

Online Research Tour to the Valley of the Heart's Delight
Researching in Santa Clara County
by: Junel Davidsen, CG

- A. San Jose Main Library, 150 E. San Fernando St., San José, CA (parking garage across street, \$)
<https://sjpl.org/> (site or search catalog)
 - 1. 5th Floor
 - a. California Room <https://sjpl.org/caroom> (Tu-Fr 11-6, Sat 1-6)
 - o Non-circulating reference
 - o Digital Collections
 - o Online index (include scrapbooks, clipping file, History San José, etc.)
 - 2. Lower Level, Periodicals
 - a. Newspapers on microfilm, various dates & locations, articles including obituaries
 - o Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose; also Los Angeles, New York, St. Louis
 - o Some indexes available also, search catalog for 'newspaper index'
- B. Santa Clara City Library, 2635 Homestead, Santa Clara, CA (parking front & underground, free)
<http://santaclaraca.gov/government/departments/library>
 - 1. 2nd Floor
 - a. Central Genealogy (non-circulating reference)
 - b. Microform (film & fiche)
 - o Periodicals (various locations)
 - o Local funeral homes, cemetery records and other <http://scchgs.org/main/projects.html>
 - 2. Heritage Pavilion & reading room
 - a. 'Early Settler Files' <http://scchgs.org/es/esindex.htm>
 - o Clipping file, newspaper articles
 - o Files with information submitted by descendants of early settlers
 - b. Great Registers, 1876, 1886, 1892 (locked cases, one of a kind or fragile items)
- C. Santa Clara Family History Center, 875 Quince Ave, Santa Clara, CA (free parking, side entrance)
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Santa_Clara_California_Family_History_Center
 - 1. Local microfilms, including Bay Area
 - a. Santa Clara County, Wills, 1850-1912
- D. History San José, 1650 Senter Rd, San Jose; appointment research@historysanjose.org (free parking)
<http://historysanjose.org/wp/research-collection/research-library/>
 - 1. 'Guide to History San José and Archives Holdings'
Subjects include cemeteries: Oak Hill (ca 1860-1910) & Santa Clara Mission; maps of ranchos, land grants, New Almaden quicksilver mines; manuscripts of Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe from 1789
 - 2. 'Search collections,' examples
 - a. Santa Clara Probate, 1849-1913 (also guardianships of minors/few adoptions, incompetents)
 - b. Santa Clara Real Estate Records, 1850-1906 (bulk)
 - c. Santa Clara Sheriff's Mug books, 1874-1941
- E. Santa Clara Archives, 1875 Senter Rd, San Jose; appointment Archives@rec.sccgov.org (free parking)
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/archives/finding-aids/databases/Pages/home.aspx>
 - 1. 13 Searchable Databases, examples (also map books, naturalization index, military, etc)
 - a. Santa Clara Coroner's Inquests, 1891-1932
 - b. Santa Clara Probate, 1893-1908, probate vouchers (various dates)
 - c. Santa Clara County Doctor's certificates, 1916-1943

Santa Clara County online tour, continued

F. Santa Clara Recorder's office, 70 W. Hedding, San Jose (1 hr. parking, free)

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rec/Pages/Office-of-the-Clerk-Recorder.aspx>

1. Vital records *Note: Can view document onscreen if information known*
 - a. Birth, Marriage, Death
2. Land records from 1850
 - a. Older indexes and documents on 'Digital Roll'
 - b. Documents from 1981 - computer indexed/documents on-screen

G. Case Studies, examples of items found

1. What happened to Mary Gardner, wife of Leonard Reynolds?
 - a. Deed research, Recorder's office
 - b. Marriage, Santa Clara City Library microfilm
 - c. History book, San Jose Library
 - d. Probate file, Santa Clara Archives
2. Where was Yamaguchi's strawberry farm in Gilroy?
 - a. Deed research, Recorder's office
 - b. Various sources, including Reception Center records (San Bruno Archives)
 - c. Neighbors' locations (online)
 - o 1942 Voter registration, 1930 U.S. census, *Ancestry.com* (before release of 1940 census)
 - d. More deed research > property location > Assessor's map (online)

Also see:

- o Online Archive of California, OAC, <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>
- o Special Collections, <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/specialcollections> (M-Th 11-5, Fr 11-5, Sat 1-5)

Featured research locations below, spotting map (approximate):

