



THOMASVILLE

HISTORY CENTER

Start Your Journey
8:00 - 10:00

THOMASVILLE
HISTORY CENTER
100 N. Main St., Thomasville, GA 31784
Phone: 706.224.1144
www.thomasvillehistory.org

2023 Annual Report



MISSION

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

VISION

The Thomasville History Center is the gateway for the history of the Red Hills region. We are uniquely positioned to provide historical context to the past, and we aim to be a vital part of the unfolding future of this storied and distinctive geographic and cultural region. We connect regional historical resources and ensure that they are relevant, dynamic, diverse, and accessible.

Greetings and thank you!

As we look back at 2023 I can see some very promising trends and patterns. Over the last year, the History Center has taken time to address things like new revenue streams, ways to engage more diverse audiences, and efforts we need to take to ensure the sustainability of our properties and buildings.

The time spent on these projects has already shown us that between our employees, volunteers, board members and community supporters, we have the tools to move forward in a way that works for everyone. In this report, you'll read about some of the work carried out in 2023, but rest assured, this does not represent the full gamut of what was accomplished or even started last year.

All that being said, I want to take this moment to point out that the History Center will be taking most of 2024 to dive deep into a Strategic Planning process. This is work that is both necessary and timely (as many of our partners locally and nationally embark on similar work). Again, thank you for your continued support of the Center and for another year of fun and exploration.



Anne McCudden
Executive Director





COLLECTIONS

2,206 Items cataloged

43 Photo albums and scrapbooks received

6,431 Catalog items updated and photographed

23,236 Total items in catalog

OLDEST ITEM DONATED IN 2023

Daguerreotype of Rev. James Ezekial Evans of Savannah, Georgia, 1850. Evans is the great-grandfather of former Flowers Foods Presidents William Howard Flowers Jr. and Langdon Strong Flowers Sr. (2023.014.0038)

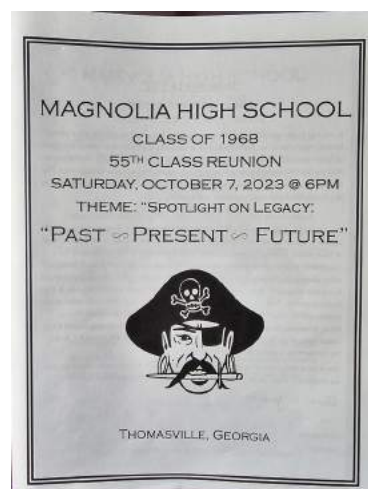


LARGEST ITEM DONATED IN 2023

Large 20 x 25-foot American flag used as a backdrop for some performances at the Thomasville Music & Drama Troupe building on Covington Avenue, c.1995. (2023.008.0018)

YOUNGEST ITEM DONATED IN 2023

2023 program with a directory from the Magnolia High School Class of 1968 for their 55th Reunion, October 7, 2023. (2023.038.0001)



SMALLEST ITEM DONATED IN 2023

Sterling silver Thomasville High School girls' basketball pendant owned by Claire Varnedoe (Thomas), 1950. The pendant is shaped like a basketball with a red Thomasville High School "T" and "1950" and "C. Varnedoe" engraved. 3/8th inch diameter (2023.014.0030)

Our database contains over 23,236 items with information about their origins or provenance, the donor, a photograph of the item, and a location.

- 3-Dimensional Objects: 4,130
- Books: 814
- Archives: 9,306
- Photos: 8,986





ENGAGEMENT

37 New members

2,550+ Students & educators served

5 Camp scholarships awarded

339 Items sold in The Lobby

2023 saw the creation of our informal education philosophy that prioritizes learning through experience for all ages inspired by the awe, whimsy, and adventure of our summer camps. This philosophy extends to the new Hangout event which opens our grounds for all to enjoy an evening of friendship and live music under the stars. In 2023, we connected with nearly 2,600 teachers and students and we visited many classrooms to work with students on their primary source skills and knowledge of local history.

We connected with new audiences through our Instagram Reels series and new TikTok channel with entertaining and informative videos highlighting our collection and grounds. Viewers most enjoyed videos that list the unusual names found in Thomas County primary source documents and behind the scenes looks into daily work at the History Center. New partnerships with old friends at the Thomasville Center for the Arts opened doors to new visual stories. Their adoption of our "art hall" as a temporary gallery space featured works from past Wildlife Arts Festival artists celebrates the ecology and fauna of the Red Hills region.

The opening of The Lobby in the fall ushered in a new era for the History Center and embodies the connection between collection and community. With merchandise inspired by the ecology, people, and stories of our community as well as the collections of the History Center, there's a little something for everyone to enjoy. Thanks to the hard work of our partners at Summerhill Creative, our new online shop was ready to meet the demand of the holiday shopping season and beyond.



PET MEMBERS



Left to right: Row 1, AJ McDonald; Dexter Gallo; Mr. Bean McCudden-Steele; Zoey Katz; Maggie McCloud; Gigi Wright
 Row 2: Sprinkles Wright; Paddy Hafford; Annibelle Allen; Georgia Crozer; Maggie and Langston Johnson
 Unpictured: Boss, Bella, and Angus Savelle; Molly Farnham; Sidekick Ellis; Togo Allen

BOARD

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Charnie Beverly
First Vice President

Leiann Orr
Second Vice President

Mercer Watt
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Dr. Chip Bragg
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Kha McDonald

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Claire Thomas Timm

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anne McCudden

CURATOR

Ephraim Rotter

HEAD OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Amelia Gallo

ASSISTANT CURATOR

Meme Greitzer

HONORARIUMS

FOREST CUTTER KNAPP

Mr. & Mrs. G. Warren Stafford

MEMORIALS

CLAIRE FLOWERS VARNEDOE THOMAS

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Fletcher & Associates

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