



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

On the cover: Baskets awaiting their final touches at Crate to Plate: Salute to 70! in early October.



As we look back on the early days of summer and start planning for the fall, we'd like to take some time to keep our members and supporters up-to-date. It seems that 2022 was destined to be our "anniversary year for just about everything." We are commemorating the founding of the Historical Society, the opening of the museum property, and the legendary success of our Chicken Pilau Dinner!

Please join us for any and all of these celebrations, and keep reading to hear more about our summer camps, our recent property improvements, and a new volunteer, George Bauer. As always, we want to thank each and every one of you for your support of our work. We are excited about some future work and we're planning now for great things. But all these visionary ideas don't just come from us, they come from you! Which is why we find it just that much more rewarding having the community work alongside us in our efforts.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne McCudden".

Anne McCudden

Executive Director, Thomasville History Center

Gifts Made Simple

Give the gift of membership

Members of the Thomasville History Center receive free admission for themselves and up to 5 immediate family members and reduced/free admission for their guests. This extends to the Lapham-Patterson House and there is no limit on the number of visits through the year!

Members also receive priority or discounted registration for workshops, summer camps, programs, and special events like Crate to Plate and Pilau.

Memberships support the ongoing work of the History Center to enrich the community through the exploration and discovery of its history, people, and

Gift an experience

Late this fall, the Thomasville History Center and its partners, the Jack Hadley Black History Museum, Pebble Hill Plantation, and the Thomasville Visitor's Center, will debut a new shared pass to each of Thomasville's historic sites.

For a discounted rate of \$---, passholders will have a "passport through the pines" as they learn more about our community's rich history. Passes are valid for one year from the date of purchase and your visit to each site can occur at any point within that year.

These will make for an easy outing with visiting family and friends, or stocking stuffers for the holiday season!

Another Record Year for Crate to Plate

We are blown away by your ongoing support of Crate to Plate. This year, like the two before it, were record setting years for participation. In total, 198 crates, or baskets in this case, were sold.

When we break that down, that is 396 meals from JB Crumbs; 396 bottles of gin from 1861 Distillery; 396 brownies from Savannah Moon Cafe; 396 sets of flatware, napkins, and placemats from Firefly; 250 bottles of wine, champagne, and sparkling grape juice from Bird Dog Bottle; 198 bread loaves from Tupelos Bakery; 198 appetizers from Sass!; 198 flower arrangements made by hand from cuttings of plants on the History Center's grounds and native plants like goldenrod and beauty berries; and more.

These are impressive, and staggering numbers. For context, our successful annual fall fundraising dinners averaged between 150 and 160 guests each year. Each of those events were successful and generously supported by you, and it is a testament to your support that we've seen such growth in just a few short years. We are also incredibly grateful to the volunteers who helped make this event possible, not only on the night of, but in the days and weeks leading up to Crate to Plate.

We've received many questions about whether we will continue Crate to Plate moving forward, or return to our previous style of event. Based on the survey shared with our email list, and feedback received from attendees, it looks like Crate to Plate will be here to stay- especially with the option to enjoy your crates on the grounds. The best of both worlds.

This year, more than 50 guests joined us for wonderful conversations, fellowship, and above all, community on the grounds. Add your feedback to the Crate to Plate survey using this QR code:



50TH

1972

The museum opens to the public at the Flowers-Roberts House

We've Only Just Begun...

On May 12, the Thomasville History Center and 100+ of our closest friends celebrated the 50th anniversary of the opening of our museum with a journey back in time to 1972.

Guests enjoyed a special vintage inspired menu catered by JB Crumbs that featured mini-sloppy joes, jello molds, and of course fondue, among other delights. Members of the History Center's Apprentice Program circulated at the party and offered instant snapshots while our DJ spun the hits of 1972 on the record player.

"Celebrity" volunteers made for an entertaining cast in our re-imagining of the classic game show, Match Game, hosted by Jay Flowers. The overall winner of the game was Max Beverly Jr. and other participants received consolation prizes which ranged from Cheez Whiz to Spam and everything in between.

The Thomasville History Center must thank Leiann Orr for her amazing work constructing our centrepieces and floral arrangements, as well as Jennifer Rhodes for photographing the event. A full album of images is available on our Facebook page. Use the QR code below to view. We are also grateful to our neighbor Tim Love, and his trusty sidekicks Taco and Anna, for their assistance in setting up our sound system.

Visit page 11 of this newsletter for a special thank you to our event sponsors!



