2018 Annual Report

Thomasville History Center Our history begins here. Let us start you on the journey.

Cover photograph by Claire Timm Photography

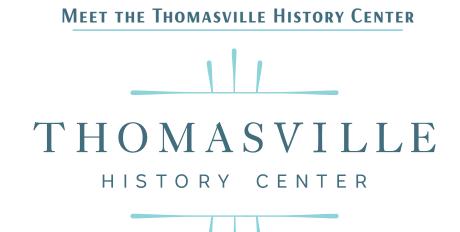
If there was one thing that stuck out to us about 2018, it would have to be the launch of our new brand! There has been such an enthusiastic response to our new look and taking this leap has given us the drive to dive into new programming and to see how we can structure all activities (programs, camps, lectures, etc.) into a cohesive group.

Much like a new brand, we think our new programming approach will allow people to find us, join us, and want to be a part of what we do.

Here's to a robust and enriching 2019!

Ine Made

Anne McCudden **Executive Director**

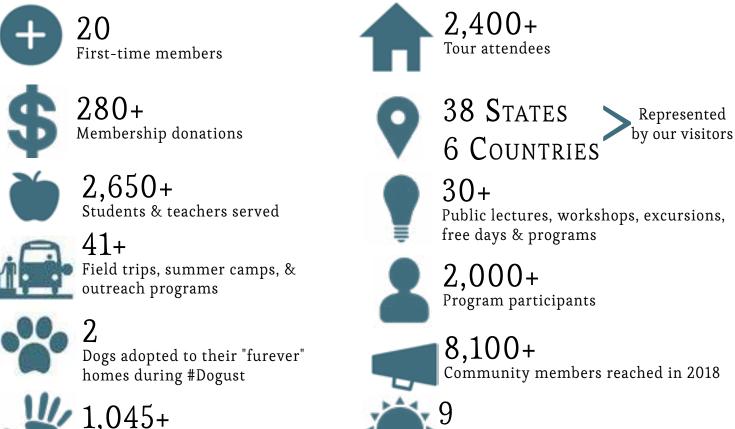


Mission: Ensuring that our unique history remains an intrinsic and unbroken thread connecting the past and future through settings that advance our story.

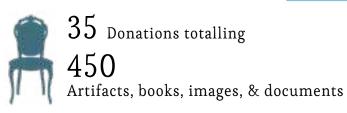
<u>Vision</u>: Our history begins here. Let us start you on the journey.

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

Each year, we collect a series of statistics that help us to track community participation in our programs, tour attendance, and membership renewal rates. We are proud of the growth that we have seen year to year as we expand our offerings and tour options.



Summer camp scholarships awarded



Digital Library of Georgia Digitization Grant: The Cutler Collection



The Thomasville History Center is one of six institutions receiving a service grant from the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) intended to broaden partner participation. The DLG solicited proposals for historic digitization projects in a statewide call, and applicants submitted proposals for projects with a cost of up to \$7,500.00.

The Thomasville History Center has been awarded funds to digitize the correspondence and diaries of Hazel Beamer Cutler, a Broadway entertainer, and her family friend Candace Wheeler, founder of the American decorative arts movement, both of whom lived in southwest Georgia.

Based at the University of Georgia Libraries, the Digital Library of Georgia, <u>dlg.usg.edu</u>, is a GALILEO initiative that collaborates with Georgia's libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions of Cutler Collection: Hazel Beamer, c. 1925 education and culture to provide access to key information resources on Georgia history, culture, and life. This primary mission is accomplished through the ongoing development, maintenance and preservation of digital collections and online digital library resources. DLG also serves as Georgia's service hub for the Digital Public Library of America and as the home of the Georgia Newspaper Project, the state's historic newspaper microfilming project.

Search Our Collections Online

In February, we debuted our new website which includes a portal that allows visitors to search our collections. This new function has aided researchers near and far. Hosted by Past Perfect, our museum management software, the History Center's searchable database is updated frequently with newly digitized items and updated catalog entries.

