

## Who are the Sternbergs?

Dr. George M. Sternberg, renowned Civil War surgeon and later Surgeon General of the United States Army, was assigned to Fort Harker (Fort Ellsworth), Kansas in 1866. While stationed in Kansas, Dr. Sternberg often visited posts along the Smoky Hill Trail. During his travels, Sternberg helped to identify fossil bones that had been found by soldiers on patrol in western Kansas.

When Dr. Sternberg purchased a ranch near Fort Harker, his brother Charles H. Sternberg was invited to help manage it. Charles became interested in collecting fossil leaves found in the sandstone hills near the ranch. Many of the specimens that Charles found are preserved in larger museums in North America and Europe.

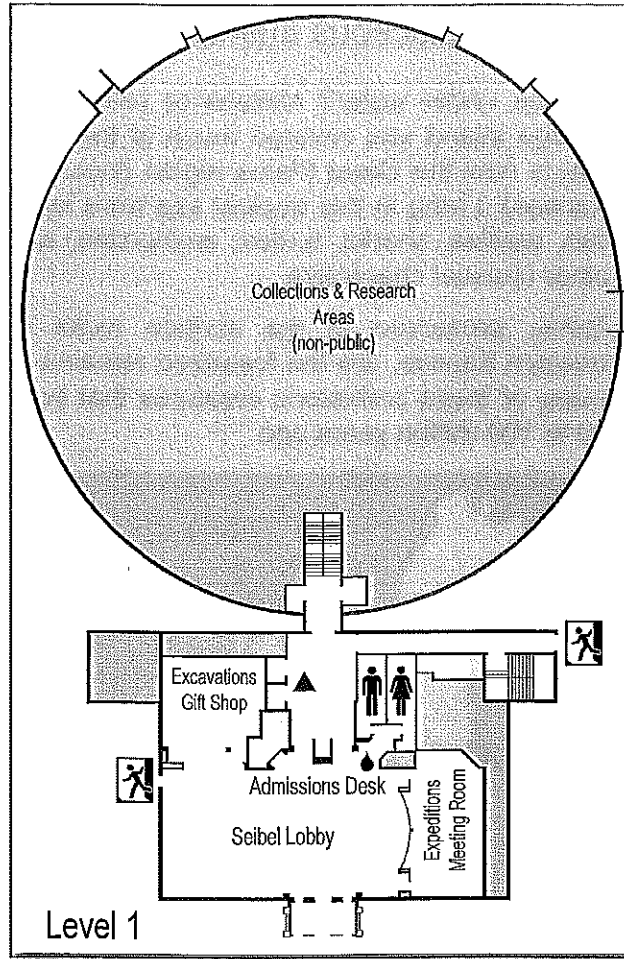


Charles H. Sternberg

Charles' three sons, George F., Levi, and Charles M. followed in their father's footsteps and became fossil hunters. At the age of nine years, the eldest son, George F., discovered an unusual fossil reptile, a plesiosaur. This prompted George to devote his life to hunting, collecting, and preparing fossils now displayed in museums around the world.



George F. Sternberg with the college museum until his retirement in 1962. After George's death in 1969, the museum was renamed in honor of the Sternberg family.



