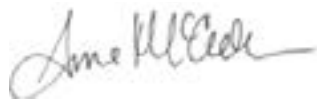




DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We would like to take a minute to re-cap 2021 and show the progress we made and the work that we still have to do. We embarked on some new initiatives this year, like the Tiptoe Through the Tombstones cemetery tours and The Apprentice Program for teens.

While both programs have been quite successful, we know that we will need 2022 and beyond to refine and improve these efforts so that our work remains relevant and engaging to all. Thank you to all our staff, volunteers and board members who make this work possible and fun!



Anne McCudden
Executive Director



Thomasville History Center Staff: Amelia Gallo, Anne McCudden, Ephraim Rotter, and Meme Greitzer. Photo by Claire Timm

2021 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. Despite a slow start to the year for visitation due to our ongoing exhibit updates, we saw a great rebound for the remainder of 2021 and a return to an (almost) normal program calendar.

THE USUAL STATISTICS



54
New members



303
Memberships
(New & Renewals)



2,200+
Students & teachers served



10,710+
Followers on Social Media

NEW IN 2021



4
Virtual Lectures and Do You Remember?



9
Miss Thomasville and Rose Queen gowns displayed for Rose Show centennial



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



6
History Mystery videos produced and shared online to kick off our new monthly series

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



650 Items donated by
47 Donors



1,560
Research questions asked by
409 Researchers

3,500 Items digitized and cataloged including...



Demographics Collection:
Transcript of 1850 U.S. Census of
Thomas County, Georgia
Donated by Folks Huxford
1955.01.1

1 ITEM DONATED IN 1955

2 ITEMS DONATED IN 1958



Dekle Collection: Lebbeus Dekle,
c. 1930
Donated by Mary Effie Howey
Dekle, 1958.01.1



Crawford Collection: Daily Brothers
Circus arrives at Jackson Street
Depot, October 12, 1949
Donated by Bobby Crawford, 1995.13.07

1,000 PHOTOGRAPHS
DONATED BETWEEN
1967-2006

250 POSTCARDS DONATED
BETWEEN 1965-2006



Thomasville Landmarks Collection:
Postcard of the intersection of Broad Street
and Jackson Street, looking north towards
Jefferson Street, October 21, 1906.
Donated by Thomasville Landmarks,
1973.56.25



Answering the Call Collection:
Letter from Red Milton to S.E.
(Stellos) Burousas, 1944
Donated by Dr. Douglas J. Haydel,
2001.38

200 WORLD WAR II LETTERS

150 NEWSPAPERS



Georgia South Newspaper Collection
Donated by Glenda Slater, 2020.051.0010

LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

In June, the History Center partnered with Thomasville Landmarks to offer an all new camp experience for middle-school aged students. Campers learned about historic architecture, historic preservation, and design principles and used their new knowledge to design and construct their own table-top historic district. Their display was the star of August's Renovator's Happy Hour, held in partnership with Thomasville Landmarks.



In October, the Thomasville History Center was awarded an Excellence in Stewardship Award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. The Excellence in Stewardship Award recognizes those who ensure the preservation of historic properties through long-term care and maintenance, stabilization, protection, or continuous family ownership.



In the late fall, the Thomasville History Center launched a community engagement process with the help of Savannah based consultants, Ethos Preservation. The LP Future Project explored adaptive reuse options with a goal to develop road map for reuse.



The Lapham-Patterson House has a longstanding history of serving as a focal point of the heritage tourism of Thomasville and we look forward to crafting a collective vision and finding a sustainable use for the House that honors the past but also looks to the future. This use should be inclusive to

all, including those who have not engaged with the site or who have not found the site accessible in the past.

Ethos Preservation's report will be complete in early 2022. Some funding for the LP Future project was made possible by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



HISTORY CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

Collections Storage Renovations

Among the many improvements we made across the property this year, the demolition and renovation of the former second floor bathroom will have lasting benefits for our storage needs. The second floor of the Flowers-Roberts House has been used for collections storage by the History Center since the early 2000's.

