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Researcher's Guide to Mariposa

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This guide was put together to help people research the history of Mariposa. Included are sections on researching land, people, and events. Though these are listed separately, they are all part of one history and all are intertwined to make an interesting study.

Locations of records and information sources in Mariposa are provide herein, but there is more available than what is listed here. Each day more sources and documents are added to the collections, so it would be impossible to keep this document updated.

Internet sources are also mentioned in the booklet, but as you know, these sources change from moment to moment. The Internet is a wonderful and fast source of research, but it depends on those who enter the information, so I encourage you to recheck all Internet sources.

When I first began my researching I was told by an old newspaper writer to verify everything with at least three different sources. This is good advice for all of us.

PRIMARY vs SECONDARY

- **PRIMARY source** are documents, first-hand accounts, or other sources that constitutes direct evidence of an object of study.
- Secondary source are books, articles, or other sources that provides information about an object of study, but does not constitute direct, first-hand evidence.

Newspapers Accounts:

- A Newspaper Account_of an event right after it happens is Primary.
- A Newspaper article about the fiftieth anniversary of that event is Secondary.
- Transcript of an oral interview transcribed years after the actual interview took place is **Primary**
- A History Textbook is a **Secondary source**.

Major Resources in Mariposa County:

- *O* Mariposa Museum and History Center
- *•* Mariposa County Hall of Records
- Mariposa County Library



Mariposa Museum & History Center 5119 Jessie Street, P.O. Box 606, Mariposa CA. 95338-0606 (209) 966-2924, MMHC@sti.net

Founded in 1957, the Mariposa Museum & History Center is administered as a non-profit corporation. It has been dubbed "The Best Little Museum of Its Size West of the Mississippi" by the Smithsonian Institution. The purpose and mission of the Mariposa Museum and History Center is to discover, collect, preserve, interpret, exhibit, and demonstrate the material culture, visual objects and documents that best illustrate the history of Mariposa County. The museum houses a research library for those interested in historical and genealogical research.

The Mariposa Museum and History Center is the home of an ever-expanding archive of historical documents, photos, records and many other items. Appointments are necessary to research the records. Below are just a few of the categories of records.

- Property Tax Records
- Family History Files
- Court Records
- Citizenship Records
- O Coroner's Inquests
- 0 Photos
- County Records
- Hospital Records
- Jail Records
- Newspaper Collections

- Citizenship Records
- Voting Registers
- Land Records
- *O* Brand Registers
- Court of Sessions Records
- John C. Fremont Records
- Judgement Books
- Probate Records
- Mining Records



Mariposa County Hall of Records Mariposa County Recorder 4982 10th Street P.O. Box 35 Mariposa, CA 95338

Mariposa County Hall of Records

The Recorder's Office records documents and files maps, maintaining crossreference indexes to these records. Recorded documents are scanned/microfilmed as a permanent record and the original document are returned to the customer after scanning. All records are indexed by the names of the principal parties to the document and by the year recorded. The records are open for public inspection and copies may be purchased from this office.

Hall of Records information is on Microfilm/fiche with original Index books

- 0 Deeds
- Land Patents
- 0 Maps
- Unrecorded Maps
- Mining Records
- O Proof/Labor
- Quartz Mining Records
- Mortgages
- 0 Liens
- Official Records
- Marriage License
- Ø Birth Records
- Death Certificates
- APN Maps

- Index to Deeds
- Unrecorded Maps
- Index to Birth & Deaths
- 0 Patents
- O Index to Stock Brands & Marks
- Mechanics' Liens
- Military Discharge Papers
- Index to Mine
 - 0 Names
 - *O* Locators
 - 0 Deeds
 - Quartz Records



Mariposa County Library Mariposa County Library 4978 10th St,

Mariposa, CA 95338

The Library hosts the largest collection of Microfilm/Fiche. All of Mariposa's County and Court Records are stored there. The Library has a computerized microfilm reader that can print or save to a thumb drive.

Categories of records at the Library are listed below, but not confined to just these categories.

- *O* Mariposa Newspapers
- Probate Files
- Civil & Criminal Cases
- District Court
- Court of Sessions
- Registers

- Naturalization Records
- 0 Probate
- Disclosure Statements
- Family Law
- And a lot more

Other Source Locations

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Mariposa County Planning Department Mariposa County Supervisor's Office Mariposa County Roads Department Mariposa County Park & Recreation Masonic & Odd Fellows Lodge CalTrans Archives (Sacramento) California State Archives (Sacramento) The Bancroft Library (Berkley) Yosemite National Park Archives North Side Mariposa County Museum

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

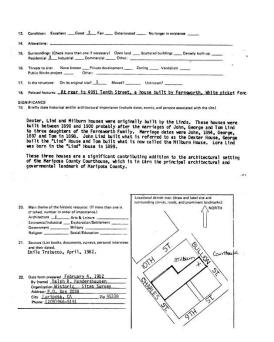
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the largest source of records and documents. It is available directly through appointment at your local Mormon Church or online.
 5546 Hurr 40 N. Marinosa, CA 05238, 1 200,066,5846

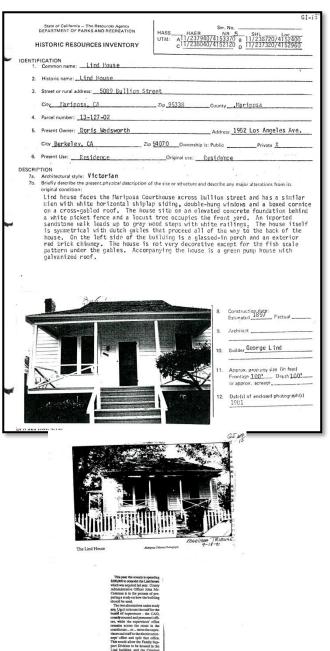
5546 Hwy 49 N, Mariposa, CA 95338, 1-209-966-5846

Mariposa County Planning Department

Mariposa County Planning Department is the holder of the Historic Resources Inventory. This inventory is a collection of historic site information documented by Ralph Mendershausen in 1981/82 as part of a Mariposa County project. The County has recently begun updating the inventory.

