



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



THOMASVILLE
HISTORY CENTER

OUR HISTORY BEGINS HERE.



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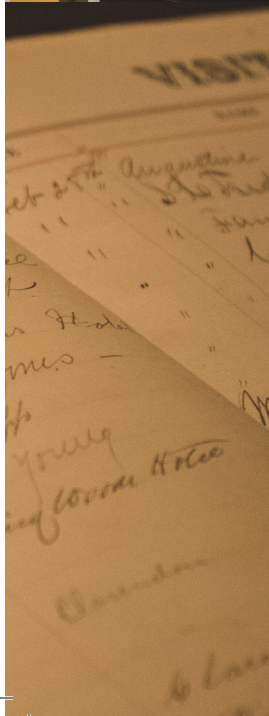


FROM THE DIRECTOR

2022 was a year for retrospective thoughts, revelations and milestones and one where the veil of covid (at least operationally) seems to have been lifted. As you will read in this report, we celebrated anniversaries, circled back on some programs and launched new work approaches all in the name of growth. Such a basic word, “growth” but in reality it can mean so much. We know that we need to keep growth at the top of our “to do” list. Proper growth, growth with a purpose and growth that can be sustained. The History Center is in a position to enrich the community (as our mission states) and we’re poised to do so in 2023 and beyond but only if we stay on a path of smart and manageable growth. This doesn’t mean that we will take on every and all opportunities that come across our door, we will consider them and make decisions based on what’s best for the institution as a whole. Finally let me take the time to say “Thank You” to everyone who has gotten us this far and supported our work in in 2022, as I say only too often “we couldn’t do it without you.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne McCudden". The signature is fluid and cursive.

ANNE MCCUDDEN



ENGAGEMENT Engagement

What is engagement? Honestly, this is a question I ask myself often as I navigate my new title and responsibilities. Earlier this year, I sat down and did a full rundown of all of “hats” that I wear here at the History Center and there are many: education for the tiny humans and the grown ones, membership, marketing, and program management. All of these categories fall under the broader umbrella of Engagement. Formal definitions of engagement range from “an arrangement to do something,” “the action of engaging or being engaged”, and “a fight or battle between armed forces...” But in museum “speak,” engagement encompasses an institution’s outward-facing activities, planning, and relationships.

This year we dug deep into our programs, K-12 education offerings, and partnerships within the community, evaluating how these efforts serve our members and the community. This evaluation and introspection process is not new, it is something that we do annually as we start to plan future work, and this year the process revealed new additions and ways for us to grow. For example, we coordinated a meet-up of our community’s museum educators and cultural program directors to create a shared planning calendar. Every day there is another fundraiser, festival, or fete in the community. The driving question of our meetings became “How can we as organizations maximize our individual event attendance, without stepping on the toes of another organization?” What we produced was a shared tool that helps us plan well in advance, navigate Thomasville’s busy social calendar, and find opportunities for partnership amongst our peers. These are the types of efforts that allow us to be a leader in the community and engage proactively and professionally.

AMELIA GALLO
Head of Community Engagement

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COLLECTIONS

The curatorial department of the Thomasville History Center enjoyed a banner year that both fortified our ability to share the past and peer into the future. Careful planning, structural streamlining, and robust guidelines have already begun to bear fruit through expanded staff, enhanced inventory processes, and increased storage capacity. Most impactful has been the addition of Meme Hand Greitzer as a full-time employee. Her knowledge of local history is impressive and a lifelong pursuit, and her expertise in material culture has improved our ability to properly define the things we have and to preserve them for generations to come. Additionally, a Cataloging Work Plan is being executed which is a multi-year effort to identify and catalog every item in the collection. The strategic goal of this project is to make our collections as useful to the public as possible through researched cataloging, location mapping, digital scanning, photographing, and proper storage. Following the Work Plan also has the additional benefit of ensuring proper credit to the donors. By having meticulously defined our policies and principles for collecting over the past few years, we will safeguard what is unique and important while not wasting time and valuable resources on that which is not.

