



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

On the cover: Guests arrive at the Lapham-Patterson House for “Peering Into the Possibilities,” on October 29. Photograph courtesy of Just Kidding Photography

Rain, Rain Go Away

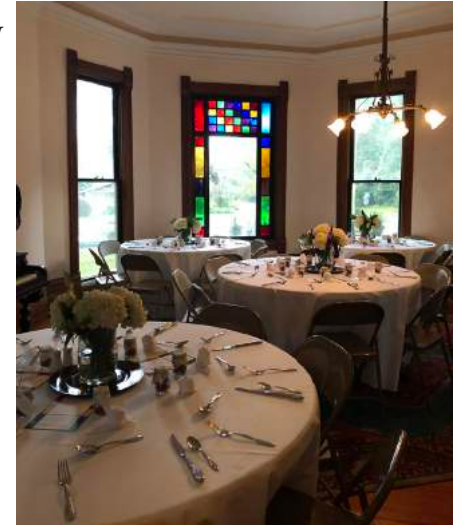
For the second year in a row, tropical weather moving through our area delayed the annual fall fundraising dinner. Despite another soggy and stormy day, the History Center’s Board, Staff, and volunteers rallied to relocate the festivities from tents in the backyard to the parlors of the Lapham-Patterson House on October 29.

We estimate more than 130 people joined us to “peer into the possibilities.” Attendees enjoyed a cozy dinner catered by JB Crumbs.

Guests enjoyed a signature cocktail on the front porch and had the opportunity to purchase tickets for the raffle package containing a Tiffany rose bowl, a hand hooked rug, a painting donated by Abby Howard Murphy, and vouchers for arrangements from Singletary’s Flowers.

This event will go down as a favorite of guests and staff alike for its unique experience of enjoying the house as the families would have just a few generations ago.

The Board and Staff wish to thank the Special Events Committee for their time and creativity as well as this year’s many underwriters whose generosity set a new record for funds raised. Tables and chairs for the event were provided by Battery Source and the flowers were provided by Singletary’s.



A Pilau for the Record Books

Pilau celebrated its 27th anniversary this November and it was one for the record books! On Election Night we served roughly 1,300 dinners and over the course of the fall season received additional payments for meals that increased our total to nearly 1,400. The History Center will profit more than \$8,000 from this year’s event. Those funds will be directed towards operations and ongoing maintenance.



To accommodate the increased participation, the History Center devised a two-lane takeout system that kept diners progressing steadily through the Jerger Street lines. We also had a large turnout for those who chose to eat in thanks to the beautiful weather!

This event is made possible by the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and especially our Pilau Chair, Wylie Watt, Jr. Please join us in thanking him for his efforts to coordinate this event each year. We are grateful to Thomasville National Bank for their generous underwriting support of this event and to Flowers Baking Company, Thomasville who provided dessert. 2

Upcoming Events

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2020 program calendar kicks off January 12 at 3pm with our Annual Meeting. Members, neighbors, and community members are invited to attend the program and brief business meeting.

Paula Bacon Williams, the recently retired Executive Director of the Albany Museum of Art, will share her experiences in leading the recovery and reconstruction efforts at her institution. The AMA was severely damaged in two devastating tornadoes in January 2017 and Hurricane Michael in October 2018. Williams talk will explore how museums and cultural institutions prepare for and react to the unimaginable.

Williams led the Albany Museum of Art from 1990-1993 and again from 2014 until her retirement in June 2019. Under her leadership, the AMA achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, an achievement held by only a small percentage of museums nationwide.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WINDSOR: AN INTIMATE LOOK AT THEIR CONTROVERSIAL LIVES

Please join the Thomasville History Center, Thomasville Landmarks and Thomas University for a presentation by author Rene Silvin on Saturday, January 25.

Silvin will describe his unique friendship with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and reveal untold stories of their infamous and dramatic lives.