Each historic record contains the name of the building, owner as of date of the record, a description of the building or site with a brief history. The inventory covers almost the entire county.





Internet Sources

The Internet is an extraordinary resource. Each day a greater number of sources become available online. It is important to know that the Internet is an **Unregulated Resource**, meaning anyone can post anything at any time. Using information you have not checked could have a detrimental impact on your research.

Internet Sources

- https://www.ancestry.com/ A for Profit Site: A sophisticated sites that harnesses family history and combines billions of historical records and millions of family trees.
- <u>https://cdnc.ucr.edu/</u> Free Site: The California Digital Newspaper Collection contains over 1,500,000 pages of significant historical California newspapers published from 1846-present,
- http://www.mariposaresearch.net/index.html Free Site: Is the local part of the part of the California Historical and Genealogical Societies. It contains user posted information on Mariposa's people and history. It is no longer updated.
- https://www.mariposacounty.org/1573/Agendas-Minutes-Archive Free
 Site: Agendas and Minutes Archive of Mariposa County Board of
 Supervisors and other Local Government agencies. (1852- Present)
- https://bklyn.newspapers.com/# Free Site: Access to the Brooklyn Daily Eagle newspaper, which was published from 1841 to 1955, and Brooklyn Life magazine published from 1890 to 1931.
- <u>https://glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx#searchTabIndex=0</u> Free Site: Provides access to Federal land conveyance records for the Public Land States issued between 1788 and the present. Also images of survey plats and field notes, land status records, and control document index records.
- https://www.findagrave.com/ Free Site: Find A Grave provides information on cemetery and burial sites . It is user based, so the information on the site is collected by individual volunteers
- <u>http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/rugh-rusch.html</u> Free Site: The Political Graveyard is a web site about U.S. political history and cemeteries. Founded in 1996, it is the Internet's most comprehensive source for American political biography.
- https://archive.org/ Free Site: The Internet Archive is building a digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form. Like a paper library, we provide free access to researchers, historians, scholars, and the general public.

Researching Land

A Brief History of Land Ownership

Land Grants:

Before California and other territories were admitted to the United States, other land claims were established through the country that had control of the land at the time. Spanish and Mexican land grants made up large portions of California before it became part of the United States. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 provided that these land grants be acknowledged and respected by the United States. In Mariposa County the "Las Mariposas Land Grant" of Juan B. Alvarado and John C. Fremont was one of these grants. The Grant was a floating grant encompassing 44,000 acres. The "floating" part of the grant caused the largest part of the trouble because until it was properly documented and set down on survey no one was sure of its location. The general location was between the Chowchilla and Merced Rivers and between the San Joaquin and High Sierra Mountains. It was not until 1859 when the survey and courts established the grant permanently.

United States Land Rights:

From the early 1800's there has been controversy over the use of public lands by the citizens of the U. S. The main point was the fear that opening up lands to the public in the western regions would limit the labor supply in the east and south. For years many attempts to allow private ownership of land met with much resistance.

The Act of April 20, 1820, authorized land to be sold for a minimum of \$1.25 per acre and tracts as small as 80 acres. Public lands initially offered for sale by District Land Offices were sold at pre-announced, scheduled public auction. If any land remained unsold, the parcels would be available for purchase at the minimum price on a first-come-first-served basis.

In 1841, the congress passed the **Preemption Act**, which allowed for settlers to stake a claim to a 160-acre parcel. After 14 months of residing on the property the settler could then purchase the property for as little as \$1.25 an acre. The proceeds from the sale of the land would be distributed to each state based on population. The practice of distributing the proceeds of each sale ended in 1842. The Preemption Act ended in 1891.

In 1862, the **Homestead Act** was passed by the 37th Congress and signed by President Lincoln. This bill was very controversial and could only be passed after the South seceded from the Union. The Act provided that 160-acres of unoccupied public land could be taken-up and after completing certain requirements and a small fee, the land would belong to the settler. A settler could only claim one 160-acre parcel by homesteading, but an additional 160 acres of timber could be claimed under the same conditions as the Homestead Act. This was called the **1873 Timber Culture Act.**

The 1878 Timber and Stone Act declared that land unfit for farming could be sold for \$2.50 an acre for those who may want the use of the timber and the stone on the land.

Homestead Process:

File an affidavit of intent and pay required fees Prove up on the land Survey the land Pay the second half of the fees and then receive a Land Patent.

Requirements for Proving a Homestead:

Pay a registration fee of around \$30.00 Be the head of the family, at least 21 years old or a veteran Be a citizen of the U. S. or at least file to be Build some kind of home on the land Cultivate the land (at least 10 acres) Dig a well Fence a specific amount of land Live on the land for at least 6 months every year Do this for 5 years and finalize the claim within 2 years of the finish of the 5-year period or live on the land for 6 months and pay \$1.25 per acre.

Definitions:

Patent – The first entry of ownership or the 1^{st} private ownership of what was public land.

Preemption- The right to government-owned land, before others

Homestead - Land claimed by a settler or a squatter under the Homestead Act

Affidavit of Intent - Legal document to state intent to homestead

State Land States – States in which the State government grants land ownership

Federal Land States - *States in which the Federal Government grants land ownership.*

Over 5 million federal grants have been transferred to individuals since the colonial period. Up until March 2, 1898, the President of the United States signed all original patents. Homesteading is a thing of the past. Congress repealed the Homestead Act in 1976.

