

2019 Annual Report



Thomasville History Center

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

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Another year is “in the bag” as they say and myself and the staff are ready to take a breath to be sure.

It seems that with each passing year during my tenure, I realize how much the staff is capable of, what value we bring to the community, and how valuable our supporters are. In fact, all of those areas (hard work, volunteerism, and relevance to the community) are themes I am certain will pop up in our strategic planning process, which we will finish in early 2020.

We're very excited about going through this process of introspection and self-review so that we can keep up the hard work and make sure that the products we provide are ones that benefit the community and keep the History Center at the forefront.



Anne McCudden
Executive Director

2019 BY THE NUMBERS



36
New members
A 71% increase



314
Membership donations
A 10% increase



2,585
Students & teachers served



1,186+
Volunteer hours worked



41 STATES
6 COUNTRIES
Visitor origins



2,096
Program Attendees

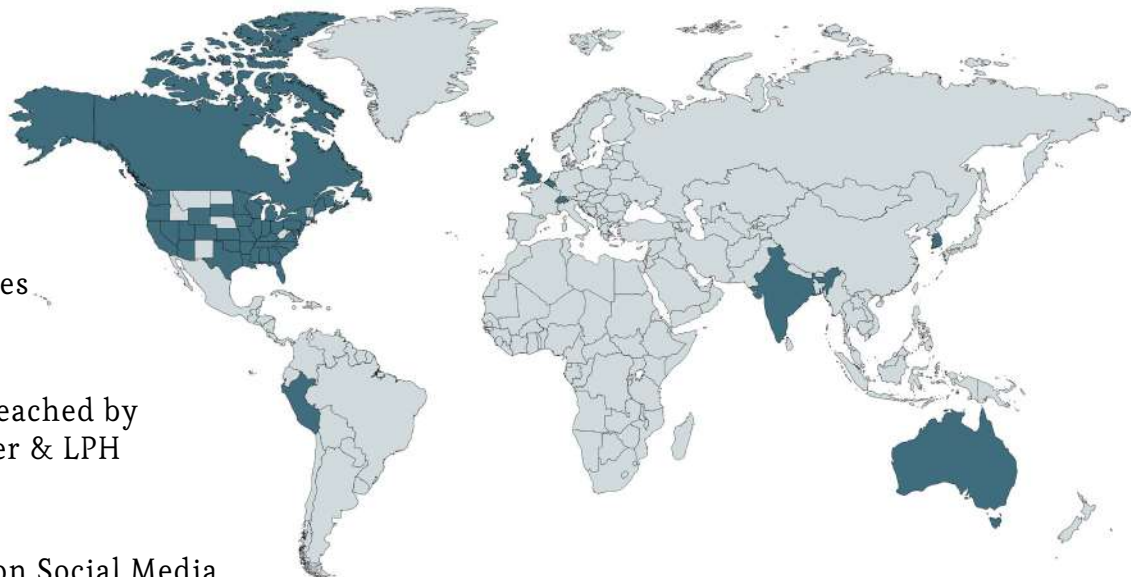


10,100
Total Audience Reached by
the History Center & LPH

10,000+
Per Week Reach on Social Media

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. We have especially seen growth in our youth education programs.

Thanks to the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation for their generous underwriting of our youth education programs, we may offer our services free of charge to students and teachers from Thomas County and beyond. 37% of the youth education programs we offered this year were outreach, meaning students participated in our facilitated programs within their own classroom. 48% of the total 2019 education audience can be attributed to outreach.



COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS



30 Donations totalling
275
Artifacts, books, images, & documents



2,900
Research questions asked by
490 Researchers



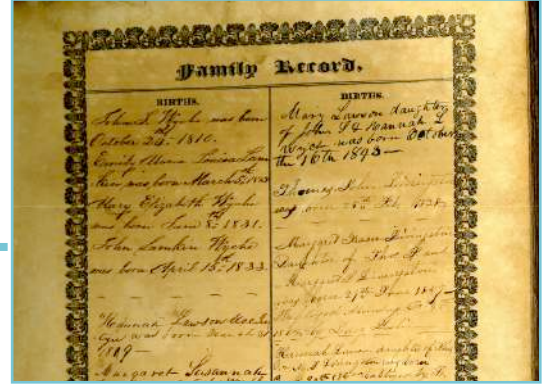
The 1936 Ford Phaeton is currently undergoing minor restorations off site
2019.003.001

1

1936 Ford Phaeton Donated
Only the 4th vehicle ever
accessioned by the History Center

30

Family Bible Genealogy Pages
digitized and available on our
website



James Scott Wyche Family Bible, c. 1810
1978.017.011



Digitized film footage includes past
Rose Show and Festival parades
like those featured in the 1963
promotional film *Where Roses Reign*

584

Entire Book Collection
cataloged, photographed, and
available to search online
Explore at
thomascounty.pastperfectonline.com



City directories organized
by decade for cataloging

810

Minutes of Film & Audio
digitized by the Digital Library
of Georgia
dlg.usg.edu/collection/tchs_thcc



Cutler Collection: Hazel Beamer drawn by
Ben Ali Haggin, 1923
2006.006.015

3,375

Cutler Collection Documents
digitized by the Digital Library
of Georgia

90,500

Digitized Images in the
Ed Kelly Collection



Ed Kelly Collection: Boston High
School graduating class, May 28, 1958

LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



It has been another busy year of improvements, celebrations, and growth at the Lapham-Patterson House. As has been the case over the past few years, 2019 saw a marked increase in visitation and use. Community members continue to discover the charm of the home as a rental venue and visitors from near and far continue to delight in the house's eccentricities.