During the Flowers' time in the home, we believe that the upper floor of the home was an attic space. It was the Roberts family who renovated the space and turned it into additional living space with a large bedroom, nursery, bathroom, and several closets in the early 1940s.

The former bathroom's operational parts were removed long ago, but the shower stall, tile walls, and large built-in vanity storage remained. For many years, this space was used to hold education materials and collections storage. Our goal was to prevent as much of the demolition and construction dust from accumulating in the collections area as



The shower stall before demolition.

possible. What felt like miles of plastic sheeting and tape were hung to contain the mess before demolition began.

Over the course of several weeks, all of the existing bathroom fixtures, with the exception of the floor, were removed. In total, we estimate about one ton of concrete and building material were removed in the process. This helped to alleviate the weight load on the second floor immensely and the absence of the shower and vanity has opened up space for more shelving and better storage. We also have better access to the HVAC unit in that room.

Along the way, we made a few fun discoveries of items hidden behind the walls. We found a building materials receipt from the bathroom's original construction, a long-hidden section of



A glimpse at the re-discovered wallpaper through the floor joists.

wallpaper that gives us an idea of what the first floor hallway looked like, and a pile of vintage style razor blades that were dropped through a slot in the medicine cabinet after use and accumulated behind the wall.

The wallpaper fragment was added to our collection for future study. We estimate that it was from the early 20th-century. Visit our Instagram page, @thomasvillehistory for photos documenting the progression of the project and our discoveries.



Plastic sheeting protected the collections during the renovation.



The completed renovation.

VOLUNTEERS & ENGAGEMENT

How do we measure engagement?

In October, the Thomasville History Center hosted a peer reviewer as a part of the MAP Engagement Grant we received early in the year. The American Alliance of Museum's Museum Assessment Program (MAP) began in 1981 as a process to help small and medium sized institutions strengthen operations, plan for the future, and meet industry standards.

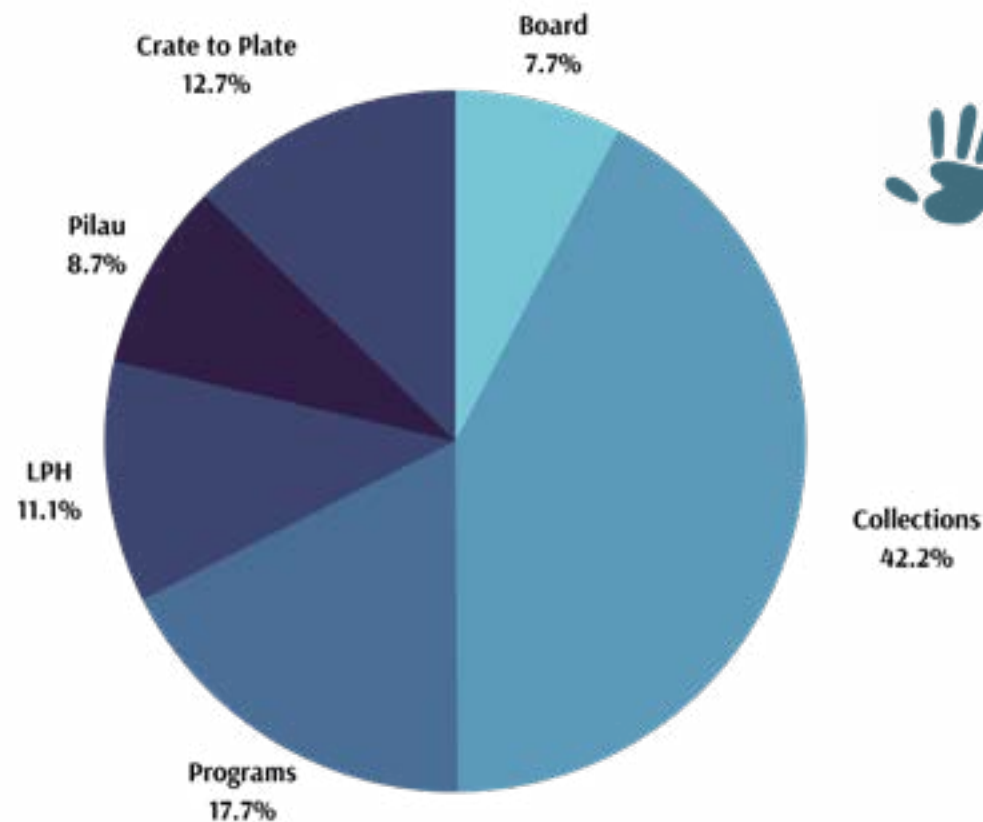
The one-year process includes self-assessment and activities conducted by the institution and a culminate in a peer review visit. Institutions receive grant funding in a range of categories including Organizational Structure, Collections, Board Leadership, Education & Interpretation, and Community & Audience Engagement which we are working to complete. Our reviewer traveled from North Dakota and held several meetings with staff, Board, and community members. We look forward to seeing her report and incorporating her suggestions into our work going forward.