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Affidavit of Intent

Homestead Patent



(4-407.) THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Certificate No. 2699} To all to whom these presents shall come. Greeting: No. 1699 Warrens Allest O. Drace of Marine sa Coparty Galifornia has deposited in the General Land Office of the Venited States a Captoparte of the Progister of the Land Office at State to California whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Alter California of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "In Shi making pather program for the sale of the Public Gands" and the Audit of the April 1820 in the sale of the South half the af cipture Marky fire in taxons hip four South of lange augus June to Maridean in California containing of nets supplemental there, for the South praise of file filter West Granding and a single and and a second second second and office by the Surveyor General And Surveyor files of the Surveyor General And Surveyor for the Surveyor General And Surveyor in and the source of the source of the premises, and in configurity with the second Art of Congress in such case made and providing means given and grantering, and og mose prosents av greve and og hold and to bold the same, tegether with all the rights, prividges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatever values thereants belonging, and the said <u>Allell</u> <u>States</u> <u>States</u> <u>and to bold</u> the same, tegether with all the rights, prividges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatever values thereants belonging, and the said <u>Allell</u> <u>States</u> <u>and to bold</u> the same, tegether with all the rights, prividges, immunities, and appurtenances, and to <u>respective</u> <u>and</u> the <u>respective</u> <u>and</u> accurde water rights for mining, aquicitation, how, and decisions of cauts, and rights to dischos and respective in connection with such radies rights, as may be receptived and acknowledged by the local casterns, how, and decisions of cauts, and the solice to the planeter in connection with such radies rights, as may be receptived and acknowledged by the local casterns, how, and the solice for and and to the proprieter in connection with such radies rights as may be receptived and acknowledged by the local testents is interver the forming the former back and and are provided by the planeters. rain of lette to extract and remeve his ere therefrem, should the same be found to produce of intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by lane. In testimony microsof, F. Dingarmin Hand Office to be baseness efficient. Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the Twenty Queen the day of April, ______, in the year of eys Gard one thousand sight hundred and Lagheley, March, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and Later the BY THE PRESIDENT: By <u>A define the Mild and</u>, secretary. Blyftt, Recorder of the General Land Offlee. Recorded, Vol. 16, Page 372

Preemption Patent

Locating Land Records in Mariposa

Patent Lands

Patents are the first document of private land ownership. They are listed in an alphabetical index located at the Hall of Records in Mariposa. The index contains references to the Microfiche files that contain the land descriptions.

Index to Patents:

Grantees	Grantors	Date of Patent	Date Recorded	Book	Page
Dce, John	<i>U.S.A.</i>	6/25/1887	6/25/1892	Number or letter	203

In the Microfiche file there is a division called "Patents" and this is where with the Book number and Page Number you will find the land descriptions along with other information.

BLM Internet Records:

Land Patents are also found through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the General Land Office (GLO). These files are available through the Internet at: <u>https://glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx</u>

Web Services

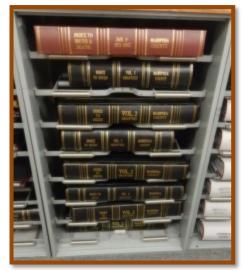
BLM/GLO provides direct access to all of the data on their website. Search operations on each of the major databases (Patent, Survey, LSR, CDI), as well as methods to retrieve detailed information on individual documents are provided on their site.

Search engine for BLM/GLO Land records:

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Index to Deeds:

After a land patent has been issued, ownership of property is transferred through deeds from party to party. These deeds are recorded at the county level and recorded at the Hall of Records in Mariposa. The "Index to Deeds" is recorded in two sections. The first is listed in alphabetical order of the Grantor. The second listed in alphabetical order of the Grantee. In this way they are cross-referenced which make them easier to track. In early years deeds were recorded in the mining records section.





The "Index to Deeds" is also listed by date.

Book 1—1851 to 1882 (2 Books—Grantor and Grantee.) Book 2—1881 to 1901 1 Book—2 Sections Book 3—1901 to 1928 1 Book—2 Sections Book 4—1924 to 1934 (2 Books—Grantor and Grantee.)

Official Records from 1935 until August of 1985 are listed in books that contain the dates in the title. <u>*Example: 1*/1/1954 to 12/31/1956 Grantee.</u> From September 1985 on, Official Records are in computer printouts.

These books contain the following information:

Example:

Grantors	Grantees	Date of Deed	Book	Page
John C. Fremont	Victorio Abiles	2/18/1859	G	57
Victorio Abiles	Louis Feibush	4/25/1863	R	425

In the Microfiche file there is a division called "Deeds" and this is where, with the Book Number and Page Number, you will find the land descriptions along with other information. In the early deeds information is difficult to read and descriptions are not always clear. Land references or "calls" are used which do not exist today. Example: ...property line to continue to the oak tree and then on a direct line to the point of the beginning...

In 1975/76 Mariposa adopted the Appraisal Parcel Number System (APN). All lots and parcels were given numbers according to the system. From 1985 deeds are filed on the computer system and to access these files it is best to ask at the counter.

In the very early years, some of the old deeds are recorded in the mine claim book instead of the deed section.

Definitions:

Grantor—Party selling or relinquishing land

Grantee—Party buying or being granted the land

Deed—The private document that records the transfer of ownership.

Et al—Latin for "and others" used when listing more than one person or heirs

Etux— Latin for "and wife."

Executor –male appointed to carry out the directions and requests in his or her will, and to dispose of the property according to his testamentary provisions after his or her death.

Executrix—female appointed to carry out the directions and requests in his or her will, and to dispose of the property according to the testamentary provisions after his or her death.

Probate Files:

Probate files maybe used to help find property transfers when searching for deed titles. Occasionally when a person died his estate would be probated and divided by the administrator of the estate. Deeds should have been recorded in the deceased's name but sometimes the administrator's name might be used.

At the Hall of Records there is an "Index to Decrees" which span from 1879 to 1933. This is referenced to a microfiche section in the microfiche trays.

The Index to Decrees includes the following information:

Whose Estate, Name of Administrator, Name of Distributees, Date of Decree, In what Court, Where Recorded. The Mariposa County Library also has a probate file in their Microfiche collection. Most of the original probate documents are located at the Mariposa Museum and History Center.

Sheriff Sales:

When property taxes were not paid, the County Sheriff sold the property at auction. When this deed was recorded, the County Sheriff's name would occasionally be used as the "Grantor", instead of the last owner of the property. When tracking Deeds sometimes this is an avenue to check on.