3,320 
2019

2,420 
2018

2,002 
2017

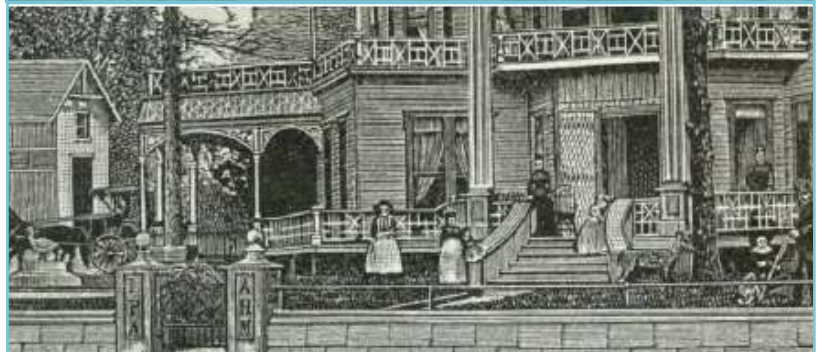
Since 2017, there has been a 65% increase in visitation.

Lapham-Patterson House Improvements

The grounds of the Lapham-Patterson House received a number of changes over the course of the year. Several trees were removed in the front and backyards and the historic fountain in the frontyard once again greets visitors. The concrete gate posts also received an update, they now reveal long-hidden secrets left from the Lapham's ownership.



A late 19th-century lithograph shows letters on the gateposts spelling "LAPHAM" alternating left to right, and the pattern and thickness of the newer cement suggested there were surprises to be found underneath. The textured cement has been chipped away to reveal the carvings. The middle bands obscure the "P" and "H." The exact date of the modifications is unknown, but it is possible that it was done at the direction of the Larmon or Patterson families.



Greenhouse Bar Renovation Complete

The Lapham-Patterson House's greenhouse also received a renovation this year and boasts a new brick floor and lighting. Named the "Greenhouse Bar," the space features a beautiful bar made by Blackwater Timber.

The space will be made available for event rentals and made its debut at "A Spirited Affair" during Halloween. Funds for the renovation of the space and the bar were generously donated by the George E. Crouch Foundation and the space has been dedicated in honor of Betty Jinright, a longtime friend and supporter of the Thomasville History Center and Lapham-Patterson House.



HISTORY CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

Mission Statement & Strategic Planning

As a facet of the strategic planning process, the Board took the opportunity to examine the current mission statement adopted in 2017. The group workshopped a new mission statement that encompasses the goals, purpose, and objectives of the History Center and its work. This simple statement, combined with the vision statement developed during the re-branding campaign, projects our organization's intent to the public. The strategic planning project will continue into early 2020 as we set our intentions and road map for the coming years.



The Thomasville History Center enriches the community through the exploration and discovery of its history, people, and stories.

Audience Growth Continues

Growing community awareness of the History Center's mission, resources, and programming has resulted in a 23% growth in total audience over three years. The History Center's staff has collected attendance and reach statistics throughout the year as a means of measuring our growth.

Programs, events, and tours remain our most successful endeavors. This year, more than 1,800 visitors toured the History Center and more than 1,700 toured the Lapham-Patterson House. More than 3,200 people attended programs like our popular Hands-On Heritage Workshops and lectures, special events like Pilau and the Fall Dinner.

6,780 
2019

5,737 
2018

5,499 
2017

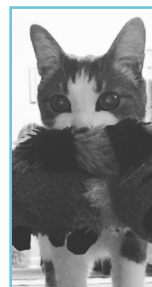
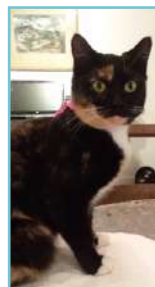
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Stay At Home Pals

Milo Gallo
Bonnie Jean Hand
Amos Hughes
Sasha Owens
Pinky Vereen

Trusty Sidekicks

Max Patz
Katie Patz
Flo Rich
Tucker Schropp
Mr. Bean Steele
Christmas Steele
Elvis Willers-Elwell
Memphis Willers Elwell
Gigi Wright
Sprinkles Wright



Visit thomasvillehistory.org/memberships to sign up your sidekicks and visit our Facebook page to see a gallery of all of our pet members!

Our Generous Supporters:

The Thomasville History Center is grateful for the ongoing support and generosity of the following supporters, grantors, members, and friends. The names of individuals, businesses, and foundations listed alphabetically in this report include all who have made a financial contribution to the History Center in 2019. This list includes program registrations, memberships, memorial contributions, donations, and grants. We strive to maintain as comprehensive a list as possible. If you believe that your name has been left off in error, please contact us. Event sponsors are recognized on later pages.

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The Jasper & Marthalane Davis Foundation generously matches \$1 for every \$2 raised through memberships, programs, and special events. Thanks to the generosity of members and the community, the History Center has been able to maximize the challenge grant's return annually.

Ed Kelly Collection: Marthalane Davis, 1958



Tom Hill From Thomasville



Curator Emeritus C. Tom Hill's retired after 47 years at the Thomasville History Center at the end of 2019. Tom, a lifelong Thomasvillian, was hired as the curator of the Thomas County Historical Society in 1972.

For many years, he was the only member of staff and was responsible for much of the early collections management and displays. A longtime member of Rotary, Tom is known across the community for his historical presentations and the "Slides of March," the annual lecture series at the History Center which he originated many years ago.

Tom partially retired in September 2005 and was given the title of Curator Emeritus. He continued to provide tours on a part-time basis. In September 2019, Tom married his high school sweetheart after a whirlwind romance.

The Board and Staff wish Tom all of the best as he and his wife enter their next phase.





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Please join us in thanking the following Board members for their years of dedicated service:
Alice Dickey, John Hand, Don Sims, Peggy Rich, and Linda Moore

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