The presentation will be held at 5:30pm at Thomas University's Flowers Auditorium. An admission fee of \$25 includes a reception with the author preceding the lecture. A private dinner will also be held at Glen Arven Country Club following the presentation. Dinner tickets, which also include admission to the program, are \$100 per person and must be purchased in advance.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit The Thomasville History Center and Thomasville Landmarks. To purchase tickets visit: thomasvillelandmarks.org/events.



December 7: Hands-On Heritage Workshop: Felted Wool Ornaments; Members \$25, Public \$30; 10am-Noon at the Lapham-Patterson House



December 17: Hands-On Heritage Workshop: Holiday Luminaries; Registration \$25; 6pm-8pm at the Thomasville History Center; Light refreshments provided.



December 24-25, January 1: History Center & LPH Closed



January 12: Annual Meeting; Speaker: Paula Williams, formerly of the Albany Museum of Art; 3pm.



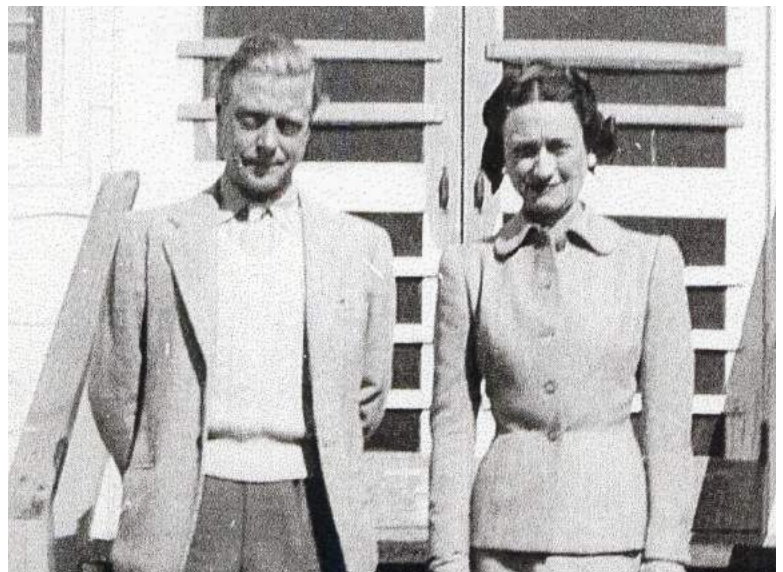
January 25: Visit our booth at the Museum of Florida History's *Children's Day*, Tallahassee; Free Admission



January 25: Lecture, *The Duke & Duchess of Windsor: An Intimate Look at Their Controversial Lives*, by Rene Silvin; \$25; 5:30pm at the Thomas University Flowers Auditorium



February 9: Georgia History Festival's *Super Museum Sunday*; Free Admission to LPH & History Center; 10am-4pm



Thomasville History Center Collection: The Duke & Duchess of Windsor visit Finney General Hospital, 1946. 2009.036.0003

Camp Dawson: Fall Break Edition

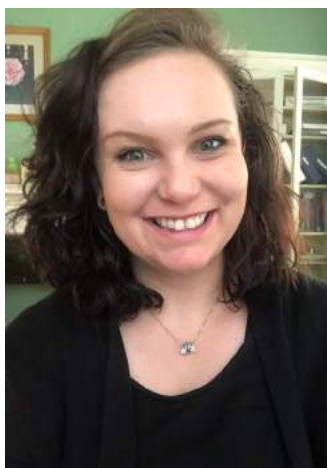
The History Center hosted its first “Fall Break Day Camp” on October 13. Taking inspiration from Indigenous Peoples Day, fifteen campers explored the foodways, crafts, traditions, and culture of Native Americans in South Georgia. Campers ground corn using a mortar and pestle, prepared corn bread over a hearth fire, played chunky (a spear throwing game), made pottery, planted a “three sisters” garden, and more.