Tax Assessor Records:

Every year the County Tax Assessor would visit each household in the county and make an accounting of each holding. This information was recorded into large books that are found at the Mariposa County History Center.

The information was listed according to which school district the household was in and then by alphabetical order, or close to alphabetical order. The information enclosed in the records depended on the Assessor doing the recording. Some Assessors did a complete listing of assets while others would be very skimpy on their descriptions. This is a great reference source and should be looked into thoroughly.

Understanding Land Descriptions

The United States Public Land Survey System (PLSS) began with the Land Ordinance of 1785. The ordinance provided for the systematic survey and monumentation of the federal lands into townships and sections. The system was largely put in place by 1805, with only minor refinements being made from time to time thereafter. The surveys in California were initiated in 1851, shortly after statehood.

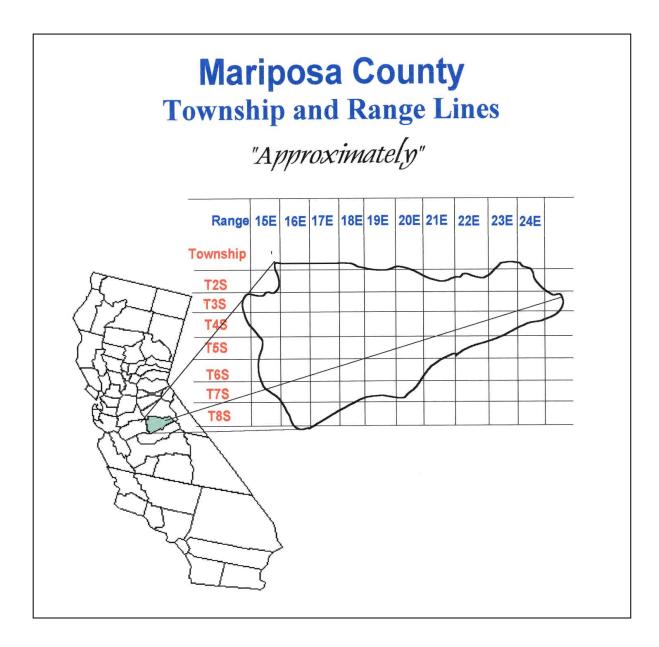
1851 Mt. Diablo Meridian and Survey:

Colonel Leander Ransom, Deputy-Surveyor General, established the initial point of the Mt. Diablo meridian at the mountain's summit, beginning the survey of public lands in California.

There are three survey points in California: Humboldt Base Line and Meridian in Northern California Mount Diablo and Meridian in Central California San Bernardino Base and Meridian in Southern California

l D

Mariposa County is located in the Mount Diablo Meridian between: T1S to T8S—Township 1 south to Township 8 south and R15E to R24E—Range 15 east to Range 24 east



Definitions:

Section: The basic unit of the system, a square tract of land one mile by one mile containing 640 acres

Township: 36 sections arranged in a 6 by 6 system, measuring 6 miles by 6 miles. Sections are numbered beginning with the northeast-most section, proceeding west to 6, then south along the west edge of the township and to the east.

Range: Assigned to a township by measuring east or west of a Principal Meridian

Range Lines: The north to south lines which mark township boundaries

Township Lines: The east to west lines which mark township boundaries

Principal Meridian: The reference or beginning point for measuring east or west ranges

Base line: Reference or beginning point for measuring north or south townships

Public Land States: *States in which the Federal Government is empowered to sell land. (California is a Public Land States)*

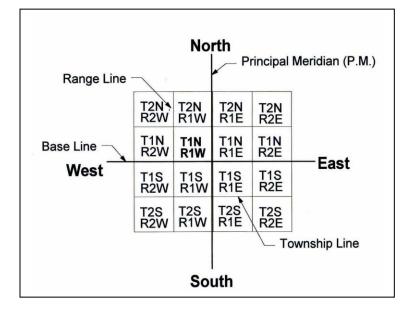
State Land States: *States in which the State Government is empowered to sell land.*

Patent: The title certificate that is issued to a person by the government--the first private owner of the land.

Bench Marks: A location indicated on a durable marker by a land surveyor.

Dower Rights: Refers to a married woman's 1/3 interest in her husband's estate, at his death. This was to protect her from an unscrupulous husband leaving her out of his will, or in the case of no will, she had protection. When a married man sold property, or took a mortgage, the wife had to sign for herself relinquishing her 1/3 interest to the buyer or the mortgagee otherwise she still had a 1/3 interest in someone else's property. Dower Rights was handed down from English common law.

Understanding Land Descriptions

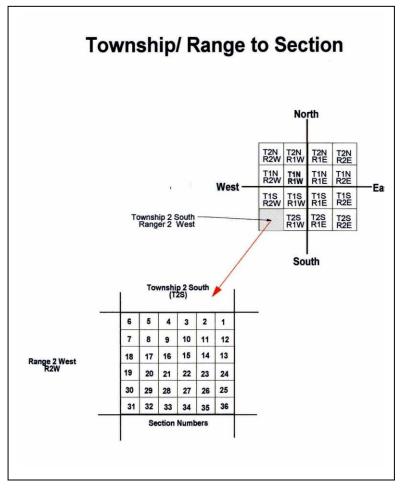


Township and Range are the largest grouping we will be dealing with. The township is named in reference to a Principal Meridian (P.M.) and a Baseline. Mariposa County is under the Mount Diablo Meridian. Mariposa locations are between Township 1 South to 8 South and between Range 15 East to 24 East.

Each Township and Range contains a 6 mile by 6 mile area.

Deviations:

Due to the curvature of the earth, not all township, range and section lines line up in a straight line. Periodically, sections of land are elongated to correct these abnormalities. In many cases the descriptions remain the same but the number of acres contained change.



