

DISCOVER A REMARKABLE MUSEUM

In 1952, the Bastrop County Historical Society was founded to initiate the collection and preservation of materials, artifacts and documents relating to the history of Stephen F. Austin's "Little Colony," now known as Bastrop.

Among the results is the creation of the remarkable Bastrop County History Museum, a state-of-the art collection of artifacts, insightful presentations and professional video productions that span more than 9 million years – from a prehistoric mastodon skull to half-burned possessions recovered from the devastating 2011 Bastrop Complex Fire.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The Bastrop County Historical Society is a non-profit organization that is looking for volunteers as well as financial support. To participate, go to our Website at www.bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com or call us at 512-303-0057.



904 MAIN STREET BASTROP, TX 78602
512.303.0057
www.bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Come
experience
our past.

Bastrop
MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER
of the Bastrop County Historical Society

LEARN ABOUT EARLY TEXAS

Among the events chronicled in the museum's current exhibits are:

- A timeline from **early history** to the present.
- The development of the **first cross-Texas road**, El Camino Real de los Tejas.
- The effects of the sometimes-swelling **Colorado River** on community inhabitants.
- A brief biography of namesake Felipe Enrique Neri who told people he was the **Baron de Bastrop**.
- The sudden, **Runaway Scrape**, a flight of settlers from the path of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna during the Texas War for Independence.
- Life in the years of the **Republic of Texas** and early statehood.
- Depression-era **Civilian Conservation Corps** that developed the Bastrop State Park.
- An account of the effects of World War II and nearby **Camp Swift** on a small town, Bastrop.
- A display of an early cotton baler used in the 1800s and map showing location of cotton plantations along the Colorado River are found in **When Cotton Was King** exhibit.
- Artifacts from the home of former Bastrop resident and **Texas Governor Joseph Draper Sayers** recognizes Sayers' public service, including time as Lieutenant Governor and State Senator representing Bastrop.
- **Cowboys, Cows and Cattlemen** details the cattle drives, local brands, and the development of local ranching industry.
- The contribution of the **Coal Mines** to the area's early 20th century economy and importance of the Hispanic miners to our community are shown in our most recent exhibit to open.



MORE THAN JUST A REMARKABLE MUSEUM

Look at what else we do:

- Going back to 1962, enthusiasts of Homes from Texas historic past have checked in on Bastrop to appreciate our **Annual Homes Tour**. The night before, the Society sponsors a gala, the *Rendezvous*. The homes tour allows history aficionados to walk through a meeting point between history and architecture.
- Over the years, **historical site preservation** projects have been a priority of the Society. The Society was instrumental in the formation of the City of Bastrop's Historic Landmark Commission. Three crowning achievements include preservation projects at Fairview Cemetery and the Kerr Community Center and marking of gravesites of 13 early Texas Rangers buried at Fairview Cemetery.
- A primary goal of the Society is to **inspire Bastrop's youth** with an understanding of our community's past through frequent student tours. An early settler's trunk with replica pioneer items and clothing which would be loaned to BISD fourth and seventh grade Texas History classes is in the planning stages.
- Once per calendar quarter, the Society invites history-minded citizens to hear **authoritative speakers** discuss local and state history, including how-it-happened explanations of local features, ranging from parks to schools to bridges.
- The Society's **Research Library** contains over 12,700 documents, including books, maps, publications and family files for use by historians, writers and researchers. Research assistance is available.
- Among the information preserved in our research database are the audio recordings of **25 oral histories** of long-time Bastrop citizens.
- The Society operates Bastrop's official **Visitor Center**, assisting tourists visiting the community by answering questions and publishing an array of how-to-get-there brochures.