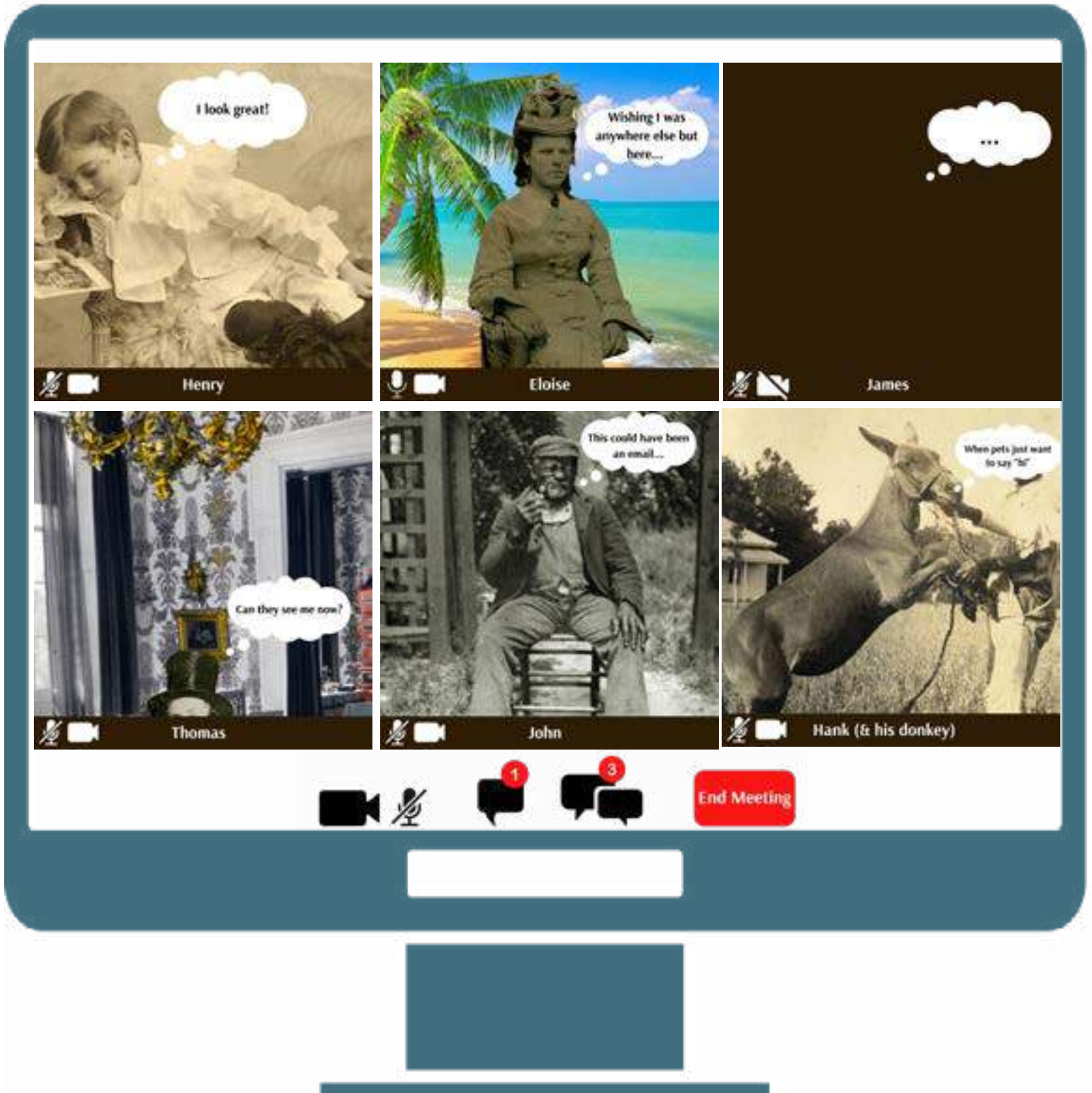


If our collections could Zoom...