Sections:

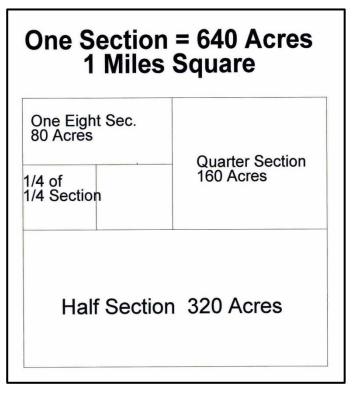
Each township is divided into 36 sections. Each section is one mile square and contains 640 acres. The sections are numbered from 1 to 36 in the order shown in the chart.

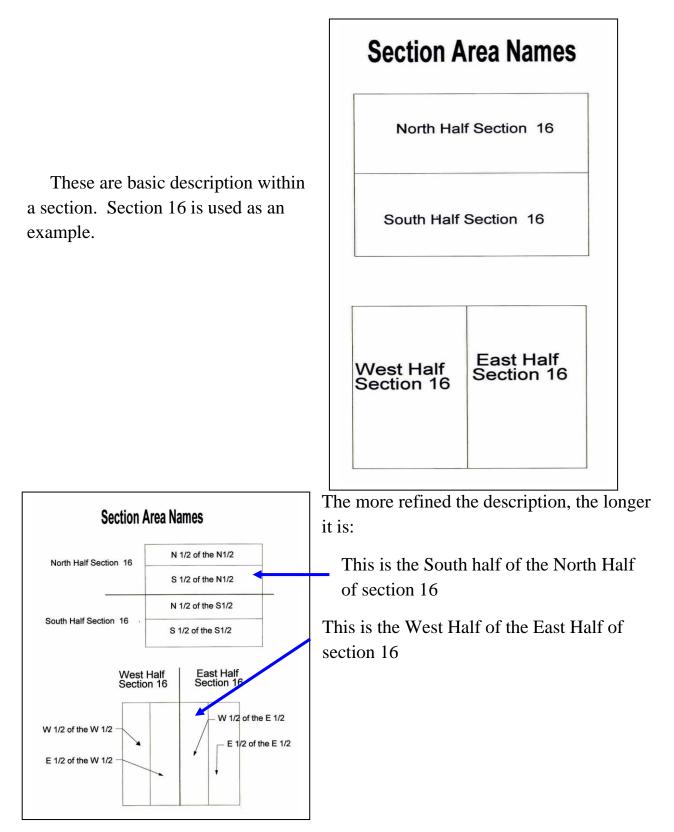
6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

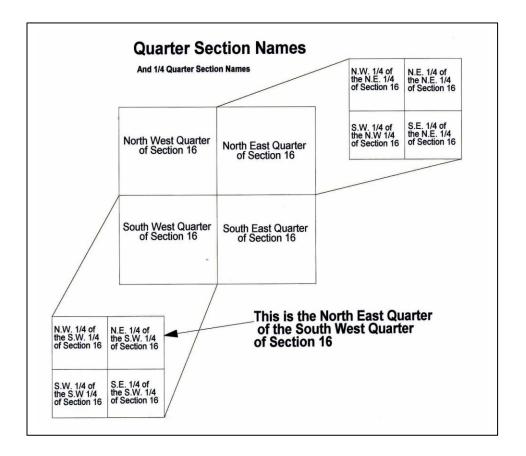
Within each section, the land is referred to as half and quarter sections. A one-sixteenth division is called a quarter of a quarter. The descriptions are read from the smallest division to the largest.

A section is also broken down into acres:

A full section contains 640 Acres.A half section contains 320 Acres.A quarter section contains 160 Acres.An eighth section contains 80 Acres.A sixteen section contains 40 Acres







Locating a Lot Using Land Descriptions:

A land description generally starts with the smallest part of the description and proceeds to the largest definition. For example, NW1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 16, T2S, R2W would be the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 16 in township 2 north and range 2 west. To locate a lot using a land description, you need to work from the largest part to the smallest part.

Step 1

Locate the Range and Township (Working in the proper Meridian)

Step 2

After you have located the correct township, you will next need to find the correct section within that township.

Step 3

Now use the description of the property. (NW1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 16, T2S, R2W)

Survey Measurements:

1 Link = 7.92 Inches
1 Rod = 16.5 Feet
1 Rod = 1 Pole = Perch
5.5 Yards = 25 Links
1 Vara = 33 Inches
1 Chain = 66 Feet =4 Rods = 100
Links
1 Furlong = 660 Feet = 40 Rods
1 Mile = 8 Furlongs = $320 \text{ Rods} = 80$
Chains = 5280 Feet

 Square Rod = 272.25 Square Feet = 30.25 Square Yards
 Acre = 43,560 Square Feet
 Acre = 160 Square Rods
 Acre = Approximately 208.75
 Square Feet
 Acre = 8 Rods X 20 Rods
 (or any two numbers of rods whose product is 160)
 Section = 640 Acres

20 CHAINS BO RODS	20 CHAINS 80 RODS	40 CH	AINS	160	RODS
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Researching People

There are several ways to research people from Mariposa's history. The best place to start is with what you know, or think you know already, and build, or confirm from that. Everyone from history was born somewhere, had family connections, and has died and been buried somewhere. There are several Internet sources that can tell you a lot or at least give you clues to the events of someone's life. Internet sources are not always founded in primary sources, so you must take them with a grain of salt. To make sure that your Internet source is correct you must follow up with corroborating evidence.

Death and Cemetery Records:

Mariposa has several cemeteries throughout the county. Many are indexed, but most of the indexes are of headstones only. Many people have been buried with no headstone, so there is no cemetery record of their death or their burial location. Headstones also deteriorate with time and sometimes are stolen by sick individuals. Indexes maybe found at the Mariposa County Park & Recreation Department or Mariposa Museum and History Center. Findagrave is a good Internet source to help find these people, but always verify.

Cemetery Indexes unusually contain:

• Headstone information

O Parents

 \mathcal{O} Birth – Death dates

Country of Nativity

O Spouse

Many other people were buried on their ranch, homestead or with a short These locations may never be known unless distance of where they died. mentioned in their death certificate, family bible, coroner's inquest, family stories or newspaper. Death certificate indexes are located at the Mariposa County Hall of Records office, but these records only begin in 1873.

