In 1980 a group of Tulare residents with a passion for local history formed the Tulare City Historical Society. Their mission was to build a museum that would tell the continuing story of Tulare from its beginnings.

Join us! Volunteers are the heart of the Tulare Historical Museum. Choose how you would like to get involved: Give tours, help in the Gift Shop or assist in the business office. We will find a task that is right for you!

The Tulare Historical Museum opened in 1985 on the site of Tulare’s first permanent public school house. The Museum’s beautifully crafted exhibits showcase Tulare’s unique history, beginning with the Yokuts Indians, the area’s first inhabitants. Admire their tools and their beautifully woven baskets and cradle boards.

As your tour unfolds you’ll meet Tulare’s pioneer families and see examples of fully furnished rooms from their homes and businesses. You’ll meet Tulare’s heroes, including Olympic champions Bob Mathias and Sim Inness; military leaders Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. and General Maurice Preston; and renowned aviators Tex Rankin and Bryan Allen.

The Museum’s Military History Wing is home to the Manuel Toledo Military Collection and contains uniforms, photographs and artifacts from our nation’s military conflicts starting with the American Revolutionary War.

MEMBERSHIPS

Help us strengthen our heritage for future generations by joining the Tulare City Historical Society. Members receive our newsletter, Then&Now, plus VIP invitations to receptions and special events. You’ll also enjoy a 10% discount in the Gift Shop.

INDIVIDUAL: $40 annually
Free admission, newsletter, 10% discount in gift shop.

FAMILY: $60 annually
Free admission for yourself, spouse, and children under 16, newsletter, 10% discount in gift shop.

INDIVIDUAL PATRON: $100 annually
Free admission, newsletter, 6 guest passes, 10% discount in gift shop, VIP invitations to receptions and special events.

BUSINESS SPONSOR: $200 annually
Free admission, newsletter, 8 guest passes, 10% discount in gift shop, VIP invitations to receptions and special events.

LIFETIME: $1,000
One-time contribution per individual, includes all benefit privileges for life.

HOURS OPEN: Thursday – Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm
Open every 3rd Sunday, September thru May 12:30pm to 4:00pm

ADMISSION: Adults $6 - Seniors/AAA $4 - Students $3
MILITARY WING

The Manuel Toledo Military Collection features one of the most comprehensive Military collections on display in the Central Valley and features:

MILITARY UNIFORMS

Armaments and Model Planes
Rankin Aeronautical Academy Memorabilia
Military Leaders Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Jr and General Maurice Preston

EXPLORE, DISCOVER & LEARN

Tulare is the proud home of Olympic champions Bob Mathias and Sim Iness. The Tulare Historical Museum showcases an extensive history of these local heroes. Memorabilia include the Olympic gold medals of Bob Mathias, as well as the original Olympic uniforms they wore in the 1948 and 1952 Olympic Games.

Your journey through Tulare’s past begins with a short introductory video. A docent can guide you through the museum as you learn about the rich and varied history of Tulare, and some of the extraordinary people who have called it home. Self-guided audio tours are also available. At the end of the tour visit the Heritage Art Gallery, where rotating exhibits showcase the talents of local area artists. Before you depart, visit the museum Gift Shop for hard to find historical books, photos, postcards and souvenir items.

Of special interest are displays featuring:

- Western Guns and Railroad Artifacts
- Agricultural and Dairy Implements
- Police and Fire Departments
- Antique Crystal Glass

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

The museum provides a variety of group tours for all ages. Third-grade classes from the Tulare City School District tour the museum annually. Local elementary, middle, and high school students display their talents in the annual Tulare Student Art Show.

TOM HENNION ARCHIVES CENTER

The archives house thousands of historical photographs, documents and reference books. Research opportunities are available.