A Community & Audience Engagement assessment helps museums gather better input from their constituents, develop a more nuanced view about the community's and audiences' demographics and needs, respond to the changing nature of its audiences, and incorporate these findings into planning and operational decisions.-- AAM

We are grateful to our MAP Engagement Committee: Susan Vann, Kha McDonald, and Elisa Carter who joined Anne and Amelia on this journey, as well as the many community members who gave of their time to participate in the discussions with our reviewer during her visit.

Volunteer Appreciation

This year, we added several wonderful volunteers to our roster who have added immeasurable benefit to our work. To show our appreciation for all that they do, and that all of our volunteers have done for us over the last several years, the History Center hosted a special volunteer party in July.



1,517+ Volunteer hours completed by

115+ Volunteers



THE APPRENTICE PROGRAM

Eight students from across the Red Hills region comprise the first cohort of the Thomasville History Center's Apprentice Program. The program is funded through the generous support of the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation, Inc.

Apprentices are learning the basics of museum and non-profit operations while shadowing staff, volunteering at events, and through the completion of a capstone project of their choosing in the spring. The curriculum for the Apprentice seminars are based on graduate school level training received by the History Center staff and draws on current best practices within the field. It is our goal that the Apprentices will not only develop an interest in museum work, but feel empowered to be active producers and consumers of history in the future. Apprentices will further develop critical thinking skills and interpersonal skills through the program.

The Apprentices first met in October and were asked to define a museum. Each provided a thoughtful answer as to the purpose of museums and their role in communities. They also completed a "Museology Scavenger Hunt" designed by Apprentice Program Coordinator Tyler Kemarly, designed to get them to take a closer look at the museum. In November, they learned about collections care and curation and about programs and education in December. This foundational knowledge will be built upon as they venture out into the community to visit other local cultural institutions in the spring.

We hope to expand the program with a new cohort of Apprentices next fall while designing a second-year curriculum for those Apprentices interested in continuing their work with the History Center.



Carter Newsome
Thomas County Central



Claire Pope
Thomas County Central



Anabelle Proctor
Thomas County Central



Maggie Claire
Richardson
Scholars Academy



Savannah Taylor
Thomas County Central



Ransom Young
Thomas County Central



Parker McCollum
Brookwood School



Tallulah King
Leon High School

IT TAKES A "VILLE"-AGE

Despite all of its challenges, 2021 will go down as another benchmark year for the History Center's special events. The amazing support we received for the second annual Crate to Plate and the 29th Annual Pilau Dinner built upon last year's record setting-numbers and set a few records of their own!