EPHRAIM ROTTER
Curator of Collections



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Museums

MUSEUMS

A recent survey by the American Association for State and Local History revealed that there are 21,588 history organizations in the United States. Of those, 14,444 are non-profits that report their finances, and within that subset, we are one of 1,773 organizations with revenue between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. Being part of such a large professional network means that we have a substantial group of colleagues to share concepts with and bounce ideas off of. It also means that we have an obligation to stay attuned to what is happening in the field and what kinds of challenges our colleagues face. Staying up to speed within the museum field is no small feat. Every year there are trends and discussions that help us operate efficiently and stay atop of local, national, and global issues.

One of the most pressing trends or discussion points is within the area of DEAI, or Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and

Inclusion. These discussions center around the idea that an institution should be proactive in making itself approachable and welcoming. One of the main things that I took away from our discussions about DEAI is that from our staff to our board to our members, we need to institute a culture where everyone is an advocate for the ideas that align with DEAI. The goal isn't so much that an institution will change overnight or have a paradigm shift and suddenly become "DEAI" compliant, rather that everyone involved with the entity be "on board" with being diverse, equitable, accessible and inclusive. Another trend that we ran across this year was in regards to the "neutral" museum. This concept centers around whether a museum can/should be neutral about contemporary issues (Me Too, Black Lives Matter, Decolonization, etc). Are museums that attempt to be neutral sanitizing or removing elements of history to avoid confrontation or contentious issues? As





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historians we certainly don't want to edit history or exclude things just because they make people feel uncomfortable. When we are neutral (or think we are being neutral) are we missing the natural biases in society? Although we have not formally taken a position on whether the History Center will be considered neutral or not, we have adopted Brand values of: Accuracy, Authenticity, Intentionality, Collaboration and Relevancy. We outlined these values back in 2016 when we re-branded ourselves after 65+ years of operating, and they still hold true today. These are but two of the many touchpoints that exist within the museum profession, but they are two that we are discussing and applying to our work here at the Center. We are fully aware that not ALL trends will apply to our vision and mission, but we will continue to explore trends and issues as they arise within our professional circles so that we can address them and grow as an institution.



Milestones

MILESTONES CELEBRATED IN 2022

Thomas County History Assured

The decision of the County Commissioners to collaborate in the creation of the history of Thomas County is very encouraging and interesting. It is further so because it develops that the movement was stimulated and put into effect by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. William A. Watt presented the matter, being accompanied by a committee from the organization, all interested in providing this history. It is further evident that the person best qualified to write this history, with the most information and records already preserved will handle it. Miss Bessie Hopkins is to be paid for a year's work in the compilation of the matter. It may take more than that time and if so that will be secured in some manner, because all realize that the history is something that can now be written from accurate and voluminous data that Miss Hopkins has collected. The late Judge H. W. Hopkins has collected.

It is in evidence that we need the history, since no authentic data has been published since the late W. Irwin McIntyre compiled a short sketch of the early history of the county and had intended to complete and revise it, being prevented by death. Thomas county lost one of its most avid and consistent historians when he died. Miss Hopkins has all data that is now necessary to make a start and she is familiar with the means of getting other data and of properly appraising and writing it. We have felt for some time that our records were incomplete and very difficult to run down with any degree of accuracy. This will be eliminated in the future when Miss Hopkins has concluded the work. Then the whole of the work should be distributed to all schools and for complete and accurate that we have not had and speak.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE THOMAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Thomas County Historical Society began in 1952 by individuals focused on preserving and sharing the unique history of the County.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOWERS- ROBERTS HOUSE OPERATING AS A MUSEUM SITE.

The Flowers-Roberts House was donated to the Historical Society in 1969 to be used as a museum and a place where collections and stories pertaining to the County's history, could be shared with the public.