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

THOMASVILLE HISTORY CENTER

229.226.7664 | HISTORY@ROSE.NET | WWW.THOMASVILLEHISTORY.ORG | PO Box 1922, THOMASVILLE, GA 31799

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I think it goes without saying that 2020 will go down as one for the books. As historians and people who surround themselves with past experiences and the idea of “looking back,” we can’t help but wonder what people will say 20, 50 or 100 years from now about 2020. Since we cannot fast forward, we want to do the next best thing, which is to help our community and region to accurately document these times.

We know that Thomas County is both like and unlike its neighbors. As has been the case since the 19th century, this community has weathered conflict and challenging times and we want to make sure that despite the History Center’s own 2020 experience, we are a part of an effort that preserves what transpired. You will read further about this work through the Thomas County Chronicles COVID Project and many other efforts we embarked on to make it through 2020.

I can say with complete sincerity that our staff, volunteers, and board have persevered and proved that Thomasville and Thomas County are indeed a “place apart.”



Anne McCudden
Executive Director

2020 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. To a degree, most of those statistics went out of the window after March 13. Our response to all that 2020 threw our way has resulted in a new set of statistics and benchmarks that we are incredibly proud of.

THE USUAL STATISTICS



16
New members



264
Memberships
(New & Renewals)




793+
Volunteer hours worked




10,060+
Followers on Social Media

THE ADVENTURES OF 2020




34
New at-home activities
created



12
New K-12 Education
programs designed and more
to come



20,528
Video views on Facebook,
YouTube, and Instagram



32,200+
Minutes of archival and
original video watched on
Facebook, YouTube, and
Instagram

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



1,200 Items donated by
55 Donors. The most individual
donors in a year since 1976



1,326
Research questions asked by
231 Researchers

THOUSANDS OF ITEMS DIGITIZED & ADDED TO THE ONLINE CATALOG:



Willett House, Metcalfe. Drawing by
Elizabeth Stinson, 1976

225

Paintings, prints, drawings
and watercolors of and by
local artists from 1832-1988

300

Awards & Commemorative
Silver



Award given to Beatrix Hoyt for win in
tournament at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club
in Southampton, New York, 1900.



Daguerreotype of unknown family

200

Yearbooks from Thomasville
and Thomas County Schools,
colleges, universities, and
military units

110

Daguerreotypes and tintypes
from 1850-1870



Boston High School Yearbook, 1960



1921 Thomasville Telephone Directory

225

City, telephone, membership,
and business directories

300

Postcards of local sites,
businesses, and people



Dawson Street Postcard, c. 1910

LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



In early summer, the revised Lapham-Patterson House booklet was completed. Since the History Center assumed management of the House, visitors have received a complimentary booklet outlining the home's history and architectural eccentricities published by the State of Georgia. The stock of the previous booklet was rapidly depleting and it was time for a major update to the layout and content.

History Center staff spent a great deal of time researching and revising the booklet's content with new information and images. We've laid to rest a few of the longest standing myths and legends around the House and added biographical information for each of the families who called the LPH home based on new scholarship. We are grateful to Claire Timm for photographing the home so that we could include updated images.

Thanks to the generous underwriting of the project by a friend of the History Center and Lapham-Patterson House, we can continue to gift a copy of the new booklet to each group that visits. Additional copies are available for a donation of \$2.

Copies of the new booklet are available online at thomasvillehistory.org.



Lapham-Patterson House Improvements

In mid-December, a crew began work to replace damaged exterior millwork siding, and make other repairs to the House. In late December, the crew began work on the decorative bargeboard. Funds for these improvements will be provided by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.



Left: Workers replaced damaged woodwork on the third floor roof line; Right: The crew relied on a lift to reach the heights of the LPH safely.

Rental Packages

In early 2020, we redesigned our rental packages for the Lapham-Patterson House and History Center. Our previous models and fee schedule have been adapted into a three-tier price system that we feel suits events of almost any size.



HISTORY CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

Exhibit Improvements

2020 has afforded us the time to make thoughtful changes to the stories we tell and the ways in which we tell them in our exhibition spaces. Using exhibit maintenance funds that had been set aside for a rainy day (or a pandemic), we have made impactful changes to the Davis Wing, MacIntyre Room, Orientation Room, and more. We look forward to sharing these updates with you soon.