CRATE TO PLATE



180
Crates sold, feeding 360 people

86

Sponsors
30% Growth over 2020



24

First-Time Sponsors

30+

Volunteers provided

130+

Hours of help



11

Local vendors featured in the crates

\$30,316.89

Net proceeds from
2nd Annual Crate to Plate



PILAU

1,390
Meals pre-ordered



37
gallons of pickles served

44+
gallons of coleslaw served

45+

Volunteers provided

125+

Meals donated to
community members in need



1

(Big!) Refrigerated trailer

\$9,785

Net proceeds from
29th Annual Pilau Dinner



Our Event Sponsors & Vendors



Mary & Joe Beverly
Mary Jo S. Beverly
Amos & Jackie McMullian

Lee & Russell Chubb
The George E. Crouch Foundation
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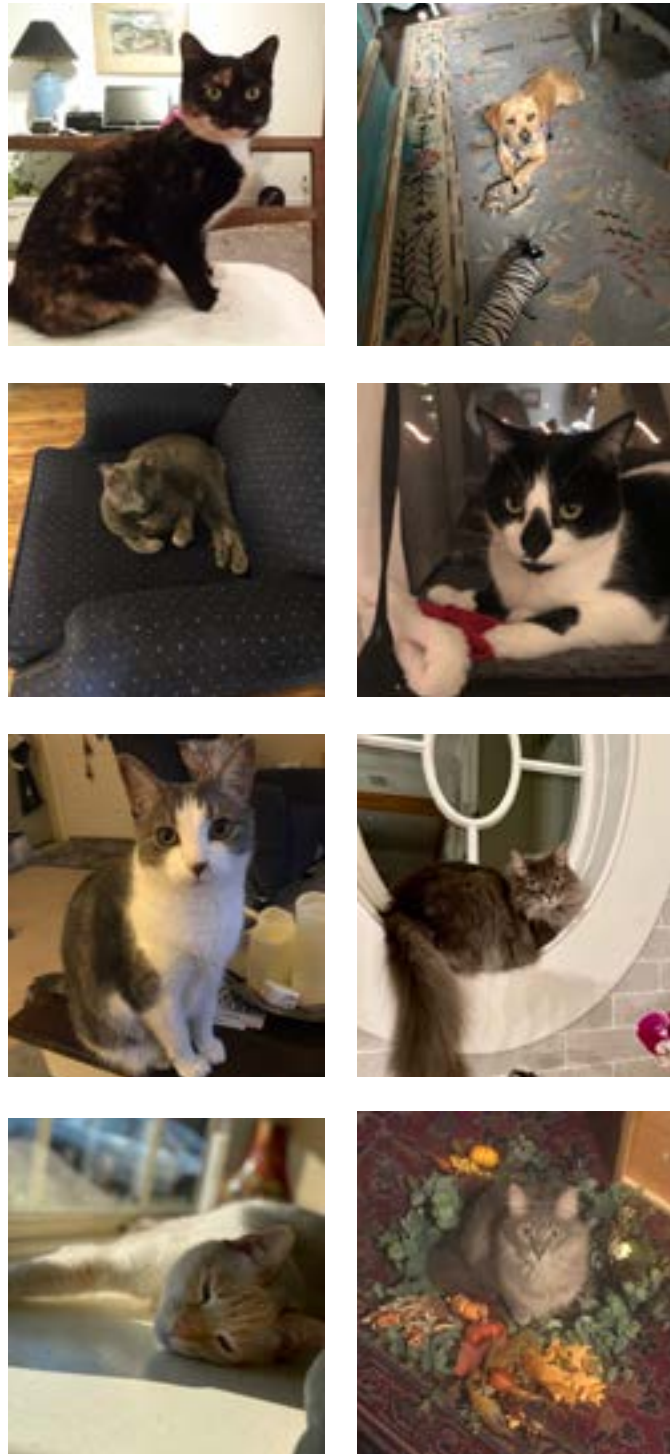


Georgia Crate & Basket Co.