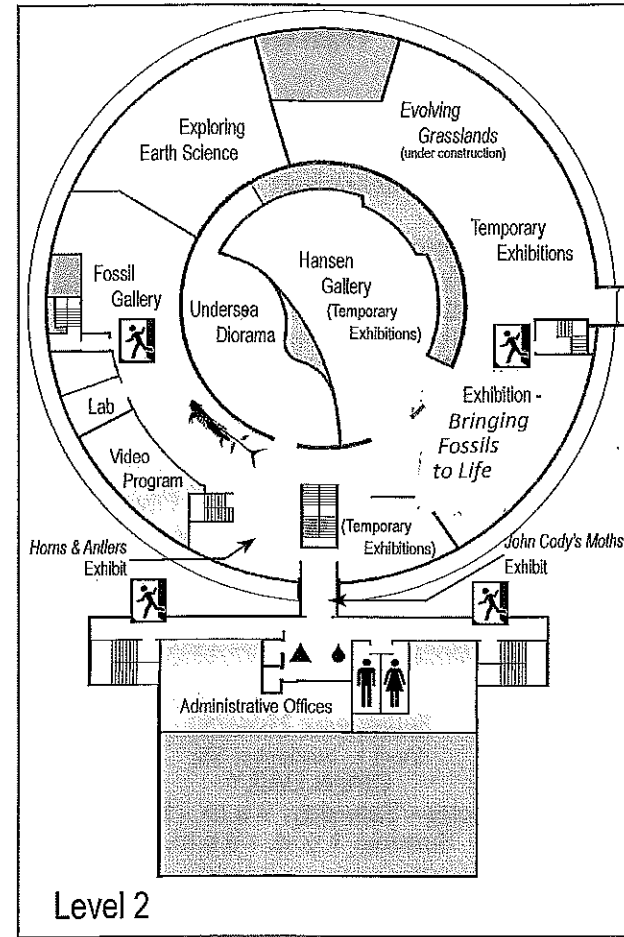
**The museum is fully accessible** and is equipped to accommodate many special needs. Inquire at the admissions desk.

**Courtesy Wheelchairs** are available for museum patrons' use. Inquire at the admissions desk.

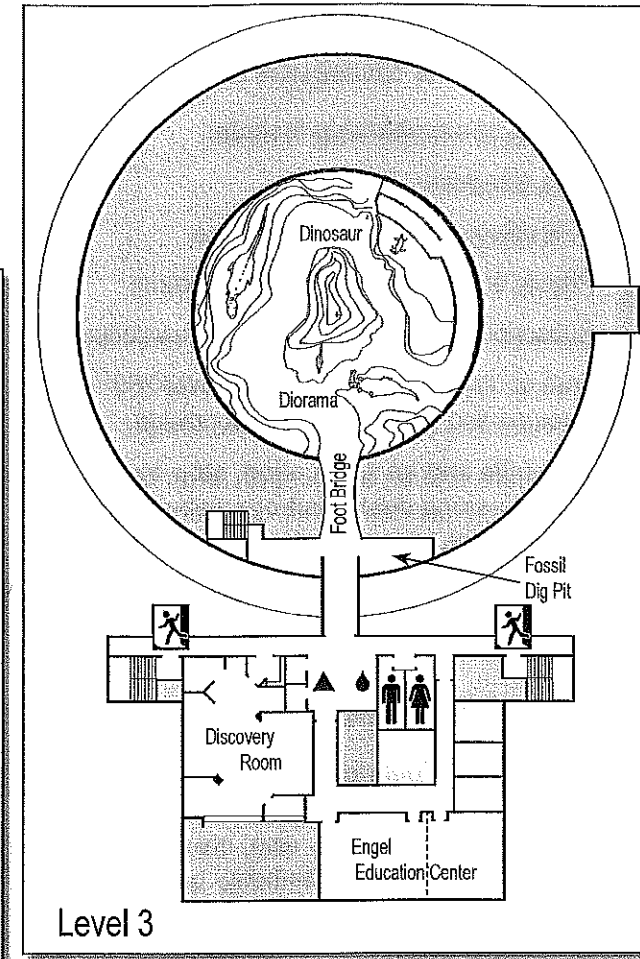
**Baby changing stations** are located in the restrooms on first and third levels. A nursing area for mothers and babies is located in the women's restroom on the main level.



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
**STERNBERG MUSEUM**  
OF NATURAL HISTORY™



**Please remain on the pathways** in the galleries and dioramas. Please do not climb on displays.



### Key to Symbols:

- ▲ Elevators
- 🚶 Emergency Exits
- ♂ ♀ Restrooms\*
- 💧 Water Fountain

## Become a Museum Member

### Benefits of membership include:

- Free admission
- 10% discount in the museum store
- Priority enrollment in museum programs
- Subscription to *The Pteranodon* e-newsletter
- Free or discounted admission to over 250 museums and science centers worldwide.

For details and an application, stop by the admissions desk, visit our website, or give us a call.

## Let Us Host Your Tour or Event

We offer guided tours for school field trips, tour buses, or other groups. Call 785-639-5249 to schedule a tour. We also have rooms available for meetings, birthday parties or other special events. For more information, call 785-628-4286.