Using keywords, visitors to the site can find relevant research materials or see artifacts that help to tell the story of Thomas County. Those interested in browsing the online database can use the "Random Image" function to see an assortment of images and artifacts to sample our collection's scope. Explore our collections online at:

thomascounty.pastperfectonline.com





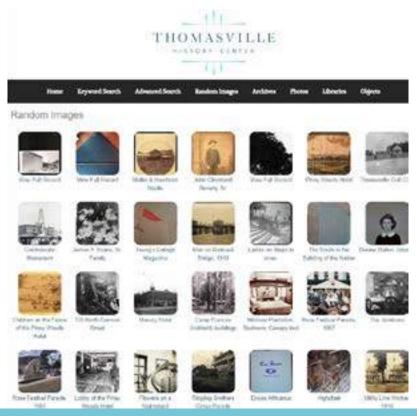
Volunteer hours worked

COLLECTIONS



2300 Research questions asked by

 $415 \; {\rm Researchers}$



HIGHLIGHTS

Smith Homestead Complete

The construction of a split-rail fence surrounding the Smith Log House and tool shed, the design and construction of a new well house, the relocation of our large agricultural equipment, and the planting of a seasonal garden has been completed. Generously supported by the estate of Stanley Smith, this project is another important step towards the improved interpretation of the homestead as an example of yeomen farm life in the late 19th century in Thomas County. The Thomasville Town Committee of the Colonial Dames of America donated a Frankilinia alatamaha, a native magnolia variety discovered by John and William Bartram in the 18th century, and planted it next to the log house porch.



Flowers-Roberts House Front Doors Repaired

For many years, the leaded glass panes in the front doors of the Flowers-Roberts House have been encased in acrylic sheeting for protection. After consulting with Karen Pritzl, a glass repair expert, it was determined that the windows could be stabilized and repaired and the acrylic removed. Karen replaced the caming (the metal joining the glass) in the beautiful 1920's panels and reinstalled them in September. The panels shine in the sunlight and provide a beautiful welcome to visitors and friends of the History Center.



Social Media

In 2018, we made a concerted effort to schedule thematic content that would appeal to our audience while remaining loyal to our long-standing tradition of sharing content as it is digitized into our collection. Among the year's digital campaigns, several stand out for their resonance with our followers.

To date, we have more than 7,000 followers across our pages. You can revisit these series and more on our Facebook and Instagram pages found at @thomasvillehistory.

International Women's Day, March Digital Series Celebrating the contributions of women to Thomasville's history, culture, and traditions, our contributions to International Women's Day are but a small part of the larger global campaign. Each year, we identify five women or women's organizations who have left an indelible mark on our community and whose names and achievements may or may not be well known. Among those celebrated this year were professional golfer Mary Lena Faulk and educator Sadie Frances Brown Gibson.

#Dogust, August Digital Series

#Dogust is our nod to the "dog days of summer." The second annual #Dogust campaign took on new importance this year as we partnered with the Thomasville-Thomas County Humane Society to feature two dogs available for adoption. We are proud to say that both Girl and Goldie were adopted during the campaign!



New Website

The History Center's new website, designed by Summerhill Creative, features a streamlined shop which allows for easy membership renewal contributions, event registrations, and book sales. Guests can view upcoming events and programs on an online calendar and those interested in requesting tours, special event rentals, and education programs can contact us directly through the contact forms. To date, the new website has been viewed more than 6,000 times.

1923 Cox Ford Model T Returns

Late this summer, the 1923 Cox Ford Model T returned to the History Center following engine repairs completed at Hemee Heads in Nashville, Georgia. The Model T is once again fully operational and all of the staff have been trained in how to operate the car safely. You may have seen the Model T in this year's Downtown Christmas Parade masquerading as the Grinch's sleigh.

HIGHLIGHTS





Our Generous Supporters: \$5.000+

Dr. Ben Grace Fund, Community

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AWARDS RECEIVED AWARD OF MERIT for the Rehabilitation of the Joyner-Calloway House, Thomasville Landmarks

Institution Award, Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries

STUDENT PROJECT AWARD Smith Homestead Improvments Awarded to Meme Hand Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries



Community Partners Thomasville Landmarks Rev. Jeremy Rich & Bishop Hall School Georgia Historical Society Junior Service League of Thomasville, Metcalfe Heritage Society Pines & Palms City of Thomasville Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce



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Charles Olson 1st Vice President

John Hand 2nd Vice President

Linda Moore Secretary

Paul Woody Treasurer

Please join us in thanking the following Board members whose terms came to an end in 2018 for their years of dedicated service: Peggy Rich, William Crozer, & Celia Lockerman.

Awards Given

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY, OVERALL PROJECT WINNERS Senior: Megan Clark, Sydney Smith, Cameron Parker (Performance) Junior: Georgia Rose Patton (website)



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