Pet Memberships Benefit Collections

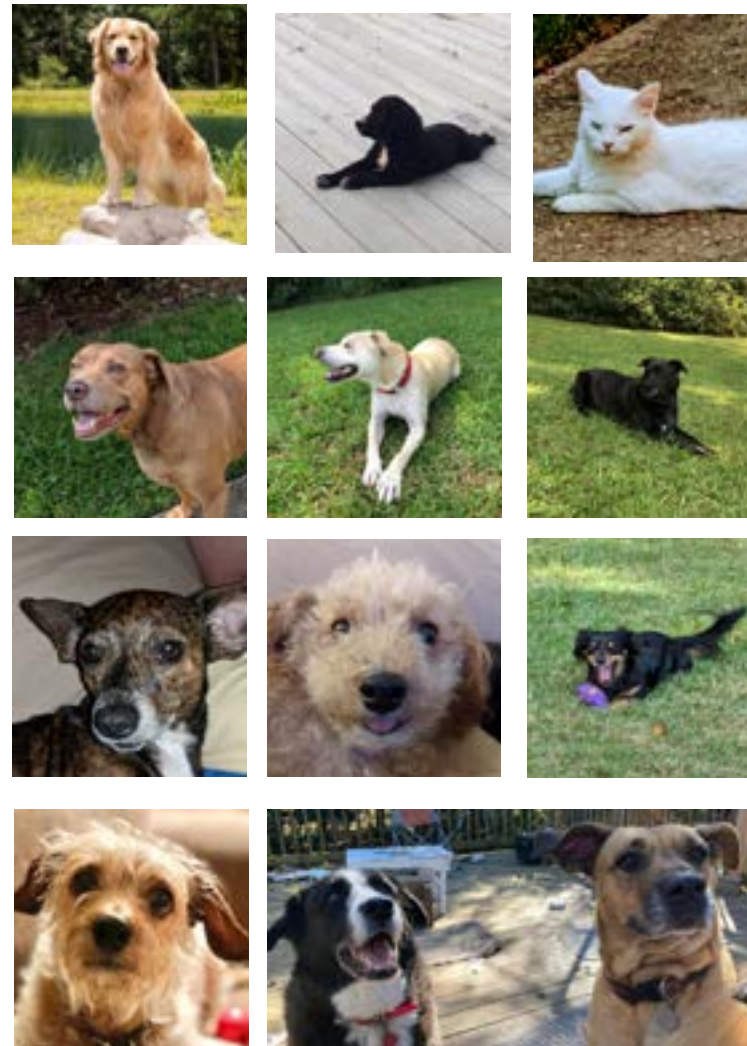
We are grateful for our 2021 Stay at Home Pals and Trusty Sidekicks. The \$150 raised from pet memberships this year supports the ongoing care of our collections.

Stay at Home Pals



Row 1: Pinky Vereen, Ramona Vereen
 Row 2: Sasha Owens, Dexter Gallo
 Row 3: Milo Gallo, Lulu Tarver
 Row 4: Blondie Schaeffer, Princess Greitzer

Trusty Sidekicks



Row 1: A.J. McDonald, Lewis Hughes; Sprinkles Wright
 Row 2: Gigi Wright; Max Patz; Katie Patz
 Row 3: Christmas Steele, Mr. Bean Steele, Peanut Steele
 Row 4: Paddy Hafford, Langston & Maggie Johnson

