

Spotlight On California genealogical research facilities

A series of articles about places to do research around the state

Tracy Area Genealogical Society (TAGS)

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The Tracy Area Genealogical Society (TAGS) was formed in 1998. Tracy is part of Tulare Township in San Joaquin County which also included surrounding towns such as Ellis, Banta, Bethany, Mohr's Landing and Wicklund.

Over the past ten years, we have collected a wide variety of genealogically related books and other materials covering the area including: San Joaquin Co. Vital Record Books such as Birth Records, Marriage Records, Death and Cemetery Records, Estate and Administration and Probate Indexes, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Tulare Township Maps from 1870, California 1890 Great Register of Voters Index and 1900 – 1940 Great Register of Voters of San Joaquin County records to name a view.

In addition to Tulare Township-related library materials, we also have a microfilm reader, microfiche reader and an extensive collection of Mayflower Society materials, DAR related materials, research materials on African-American records, Native American records, Ireland, England and other countries, and genealogical periodicals of New England, Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Maine. We also have a large collection of books and materials for all states. TAGS also has accepted genealogy collections that have been donated to us by TAGS members and by people in the community. We are dedicated to ensuring that their work will not be discarded in the event they pass away.

In addition to the library, TAGS has a bank of computers that allow members and non-members to research their family trees online. We currently have subscriptions to Ancestry.com, Footnote.com, Newspaperarchive.com and World Vital Records.

One of our ongoing (and favorite) projects is our First Family Project, which in addition to honoring the First Families in the Tracy area, also collects genealogical information on those families to become part of Tracy's histor-



ical record.

The goal of our Cemetery Transcription Project is to produce a comprehensive reference of burials in the Tracy area. The reference includes names, dates, cemetery information and obituary notices. In addition to existing cemeteries, the project is investigating the history of abandoned cemeteries in Tulare Township. The results of this work are posted on our website and updated regularly. This will continue to be an ongoing project.

The Tracy Area Genealogy Society (TAGS) is located upstairs in the Tracy Historical Society Museum Building. Having our Genealogical Society in the same building as the Historical Society makes a perfect marriage for anyone doing research on Tracy and its surrounding areas.

— Terry Ronneberg