



ALL OF THE FOSSILS in the Norton County Museum were found in Norton County. On this table are fossilized bones from short-legged rhinoceroses, a tooth from a hairy mammoth, and stomach stones from other dinosaurs that roamed the area.

— Courtesy photo

Museum for both

The Norton County Museum was originally built as a library in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration, part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

After the library moved to its new building in 1992, the building became the county museum. Everything in the museum was used by someone, and was donated. The museum's only theme is Norton County, from as far back as the late 1800's. Included in the museum are:

- A buffalo skull, which was part of a story in the book, "Tales of Western Kansas" by Amy Lathrop, true stories of western Kansas.

- A piece of railroad from 1880, which was used as a doorstep until the rust was cleaned off and a plaque on it found.

- A red brick from early Norton sidewalks admonishing, "Do not spit on the sidewalk."

- "Norton's Iron Traffic Cop," a dome about 20 inches across that was placed on the streets to show right-of-way.

- Early 1900 household items, such as an iron, a soap dish, salt and pepper shakers, a wash pan and a flat iron.

- Pictures of early settlements in Norton County, the first Norton City school, sod houses, road graders and a buggy repair shop.

- Books written by authors from Norton County.

- Arnold Schoen's ices skates he used to get to school in the mornings, in about 1917.

- Early school text books.

- Pictures of students from the late 1800's.

- Marjorie Milz's scrapbookss from 1918 to 1989. Ms. Milz was a third grade teacher in Norton, and the saying goes, "If you were in her class, you're in these books."

- Books on photography, with Norton County as the theme.

- A 103-year old patchwork quilt, that has a likeness of the original Norton County Court-house sewn on it. People would sew their names onto patches and then sew the patches onto the quilt.

- Mattie J. Heaton's 4-year graduation certificate from Chautauqua, NY, dated 1890.



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NORTON COUNTY MUSEUM

105 E. LINCOLN ~ NORTON, KANSAS

Stop in and see Norton County History
TOURS BY APPOINTMENT - 877-5107

All items primarily dedicated to the history of Norton County, towns, businesses and individuals. Several exhibits including, Native American, meteorite, dinosaur, military sports and several collections

Opens May 2 - Hours: Wednesday and Saturday: 2-4 p.m.