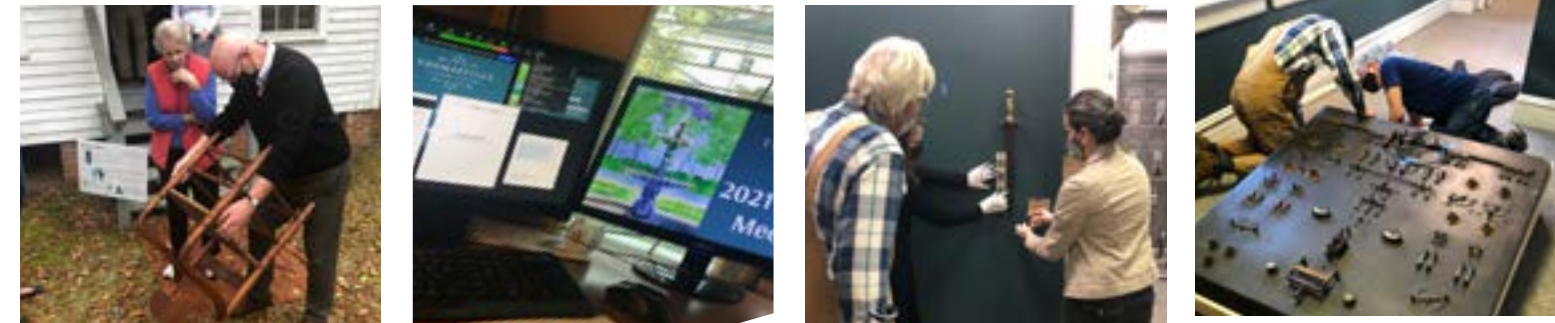
Not pictured: , Charlotte Patz, Becky Patz, Obie Wan Linton, Princess Leia Linton, Bandito Linton