Collections Spotlight: Evans Collection

At the founding meeting of the Thomas County Historical Society at the Thomas County Courthouse on January 17, 1952, Helen Parker Evans was elected the Society's first secretary.

Helen was born December 19, 1895, in the small industrial city of Ironton, Ohio on the banks of the Ohio River near Kentucky and West Virginia. She received a Catholic education, first at the Ursuline Convent of Brown County, Ohio and then the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Cincinnati. Helen Parker's family traced its roots to the American Revolution



Helen Parker Evans, c. 1965
Evans Collection
2006.048.025

She married James Frederick Evans Jr. of Thomasville on December 22, 1922, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Evans settled the family in Thomasville working at the Kirby-Evans Material Co. Helen Evans raised three children and became extremely active in Thomasville organizations. In addition to being a founding officer of the History Center, she also held leadership positions in the Daughters of the American Revolution, Red Cross, American Legion Auxiliary, Archbold Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Rambler Rose Garden Club, and the local chapter of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Helen's interest in history extended into her hobbies: two genealogical needlepoints she made in 1963 reside in the Evans Collection of the Thomasville History Center. The Thomasville History Center has several donations from her son, James Frederick Evans III, and daughter, Mary Francis Evans, that comprise one of the significant archival collections of the History Center.



Framed genealogical needlepoint of the progeny of James Frederick Evans and Helen Parker made by Helen Parker Evans 1963
Evans Collection
2012.033.0001

Calendar Notes

Add these dates to your calendar! Stay updated with calendar additions via our email newsletter. Not a subscriber or have not been receiving updates from us? Reach out to Amelia to confirm your email address and we'll work to get you back in the loop! Email amelia@thomascountyhistory.org

July: Digital Series: Who's That? Help us to identify familiar faces from the Robert Thomas Jr. Collection from the late 1930s-1950s. Follow along on Facebook and Instagram @Thomasvillehistory.

August: Digital Series: Dogust. Follow along as we share images and artifacts from our collection that feature trusty sidekicks of the past.

August 13: Member Excursion: Join us as we take a behind-the-scenes look at Goodwood House and grounds in Tallahassee. Lunch included. Reserve your spot online by August 10. \$30 per person.

August 15: Crate to Plate Sponsor Pledge Deadline.

August 16: Apprentice Program Cohort II Parent/Student Interest Meeting, 6pm. Application deadline for the new cohort is August 26!

August 18, September 15 & October 20: History Mystery with Meme video premiere, Noon on Facebook and YouTube

September 1: Crate to Plate reservations open.

September 3, October 1, & November 5: Tiptoe Through the Tombstones Tours: Murder & Mayhem.

September 12: Pilau ticket sales begin.

September 13: Opening of new temporary exhibit on Thomas County Historical Society founders.

September 24: Hands-On Heritage Workshop: Macramé, 10am-Noon. Registration Required.

October 6: Crate to Plate: Salute to 70!

October 31: Trick or Treat on Dawson Street.

November 8: 30th Annual Pilau Dinner.

Volunteer Spotlight

George Bauer

George Bauer has lived all over this country, and in England, where he met Susan, his wife of 45 years. They have lived in Georgia for 20+ years and in Thomas County for 8 years, having moved here from Atlanta after retiring as a broadcast journalist. He enjoys reading and studying history, acknowledging that many of the stories he covered as a journalist are now part of the nation's historical fabric.



At the History Center, George greets visitors, does research, and has proposed a new program, Thomasville Stories, in which the Center would introduce residents to local folks with interesting stories to tell.

“Thomasville is fortunate to have such an incredible resource available to local residents,” Bauer says. “I can only hope people of all ages will pay a visit to learn more about our remarkable community.”

Volunteer Heroes



In April, several of the History Center volunteers were honored as nominees at Hands On Thomas County's Cheers for Volunteers event. The students of the Apprentice Program, Rhonda Grim, and Nancy Tillinghast were celebrated along with many

other local volunteer heroes. Please join us in congratulating them for the honors and celebrating their nominations!

Camp Dawson Adventures

Summer 2022 saw the return of normal camp operations at the Thomasville History Center. In June, we offered two opportunities for campers in grades Kindergarten through 8th to learn, explore, and play at the History Center and Lapham-Patterson House.

Camp Dawson, held June 6-10, looked a little different than usual. During planning, Meme and Amelia reviewed past activities that worked well and others that could be improved. We created moments in the schedule where we could encourage the campers' imaginations to bring our campus to life--and they certainly did!