For the first time, campers in grades kindergarten through 2nd were invited to participate in addition to 3rd through 6th graders. We are proud to say that the camp was almost entirely sold out! We hope to be able to repeat this activity next year.



MEET TYLER KEMARLY PROGRAMS & CURATORIAL ASSISTANT

Tyler is the newest member of our staff. She is a programs and curatorial assistant and is an online graduate student in Museum Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Tyler has a background in teaching, history, and theatre. She is from upstate South Carolina, and enjoys tacos and spending time with her husband, Kevin, and two cats, Binx and Snitch.

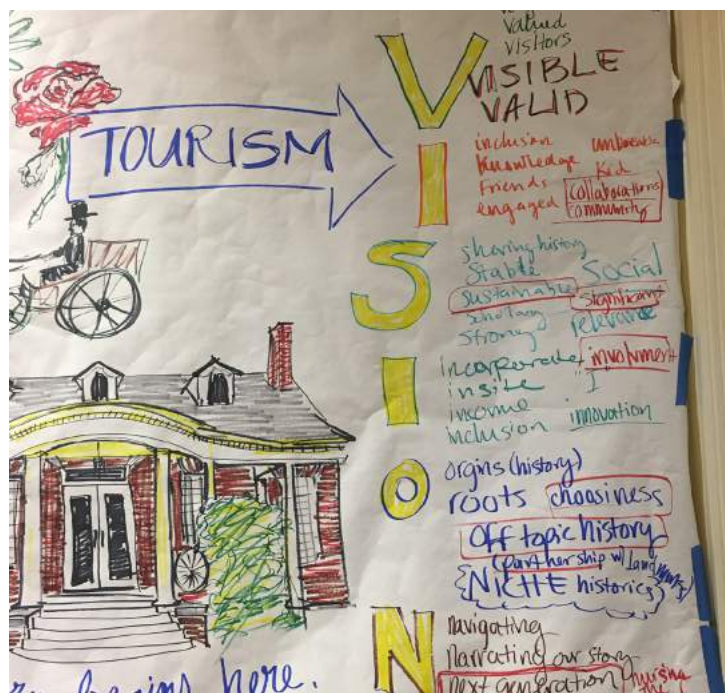


STRATEGIC PLANNING

In mid-2019, the Board engaged the services of consultant Alyce Lee Stansbury to guide the organization through strategic planning for 2020 and beyond.

The Staff and Board previously implemented a short-term plan in 2017 which included a new mission statement and goals to guide program development, collections, and the successful re-branding campaign.

Stansbury conducted more than 20 interviews with community members and stakeholders to discuss their impressions of the organization’s role in the community. The interviews identified successes, areas in need of improvement, and inspiration for the future. The Strategic Planning Committee, who is steering the initiative, has met to draft an updated mission statement. The Committee will also meet in the coming months to frame the final plan that will carry the organization through the next several years.



Illustrations drawn by Hillery Richards from the 2017 Vision Statement discussion held at the Thomas County Public Library.

LPH Happenings

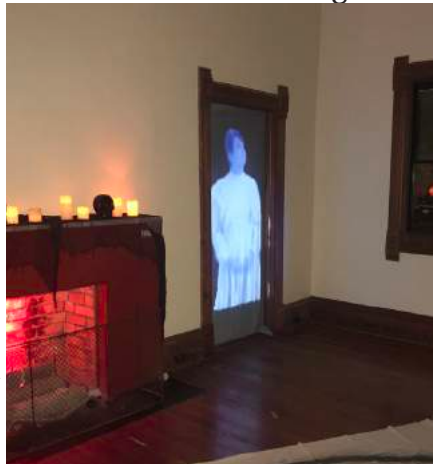
A SPIRITED AFFAIR: A VICTORIAN MYSTERY ESCAPE

This Halloween, the Lapham-Patterson House hosted a “spirited” evening of games, puzzles, and mystery. Modeled after the popular escape room format, eight teams with staggered start times solved the fictional mystery of who was haunting the LPH.