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

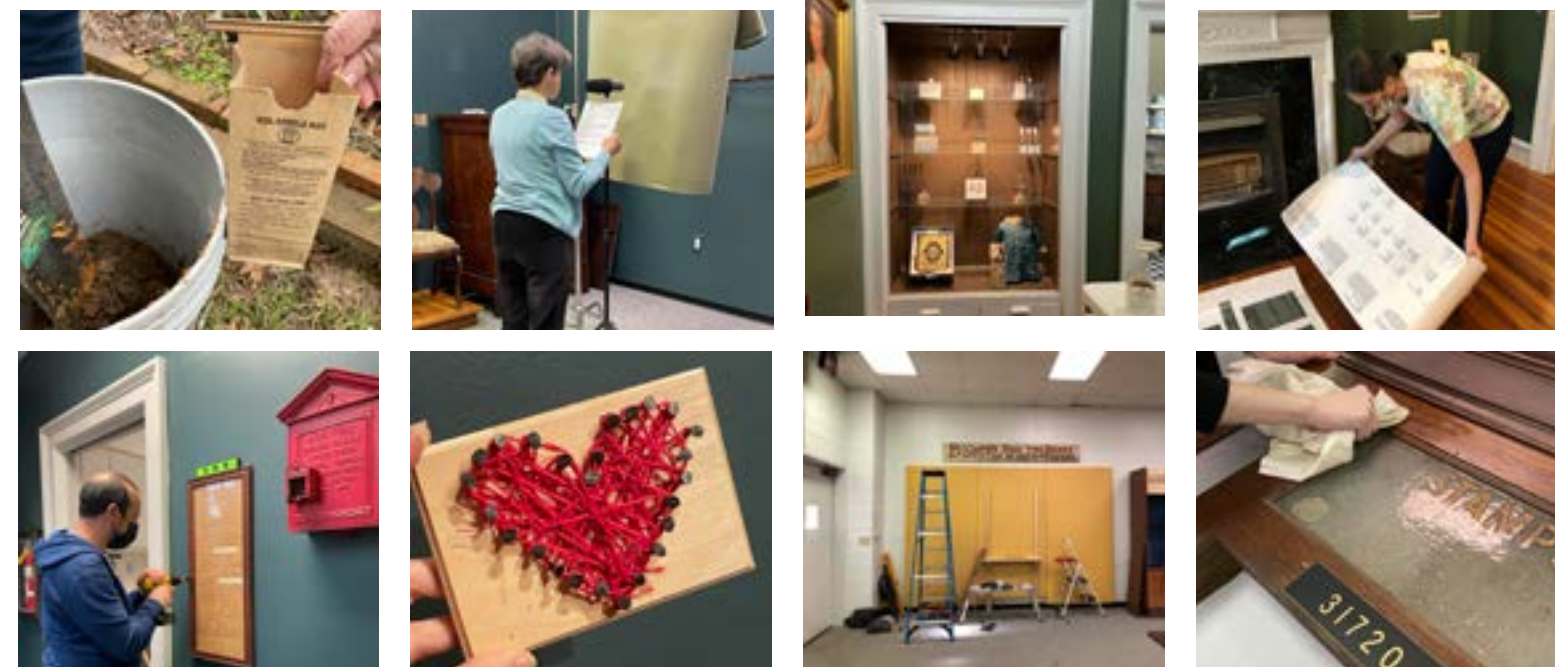
OUR YEAR IN PICTURES

JANUARY



The new year began with a visit from Ronald L. Hurst, Vice President for Museums, Preservation, and Historic Resources and the Carlisle H. Humelsine Chief Curator at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and resulted in the donation of a Kentucky Penitentiary-made chair to Williamsburg. The 2021 Annual Meeting went virtual, and exhibit updates continued.

FEBRUARY



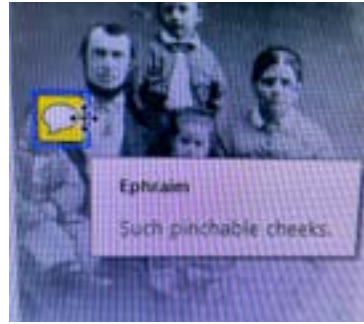
In February we took soil samples across the property to better prepare our learning gardens, June White recorded the voice over for our new video, Valentine craft kits were shipped far and wide, and more exhibit installations were completed.

MARCH



Members went on an excursion to the VanDyke property in Monticello, the vernal equinox light show shined, and the virtual Slides of March added a special "sips" suggestion with the help of our friends at Liam's Restaurant. Staff honed their vinyl application skills with the arrival of new exhibit panels from vendors.

APRIL



In April, the History Center was honored with an award for "Creativity in Crisis" from the Georgia Association of Museums for Crate to Plate. Volunteer Chris Linton helped us to construct a compost bin at the Smith Homestead garden. Final edits continued on the new exhibit panels with a little levity. We celebrated the Rose Show centennial with an exhibit of past Rose Queens and Miss Thomasville gowns.

MAY



Stories in Bloom marked the official debut of our new exhibits. The Lapham-Patterson House got spruced up and hosted the wedding reception of our own Meme Hand Greitzer.

JUNE-AUGUST



June brought fun and adventure with Camp Dawson and Camp LPH. Demolition of the second floor bathroom began and many discoveries were made along the way. In August, Amelia returned to the classroom for programs for the first time since March 2020.

SEPTEMBER



In September, we hosted our first Trusty Sidekick walk through the Dawson Street neighborhood. We attended Vashti's annual Dinner on the Bricks and constructed a tabletop Lapham-Patterson House for our entry into the decorating contest. The second annual Crate to Plate set new records for fundraising. 180 crates were distributed to sponsors and buyers over the course of just one hour!

OCTOBER



October brought more festive fun to the History Center with the introduction of our new Tiptoe Through the Tombstone tours. Your overwhelming enthusiasm for that event will result in its continuation in 2022. The staff attended CPR training and have all been certified. The Ethos Preservation team led a series of community visioning events to kick off the LP Future project. Trick or treating returned to Dawson Street and candy seekers were greeted by special window silhouettes.

NOVEMBER



The LP Future project invited passersbys to imagine the future of the Lapham-Patterson House. The 29th Annual Pilau Dinner was a great success thanks to our cooks and volunteers. At our latest Hands-On History Workshop, attendees crafted beautiful double bottom baskets.

DECEMBER



The Apprentices helped deck the halls of the Lapham-Patterson House. Author Neely Young held a talk and signing. Campers at "Holiday at the Homestead" got a taste of an old fashioned Christmas.



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Wallace Goodman
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Kha McDonald
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Julie McPherson
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich
Mercer Watt

Join us in thanking the following
Board member for their service:
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich

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Anne McCudden
Executive Director

Ephraim Rotter
Curator

Amelia Gallo
Programs & Membership Manager

Meme Greitzer
Programs & Curatorial Assistant

Tyler Kemarly
Apprentice Program Coordinator

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