



Tracy Historical Museum
West Side Pioneer Association

History Seminar Series

A California Gold Rush Woman: Louise Clappe's Letters from the Feather River, 1851-1852

Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 7:00 pm

Tracy Historical Museum, 1141 Adams Street, Tracy

Speaker: Marlene Smith-Baranzini

Join Marlene Smith-Baranzini for a discussion about the life and times of Louise Clappe, who lived in a Gold Rush town on the Feather River in 1851 and 1852. Ms. Smith-Baranzini, who lives in Tracy, edited the most recent edition of *The Shirley Letters from the California Mines*, and will talk about “Dame Shirley” among the miners, and how the rediscovered letters have become a classic of California history and literature.

About *The Shirley Letters from the California Mines*



In January 1850, Louise Amelia Clapp[e], age twenty-nine, and her husband, Dr. Fayette Clapp, arrived in San Francisco by ship. By the fall of 1851 they were living in a lucrative mining camp in the narrow Feather River canyon, high in the northern Sierra. Located some 25 miles west of present-day Quincy, the small mining community of Indian Bar became their home for the next sixteen months. While Dr. Clapp stitched up wounds and dispensed medicines, Louise wrote.

Marlene Smith-Baranzini is editor of the *Overland Journal*, the quarterly history magazine of the Oregon-California Trails Association headquartered in Independence, Missouri. A former English teacher and school counselor, Marlene served as associate editor of the *California History* quarterly and has written or edited several works of American history, including (editor) of *The Shirley Letters from the California Mines* and co- author of the five-volume U.S. Kids History Series. Marlene lives in Tracy and can be reached by email at tealblue1@gmail.com .

*Sponsored by West Side Pioneer Association and Tracy Historical Museum
Tracy Historical Museum, 832-7278, www.tracymuseum.org for information*