Top left: The updated MacIntyre Room will tell the story of the MacIntyre family between 1776 and the 1970s.

Top right: The three Civil War flags have been reconfigured to allow for viewing on each side.

Middle left: A new Flipper family exhibit, including this set of family china, will be on display.

Middle right: Artifacts unearthed during the excavations at Thomasville's POW site will be on display in the new Civil War exhibit.

Bottom left: Several of our historic weapons have been fitted to custom mounts by C&S Machine Co.



IT TAKES A "VILLE"-AGE

Despite all of its challenges, 2020 will go down as a benchmark year for the History Center's special events. The re-imagining of our annual fall fundraising dinner into Crate to Plate, and the overwhelming support we received for the 28th Annual Pilau Dinner resulted in our highest grossing fundraisers to date.

CRATE TO PLATE



130
Crates sold, feeding 260 people

63

Sponsors
16% Growth over 2019



10

First-Time Sponsors

15+
Volunteers provided

55+
Hours of help



35

Individuals or couples purchased crates who had not attended a fall dinner in several years

\$28,403

Net proceeds from
Crate to Plate



PILAU

1,300
Meals pre-ordered



37

gallons of pickles served

18

gallons of coleslaw served

45+
Volunteers provided

100+
Hours of help



1

(Big!) Refrigerated truck loaned by Harper's Seafood

\$10,010

Net proceeds from
28th Annual Pilau Dinner



Pet Memberships Benefit Collections

We are grateful for our 2020 Stay at Home Pals and Trusty Sidekicks. The more than \$200 raised from pet memberships this year supports the ongoing care of our collections.

Not Pictured: Obie Wan, Princess Leia, & Bandito Herring-Linton; Lily Flowers; Charlotte & Becky Patz.

Stay at Home Pals



Row 1: Pinky Vereen, Ramona Vereen; Row 2: Sasha Owens, Dexter Gallo; Row 3: Milo Gallo, Blue Gibbs; Row 4: Gregg Gibbs

Memorial Trusty Sidekicks



Happy Powell with Margaret McKay Powell, mid 1970s



Doc Flowers, faithful companion to Langdon Flowers

Trusty Sidekicks



Row 1: Rhodes Flowers, Flo Rich, Lewis Hughes; Row 2: Beck Edwards, Christmas Steele, Sprinkles Wright; Row 3: Peanut McCudden, Max Patz, Katie Patz; Row 4: Memphis & Elvis Willers-Elwell; Ellie & Laney Garcia; Row 5: Wilson & Seve Braswell; Mr. Bean Steele; Gigi Wright



Add your furry (or scaly!) friend to our member rolls by visiting thomasvillehistory.org/memberships.

TURNING ON A DIME: FROM IN-PERSON TO DIGITAL & DISTANCE PROGRAMMING

#MuseumatHome

With the shutdown in March, museums across the country, including the Thomasville History Center, turned their attention to providing support, entertainment, distraction, and education to communities sheltering at home.

Within two weeks of shutdown, the History Center introduced its Distraction Digest series, a weekly email containing upcoming video, social media, and at-home activities. Social media became the primary way for all of us to stay connected.

Full S.T.E.A.H.M. Ahead

Using our chronological eras as inspiration, we drafted and shared more than 20 activity packs available for download free of charge and which remain available on our website. Each activity pack includes coloring activities, word games, reading comprehension activities, and more that highlight the story of Thomas County.

Inspired by our popular craft workshops, we shared easy at-home crafts that all ages can create using materials around the house. During the "Distraction Digest" weeks, we created 10 free at-home craft packets. Activities ranged in difficulty from the very easy DIY Civil War Battle Flags to a more challenging, step-by-step instruction guide for creating a flyable tissue paper hot air balloon. The hot air balloon is a highlight of our annual Camp LPH and we wanted to share the S.T.E.A.H.M. fun with everyone. New scavenger hunts around the Dawson Street Historic District, Downtown area, and our properties were available for outdoor adventures. All of these materials remain available online at thomasvillehistory.org/athome.