Campers played traditional games like tag, hide and seek, and board games and created a few of their own throughout camp. These moments were planned around long-favorite camp activities like archaeology, cooking over the Log House fire, tie dye, weaving, and a visit to the Lapham-Patterson House. New excursions to Pebble Hill Plantation, MacIntyre Park, and the historic Thomas County Courthouse took campers off campus and into the community.



Campers explored the grounds of Pebble Hill Plantation with PHP's Program Coordinator, Kitty Spivey, and got to help plant the last sections of zinnias in the kitchen garden and met King the horse. They "met" early Thomas County residents on a visit to Laurel Hill Cemetery, and completed an escape room game

at the Lapham-Patterson House which revealed a special surprise: an ice cream social! On Friday, we were visited by our living historian friends who used the Metcalfe Courthouse to teach us about elections after the Civil War.



Over the week, campers had the chance to also explore the exhibits at the History Center which they used to inspire their own exhibits that detailed all they'd done that week. A Polaroid picture wall documented their adventures and offered reminders of all the activities they participated in through the week. Family and friends attended a special exhibit opening on the last day of camp.

We are grateful for the help of our amazing counselors for their hard work and helping hands throughout the week: Jeremy Patz, Willa Copps, Andrew Robertson, Bella Kitchens, and Will Bracken. We are also grateful for our adult volunteers for helping supervise activities and field trips: Claire Timm, Leslie Johnson, Karen Andrews, and Cassidy Weaver.

Camp LPH

At Camp LPH, the History Center partnered with Thomasville Landmarks to introduce middle-school-aged campers to the basics of architecture, historic preservation, and design. Campers built a tabletop neighborhood using cardboard and other craft materials. Prior to camp, John Comita generously gave his time to wire the “neighborhood” with streetlights to add a special touch to the display.



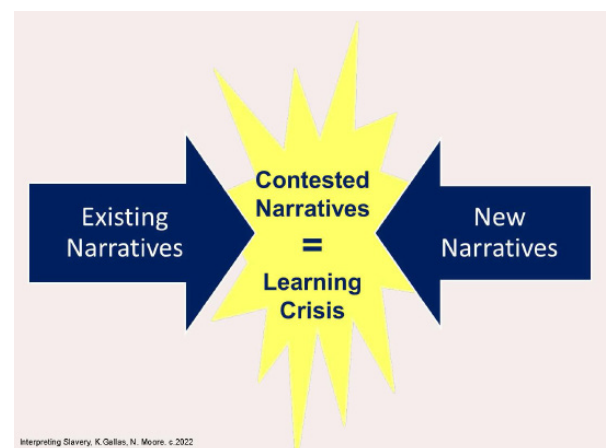
Campers began by learning about different architectural elements and studying the houses of the Dawson Street Historic District. Landmarks’ Nancy Tinker, guided the campers through their adventures in new vocabulary and led them through a close study of the 1885 Birdseye Map to get a sense of the Dawson Street neighborhood, and its changes. After consulting with Charles Olson of Edwards Olson Architecture on their designs, the campers began construction. Some took inspiration from the houses in the neighborhood, others relied on their imagination.

The second day of camp was all construction. Under careful supervision, hot glue and cardboard became houses, roofs, windows, and stairs. Porches and decorative elements soon followed, and the final touches of landscaping were added on the final day of camp. Their neighborhood includes three shared parks. Their display will remain at the Lapham-Patterson House through the end of July, and all are encouraged to visit and take a closer look! We thank Jennifer Weaver for her help throughout the week.

Learning & Growing

This Spring, Amelia and Meme attended a two-day workshop presented by the American Association for State & Local History on Interpreting Slavery for Children. The workshop was emotional, thought-provoking, and challenging but ultimately incredibly helpful in our ongoing work to improve our interpretation and program facilitation for all audiences. The workshop encouraged participants to create a brave space for staff and visitors to seek new understandings and be understood while allowing for “raggedy” moments (where we confront our own assumptions, past teachings, etc) in our efforts to grow. They discussed the importance of the words we say and their meanings, especially when used to describe individuals and their labor in the past. The workshop also emphasized age-appropriate techniques for teaching difficult subjects like enslavement.

This experience, confirmed that the History Center is on the right track as an institution to tell more inclusive stories of Thomas County’s past and people, but we still have room for improvement. Amelia and Meme presented an overview of the workshop to the Board of Directors in April.