Death Certificates usually contain the following information:

0	Names	0	Locations
6	Dates (hirth-death)	6	Cause

- O Dates (birth-death) *o* Cause *o* Family **O** Disposition

Newspaper accounts or obituaries are available online through the California Digital Newspaper Archive. The California Digital Newspaper Collection is a project of the Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research at the University of California, Riverside. A few Mariposa newspapers (1854-1860) are also available at the Internet Archive. The Mariposa Museum and History Center has books of

original newspapers from 1859 to present days, these books, however are not indexed for easy searches. The Mariposa County Library also as a collection of microfilm/fiche of local newspapers. At the History Center and County Library is a collection of books compiled by Tom Hilk of vital records (birth, death, marriages). Each book in this collection has an index in the back.

Obituaries usually contain the following information:

0	Names	0	Family
-	D		D !

0 Dates

O Biography

Coroner's Inquest:

In the early days of Mariposa, if a death of questionable cause was determined a Coroner's Jury would be impaneled. The Jury would be made up of local citizens and over seen by a Justice of the Peace. The Jury would exam the body, circumstances and question witnesses. If foul play were suspected the matter would be turned over to the courts. The Jury would issue a report detailing all information available at that point. Early Coroner's Inquest files are available at the Mariposa Museum and History Center. The County Library also has them on Microfilm/fiche . Unfortunately many of the Coroner's Inquests have been lost to time.

Birth Records:

Birth Certificates in the older days were not commonly issued. Family Bibles, newspaper accounts, headstones, or family stories maybe your only sources. Most of the earlier residents of Mariposa were not born in this county, so you will have to look elsewhere for their records.

- Birth Certificates
- 0 Name
- 0 Parents
- 0 Dates

- 0 Locations
- 0 Witnesses

Census Records:

Census Records began in 1790 in the United States. The law required that every household be visited and that a completed census schedule be posted in two public places within jurisdiction and that the census be transmitted to the President.

California became the 31st state on September 9, 1850 and on October 23, 1850 Mariposa County Sheriff James Burney began the first census of Mariposa County. The last entry of the census was on March 19, 1851.

With the large number of transient adventurers roaming throughout the state, it was felt that the census did not accurately reflect the population of the state. To obtain a better picture of the population and to make sure they would have proper representation in federal government, the state government conducted is own, and only, census in 1852. In Mariposa County, the census was conducted between June 10, 1852 and October 26, 1852.

Census Categories:

The data collected with each census varied from census to census, but the major questions are always the same. This data can give you approximate birth dates, names of family members, sex, color, profession and birth place and a lot more information depending on the questions asked that year. Spelling in the census records was sometimes questionable. Census Records are available from a number of sources in Mariposa including the Library, History Center and Hall of Records. The data is also available online in several locations.

ion the	20			CACRIPT	non.
Dwelling-houses numbered in order of visitat	Families numbe in the order visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual plac of abode on the first day of June, 1850, we in this family.		Set.	Color, Shink, or
1	. 9	sarra s k V	. 4	5	6

Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate Owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.		Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
7 .	8	9	10	11	19	13

Citizenship Records:

If by some chance the person you are studying proclaimed his citizenship in Mariposa there should be records of that in Mariposa. The History Center and Library have the citizenship documents. In the early days, the Citizenship declaration would be included in the Court of Sessions minutes.

The Declaration of Intention to become a citizen started when the County was formed. The information included in the record was very limited in the early days.

It was not until the early 1900's when information of where the person came from, nationality and names of those verifying the person as worthy of becoming a citizen was demanded. Through the years the laws changed and other members of a family were included in the citizenship application. More information was demanded and recorded giving more credence to the application. There was more detail information given during the 1920's to 1940's and then became less detailed through Those who arrived today. through Ellis Island in the

Monday Morning Clep 6 150 Count of Sefaren for Mariperation met pursuant to adjournment Benderant Judges M. Micher Especial the W. Clark under Sheriff and Cond Bell clerk Ordered by the Court that thech Hours a Venine Tracina to the Sherill to be ers thirty dis good and lawful mere to the as Grand furere at this terms of the court to Sind, and Carl Find matines of christing Rufin appeared in Court intentione to become citizene of the M States of america, of Which the fello of choseph Sind the Count of ino, do by the Court of Sessions Minutes--Page 50

1940's had pictures taken and more information added. They were checked by a physician and declared healthy or returned to the ship for the trip back home. The laws for admission to the United States change regularly to today.

Probate Records:

Probate Records are a good source for finding about individuals. If an individual died in Mariposa, probate records were often recorded no matter the size of the estate. An inventory of the estate along with a will or disposition of the estate should be included in the probate file. The contents of the probate file, though mandated by ordinance, differ for each individual depending on the work of the executor. Most times, the estate was converted to cash and bills charged to the

estate paid. If no heirs were known, or present, to oversee the estate, the Public Administrator would be engaged to handle the matter

What you may find in a Probate File:

- wills
- estate inventories, or lists of assets
- appointments of executors or administrators
- administrations, or documentation of the distribution of assets
- petitions for guardianship of minor children
- lists of heirs
- lists of creditors or accounts of debts

Probate files are located at the Mariposa County Library and at the Mariposa Museum & History Center.

Marriage Certificates:

Marriage Certificates are found at the Mariposa Hall of Records and Mariposa Museum and History Center.

Marriage Certificates usually contain names, parents, dates, locations, and witnesses.

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Hall of Records-Marriage Index

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Researching Events

Most historical events in Mariposa can be found in the newspaper archives, but that is not the only source. Family diaries, bibles, letters or other accounts are also great sources for events. Not all events are historic; small events with in the family can be of great significance and provide clues as to their future actions.