At-Home Camp Kits

As an extension of our at-home programming, we offered At-Home Camp Kits this summer and over the holidays that contained all the materials needed to build a Camp Dawson-inspired craft at home. Each kit included detailed, step-by-step instructions and a little information about the historical inspiration for the project. We even stepped out of our comfort zone and created an instructional video for one of the more challenging projects.

Like our annual summer camp programming and Hands-On Heritage Workshops, the kits embraced the principles of S.T.E.A.H.M (science, technology, engineering, arts, history/humanities, and math). Each of the kits sold out within a few weeks of their introduction and provided an important revenue stream for the History Center on the heels of our three month closure. We brought back the camp kits for the holiday season and expanded our age audience to include adults. Kits were also available for shipping so crafters could share the fun with friends and family farther away. Youth activity kits and grown-up activity kits will continue to be a part of our 2021 program calendar as we continue to limit our face-to-face gatherings.



A School Year Like No Other

Our digital activities became the inspiration and starting point for our fall K-12 education plan and evolved into the Independent Explorer activities designed for in-class and online learning tied to state curriculum. These materials are also available free of charge thanks to the generous support of the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation. Combined with our Deep Dive digital games, these programs offer safe alternatives to in-person visits. Each activity pack is aligned to grade level social studies curriculum and includes interdisciplinary activities in science, math, ELA, and reading. We've contracted with a licensed social studies teacher to review all of our new curriculum materials before they are shared with educators and students.

Social Media Series & Videos

Videos of History Center staff showing off some of our favorite collections items were popular additions to our Instagram page. In an effort to be more accessible, we added closed captioning to those videos and plan to continue that practice.

Recordings of past lectures, some from as far back as the early 1990's, became weekly staples during the Distraction Digest and their content complimented the chronological era of the activity packs. Viewership of those videos totalled 20,528 across our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels.

These efforts resulted in an exponential growth in our Instagram followers from March through the end of 2020. We estimate an increase of about 500 followers in the last 9 months.

Make History: Tie Dye

This summer, we encouraged friends and neighbors to get creative with us at two tie dye drop-in events. For a base fee, all ages were guided through the steps of one of our most popular camp activities. Guests brought along their own clothing and items to dye and we provided the material. Family groups could reserve time slots so that we could maintain proper social distancing.



The History Center dipped its toes into the shutdown trend of recreating museum artwork at home. Check out this interpretation of Hazel Beamer Cutler submitted by our friends at You're Maker.

Coloring Contest



Winners: Gibbes (Littles), Sam (Middles), Josh (Bigs)

In April, we partnered with Thomasville Center for the Arts and the Thomasville Visitor's Center to offer an extra distraction to the community and bring a little color and joy to our days. Entrants were asked to color a scene of downtown Thomasville from the History Center's coloring book. Across the three age divisions- Littles, Middles, and Bigs- we had a beautiful array of submissions. The winners were selected by artists from the Center for the Arts. The Visitor's Center gave each winner a prize package containing goodies from downtown.

