In 1858, the Butterfield Overland Stage rumbled through Tulare County and made history. All the way from St. Louis, Missouri, it passed through our county on its 2,700-mile journey to San Francisco.

On Saturday, October 11th, 2008, the Tulare County Historical Society, as part of the Butterfield Sesquicentennial Celebration, is retracing the Tulare County route. It is going to be historic, informative and fun.

Surprises await those who join in this free event!

The trek starts at Tipton and ends in Visalia in the afternoon. We will stop at five stage related locations: Willow Springs (Mountain House); Fountain Springs; Tule River (Porterville); Lindsay; and Visalia. Knowledgeable presenters will share historical information at each stop. Willow Springs is on private property, not normally available to visitors. This area is almost untouched since Butterfield days!

Ride sharing is encouraged. Bring your own lunch, folding chairs and cameras. The Tulare County Historical Society will provide light refreshments at each stop along the route. No hiking is required and 4-wheel-drive vehicles are not necessary. Ground may be a little uneven in areas, but all locations are handicap accessible. There is cell phone coverage most of the way except for some spotty reception in the foothills.

NOTE: No RSVP is required—just be at the starting point promptly at 8:45 a.m.—and be ready to have fun and learn more about the famous Butterfield Overland Mail Company and its connection to Tulare County!

Saturday—8:45 a.m.

Starting Point

Lower Tule River Irrigation District Office
357 E. Olive (Avenue 152)
Tipton, California

To get to the starting point, take Highway 99 and go either north or south to Tipton.

Those coming from the north (heading south) on Hwy 99: Take Ave. 152 Exit in Tipton, go east over the 99 overpass. The starting point is nearby with a big parking lot.

Those coming from the south (heading north) on Hwy 99: Take Ave. 152 Exit in Tipton and turn left at stop sign. The starting point is nearby with a big parking lot.

Our estimated caravan time is 8:45 a.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m.

Questions?
Contact Terry Ommen
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Email histerry@comcast.net

For more information, visit the Tulare County Historical Society’s website: www.tularecountyhistoricalsociety.org