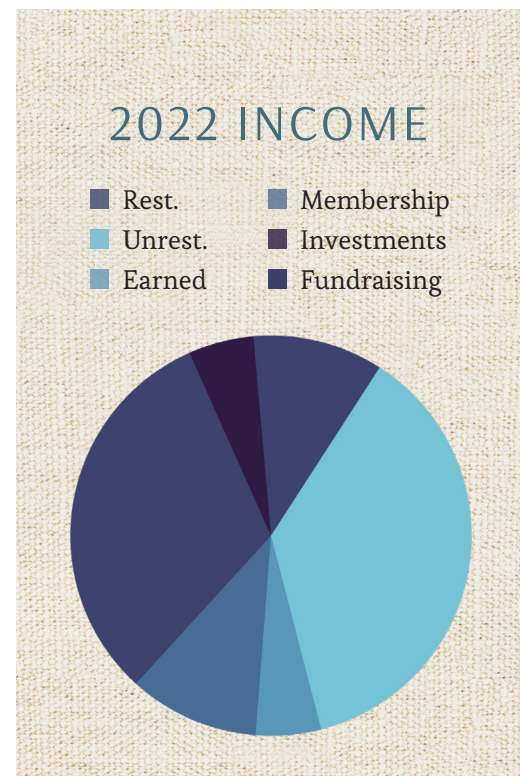
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHICKEN PILAU FUNDRAISER

This year we celebrated 30 years of Chicken Pilau! The tradition was started by Jasper Davis in 1992 and continues today as a community wide fundraiser that reaches thousands of "Thomasvill-ians."



FINANCIAL REPORT

The History Center continues the work to grow its assets through earned revenue and through fiscally conservative investments. Total assets have grown by 10% over the last two years with support from many legacy donors and some wonderful new enthusiasts of our work. Each year we work to adjust our revenue streams and scale down costs where we can. That being said we are also a vibrant growing institution and with growth comes increased expenses. That means that we have to shift to making the right increases while also ramping up earned revenue outlets. We have been able to do just this for the last 5 years and plan on doing more as we approach our 75th Anniversary. Growth takes time and it takes funding and we will continue to position ourselves to do gauge these two factors professionally and ethically.



	Dec 31, 22	Dec 31, 21	% Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
100 · TNB-OPACCT	83,544.59	90,120.33	-7.3%
101 · Synovus DESACCT	105,698.98	107,746.24	-1.9%
102 · TNB MONEY MKT.	130,018.88	148,745.31	-12.59%
103 · Petty Cash	50.00	50.00	0.0%
104 · TCFS&L	49,134.37	49,047.55	0.18%
106 · Change Banks	50.00	50.00	0.0%
Total Checking/Savings	368,496.82	395,759.43	-6.89%
Other Current Assets			
202.1 · JP Morgan x32522 Cash	118,542.12	124,400.20	-4.71%
202.2 · JP Morgan x32523 Securities	148,561.37	148,561.37	0.0%
202.3 · JP Morgan x32523 Cash	13,760.22	22,649.50	-39.25%
203 · Comm. Fndn. B&G Agency	396,459.49	432,580.21	-8.35%
203.1 · Comm. Fndn. Endow. Agency	203,117.98	2,617.98	7,658.58%
Total Other Current Assets	880,441.18	730,809.26	20.48%
Total Current Assets	1,248,938.00	1,126,568.69	10.86%
Other Assets			
204 · Sims Property	100,828.09	100,828.09	0.0%
205 · Flowers Playhouse	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.0%
206 · Air Conditioner	21,442.00	21,442.00	0.0%
207 · Burglar Alarm	5,622.00	5,622.00x	0.0%
208 · Computer Equipment	6,377.70	6,377.70	0.0%
210 · Davis Wing	208,689.00	208,689.00	0.0%
211 · Fountain	6,345.00	6,345.00	0.0%
212 · Furniture & Fix	7,528.00	7,528.00	0.0%
213 · Joyner House Restoration	16,458.00	16,458.00	0.0%
214 · Log Cabin	30,649.00	30,649.00	0.0%
215 · Log Impl. Shed	2,080.00	2,080.00	0.0%
216 · Metcalf Courthouse	40,335.23	40,335.23	0.0%
218 · Museum	162,008.60	162,008.60	0.0%
219 · Museum Restorat	39,673.00	39,673.00	0.0%
220 · Basement Renovations	34,944.13	34,944.13	0.0%
221 · Young Street Property	65,165.55	0.00	100.0%
Total Other Assets	755,145.30	689,979.75	9.45%
TOTAL ASSETS	2,004,083.30	1,816,548.44	10.32%

Financial



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