'Subject', 'Year', 'Publisher', 'Words adjacent?', 'Collection to search', and 'Limit'. There are also 'Limit results by' options for 'Language' and 'Format'. A 'Search Tips' section is at the bottom, providing instructions on how to use the search fields.

### [Catalog](#)


If you are looking for [images](#), [books](#) and [articles](#) on horses, your best source is our [catalog](#).



**URL:** <http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-a-0>

**Type in Subject Box:** [\(horse\\*\) OR \(Jockey\\*\)](#)

**Limit:** By desired material type



The screenshot shows the California Information File II search page. It features a header with the library logo and navigation links. Below is a search section with fields for 'Keyword', 'Author', 'Title', and 'Date'. There are also 'Submit Query' and 'Reset' buttons. A 'Help' link is provided at the bottom.

### [California Information File II](#)

Sometimes the catalog doesn't provide as much detail as you might like. This is why we created the California Information File II. In this resource, you can find information about individual articles, race fliers, even receipts.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCalinfo.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm)

**Type in Subject Box:** [horse\\* OR jockey\\*](#)

**For a narrower search:** Add a place to your keyword search

## COUNTY-SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Curious about horse breeding and racing in a specific county? While these catalog links don't list all of what the California History Section has, they are a good starting point.



## ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.

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### California Information File

In the library? Check the California Information File before you do anything else! This file indexes over 130 years of California horse racing articles, books, and manuscript collections.



#### Subject Headings:

1. Horse Racing (various subdivisions)
2. Horses: Breeding
3. Turf (Various subdivisions)
4. State: Horseracing Board



### Photographic File

Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words, and not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection search our picture file.



#### Subject Headings:

1. Check by county
2. Check Horse racing
3. Check Animals: Horses

## OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about any horse breeding or racing information contained in the following files

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### Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including horses. You can check them for information on organizations, individuals, horse industries by location, and general horses.



**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians.

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### Postcard Files

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



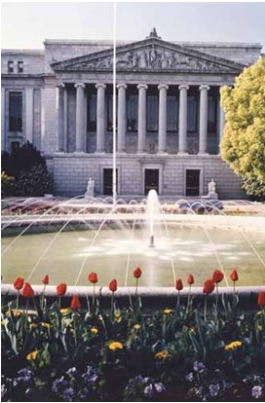
**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians

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## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Of course the California History Section doesn't have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations

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### Other California State Library Sections

[Government Publications Section](#)

[Witkin Law Library](#)

[Sutro Library](#)

[General Information](#)



#### URLs:

- <http://www.library.ca.gov/gps/index.html>
- [http://www.library.ca.gov/collections/law\\_coll.html](http://www.library.ca.gov/collections/law_coll.html)
- [http://www.library.ca.gov/about/sutro\\_main.html](http://www.library.ca.gov/about/sutro_main.html)
- [http://www.library.ca.gov/collections/general\\_coll.html](http://www.library.ca.gov/collections/general_coll.html)



### Other Government Agencies

[California State Archives](#)

[California Horse Racing Board](#)

[California Department of Food and Agriculture](#)

Local California libraries or archives



#### URLs:

- <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>
- <http://www.chrb.ca.gov/index.html>
- <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/>



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