There are manuscripts that have not been published or highlighted that give great insight to an event. Many published accounts are related from the viewpoint of the writer of the article and the manuscript re-interpreted by those who reproduce that account. That is why we need to go back to the original source to see the intention of the original document. We tend to view history from our own point of view, which is much different from those who lived it.

The Mariposa Museum and History Center has many account of individuals, some already published, and some still in manuscript form. Most can be found in the Museum's family files. Many times there are accounts of individuals not visibly related to your subject that can give insight to the time. Sometime diaries, letters or other accounts of neighbors will show there impact on your subject

Government entities produce a large supply of documents and usually keep track of current events. Court transcripts, criminal case, surveys, and Court of Sessions and Supervisor's Minutes are some of the source that will help put things in to context. The Mariposa County Library has microfilm/fiche of all most every county government record produced. The Museum has most of the original books.

Today photographs are taken as a whim, but in the past photographs were taken for a purpose. Prior planning and set up were required to take pictures. Photo can provide dates, names and location to events. Photographs also make our research more interesting and help us bring to life our research. The Mariposa History Center has a large collection of photographs that are in the process of being digitized.

Oral history is a significate source in researching. It takes a lot of preparation to interview individuals. What and how to ask the proper question along with knowing how to direct the conversation are key factors. Oral history a based on human memory and that may change from time to time. The subject may recall clearly what happened or what was told to them, in one moment and then get off track and confuse the question with other events. You almost have to know the answer before asking the question to keep the subject focused. It is so easy to get off track. There are several interviews on file at the Mariposa History Center that have recently been digitized and placed on the internet at archive.org.

Sources for Events:

- 0 Newspapers
- 0 Businesses
- 0 Biographies
- Life Events
- 0 Arrests
- Obituaries
- 0 Marriages
- County Records
- 0 Birth Announcements
- Manuscripts
- Family Files at Mariposa Museum & History Center.
- Court Records
- Family Stories

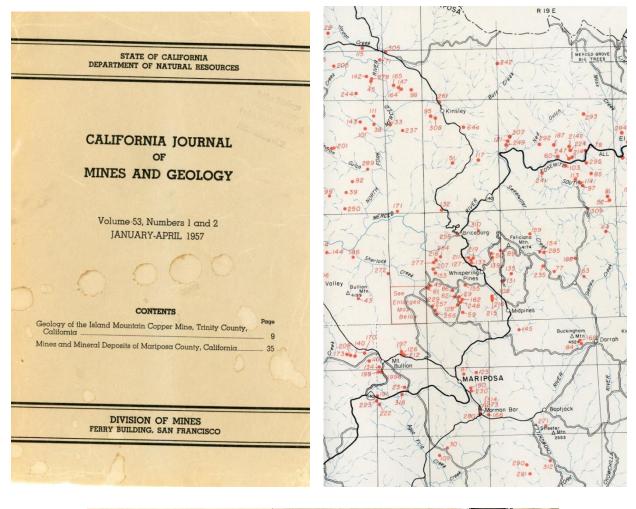
- Ø Government Records
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 - Court Records
 - *O* County Records
- History Books
- *O* Oral History
- Arrests records
- Family Files at History Center
- *•* Family Bibles

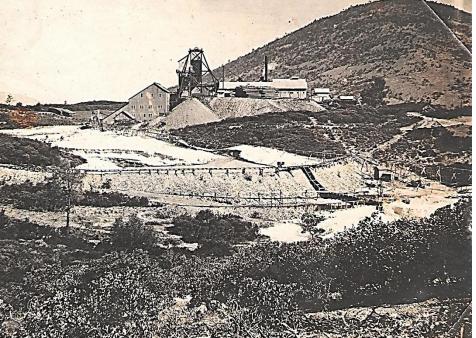
Mining Records

Mariposa's history is based on mining. Thousands of mines were located throughout the county. Documentation of the first mining claims was just a piece of paper posted on the site of the mine. As government in Mariposa became into existence, and more miners showed up in the county, a more permanent and legal documents were required.

To document ownership of a mine, the county would record documents that would include locations, names, partnerships and continuing proof of the claim. Most of these documents are found in microfilm/fiche at the Hall of Records. The Mariposa Museum and History Center also has files on mines.

A good secondary source for mine information and location in Mariposa County is the *California Journal of Mines and Geology*, Vol 53, #1 & 2, January-April 1957. The book contains description and history of many of Mariposa's larger mines. The book also includes a corresponding map of mines in Mariposa County.





This booklet was put together to help researchers become familiar with the resources available in Mariposa County. As you continue to research, I am sure you will find other sources and locations of historical information. Please let us know what you find and consider adding your research to the files at the Mariposa Museum and History Center.

There are 3 appendix attached to this booklet which includes listing of the files currently available at the:

Mariposa Museum and History Center Mariposa County Library and Mariposa County Recorder's Office.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR RESEARCH

Year	Description	Notes
1860	8th Census of the U.S.	
1881	Abstract of Ass. Book of County	
1888	Abstract of Ass. Book of County	
1880-98	Abstract of Assessment Rolls	
1880	Abstract of Mortgages, etc.	
1883-91	Accounts County Hospital #1	
1923-39	Allowance Book 7 Board of Supervisor	
1873-1941	Allowance Book Vol. 1-9	
1852-1971	Article of Incorporation	
1858-1909	Assessment Rolls Index	
1854-1976	Assessment Rolls List	4 yr. in one Volume
1890-1935	Auditors Blotter	
1911-1915	Auditors School Fund Acct # 1	
1883-1901	Blotter	
1800?	Board Of Super. Minutes	Folders 1 - 86
1850'S	Bonds A-Z	
1867-1867	Book C Cert of Citizenship	
1867-1877	Book D Cert of Citizenship	
1877-1880	Book E Cert of Citizenship	
?	Book of Quartz Record	
1938-1957	Budget Control & Disbursement M. H. S.	
1800?	Cert of Tax Sales	
1893	Cert. Of Sales for Non Payment Tax's	
1859-1894	Certificate of Registration	Land Claims A - Z
1897-1899	Certification of Location of Placer Claims - 1	
1897-1911	Certification of Quarts Mining Claims - 1	
1867	Certification of Tax Sales A	
1934-1935	Chattel Mortgages - 2	
1928-1962	Citizen Petition for Naturalization	
1932-1976	Citizen Petition Grants	
1851-1906	Citizenship Declarations of Intentions	A-Z
1905-1907	Co. Atten Inheritance Tax Record	
1850-	Coroner's Inquest A - B	A-Z
1889-1954	Coroner's Register	
1979	County Asset Report	
1900-1906	Cunningham Co Acct.	
1886	Day Book	
1972-1957	Declaration of Intention Citizen	
1865-1967	Delinquent Assessment List	
1872-1880	Delinquent Redemption List	
1896	Delinquent Tax Sales _ 2	
1876-1978	Dental, Physicians & Pharmacists Cert. Mariposa Co.	