This graphic from the Interpreting Slavery Workshop explains the principals of a learning crisis. The workshop offered strategies for helping visitors and students navigate difficult histories.

Seeking Apprentices for Year 2

In late April, the first cohort of Apprentices shared their Capstone projects with the community at a special event at the History Center. More than thirty visitors chatted with the Apprentices about their work, what they learned, and where their new knowledge of museums may take them.



All members of the first cohort are eligible to return for a second year in the fall with the exception of Claire Pope who has graduated from Thomas County Central High School. She will be missed and we congratulate her on her many accomplishments! In their second year, returning Apprentices will dive deeper into the workings of museums and explore topics such as “Who are museums for?” and issues facing modern museums. They will also experience new excursions to regional institutions and may have the opportunity to speak with museum professionals across the state about their experiences working in the field.

Applications for the second cohort of the Apprentice Program, which will operate concurrently with the second year students, will open in August to all rising 9th through 12th graders. Applications for the new cohort are due August 26. Interested students and their grown-ups can attend a special informational meeting on August 16 at 6pm at the History Center to find out more about the program.



The Apprentice’s public Capstone presentations were a hit! Apprentices were able to share their hard work with museum visitors, family, and friends.



To learn more about the Apprentice Program, please visit thomasvillehistory.org/apprentice or contact Amelia at amelia@thomascountyhistory.org.

Around the Property

Over the last few months we've made several improvements and repairs across the property. Some of these improvements have been on our to-do list for some time, and others were surprises thanks to Mother Nature and the advanced age of our structures.

First was the re-installation of a restored light pole on the path around the Roberts Garage. The exact age of the lamp post is unknown, but we've long suspected that with a little re-engineering it could be functional again. With the help of our handyman extraordinaire John Moon, Southern Powder Coating, and our friends at Big Oak Electric, the lamp post was repaired, painted, and re-electrified. The lamp post now adds light at the entryway to the backyard for safety. Jordan Hurst of Hurst Welding & Fabrication repaired the 19th century cast iron fence and gate on the Jerger Street side of our property. The fencing is one of the few remainders of the original 1893 Ewart

property here at 725 N. Dawson. After repairs, the second floor landing of the Flowers-Roberts House received a new coat of paint thanks to volunteer Karen Andrews. New safety treads on the basement stairs replaced the old ones installed during the basement renovation in 2016.

By far the most intensive project undertaken in the last few months was the replacement of broken cast-iron pipes in and under the Flowers-Roberts House which finally gave up after 100 years of use!



Lapham-Patterson House

In February, the Thomasville History Center received the report on the LP Future Project from Ethos Preservation. The report analyzed the results of the community visioning activities as well as the stakeholder discussions held in the fall of 2021.

The report's guiding objectives are that the House remain open to the public for interpretive history experiences so as not to lose the teaching aspect of



the property as well as the development of additional streams of revenue to maximize the property's

impact. The top three suggestions were: event venue, hospitality, and cafe/restaurant. Of these possibilities, the event venue option is the most feasible. With an eye towards making the House a more appealing venue, we are planning additional improvements across the property that are respectful of the house's historic and educational value as well as its architectural integrity.

In the near future, new custom rolling shades will be installed throughout the House. This will help us to control the temperature in the hot summer months, and block damaging light for the long term preservation of the House's interior architecture. We are also hoping to complete a ground penetrating radar survey of the backyard to identify the locations of past structures including the windmill and stable.

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1972



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CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Do you have a particular historical interest, skill,
or handicraft you would like to share with our
visitors? We invite you to get in touch and discuss
volunteer opportunities with us. Call or email Anne
anne@thomascountyhistory.org to learn more!

Tiptoe Through the Tombstones: Murder & Mayhem Tours Coming this fall!

Not everything is rosy in the Rose City... This Fall join
the Thomasville History Center as we tour the public
cemeteries of Thomasville and learn about the mayhem
past citizens caused. Some lived wild and dangerous
lives; others met tragic ends. Hear their stories and get
a better picture of the characters who once inhabited
our town. Follow us through Laurel Hill, the Old City
Cemetery, and Flipper Cemetery... if you dare...

Register online at [thomasvillehistory.org/
programsandevents](http://thomasvillehistory.org/programsandevents) for tours on the first Saturdays in
September, October, and November. Reservations are
\$15 per adult and \$10 per student (under 17) and must
be made in advance.