

West Side Pioneer Association Membership Application

The West Side Pioneer Association operates the Tracy Historical Museum and works to document and preserve Tracy's history, including such projects as the Historic Lammersville School. If you would like to join the West Side Pioneer Association and the Tracy Historical Museum, or make a donation to our historical preservation efforts, please fill out the form and return it to the West Side Pioneer Association. Members receive our periodic newsletter. We also provide for memorial donations. If you have any questions, please call or write.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Make checks payable to West Side Pioneer Association. Return to West Side Pioneer Association, PO Box 117, Tracy, CA 95378.

Annual Membership Dues

JANUARY—DECEMBER

Adults	\$10.00	Couple	\$15.00
Students	\$5.00	Organization	\$10.00
Commercial	\$20.00		
Lifetime Membership	\$150.00		

West Side Pioneer Association

PO Box 117

Tracy, CA 95378

209-832-7278 email: tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net

The West Side Pioneer Association generally meet on the

3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Lolly Hansen Center.

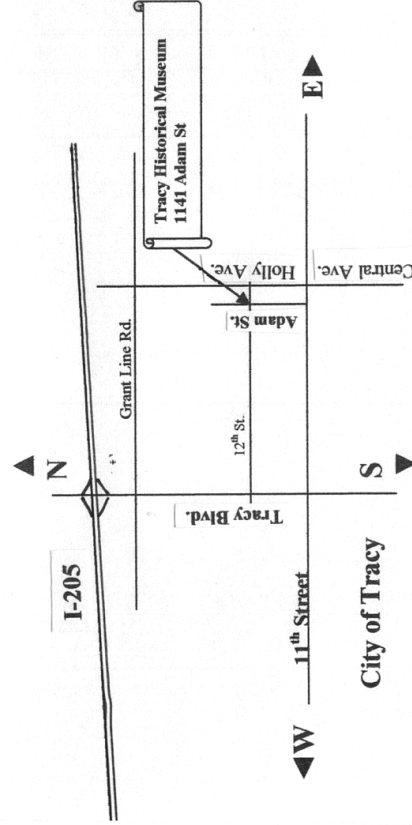
Tracy Historical Museum

1141 Adam Street

Tracy, CA 95376-2546

209-832-7278

email: tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net



Call the Museum to schedule weekday tours for groups.

City of Tracy Founded September 8, 1878

In the 1870s, two railroads—the Southern Pacific and Central Pacific—merged to become the Southern Pacific Company. Ellis, a coaling station at the foot of the Altamont hills, was moved three miles to the east to the point where the rail lines connected. On September 8, 1878, the City of Tracy was founded at the track crossing or ‘Bow Tie.’ Tracy is believed to be named after Ohio grain merchant Lathrop J. Tracy.

Tracy remained a regional railroad town and local commerce center for surrounding farms and ranches into the 1970s, when growth in the bay area started to spill over the Altamont and turn the small town of Tracy into the city of today.

Tracy Historical Museum

Welcome to the Tracy Historical Museum. Experience some of the people, places and events that are part of our history and that of the rich San Joaquin Delta region of California.

The West Side Pioneer Association operates the Tracy Historical Museum. In 2003 the museum moved into its new home at 1141 Adam Street. Originally the former post office built in 1937, the building became the Joe Wilson Recreation Center in 1967, named after the long time parks director. Today, the renovated building continues its community service as our historical museum.

Rev. 3/12

TRACY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



Dedicated
March 30, 2003

www.TracyMuseum.org

Tracy's history follows much of California's. First inhabited by Native Americans, by the early 1800s much of the land around Tracy was part of Spanish and Mexican haciendas, then, later in the century, railroad land grants. As parcels were sold and remaining land homesteaded, farmers and ranchers, many of them immigrants, set up stake in the area.

The Yokuts were the Native Americans who lived in the San Joaquin Valley around Tracy. Their lives revolved around the wet and dry seasons, relying on food and water from the rivers, acorns from the valley oaks and small wild game. As with other native Californians, they were displaced by the settlers and fell victim to their diseases.



Artifacts from local Native American culture and other collections — such as mortar and pestle grinding stones

In the late 1860s, the “Salana”, captained by John Collins, sailed railroad ties to Mohr's Landing used to build the first tracks through the valley. John was the father-in-law of Adolph Linne and grandfather of Wilma Linne Frydendahl, dry land farmers south of town near present day Linne Road.

Tracy was a railroad town, the hub for three main lines built between the 1869 and the late 1880s – Central Pacific's route from Sacramento over the Altamont, through Niles and then by ferry to San Francisco; Southern Pacific's line from Oakland around the bay through Martinez; and SP's line through Los Banos to Los Angeles. By 1894, the railroad headquarters was moved from Lathrop to Tracy. Jim Eagan, a railroader who originally worked at the Ellis stop before it was moved to the Tracy hub, was probably Tracy's first resident. His sons are buried in the Tracy Cemetery.



WPA (Works Progress Administration) era painting by Edith Hamlin saved from 1937 post office, now Tracy Historical

In the latter half of the 19th century, agriculture took hold, first with sheep grazing, moving flocks between the hills and valley, then with farming as the Delta levees were built and river irrigation established. Sheep ranches largely gave way to cattle around World War I. Farming, even on the drier west side of the valley, flourished with varied crops like barley, tomatoes, and nuts, and large processing plants. By the 1950s, agriculture was Tracy's main industry.

The early settlers in Tracy were pioneers, scraping an existence out of the land. Throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, Tracy remained relatively small and isolated, reaching only 11,000 as late as the 1960s. Life in town was focused on commerce to support the railroads and surrounding farms and ranches. The railroads brought a rough transient style, including bordellos and gambling that lasted into the late 1950s. Farmers and merchants provided more stability, working with the cycles of the crops.



Kitchen display of household goods from late 19th—early 20th century, among period photographs, artifacts and memorabilia from Tracy's railroad and farming heydays

Off of a railroad spur in the hills southwest of Tracy, the towns of Tesla and Carnegie once stood. During about 1895-1910, Tesla mines provided coal that fueled Carnegie furnaces making bricks used in the bay area and Los Angeles. Today, the once booming towns of 3000 people and the tracks are gone, leaving only a historical marker.

Throughout the mid-1900s the Tracy area was again transformed with construction of major public facilities serving the region and state, including the San Francisco Hetch Hetchy Water Tunnel, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Site 300, Tracy Defense Depot, California Aqueduct, Delta-Mendota Canal, Del Norte Vocational Institute, Carnegie SVRA, and I-5 and I-205 interstates.



35 star American flag that flew over schooner Salana, sewed in 1860s by Ana Collins, wife of Capitan John Collins , one of many museum pieces from prominent citizens

Like all communities, Tracy's prominent citizens helped shape the community. One of the oldest items in the museum is the writing box carried by farmer Martin Lammers, namesake for Lammers Road and Lammersville School, who was Tracy's first State Assemblyman in 1875. Also on display are the medical tools from Dr. Allan Powers, who opened his practice in 1920 and Dr. J.E. Longley who came to Tracy in the 1930s. Today, an old steam engine is on permanent display in Dr. Powers Park.