

192  
GL  
VE

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY  
300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

**NAME** Gaffey, John Tracy

**PUBLIC OFFICES HELD**

**(DATE)**

**CITY:**

Board of Education.....1891-1892

City Council.....1893-1894

**COUNTY:**

**STATE:**

Board of Equalization.....1886

**FEDERAL:**

Collector of customs, Southern District,  
1893-1897

**CIVIC ACTIVITIES:**

**BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Newspaper reporter and owner  
County under sheriff  
Supreme court clerk  
State, county, city, and federal official  
Mining, oil, and real estate operator  
Bank director  
Corporation executive

**PORTRAIT:**

**ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE: NONE**

**PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)**

McGroarty-Los Angeles From the Mountains to  
the sea, vol 111, p 898, (with wife)

## ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

Arcadia Bandini, the wife of John T. Gaffey, is the granddaughter of Don Juan Bandini, one of the old high caste Spanish families who settled in Southern California on royal land grants.

Her mother was Esperanza de Sepulveda, of another notable old California family.

Mr . and Mrs. Gaffey are the possessors of a fine collection of Californiana.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

**BOOKS:**

See Biographical notices

**NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:**

**PERSONAL INTERVIEW:** NONE

**INTERVIEWED BY:**

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:**

**WRITTEN BY:** Clare Wallace  
January 8, 1937

R92  
G131  
VF

The Los Angeles Public Library  
**Local History Collection**  
Biography

NAME Gaffey, John Tracy

Occupation Retired Business Man

Address San Pedro, California

Birth (Date and Place) November 1, 1860, Galway, Ireland

FATHER Thomas Gaffey

Birth (Date and Place) Ireland

If Deceased, When 1865, Ireland

MOTHER Ann E. Tracy

Birth (Date and Place) Ireland

If Deceased, When \_\_\_\_\_

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Arcadia Bandini

Birth of Same (Date and Place) California

If Deceased, When \_\_\_\_\_

When Married June 1, 1887

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

John

Margaret: Mrs. John Mell



## ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

Mother, a widow with seven children,  
emigrated via the Isthmus of Panama, from  
Ireland to California, and pioneered near  
Santa Cruz on a cattle and sheep ranch.

## EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Private school; grammar and high school, San  
Francisco, California; University of California,  
Berkeley, Calif.  
CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

California Club; Bohemian Club, San Francisco;  
Tuna Club of Catalina Island

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Catholic

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1867

## SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

John Tracy Gaffey was born November 1, 1860, in Galway, Ireland. His father died in 1865. Two years later his mother came to California with her seven children, on a sailing vessel, and established a home on a cattle and sheep ranch near Santa Cruz. Young Gaffey grew to manhood on the ranch and was educated in the public schools of San Francisco, and a year at the University of California.

In 1879 Mr. Gaffey became a reporter on the Santa Cruz Courier, and shortly afterward established the Santa Cruz Herald, which he sold four years later.

Following his newspaper experience he was undersheriff of the county. At the close of his term he was appointed clerk of the supreme court for Southern California district, and moved to Los Angeles.

After serving on the Board of Equalization from 1886-1890, Mr. Gaffey went to Mexico to engage in mining, but returned to Los Angeles to serve ten months on the Board of Education, to which he had been elected in 1891.

Elected to the City Council in the December elections of 1892 he resigned March 5, 1894, to take charge of Stephen M. White's campaign for the United States Senate. During his councilmanic term Mr. Gaffey served on the Building, Fire & Water Zanjias, and Bridges committees; also on the special committee to act with the Labor Commission during the 1893 depression.

The same year he was appointed collector of customs for the southern district and served from 1893-1897.

Beginning in 1894, in addition to the above office, he was managing editor of the Los Angeles Herald, for eighteen months.

Mr. Gaffey retired from all public office in 1897 to devote his entire time to his extensive private affairs consisting of real estate, oil, and other industrial holdings. He also has served since then in executive capacity in various banking, financial and investment concerns.

At present Mr. Gaffey is retired and lives on his estate in San Pedro.