

Story Ideas

Stafford, Kansas



Gateway to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

■ Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Stafford is six miles from an immense salt marsh where migrating shorebirds rest and refuel as they make their way along the Central Flyway during spring and fall migrations.

■ Endangered Whooping Cranes

Quivira hosts members of the only wild flock of whooping cranes in the world, last numbered at around 260 individual birds.

■ Bald Eagles

In the fall of 2010, there were more than 280 eagles on the marsh at one time, following the southward migration of smaller birds.

■ Historic Gun Clubs and Market Hunting

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge was once almost completely owned by seventeen social clubs funded by families and sportsmen's organizations. These clubs provided outdoor adventure, camaraderie, and food for the family table. The marsh also drew entrepreneurs who shot huge numbers of ducks and geese, packed them in salt and straw, and then shipped them to hotels and food markets via railroad.

Food from the Edge of the Tall and Shortgrass Prairies

■ Salt of the Earth

Salt ledge is visible at the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and a salt evaporation facility is located at the refuge.

■ Sandy Roads and Salty Places

That's where you will find the ingredients for amazing jams and jellies. Travel a sandy road and discover beach plums, sand hill plums, wild grapes, and wild blackberries. After you have picked, Stafford cooks offer jam and jelly making lessons.

Gray Studio Glass Negative Collection

■ Stafford County Historical Museum

Thousands (29,000) of images on glass negatives from turn of the century photographer W.R. Gray document life in Stafford County from 1880 until his death in 1947. His glass negatives date from 1880 to 1920 are currently being restored, scanned, and archived. <http://contentcat.fhsu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/stafford>

It Started Small in Stafford

- From The Cyclone in Stafford to The Jones Store throughout Kansas
- From a little dairy to a banking and milling empire – the Larabee family of Stafford
- From Earl Kelley and Just Bill the Rooster to Warner Brothers and the Big Screen
- From grandma's house to a bed and breakfast retreat complex – Henderson House
- From small town to the football hall of fame – Lou Brock

Good Stuff

- Six buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Frank Lloyd Wright inspired church (traditional outside/modern inside) On the National Register of Historic Places
- Water (underflows, potholes, and huge cottonwoods – one is 32 feet in diameter)

For more information: We will be happy to supply photographs, contact information for interviews, tours, guides, background information, and assistance with travel arrangements.

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