OUR YEAR IN PICTURES

JANUARY



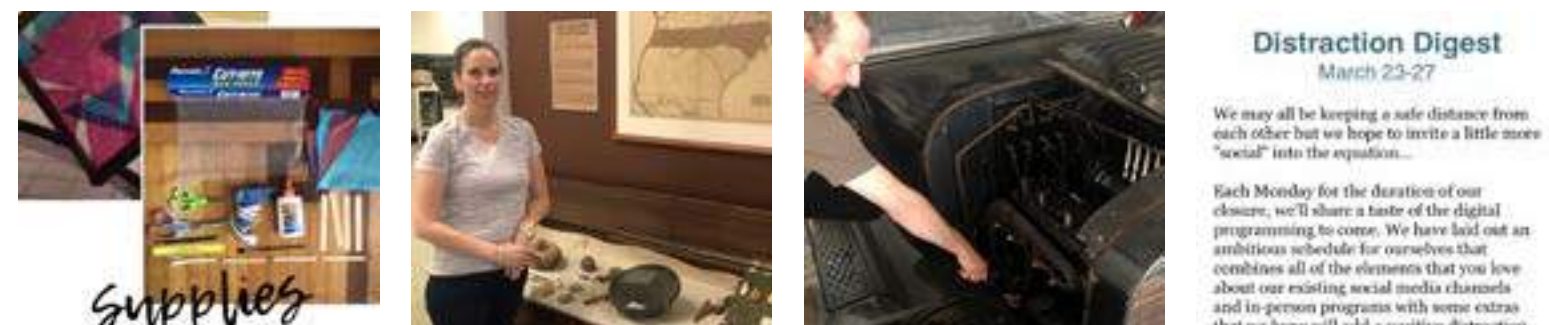
Board Retreat at Greenwood for Strategic Planning; 2020 Annual Meeting; *Things New & Strange: A Southerner's Journey Through the Smithsonian Collection*, by Dr. G. Wayne Clough; Thomasville High School Special Education Field Trip

FEBRUARY



Do You Remeber? The Follies; Annual Victorian Valentine craft drop in; Members-Only private Sips & Stories tour of the Historic Florida Capital Museum in Tallahassee

MARCH



Thomas County: 101 Lecture, by Ephraim; The History Center suspended tours and programs on March 13; The Ford Phaeton returned from the shop ([Video](#)); Staff (attempted) a puzzle as a stress relief measure; Work began to develop our "at home" programming including craft activities and videos presented by staff; Distraction Digest debuted.

APRIL



Partnered with the Visitor's Center and Thomasville Center for the Arts on a coloring contest; Socially distanced staff meeting on the porch of the Lapham-Patterson House during our shutdown; Do You Remember? Rose Festival Parades compilation video premiered on [Facebook](#); Retirement Parade for Board Member, Lynn Williams

MAY



Completed time and space consuming projects like organizing the education supplies and sorting the paintings and prints; ThoCoChronicles project launches; Pressure washing the Lapham-Patterson House's front walkways;

JUNE-AUGUST



Designing the new Orientation Room time line; Twitty Titus interviewed by WFSU about the ThoCoChronicles project; Publication of the new LPH booklet; Make History: Tie Dye; Re-painting the MacIntyre Room; Pet-adoption partnership with the Thomasville-Thomas County Humane Society; Removing layers of paint from the porte-cochere door; Re-locating the Moller street scene ([Video](#)).

SEPTEMBER



Many hands make light work of mailings; Hanging new exhibit panels; Loading furniture and artifacts back into the MacIntyre Room; Re-locating the Fire Department Collection

OCTOBER



Crate to Plate

NOVEMBER



Pilau

DECEMBER



Holiday decorations at the Lapham-Patterson House with help from the Thomasville Visitor's Center, Hands & Hearts for Horses, John B. Gordon Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the John Lee of Nansemond Chapter, Colonial Dames 17th Century. Photographs by Claire Timm

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 2020. This list includes sponsorships, 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 again on later pages.

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Thomas County Chronicles COVID

In the early summer of 2020, the Thomasville History Center joined together with the Jack Hadley Black History Museum, Pebble Hill Plantation, Thomasville Center for the Arts, and the Thomas County Public Library System to document the community's responses to the ongoing pandemic. This ongoing project is designed to create a collection of photographs, artifacts, and artistic reflections on this moment in our shared story.

In the fall, the partners introduced a Student Photo Essay Contest designed to capture the pandemic from the perspective of our community's 5th through 12th graders. More than 100 projects were submitted in December across several themes including Education, Family Life, Public Health, and more.

These projects will become part of the larger collection. Students were encouraged to reflect upon how life has changed and how they, their families, and community responded to the challenges of 2020. Judging continues on the submissions and the partners hope to announce the winners by the end of January. We are grateful to the teachers who integrated this project and competition into their curriculum for this year.

We are still actively collecting and encourage you to submit your photos, stories, and reflections. Submissions can be made online at thocochronicles.org or at any of the partner locations.



ThoCoChronicles
Collection, Photo
submitted by A.
West, December 2020