Mariposa Museum & History Center

Year	Description	Notes
1907-1929	Dept. of Commerce & Labor	
1858-1882	Duplicate Assessment List	
1880-1953	Fee Book	
1862-1963	Gagliardo Day Book	
1860-1896	Great Register - Free Inhabitant	
1905-1911	Guest Reg. Mariposa Hotel	
1868-1872	Hay Weights Receipt Book	
1914	Hospital Register	
1800?	Index Certificate of Sales	
1815-1903	Index Declaration Of Naturalization	
1861-1897	Index of Attachments	
1853's	Index of Board of Super. Minutes 1-86	
1887-1894	Index Superintendent Minutes	
1868-1896	Index to Assessment Rolls	
1909-1928	Index to Cert. Of Citizens	
1887	Index To Certificate of Sales	
1880's	Index to Supervisors Minutes	
1891-1912	Inmates County Hospital	
1850's	Insanity List	
1929-1935	Intention to Marry	
1917-1920	Judges Minutes	
1856-1898	Jury List # 1, #2,#3	
1882-1889	Ledger (store Account List probably from Hornitos)	
1900-1906	Ledger # 2 Butcher Shop	
1900-1907	Ledger Book # 32	
1910-1911	Ledger Book # 37	
	Ledger Schlageter Hotel	
	License Book County	
	License to Carry Concealed Pistol	
-	Mariposa Co Census (Cards in File Box)	
1907-1950	Marriage License	
1852-1873	Marriage License A - Z	
1956-1966	Merced Mining	
1872-1889	Military Lists	
1054 1050	Minutes of Board of Session (List of Co.	
1954-1959	Appointments Miss Warranta - D Auditor	
1911-1928	Misc. Warrants - B Auditor	
1880-1903	Naturalization of Citizenship	
1899-1947	Notarial Records	
1892-1901	Notarial Records (J. J. Trabucco)	
1018 1026	Notice by Owner non- responsible for Labor & Improvements - 1	
1918-1936 1942-1943	Pacific Mine Co. Payroll	
1942-1943	racine wille Co. Payroli	

Year	Description	Notes
1927-1946	Personal Property Assessment List	
1967-1969	Petition for Naturalization	
1890-1972	Precinct Registers	
1897-1899	Preliminary Location of Placer Mining Claims - 1	
1897-1911	Preliminary Location of Quarts Miming Claims	
1958-1984	Public Administrators Record - 3	
1946-1947	Receipts of Auditor Office	
1875-1892	Record - Co. Surveyors	
1916-1925	Record Bk MCHS Student/ Sub & Grades	
1904-1906	Record Of Naturalization	
1904-1917	Record of Orphans on State Aid	
1870?	Record of Tax Sales	
1874-1891	Sales Tax Vol. 1, 3	
1854-1856	Separate Property Claims for Woman	
?	Sheriffs Certificates of Sale A - Z	
1883-1920	Sheriff's Fee Book	
1896-1915	Sheriff's Register of Actions	
1935	St. Board of Equal. Asset Roll	
1856	Status of Ca. Page 183 Fresno County Created	
1856	Status of Ca. Page 21 Mariposa Board of Supervisors	
?	Story Written by J. K. Tuley of Usona	
1866-1869	Subsequent Assessment Rolls	
1935-1938	Suspension Of Mine Assessments Work	
1907-1919	Tax Collector Book	
1873-1876	Tax Collector Records	
1870-1893	Tax Deeds # 1-15	
1854-1859	Tax List Sales Book H	
1800?	Transcripts of Judgements A - E	
1800?	Transcripts of Judgements F - L	
1892-1894	Treasurer's Blotter	
1927-1978	Treasurer's Cash & Fund Ledger -1-6	
1895-1910	Treasurer's Ledger	
1905-1920	Treasurer's Ledger Vol. 1	
1897-1908	Treasurer's Ledger Vol. 2	
1911-1926	Treasurer's Ledger Vol. 5	
1959-1966	Treasurer's Register of Warrants	
1903-1908	Treasurers School Fund Act	VOL. 4
1946-1970	Unsecured Assessment Rolls	
1920-1930	Untitled Black 7 ring loose-leaf w/ Proof of Births	
1965-1976	uoc Index to Fin. Stat. & Related Inst. A-Z	
1895-1896	Warrant School Funds	
1896	Warrant School Funds	
1878-1897	Warrants for Payments A - Z	
1858-1891	Writ Of Att. A - Z	

Mariposa County Library

TRAY	CLASSIFICATION	Files
TRAY 1	CIVIL	Case No. 1-18, No. 33-1899 [filed by case number]
TRAY 2	CIVIL	Case No. 1900-5899 [no actions filed under No. 2100-2999; there is no No. 5008]
	CIVIL	Case No. 5900-6194 [1981-1990 index at courthouse; no index to previous years]
	CIVII	Selected cases from 984, 1902-5359
TRAY 3	CIVIL DEPOSITIONS	Misc. Appeals & Writs:
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TRAY 5	CRIMINAL	Case No. 1-1359 [filed by case number; 1854-1990 index at courthouse]
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		Certificates of Authenticity:	
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