Upon entry to the House, players were greeted by the Lapham’s butler played by Ransom Young. Volunteers from the Scholars Academy’s National Honor Society guided guests from room to room as they completed their tasks. Each game was based on artifacts found in the house or in reference to the “spirits” biographies.

Using the ladies’ parlor, the men’s parlor, and a bedroom on the second floor, guests found clues, solved riddles, and completed tasks designed to lead them to three locked boxes containing a tarot card that revealed the identity of a possible spirit. In the final room, guests participated in a “séance” which revealed the ghost’s identity: Emma Lapham.



Following the games, guests were invited to enjoy drinks and seasonal snacks in the newly renovated Greenhouse Bar. Funds for the bar renovation were given by The George E. Crouch Foundation in memory of Betty Jinright. The bar is a wonderful addition to the property as we plan to increase our rental capacity.

LAPHAM PORCH PARTY & TRICK OR TREATING

In addition to “A Spirited Affair,” the Lapham-Patterson House was the site of a front yard fall festival on Saturday, October 26. Volunteers from the National Honor Society, Junior Service League, and the History Center welcomed neighbors and community members. Pumpkin painting, apple cider, dipping caramel apples, and croquet added to the fun and festivity of the Halloween season.

On Halloween night, both the History Center and Lapham-Patterson House welcomed several hundred trick or treaters. Candy was donated by Little Caesars and the Board for this fun annual tradition.



Memberships

This list reflects Personal and Business members who have joined or renewed their memberships between JULY 16, 2019 AND NOVEMBER 20, 2019. Those members with contributions at the Personal Sustainer or Business Patron and above are listed on the back cover. Thank you for your support!

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Pet Members

Stay At Home Pals

Milo Gallo
Bonnie Jean Hand
Sasha Owens
Pinky Vereen

Trusty Sidekicks

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

Visit thomasvillehistory.org/memberships or our Facebook page to see a gallery of all of our pet members!



Clockwise from top: Elvis & Memphis Willers-Elwell, Bonnie Jean Hand, Pinky Vereen, Flo Rich, and Sasha Owens

Collections

CATALOGING UPDATE

For the last few months, our curator has been cataloging the History Center's book collection. This is a meticulous process that includes matching the book to its donor and donation record when possible and entering its informational data into the collections database. Amongst the books cataloged in the last few months are many city directories and yearbooks. A set representing as many years as possible have been designated for research and are now housed in the bookcase in the dining room of the Flowers-Roberts House.

A list of these books and directories can be found at thomasvillehistory.org.



City directories sorted by decade during the cataloging process.

DIGITAL LIBRARY OF GEORGIA GRANT PROJECT COMPLETED

As we announced in the Winter 2019 *Hourglass*, the History Center is one of six institutions who received a service grant from the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) intended to broaden partner participation. As a result, a significant portion of the Cutler Collection, including the correspondence and diaries of Hazel Beamer Cutler, a Broadway entertainer, and her family friend Candace Wheeler, founder of the American decorative arts movement, has been digitized and is now available to researchers through the DLG website.

In addition to the Cutler Collection, the History Center was able to have additional multimedia digitized including film footage of past Rose Show Parades and the relocation of the Smith Log House from Coolidge to the History Center's property in the mid-1970s. Those interested in viewing the newly digitized materials may do so by visiting: https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/tchs_thcc.

Based at the University of Georgia Libraries, the Digital Library of Georgia, dlg.usg.edu, is a GALILEO initiative that collaborates with Georgia's libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions of education and culture to provide access to key resources on Georgia history, culture, and life. This work is accomplished through the ongoing development, maintenance and preservation of digital collections and online digital library resources. DLG also serves as Georgia's service hub for the Digital Public Library of America and as the home of the Georgia Newspaper Project, the state's historic newspaper microfilming project.



Thomasville History Center Collection: Smith Log House before relocation. c. 1974



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 Thomasville, GA 31799-1922

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