### For more information:

Call 877-332-1165

or visit our website at:

sternberg.fhsu.edu



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Welcome to...

Fort Hays State University's



## Sternberg Museum of Natural History

### Admission Fees:

#### General Public Admission:

\$9 for adults (age 13-59)

\$7 for seniors (ages 60+)

\$6 for youth (ages 4-12)

\$5 for FHSU students (with valid ID)

#### Free Admission for:

Museum Members

Members of ASTC Passport Program

Children 3 and under

#### Summer Hours:

(April 1 - September 30)

**OPEN DAILY**

Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Winter Hours:

(October 1 - March 31)

Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

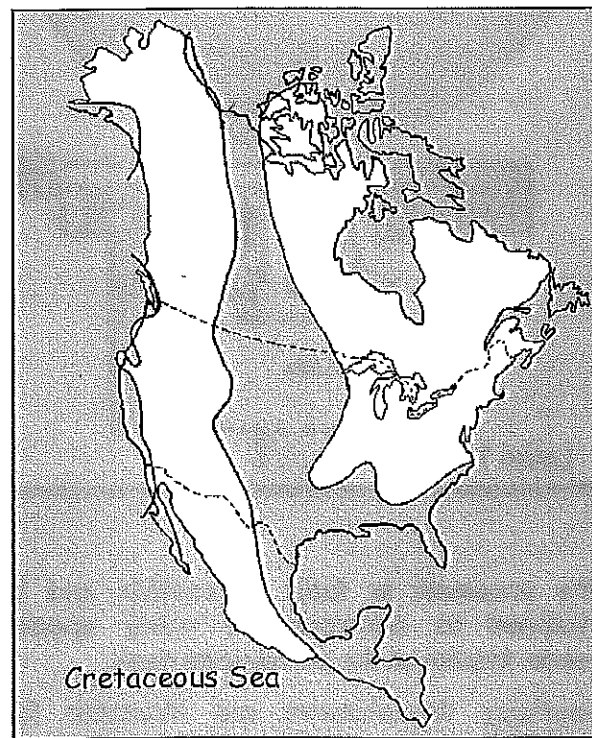
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Closed Monday

## The Cretaceous Interior Seaway

Kansas under water? Millions of years ago, a large inland sea covered much of the area that is now the Great Plains region (including Kansas). Living in this tropical sea were large fish, reptiles, sharks, turtles, ammonites, and other unusual characters.

Today, preserved in the surface rocks of western Kansas, are the fossilized remains of many of these prehistoric creatures that lived 80 to 100 million years ago.



During the first half of the 20th century, the Sternberg family collected some of these spectacular fossils. Their finds, displayed in major museums around the world, have played a dominant role in initiating the study of North American fossil vertebrates.

## The Geologic Time Scale

Era	Period	Examples of Life Forms	Age
Cenozoic	Quaternary	mammoths sabre-toothed cats	2.5
	Neogene	early horses <i>Megalodon</i> (sea)	23
	Paleogene	crocodilians (sea) primates (land)	66
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	<i>Tyrannosaurus</i> flowering plants	145
	Jurassic	<i>Allosaurus</i> (land) birds (air)	201
	Triassic	<i>Ichthyosaur</i> (sea) pterosaurs (air)	251
Paleozoic	Permian	mammal-like reptiles (land)	299
	Pennsylvanian	amphibians & reptiles (land)	318
	Mississippian	Arthropods & Crinoids (sea)	359
	Devonian	vertebrate fishes	416
	Silurian	terrestrial plants	444
	Ordovician	clams (sea)	488
	Cambrian	Trilobites (sea)	542
Precambrian	one-celled animals		

KT Boundary

million years ago

Several geologic Periods are preserved at the surface in Kansas. The oldest rocks are in the southeast corner of the state, and the bedrock generally gets younger to the west.

Mississippian, Pennsylvanian, and Permian ages rocks outcrop in the eastern half of Kansas, and Cretaceous and younger rocks outcrop in the west. Most of the fossils on display highlight the Cretaceous Period, the last age of the Mesozoic.